



Cultural Heritage and Children in Armed Conflict: Protection, Memory, and Peacebuilding

Intensive Advanced Course

17 – 21 November 2025

INTRODUCTION

In the face of ongoing armed conflicts around the globe, the preservation of cultural heritage and the protection of children are paramount. These elements are deeply intertwined with the identity and human dignity of communities, especially for younger generations directly impacted by warfare. Cultural heritage embodies the collective memory, identity, and history of people, while children represent the future of any society. When conflicts disrupt and damage cultural sites and artifacts, they not only threaten historical continuity but also undermine the identity and dignity of affected populations. Recognizing this critical intersection, the **Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict**, with the promotion of the **Heritage International Institute**, are pleased to promote a one-week course dedicated to exploring and addressing the challenges of preserving cultural heritage and supporting children in conflict zones.

This course aims to provide participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to protect and enhance both cultural heritage and the well-being of children, ensuring that future generations can retain a sense of identity and dignity amidst adversity.

METHODOLOGY

The course utilizes a dynamic and interactive methodology designed to integrate theoretical insights with practical application:

1. Lectures and Presentations: Guided by distinguished experts in cultural heritage preservation, museum studies, heritage education, cultural tourism, social and cultural policy, child protection, and conflict resolution, these sessions will provide foundational knowledge and up-to-date perspectives on the complex relationship between heritage and child welfare in times of conflict.

2. **Case Studies:** Participants will delve into real-world scenarios where cultural heritage and children have been impacted by armed conflicts, exploring effective strategies and solutions through detailed analyses.
3. **Workshops and Group Activities:** Engaging in hands-on activities, participants will develop practical skills for heritage documentation, designing child protection measures, and implementing conflict-sensitive approaches.
4. **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Interactive exercises will enable participants to practice decision-making and problem-solving in simulated conflict scenarios involving both cultural heritage and child protection.
5. **Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions:** These discussions with experts and practitioners will provide a platform for participants to ask questions, exchange experiences, and explore best practices for safeguarding heritage and supporting children.

OBJECTIVES:

1. **To Understand the Impact of Armed Conflict on Cultural Heritage:** Investigate how conflicts damage or destroy cultural sites and artifacts, and the broader implications for collective identity and historical continuity.
2. **To Explore the Plight of Children in Armed Conflicts:** Examine the specific challenges faced by children, including displacement, trauma, and exploitation, and understand their profound impact on young lives.
3. **To Identify Strategies for Protecting Cultural Heritage:** Learn about international frameworks, guidelines, and practical approaches for preserving heritage during conflicts, and its role in maintaining identity and dignity.
4. **To Develop Effective Child Protection Mechanisms:** Understand and design robust protection and support systems for children affected by conflict, emphasizing the preservation of their well-being and dignity.
5. **To Foster Collaboration and Networking:** Build connections among professionals and organizations dedicated to cultural heritage and child protection, promoting collaborative efforts and shared solutions.

AIMS OF THE COURSE:

1. **Raise Awareness:** Enhance understanding of the critical link between preserving cultural heritage and protecting child welfare in conflict and post-conflict zones, highlighting its importance for maintaining identity and dignity.
2. **Enhance Skills:** Equip participants with the tools and skills necessary to contribute effectively to heritage preservation and enhancement and child-focused interventions.
3. **Promote Best Practices:** Share and advocate for best practices and innovative solutions in addressing the intertwined challenges of cultural heritage and child protection during conflicts.

4. Strengthen Collaboration: Facilitate networking opportunities and collaborative partnerships among participants to support ongoing initiatives and joint efforts.

5. Encourage Advocacy: Empower participants to advocate for the integration of cultural heritage and child protection into broader conflict resolution and humanitarian strategies, emphasizing the preservation of identity and human dignity.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

This course is designed for:

- Cultural heritage professionals
- Child protection specialists
- Peacebuilding practitioners
- Human rights advocates
- Students and researchers in cultural studies, archaeology, conflict studies, and international law

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, participants will:

- Understand the impact of armed conflict on children and cultural heritage
- Explore the intersection between memory, identity, trauma, and cultural sites
- Reflect on the relationships between heritage, children, education and cultural tourism
- Learn how to integrate cultural heritage into child-sensitive peacebuilding strategies
- Develop project proposals connecting heritage preservation with child protection and education
- Build local and global networks for interdisciplinary cooperation

COURSE FEATURES:

- Hybrid-accessible for global and local participants
- Combination of theory, fieldwork, and interactive workshops
- Certification upon successful completion
- Mentorship and collaborative project development
- Networking with heritage and child protection experts

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The course *Cultural Heritage and Children in Armed Conflict: Protection, Memory, and Peacebuilding* will be held in **English** from **17 to 21 November 2025**, in a **hybrid format** allowing both in-person attendance at the Faculty of Education, University of Pristina (Kosovo), and online participation via Zoom platform. Daily sessions will be held in the morning from **09:00 to 13:00**, with additional **afternoon sessions from 15:00 to 17:00** (except Thursday, which will extend until 18:00) dedicated to thematic workshops and interactive discussions.

The course is coordinated by Professor **Laura Guercio**, Professor **Bahtije Gerbeshi Zylfiu** and Professor **Marxiano Melotti**. Sessions will consist of lectures delivered by leading international experts and practitioners, followed by Q&A segments and moderated discussions designed to stimulate active engagement among participants. Guest lecturers will include professionals with experience in international organisations, transitional justice processes, and the protection of cultural heritage and children's rights in conflict settings.

The course will admit a maximum of **15 participants on site** and up to **20 participants online**, particularly those residing outside of Kosovo. **On-site participation is free of charge**. Please note that UNETCHAC does not assume responsibility for expenses related to travel, accommodation, or meals, which remain entirely at the charge of participants.

For **online participants**, the standard participation fee is **€200**, payable upon enrolment. An **early registration fee of €175** applies to those who confirm their attendance and complete payment **no later than 3 November 2025**. Students coming from disadvantaged areas, will be entitled of discounted rates. **The final deadline for applications is fixed at 13 November 2025.**

All submitted applications will be **reviewed by the Scientific Committee** of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application **via email** in due course.

To receive the **Certificate of Completion**, participants must attend at least **80% of the course sessions** (live or via recordings, when justified) and actively engage in course activities. At the end of the course, participants may be asked to submit a **final project proposal or short essay**. The most outstanding contributions may be considered for inclusion in future publications or academic initiatives promoted by the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC).

Following the course, **internship opportunities** within the Network and **scholarship possibilities** for future studies may be offered to the most deserving participants.

For further information or clarification, please contact us at the official course email address: unetchacadvancedcourse@gmail.com

To apply, please **fulfill the application form** at the following link: [Application Form](#)

Programme

Course Dates: 17–21 November 2025

Format: Hybrid (In-person in Kosovo & Online via Zoom platform)

Location for onsite participants: Faculty of Education, University of Pristina – Kosovo

Daily Schedule:

- **Morning:** 09:00–13:00
- **Afternoon:** 15:00–17:00 (except Thursday until 18:00)

Monday, 17 November – Introduction and Thematic Foundations

Morning (09:00–13:00)

Opening Session and Welcoming Address 09:00-09:30 am

Mr. **Maurizio Antonini** – *Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of Kosovo*

Mr. **Blerim Saqipi** - *Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Prishtina*

Mr. **Fitim Humolli**, *Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Prishtina.*

Ms. **Laura Guercio** - *Secretary General at UNETCHAC*

Lectures 09:30-13:00

- Lecture: *Legal and Normative Frameworks* (CRC, 1954 Hague Convention, UNSC Resolutions) – **Prof. Laura Guercio**
- Lecture: *Armed Conflict, Children, and Cultural Heritage: Impacts and Intersections in Local and Global Contexts* – **Prof. Bahtije Gerbeshi Zylfiu**
- Lecture: *Difficult Heritage and Cultural Tourism: Monuments, Community and Local Development* – **Prof. Marxiano Melotti**

Afternoon (15:00–17:00)

- Round table: *Cultural Heritage as a Vector for Child Recovery and Peacebuilding: Building Society on Education and Heritage Protection* – **Prof. Greg Carroll, Prof. Bahtije Gerbeshi Zylfiu, Prof. Marxiano Melotti, Prof. Yvonne Vissing**
- Group discussion

Tuesday, 18 November – Field Engagement and Practice

Morning (09:00–13:00)

In-person

- Field visits to archaeological and artistic heritage sites in Kosovo: *Ulpiana Archaeological Park and National Museum of Kosovo*

- Participants critical reflection through field observation: *Understanding cultural heritage in Kosovo's context*
- Preserving the past: Conservation practices and community engagement in post-conflict Kosovo: *Participants reflection*

Online

- Workshop: *Designing Child-Sensitive Heritage Education Programs*
- Practical Exercise: *Mapping Conflict-Affected Heritage Sites / Drafting Project Proposals*

Afternoon (15:00–17:00)

Collective Session

- Lecture: *The Judicial Protection of Cultural Heritage* – **Counsel Paolina Massidda** (online)
- Lecture: *Between Memory and Rewriting: Museums as Spaces of Conflict and Reflection on History* – **Dr. Giorgia Ciolli** (online)

Wednesday, 19 November – Children, Memory, and Resilience

Morning (09:00–13:00)

- Lecture: *How Children Engage with Heritage in Conflict Recovery* – **Jur. Selvete Gerxhaliu**
- Lecture: *Trauma as Heritage in a Constructivist Pedagogical Framework: Children as Martyrs* – **Prof. Andrea Marcelli** (online)
- Lecture: *Education, Identity, and Cultural Heritage in Light of Strasbourg Court Jurisprudence* – **Prof. Vasilka Sancin** (online)
- Group Discussion and Brainstorming Session on Project Ideas

Afternoon (15:00–17:00)

- Case Study Roundtable: *Post-War Kosovo, Iraq and Syria. Cultural Heritage and Child Displacement* – **Prof. Marxiano Melotti**
- *Preserving Culture in Crisis: Empowering the Virtual Museum as a Digital Hub for Children's Cultural Rights in Armed Conflict* - **Prof. Gianluigi Mastrandrea Bonaviri, Dr. Sergio Iovino, Dr. Filippo Ceccotti** (online)

Thursday, 20 November – Linking Protection, Education, and Heritage

Morning (09:00–13:00)

In-person

- Visit: *Adem Jashari Memorial Complex*
- Group Discussion: *Interpreting Heritage for Children's and Community Healing*

Online

- Simulation: *Protecting a Heritage Site in a Conflict Scenario*
- Workshop: *Developing Advocacy Campaigns for Cultural Heritage & Children*

Afternoon (15:00–18:00)

Collective Session

- Lecture: *The Role of Cultural Institutions in Conflict Prevention and Recovery* – **Prof. Valmir Mehmeti**
- Lecture: *The Role of Cultural Institutions in Development Strategies Based on Heritage (Including Dark Heritage)* - **Prof. Fitim Humolli**
- *Group Feedback and Project Ideas*

Friday, 21 November – Closure and Project Presentations

Morning (09:00–13:00)

- Final Group Presentations (max 5 minutes per group)
- Summary and Reflections
- Final Remarks by Coordinators and Guest Speakers
- Awarding of Certificates of Completion

NOTES:

Participants will be grouped into teams and asked to co-develop short project proposals, to be presented on **Thursday afternoon** and finalized on **Friday morning**. Selected proposals may be considered for further development, mentorship, or publication

Scientific & Coordinating Committee

Laura Guercio, Bahtije Gerbeshi Zylfiu, Marxiano Melotti

Tutor

Andrea Ciommei

Administrative Committee

Antonino Pola, Lisa Faccin, Kirill Skantsev

Responsible for the Course

Ms. Laura GUERCIO, *Professor at the University Niccolò Cusano, Counsel before the ICC, Secretary-General UNETCHAC*

Ms. Guercio is a lawyer in Rome and Genoa, with experience in other jurisdictions (namely, Great Britain/Republic of Ireland). Professor of International Relations and Intelligence Systems at University “Niccolò Cusano” (Italy). Member of the Council of the European Law Institute in Vienna (Austria); Expert Consultant of the Italian National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP); Italian Agent of the Management Board of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (2015- 2020); Secretary-General of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights at the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2016-2020); Expert for the Human Dimension Mechanism - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); Assistant to Counsel (for victims) before the International Criminal Court. Since 2010, Legal Consultant/Expert in international Projects developed in Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Afghanistan, Swaziland, Kosovo, Jordan, and Palestine. She holds an international Ph.D. in Social Science (Trinity College Dublin - Genoa University); she holds a Master's Degree of Law at the University of Rome La Sapienza, a Master's Degree of Political Science, Politics and Economics of the Mediterranean Region at the University of Genoa (Italy), and a Master's Degree of International Relations at the Queen Mary University London (UK).

Mr. Marxiano MELOTTI, *Associate Professor of Sociology of Tourism and Cultural Heritage at Niccolò Cusano University in Rome, where he coordinates the Social Sciences program and directs the postgraduate program in Museums and Cultural Heritage.*

Marxiano Melotti has taught at Milan Bicocca University and at several other universities, including UCLA, NYU, Northwestern, Sydney, Melbourne, and Tampere. He is a member of the Board of RC50 International Tourism of the ISA – International Sociological Association, and of the Italian Society for the Sociology of Tourism - SISTUR. He coordinated a postgraduate program for Iraqi students—supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—focused on Italian and Western cultural heritage. His research interests include the use of myth, history, and archaeology in contemporary society; the relationships between globalization, heritage, and tourism; innovative practices in cultural and archaeological tourism; culture and urban policies; and the Mediterranean migration crisis. In collaboration with the Universities Network for Children and Armed Conflict and the Heritage International Institute, he is conducting field research in Iraq on best practices for reestablishing connections between communities, children, and cultural heritage. Among his publications: *The Plastic Venuses. Archaeological Tourism and Post-Modern Society* (2011), *The Mediterranean Refugee Crisis: Heritage, Tourism, and Migration* (2018), and *Carnevalizzazione e società postmoderna. Maschere, linguaggi, paure* (2019). Among his recent essays: *Cultural Heritage and Childhood in Times of Conflict: a sociological perspective*, in L. Guercio (ed.), *Children in Armed Conflicts and Cultural Heritage. Protecting Cultural Heritage as a Key Element in Preserving Children's Rights in Armed Conflicts* (2024).

Ms. Bahtije GERBESHI ZYLFIU, *Ph.D., Associate Professor at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Education, and Head of the Department of Social Sciences.*

Professor Gerbeshi Zylfiu teaches social science methodology, history, intercultural competencies, and other related subjects, which are also her areas of interest. She has published several articles and monographs in the fields of history, culture, and gender studies, and has presented her research at various relevant national and international conferences. Ms. Gerbeshi Zylfiu is a member of the editorial boards of the journals *Studime Orientale* and *Bibiletra*. She completed advanced professional studies in Albanian, Serbian, English, German, and Turkish, including Ottoman Turkish and Arabic, and successfully finished the advanced course “Introduction to the Deciphering of Ottoman Documents”. Her professional expertise has been enriched through research carried out in numerous scholarly institutions - libraries, archives, and research centers - and through publications to date across several Balkan countries, including Albania, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia. To this day, she has developed pioneering and wide-ranging scholarly work in the fields of linguistics, culture, history, gender studies, library science, and academic journals.

Distinguished Guests

Mr. Maurizio ANTONINI, *Ambassador of Italy to the Republic of Kosovo.*

Born in Fiuggi (Frosinone) on 14 June 1967, he holds a degree in Political Science and joined the Italian diplomatic service on 30 December 1999. He began his career at the Maghreb Countries Unit. On 31 August 2002, he was appointed Deputy Head of Mission at the Italian Embassy in Skopje, where he worked on political, commercial, and consular affairs, development cooperation, and human resources. On 28 August 2006, he was posted to the Consulate General of Italy in New York as Deputy Consul. After being promoted Counsellor, on 30 August 2010 he resumed his duties at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he headed the office in charge of elections for Italians abroad at the Directorate General for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies. He subsequently focused on Italian language courses and cultural promotion in support of Italian communities worldwide. On 3 June 2014, he was appointed Deputy Head of Mission in Tehran, overseeing political and human rights issues as well as human resources management. He was promoted First Counsellor in 2015. From 30 July 2018, he served at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in New York, where he handled human rights, disarmament, international security, and later coordinated political dossiers in the Security Council. He returned to the Ministry on 1 July 2022, joining the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs, where he worked first on disarmament and international security affairs and later on sanctions policies.

Mr. Blerim SAQIPI, *Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Prishtina.*

Professor Saqipi has been a faculty member at the Faculty of Education, University of Prishtina, since 2007. He holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, where his research focused on the development of teacher professionalism within the context of comprehensive educational reform. He earned his Master's degree in Education from the University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Dr. Saqipi teaches courses in research methods and education policy. He has served as a member of various academic and institutional bodies within

the University of Prishtina, including the University Quality Council and the Faculty Doctoral Council, as well as national education structures such as the State Council for Teacher Licensing, the State Matura Council, and the Scientific Council of the Pedagogical Institute of Kosovo. Since 2017, he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the *Center for Education Policy Studies Journal* (CEPS Journal) at the University of Ljubljana, indexed in SCOPUS.

Lecturers

Mr. Gianluigi Mastrandrea BONAVIRI, *diplomat at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Heritage International Institute.*

Gianluigi Mastandrea Bonaviri earned a degree in International Relations from the University of Rome on 27 June 2011. Following a competitive examination, he was appointed *Segretario di legazione in prova* (Junior Diplomatic Secretary) in the Italian diplomatic service on 21 March 2016 and assigned to the Directorate General for Political and Security Affairs, Office II, the same day. From 21 March to 20 December 2016 he attended the professional training course “Attilio Cattani” organized by the Directorate General for Resources and Innovation. Confirmed in the diplomatic career on 21 December 2016, he was subsequently appointed *Segretario di legazione* (Diplomatic Secretary). He served as First Commercial Secretary at the Embassy of Italy in Cairo beginning 15 February 2021 and, since 2 September 2024, has held the post of First Commercial Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva. Mr. Bonaviri is also a member of the Scientific Committee of the Heritage International Institute.

Mr. Greg CARROLL, *Ph.D., tenured Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Associate Director of the Center Childhood and Youth Studies at Salem State University (MA), USA, Fulbright Specialist.*

Ph.D., (BSc.Ed. Melbourne University Australia, MA, Columbia University USA, PhD Monash University, Australia). His research interests include human rights, youth nation-building in divided societies, resilience and globalization. He has worked extensively in the West African country of Liberia and the Southeast Asian nation of Timor-Leste, since 2015 he has been collaborating with Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University, a Ukrainian national university in Mykolaiv. His recent works are Carroll, G. (2025b). Three Dimensional Concerns for Social Justice and Human Rights and What to Do About Them. Chapter 2, pp.15-30, in *Globalization and Human Rights for Democracy and Social Justice*. Zajda, J & Vissing, Y. (Eds.). Globalization, Comparative Education and Policy Research Vol 50. Springer. Carroll, G. (2025a). Education for Human Rights in a Globalized World. In *Fourth International Handbook of Globalization, Education and Policy Research* (4th ed., p. Chapter 12). Springer. Carroll, G. (2024a). Analysis of Cultural Heritage and Children in Armed Conflict Under the Perspective of Sustainable Development Goals. In *Children in armed conflict and cultural heritage: Protecting cultural heritage as a key element in preserving children’s rights in armed conflict* (pp. 145–169). Gambini editore. Carroll, G. (2024b). Human Rights for Democracy and Social Justice. In *Globalization, and Human Rights for Democracy and Social Justice*. Springer International Publishing. Carroll, G., et.al., (2023) Resilience in Liberia: an Initial Study. In Leitao, S., & Vissing, Y., (Eds.) *Community Structures and Processes on Lives of Refugee Children*. Vernon Press. Carroll, G.

(2022). Viewpoints on Human Rights from the Global South. In Zajda, J., Vissing, Y., (Eds.) Discourses of Globalisation, Ideology, and Human Rights. Springer. Carroll, G. (2021). Fragmentation and Integration: global education policy at the crossroads In Manian, V.,(Ed.), Interrogating Common Sense: Frameworks for the Critical Analysis of Curriculum Policy and Practice 4th Edition. Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson. Carroll, G., & Kupczyk-Romanczuk, G. (2007). Millennium Development Goals and Timor-Leste. In M. Clarke & S. Feeny (Eds.), Education for the End of Poverty: Implementing all the Millennium Development Goals (pp. 65–83). Nova Science Publishers.

Mr. Filippo CECCOTTI, *Scientific and Executive Assistant to the Academic Director of the Heritage International Institute; Human Rights Treaty Branch of the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva*

Dr. Filippo Ceccotti has gained professional experience in international human rights and European affairs. He is currently completing an internship with the **Human Rights Treaty Branch** of the United Nations Human Rights Office in Geneva, contributing to the work of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW). He has also served as a **European Union Junior Expert** in the Greater Forlì area, gaining experience in policy development and project coordination at the European level. In his role at the Heritage International Institute, Dr. Ceccotti supports the Academic Director in coordinating research, managing projects, and fostering collaborations with international partners in the fields of cultural heritage and human rights.

Ms. Giorgia CIOLLI, *Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Heritage between Reality and Artificiality: Innovation and Sustainability at Niccolò Cusano University of Rome; member of the International Council Museums (ICOM)*

Giorgia Ciolli is a PhD candidate in the Doctoral Programme Cultural Heritage between Reality and Artificiality: Innovation and Sustainability at Niccolò Cusano University of Rome. She holds a BA in Communication and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage from the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, an MA in Art History from Sapienza University of Rome—where she defended a thesis on Memorial Museums and the Construction of Collective Identity—and a second-level MA in Social Museum and Smart Tourism from IUAV University of Venice. She is an active member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). She has presented papers at the ICOM CECA Conference (Delicate Topics – Challenging Audiences), focusing on the Museo per la Memoria di Ustica and educational strategies in memorial museums, and at the ICMEMOHRI Symposium (Fakes and False Histories), where she addressed the narration of difficult heritage and the risks of historical falsification and instrumentalization in memorial museums. Her research and professional activities also include contributions to the establishment of an observatory on heritage education at the Italian Ministry of Culture, as well as collaborations with VIVE – Vittoriano and Palazzo Venezia in Rome in the field of heritage dissemination.

Ms. Selvete GERXHALIU-KRASNIQI, *Jurist and Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute of International Law and International Relations, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (Austria), Lecturer in law at the University of Prishtina and Chair of the Board of the Center for Protection of Victims and Prevention of Trafficking.*

Selvete Gërxhaliu-Krasniqi since 1999 has worked extensively in the fields of human rights, legislative drafting and commentary, and gender equality, collaborating with international organizations including the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OSCE, UN Women, and UNDP. She has long supported civil-society initiatives, chairing the Board of the Center for Protection of Victims and Prevention of Trafficking since 2003 and contributing to the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims in 2012. In academia she teaches several law courses and, between 2005 and 2009, helped establish the Department of Social Pedagogy at the University of Prishtina's Faculty of Philosophy, while also lecturing in Political Science within the Tempus Programme on Local Governance and Civil Society. Ms. Gërxhaliu-Krasniqi is the author or co-author of numerous studies and reports, including research for the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme on human security, organized crime, and terrorism in Kosovo; a UNICEF report on the legal framework for child rights in Kosovo; the OSCE manual *Responding to Domestic Violence Cases*; and several works on trafficking in women and related human-rights challenges.

Mr. Fitim HUMOLLI, *Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Prishtina.*

Professor Humolli is Head of the Department of Geography at the University of Prishtina, where he teaches courses in tourism geography, economic geography, transport geography, and related fields. He holds a PhD in Geography and Tourism from the University of Tirana, as well as a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Prishtina. His research interests include tourism development, cultural landscapes, and sustainable territorial management. He has published in international journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science, authored a monograph on tourism in Kosovo, and co-authored several geography textbooks. He has presented at international conferences on tourism, cultural heritage, and economic geography. Beyond academia, he has extensive experience as a GIS expert, project manager, and consultant in national and international projects, combining academic research with applied initiatives that promote sustainable tourism and cultural heritage in Kosovo.

Mr. Andrea Mattia MARCELLI, *Ph.D., educational anthropologist and tenured Associate Professor at Universitas Mercatorum (Rome, Italy); Executive Editor of the Scopus-indexed journal *Formazione & insegnamento**

Andrea Mattia Marcelli, Ph.D., is an educational anthropologist whose research focuses on the connection between cultural heritage, informal education processes, and remote areas - including Europe's outermost region. Currently a tenured associate professor at Universitas Mercatorum (Rome, Italy), his teaching experience spans across different continents over a decade: Australia (La Trobe University), Italy (Niccolò Cusano University), Kosovo (Prishtina International Summer University), and Kyrgyzstan (Institute of Education, American University of Central Asia, where he co-directed the Master of Arts in Teaching programme). Andrea enjoys more than 60 publications of national and international outreach in the fields of community education, heritage studies, intercultural education, vocational education and training, and history of education. His research is cradled in the appreciation of education as an ecosystemic practice, with increased attention to communities over individuals; hence, his investigations employ systemic approaches such as Educational Ecosystem Analysis (EEA), Ecopedagogy, and Foucauldian Genealogy. Andrea has carried out fieldwork in Portugal, where he studied learning processes

connected to the Carnival and the Bullfights of Terceira Island, and Kosovo, where he investigated the deployment of moral capital through a case study of the Adem Jashari Memorial. Concurrently with his academic research, Andrea is engaged on different fronts of the publishing industry: as scientific and technical consultant of Pensa MultiMedia (major Italian publisher in education and learning sciences), as a reviewer for Scopus-indexed journals, and as the executive editor of *Formazione & insegnamento*, which is ranked A in its field by the Italian Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research. Previously, he has worked as an expert evaluator for the European Commission's HORIZON projects. As a professor, Andrea is experienced in teaching the following subjects: anthropology of education, continuing education, cultural anthropology, educational research, history of education, history of science (with focus on learning science).

Mr. Sergio IOVINO, *CEO, Heritage International Institute and Artistic Director of the Virtual Museum on Cultural Heritage.*

Sergio Iovino is an accomplished artist and cultural advocate, winner of numerous awards including first prize at the 14th Annual *McGill Graduate Law Conference* in Montreal for an art video highlighting the need to protect cultural heritage during urban warfare. He is the author, producer, and singer of *Let Them Play with Their Dream*, a song illustrating the six grave violations against children in armed conflict identified by the United Nations, created with the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He serves as Art Director of the University Network for Children in Armed Conflict and has authored and produced many videos presented at high-level political and diplomatic events, including the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York. He was Artistic Director of the concert marking the opening of the Fourth International Conference on Safe Schools (Abuja, Nigeria, October 2022), organized in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Mr. Iovino is also the director, screenwriter, and producer of his first short film, *Amira*, which underscores the importance of protecting and empowering women as mediators during armed conflicts, promoted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He continues to lead innovative cultural projects as Art Director of the Virtual Museum on Cultural Heritage, promoted by both the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Italian Ministry of Culture.

Ms. Paolina MASSIDDA, *Principal Counsel, Independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV), ICC.*

Paolina Massidda is the Principal Counsel of the independent Office of Public Counsel for Victims (OPCV) at the ICC since its creation in 2005. In this capacity, she has represented victims in the proceedings before the Court in almost all situations and cases, gaining a specific experience in gender crimes and crimes against or affecting children, victims' rights and in handling cases with high numbers of victims involved. Before joining the Court, she practised before national and international tribunals, representing accused and victims. She worked as Legal Adviser for the International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross and participated as expert in several European Union training programmes for judges and lawyers. Member of the Genoa Bar (Italy) since 1992, she is specialised in human rights and international humanitarian law and holds a LL.M. in international criminal law. Member of the Scientific

Committee UNETCHAC. She has published extensively on matters related to international criminal law and the rights of victims.

Mr. Valmir MEHMETI, *SEO Specialist and Outreach Manager*

Valmir Mehmeti is a seasoned digital marketing professional with extensive expertise in search engine optimization, content strategy, and online outreach. From June 2013 to May 2020, he served as SEO Specialist and Outreach Manager at Next SEO Sh.p.k in Prishtina, Kosovo, where he was responsible for enhancing the company's digital presence, securing backlinks from high-authority websites (DA 90+), and designing strategic public relations campaigns. Prior to this, he worked as a Search Engine Optimization Executive at Diamond Creative Design from March 2009 to December 2012, overseeing site-specific keyword research, competitive analysis, and search engine campaign management, including planning, budget oversight, and optimization. He also provided strategic recommendations for content development aligned with SEO objectives. He began his professional career as a Freelance Blogger at WordPress from June 2008 to February 2009, where he was responsible for designing and maintaining websites, performing on-page SEO, and implementing keyword optimization strategies.

Ms. Vasilka SANCIN, *Ph.D., Full Professor at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).*

Vasilka Sancin, PhD, is a Full Professor of International Law, Head of Department of International Law and Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations at University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law (Slovenia). She is currently a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (2022-2025) and its Vice-Chair. She previously served as a member (2019-2022) and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and its Special Rapporteur for the Follow-up process to Concluding observations. Among others, she serves as ad hoc judge at the European Court of Human Rights; an arbitrator and a Bureau member of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); an expert of the OSCE Moscow mechanism on Human Rights; a member of the UNODC Anti-Corruption Academic (ACAD) Initiative; a member of the Executive Council of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflicts (UNETCHAC); a Vice-President of the Red Cross of Slovenia; and a President of the Slovene Branch and member of the Executive Council of the International Law Association (ILA). As a visiting professor she regularly lectures at foreign institutions all around the World and (co)authored and (co)edited numerous articles/books in the field of international law.

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curricula and other positive rights advocacy projects. Training 4 Excellence (training4excellence.com). This business provides online training programs for organizations and individuals on a variety of health, education, and human service topics. Child Abuse Prevention Training Assistance for Organizations (www.CAPTA4.Org). This business specializes in helping organizations to conduct risk management, strategic planning, and employee training to increase child and business protection and reduce risk of injury and lawsuits around the issues of child maltreatment.