



## CONFERENCE

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF SPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

**Monday, 22 April 2024**

**10:30am – 1pm CET**

**University of Rome “Foro Italico”**

**[Piazza Lauro De Bosis, 4 – Roma](#)**

In 2013, the United Nations proclaimed the *International Day of Sport for Development and Peace*, which is celebrated every year on 6 April, with the aim of promoting the value of sport in social cohesion and development (IDSDP, [resolution 67/296](#)).

**The Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC) and the University of Rome “Foro Italico” organize this conference with the aim of spreading knowledge and raising awareness on this highly relevant and topical topic, in line with the contents of the United Nations resolution that established the international day.**

The [Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict](#) (UNETCHAC), launched in November 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, represents the first International Academic Network for the protection of children in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. It is committed to enhancing the role of the Academic Community in promoting, through a multidisciplinary approach, dialogue and synergies with and between different national and international institutional and non-institutional entities carried out activities and projects aimed at protecting the rights of children who are directly and indirectly involved in armed conflicts.

The [University of Rome “Foro Italico”](#), member of UNETCHAC, is the only one in Italy dedicated entirely to the study of physical exercise and sports sciences and whose training and research activities are aimed at the promotion, development and consolidation of the cultural, educational and social value of the sciences of physical exercise and sport.



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

Sport plays a fundamental role in contributing, in different ways, to the well-being of communities and to building positive bonds between people, especially among young people. It represents a means through which to strengthen social cohesion: it offers an open playing field for people of different ages, abilities and cultural and social backgrounds, breaks down barriers, facilitates interaction between people from different contexts and reduces the risk of involvement of young people in antisocial behavior.

Sport therefore stands as a powerful tool in promoting personal and relationship development, thus contributing to building a more harmonious, peaceful and supportive world.

In situations characterized by significant vulnerability such as, for example, in areas affected by armed conflict, younger people in particular suffer profound traumas that influence their psychological, emotional and social development even when they find themselves integrating into contexts very different from those of origin.

The implementation of sports programs promoted by the main actors involved in this field, and guided by a spirit of sharing, emerges as a fundamental resource for their reintegration into their societies of origin or integration into the contexts in which they find themselves living following a necessary movement to escape violence.

Sport can certainly be understood as an important contribution to the promotion of the rights of boys and girls in situations of armed conflict. It can guarantee them healthy growth as protagonists and agents for the construction of lasting peace and security, in line with the commitments undertaken by the United Nations also in the context of the "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda.

Sport can therefore act, in different situations and contexts, as a universal "mediator". The positive impact of sport therefore extends well beyond the playing field, being able to contribute substantially to the promotion of shared values to be promoted everywhere in the world.



## PROGRAMME

### Opening remarks

- **Attilio Parisi**, Rector, University of Rome "Foro Italico"
- **Fabio Pigozzi**, Vice-Rector, University of Rome "Foro Italico"
- **Laura Guercio**, Secretary-General, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC) / University "Niccolò Cusano"

### Institutional greetings

- **Massimiliano Atelli**, Head of Cabinet, Department for Sport of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy
- **Barbara Funari**, Assessor for Social Policies and Health, Municipality of Rome

### Panel of discussion

- **Francesca Romana Lenzi**, CUG President, UNETCHAC delegate, University of Rome "Foro Italico"
- **Maria Giuseppina Lecce**, Medical Director UOC for health and socio-health integration for health equity, National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty (NIHMP)
- **Angela Magnanini**, Associate Professor in Didactics and Special Pedagogy, University of Rome "Foro Italico"
- **Greg Carroll**, Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies, Center for Human Rights and Human Rights Education, Salem State University (USA)
- **Giovanna Gnerre Landini**, Head of Office, Relations with Academic Institutions, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC)

## TESTIMONIALS

### Young people and the social value of sport

- **Mattia Calvani, Nicolò Pavolini**, Graduates in Sports Management, University of Rome "Foro Italico" - *Sport as a means of integration and social inclusion: "Tam Tam Basketball" case and "Amica Acqua" case*, with the participation of Alessandro Tappa, President of "Sport Senza Frontiere Onlus"
- **Francesco Calicchia, Giuseppe Coppola, Maria Elena Capuano**, PhD students in Human Movement and Sport Sciences, University of Rome "Foro Italico" - *Sport and development of the suburbs: the case of Scampia*



- **Andrea Ciommei, Antonino Pola, Lisa Faccin, Kirill Skantsev**, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC) – *Research proposals and activities on Sport as a tool for the integration, reintegration and resocialization of children affected by armed conflicts*  
**Moderator: Simona Lanzellotto**, Head of Project Office, Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict (UNETCHAC)