



THE AGE OF RESILIENCE

Victim Support Europe
Annual Conference 2022
MALTA 11 | 12 MAY



**Victim Support
Europe**



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Andrea Walraven-Thissen

Critical Incident Manager

Andrea Walraven-Thissen specializes in incident management during and after critical incidents. She structures and organizes the first hours as a first responder and is an expert in psychosocial triage. She has a background in psychiatric nursing and has been working under blue lights for 25 years. She trains and supervises teams in many countries and has written several books on the subject. Within EUCVT Andrea has been advising on how to improve the first response, during and right after terrorist attacks.



Ash Pachauri

Senior Mentor, POP Movement

Dr. Ash Pachauri has a PhD in decision behavior and master's degree in international management. Having worked with McKinsey & Company before pursuing a career in the social development arena, Dr. Pachauri's experience in the field of public health emerges from a range of initiatives including those of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, PATH, the UN, and CDC program interventions in the US. He is also a technical adviser to the World Health Organization on Self-Care global guidelines.

Dr. Pachauri has been engaged with the use of information technology for health, education, and geoinformatics. A master trainer in behavior change communications and strategic health leadership, Dr. Pachauri has led over 20,000 workshops, events, and activities globally to outreach to youth and communities to promote health and sustainable development.

Widely published, winner of the prestigious Overseas Research Scholarship, awarded for advanced studies in the U.K. and recognized for his academic achievements, Dr. Pachauri pursues interests in research and teaching through ongoing collaboration with universities and institutions. Dr. Pachauri has been recognized by the United Nations for his dedication and leadership in their flagship publication "Portraits of Commitment". In 2021, he was awarded the GlobalMindED Inclusive Leadership Award for action in the field of Energy and Sustainability. He is an Associate Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. Dr. Pachauri serves on the Boards and Advisory groups of several organizations worldwide.



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Bianca Biber

Federal Executive Director, Weisser Ring Germany

Bianca Biber, born 1975 in Fulda, has been in charge of WEISSER RING's operational business since 2013.

Before, she gained professional experience as a lawyer in Great Britain, the USA and in Zagreb and Sarajevo after the Balkan wars.

She worked in a leading position for the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce – the umbrella organisation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs). She was then for seven years managing director of IHK Rheinhausen.



Byron Camilleri

Minister of Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality, Malta

Dr Byron Camilleri has been actively involved in politics since 2010. He became the youngest mayor of Fgura and following his successful tenure as mayor, he contested the general election for the first time in 2017 and was subsequently elected.

For 3 years, Dr Camilleri served as the Government's Whip and a member of the Labour Party Administration, representing the Parliamentary Group.

In 2020, he became Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement.

Dr Camilleri was re-elected in the 2022 General election on the fourth electoral district and following his election, Prime Minister Robert Abela re-confirmed him as Minister for Home Affairs, and National Security but with added responsibilities. Among the changes from the previous administration, Byron Camilleri has seen his portfolio grow significantly as he is now also responsible for equality, civil liberties and minority rights.

Dr Camilleri is a lawyer by profession and was admitted to the bar in 2013.



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Colm Smyth

Survivor of the Loughinisland Massacre, Northern Ireland

Colm Smyth is a survivor of the Loughinisland Massacre which took place on 18th June 1994 in a small rural village in Northern Ireland, where 15 customers were attacked by Loyalist UVF terrorists while watching the world cup match between Ireland & Italy. Six innocent men were shot dead and Colm was shot four times. His friend Malcolm Jenkinson died in Colm's arms. It has since been concluded by the Northern Ireland Police Ombudsman that this terrorist attack was an act of collusion between the British Government and the UVF (Loyalist Terrorists). Colm was 23 years old at the time and had just returned from University for the summer break. Now 51 years old, Colm has ongoing therapy and medication to manage his PTSD. He works as a Lecturer in Marketing at the Munster Technological University in Cork, Ireland.



Cristina Soeiro

Forensics Psychologist, Portuguese Judiciary Police & Vice-President of the Board, Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV)

Cristina Soeiro has a PhD in Psychology of Justice from the University of Minho. Responsible for the Psychology and Selection Office at the Judiciary Police Academy since 1990, she works as a Senior Specialist. Coordinator of the Degree in Psychology and the master's degree in Forensic and Criminal Psychology at Instituto Universitário Egas Moniz. She is, since 2019, vice-president of the Portuguese Association of Victims Support and also coordinates research projects in the field of Forensic and Criminal Psychology. She is a court forensic expert with experience in risk assessment of violent offenders (mainly sexual crimes, homicides, femicide, domestic violence and arsonists).



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Didier Reynders

Commissioner for Justice, European Commission

Didier Reynders is the current European Commissioner for Justice in charge of the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection. He served as Federal Minister of Finance of Belgium in six different governments until December 2011. Then, he was in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in two governments between 2011 and 2019. He was Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium (2014-2019) before joining the Commission. He was member and leader of the MR (Mouvement Réformateur) political party in the city of Liège (1995-2012) and then in Uccle (2012-2018). He holds a law degree from the University of Liège and began his career as a Belgian lawyer (1981-1985). He was a visiting Professor and Lecturer at the University of Liège, the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Université Catholique de Louvain.



Dora Georgiou

PhD, University of Cyprus & the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement

Dora Georgiou has a background in sociology, a Master's degree in Social and Developmental Psychology, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology. Her doctoral dissertation was on the psychophysiology of intergroup anxiety in the intractable conflict setting of Cyprus, examined under laboratory conditions using methodology of experimental psychology.

Her research interests include issues related to gender, sexuality, inter-group and inter-personal relations and the psychophysiology of emotions, particularly anxiety. Currently, she examines the impacts of reparations, including psychosocial interventions, within the scope of transitional justice, in the contexts of (post/) conflict setting's She has taught clinical and social psychology courses at the University of Cyprus and Neapolis University in Cyprus. Dora Georgiou has published her work in international peer-reviewed journals and has presented her work at conferences in the field of clinical and social psychology. Dora Georgiou is a registered clinical psychologist with the Cyprus Registry of Psychologists and practices cognitive behavioral therapy. She is currently serving her second term as President of the Cyprus Family Planning Association.



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Elena Burmitskaya

Chairwoman, Green Light for the Civil Initiatives Foundation, Bulgaria

Elena Burmitskaya has over 20 years of experience in managing NGOs, as well as human rights and democracy programmes. Since 2014, she is the Director of the 'Green Light for The Civil Initiatives' Foundation in Bulgaria, an NGO with as mission to provide support for the civic initiatives launched by young people and some other less advantaged minority groups. Aside from this, Elena is a practicing lawyer, and a lecturer/trainer on various occasions. Finally, she has been part of several national, European and international expert groups and has various publications under her name.



Elie Kagan

Head of Crisis Management, Security and Crisis Centre by the European Jewish Congress

Elie Kagan is the Head of Crisis Management at the SACC by EJC. Elie performs trainings, exercises, and conferences in Crisis Management to the Jewish Communities and other faith organizations in Europe. He is also leading the #TOGETHERWEARESAFER Security Awareness programme of the European Jewish Congress to raise the awareness of all the civilians for a better prepared and resilient society. He has been in the sector of operational security for twenty years. He has a master's degree in economics from the Free University of Brussels, is a certified Auditor ISO 9001:2008 and an INSEAD Alumni.



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Geraldine Hanna

President, Victim Support Europe

Geraldine Hanna is the current President of Victim Support Europe and has been the Chief Executive of Victim Support NI since February 2015 and in February 2016 she was crowned as the Best Newcomer of the Year in the CO3 Leadership Awards. Geraldine has 16 years' experience in the victims' sector and has been the driving force in establishing the Witness Service in courts across Northern Ireland. She has been integral in the development of key initiatives to improve services for victims and witnesses of crime including the Victim's Charter, Achievement of Best Practice Guidance and Registered Intermediaries. She is passionate about the rights of victims of witnesses. Geraldine regularly volunteers with SOS BUS NI, helping vulnerable people on the streets of Belfast.



Helena Dalli

Commissioner for Equality, European Commission

Helena Dalli holds a PhD in Political Sociology. From 1996 to 2019, Dalli served as Member of Parliament, Malta: appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Women's Rights in the Office of the Prime Minister. During the 2013-2017 legislature, Helena Dalli was Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties. During these years she contributed to introducing several laws and policies to strengthen the equality and human rights framework. In the following two years she became Minister for European Affairs and Equality. She is currently the European Commissioner for Equality. Her mission is to strengthen inclusion and equality in all of its senses, irrespective of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The fight against discrimination and the fight against gender-based violence are two other focus points of her mandate. In 2019, Dalli was presented, on behalf of Malta, with the Diversa Internacional award by the Spanish Association of Lawyers and Lawyers against Hate Crimes, in recognition of her work for equality on both the domestic and international fronts.



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Jérôme Moreau

*President, “Association Nivernaise d’Aide aux Victimes d’Infractions”
& Vice-President, France Victimes and Victim Support Europe*

Jérôme Moreau has been the Treasurer and Spokesperson of the Federation France Victimes since 2019. Being the President of the victim support association “Association Nivernaise d’Aide aux Victimes d’Infractions” since 2003, he has been part of France Victimes’ Board and a delegate to France Victimes’ President regarding ministerial and institutional public relations since 2016.

Jérôme has obtained a Master’s degree in Public Law in 1998, and has followed different trainings throughout the years, such as supporting victims of crimes abroad, victims of violence at work, or how to manage conflicts to avoid institutional violence.

He has worked for fifteen years, between 2002 and 2017, as a Parliamentary collaborator to a Member of Parliament for the First district of Nièvre (France) who was also President of the National Consultative Council for People with Disabilities.

In 2020, he became Director of three departments of the “Association des Paralysés de France-France handicap”: he is therefore working for the most important French association for the defense and representation of people with disabilities and their families, after working as an Executive Assistant for this association for three years. In addition, Jérôme Moreau has been working as a trainer for the Red Cross and the “Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale” (National Center for Territorial Public Service), since 2013, and has been working as Director of a mobile Covid-19 vaccination team since April 2021.

Jérôme has always been attentive to furthering European rights and advancing the implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive of 2012, through his several duties. That is why he has the honour of applying for the position of Vice-President of Victim Support Europe.



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Jonathan Attard

Minister for Justice, Malta

Dr Jonathan Attard was appointed Minister for Justice in March 2022. His portfolio includes the responsibility of the Courts of Justice, the Attorney General's Office, the State Advocate's Office, Notary to Government, Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

Prior to his appointment as a Cabinet Minister, Dr. Attard was pleading before the Maltese Courts of Justice. His main areas of legal practice included Civil Law, Public Law, Property Law, Planning Law and Corporate Law.

As Minister for Justice his priorities are to implement various reforms and oversee the proper Administration of the Maltese Courts and the effective delivery of Justice, within a reasonable time, as well as the further digitalization of processes.

Following unanimous support by the Labour Party Parliamentary Group and the National Executive, Dr. Jonathan Attard was co-opted in parliament for the first time in July 2021. He then successfully contested the General Elections for the first time in March 2022. During his tenure as a Member of Parliament under the previous administration, he was appointed Head of Parliament's Delegation to the Council of Europe, following which he was elected Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. As a Member of Parliament, Dr. Attard was also involved in various parliamentary committees including the Public Accounts Committee.

Prior to his appointment as Minister, Dr. Attard held various positions in the Public sector including the position of Communications Coordinator within the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business and subsequently served as liaison officer between the same Ministry and Malta Enterprise.

Dr Jonathan Attard has been entrusted by the Government of Malta with several legislative reforms, including the 2018 Constitutional amendments and laws to introduce the right to 16-year-olds to vote in National Elections.

Dr Jonathan Attard graduated from the University of Malta as Bachelor of Laws in 2011 and was awarded the Diploma of Notary Public in 2012. Following this, Dr Attard was then awarded the Doctor of Laws degree in 2014 and was called to the Bar in 2015. His Doctoral thesis contributed to the field of Public Law and dealt with 'Increased Accountability on Members of Parliament'. In 2004, he obtained his bachelor's degree in Communications and Social Studies from the University of Malta.



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Juliana Scerri Ferrante

Lawyer, Legal Aid Malta

Juliana Scerri Ferrante is an expert lawyer with over 20 years of practical experience. Currently, she works as lawyer at Legal Aid Malta. The agency's mission is to ensure that the low-income persons are professionally and legally represented in a broad spectrum of litigations, defence and advocacy in a democratic society.



Julianne Grima

Executive Chairperson, Victim Support Malta

Experienced Solutionist with a demonstrated history of working in both the Mental Health and Communications industries. Skilled in supporting professionals find simple solutions to complex problems with a background in Psychotherapy, Human Resources, Public Relations, Strategic Planning, Event Management and Research. Strong healthcare services professional with a Masters degree in Psychotherapy from the London Metropolitan University and a Post graduate Diploma in Clinical Supervision. Julianne is the Executive Chairperson at Victim Support Malta, Executive Chairperson at TBWA\ANG, a Clinical Supervisor and Psychotherapist.



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Katarzyna Janicka-Pawlowska

Coordinator for Victims' Rights, European Commission

First European Commission Coordinator for victims' rights, appointed in September 2020 in the context of the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2020-2025). Katarzyna is heading the Victims' Rights Team in DG Justice, European Commission and leading on victims' rights policy. It includes implementation of the Victims' Rights Strategy and ensuring a smooth functioning of the Victims' Rights Platform, enforcement of the EU rules, policy development and mainstreaming of the victims' rights policy in these areas.

Katarzyna joined the European Commission in 2002 and since then has contributed to the enlargement of the EU, completion of the single market, digitalisation and open data policy, EU criminal law and most recently - to the Union of Equality- as a member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Dalli. Katarzyna has an extensive expertise in the EU decision-making and in the enforcement of EU law.

Katarzyna has an LL.M. in European law from the College of Europe, Bruges and a master of law degree of the Warsaw University. She has also a Diploma in English Law and the Law of the EU from the Cambridge University. She has also studied French law at the Law Faculty in University of Orléans in France. Katarzyna was born in Poland; she is fluent in Polish, English, French and Spanish



Markus Kärner

*Deputy Secretary General for Criminal Policy,
Ministry of Justice, Estonia*

Markus Kärner is the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Estonia in charge of the Criminal Policy Department. Markus also teaches criminal law in Tartu University, where he is a PhD student. Markus has published numerous articles on various topics pertaining to criminal law and criminal procedure. Before being appointed Deputy Secretary General, Markus held various positions in the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General.



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Peta Milan

CEO, Transcendent Media Capital & JET Group

A business operations and management specialist with 15 years experience managing businesses through Australasia and Europe. With a broad range of experience from internal operations management to management consulting across sectors including media, tourism, health, financial services and mining, Peta brings a wealth of experience in corporate strategy, financial analytics, branding and marketing and product development to her roles. In the past 2 years Peta has established herself as an award winning writer and director in film through the establishment Transcendent Media Capital as specialist in social and environmental impact content.



Petra Klein

Vice-President, Victim Support Europe

Petra Klein has been a member of the board of Weisser Ring Germany since 2010 and has been in charge of Weisser Ring Germany's branch office in Oldenburg, Lower Saxony since 2009.

Petra Klein retired from her position as police detective chief superintendent in 2008 due to poor health resulting from an accident suffered while on duty.

As the head of a police negotiation team until 2008, she resolved cases involving hostage taking, kidnapping, blackmail, and threat management in cooperation with international agencies.

Until 2000, she worked in a special department of the police active in the field of sexual offenses.

From 2000 – 2008, Petra Klein was the contact person on issues relating to domestic violence for the police in northwestern Germany.



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Rosa Jansen

President Board of Directors, Victim Support Netherlands

Rosa Jansen studied Dutch law at Leiden University with a major in business law. She also followed a MPA (Master of Public Administration) - study at the Dutch School of Public Administration in The Hague, The Netherlands and at the Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. After starting her career at the Dutch Broadcasting Union in Hilversum, she was appointed as judicial trainee. She worked later as lawyer in Amsterdam and as a judge /vice-president in the courts of Arnhem, The Hague, Amsterdam and Utrecht, respectively civil court, administrative court, family court and criminal court. From 2002 to 2008 she was president of the criminal division and board member in the rank of coordinating vice-president and acting president in the court in Utrecht.

From 2008 till 2017 she has been appointed as President of the Board of Directors of SSR, the Dutch Training Institute for the Judiciary in Utrecht.

Since 2017 she is on special leave as judge and is appointed as President of the Board of Directors of Victim Support The Netherlands and the Foundation Restorative Justice. She is also member of the Board of Directors of the Dutch Council for Personal Injury.

Rosa Jansen also operated internationally. She was between 2012 -2017 president of the Steering Committee of the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) in Brussels. Also she was involved in the development of the rule of law in several European countries, including Indonesia, Mongolia and Morocco.

Rosa Jansen has several publications on her name in the field of the judiciary, innovation, leadership and criminal law.

Between 2015 and 2017 she was appointed as president of the Dutch Association for the Judiciary.

Since June 2021 she is member of the Board of Victim Support Europe and member of INVICTM (International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence).



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Samantha Pace Gasan

*Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability, Maltese
Commission for the rights of persons with disability*

Ms Samantha Pace Gasan is the Commissioner for the Rights in Persons with Disability. She is the first woman to be appointed in such role. As Commissioner, she advocates for the rights of persons with disability, particularly by adopting an intersectional approach towards disability.

After meeting NGOs in the sector, together with her team, Samantha set up CRPD's priorities for the next years, mainly focused on: the protection and promotion of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, raising awareness about disability rights and obligations, empowering the grassroots movement, promoting deinstitutionalisation and community based independent living, and capacity building.

Samantha started her career as a woman's rights activist. During her activist years, Ms Pace Gasan was involved in a number of organisations. She completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Social Policy, and later acquired her Master in Creativity and Innovation. She focused her studies on the political participation of young women, and later on social innovation of Maltese SMEs. Her main interest is bringing about social justice through creativity and social innovation.



Simon Green

*Professor of Criminology & Victimology and Associate Dean for
Research & Enterprise, University of Hull, UK*

Simon Green is Professor of Criminology & Victimology at the University of Hull in the UK. His research is about victims, resilience, human trafficking and exploitation. He is chair of the EU-funded network of victimologists across Europe (COST Action 18121: Cultures of Victimology: understanding processes of victimisation across Europe) and is working with UK police and The Salvation Army to develop trauma-informed approaches to the victims of sexual violence, human trafficking and criminal exploitation. His most recent publications are: Green et. al. (2021) A New Approach for Researching Victims: The 'Strength-Growth-Resilience' Framework (British Journal of Criminology) and Green et. al (2021) Circles of Analysis: a systemic model of child criminal exploitation (Journal of Children's Services).



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Suzanne Hoff

International Coordinator, La Strada International

Since 2004, Suzanne Hoff is International Coordinator of La Strada International, the European NGO Platform against trafficking in human beings. This network comprises currently 25 (member) NGOs – and 5 associate members – in 24 European countries. The overall aim of La Strada International is to prevent trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation in Europe and to protect the rights of trafficked and exploited persons and ensuring their access to justice.

As International Coordinator, Suzanne Hoff manages a broad range of tasks including strategy planning, lobby & advocacy and representation of the Platform, next to coordination of European projects and research on the issue of human trafficking. She coordinated projects, campaigns and research among others on access to compensation, the early identification and protection of TCNs and Asian workers' rights and labour exploitation and engagement of the private sector.

Before La Strada International, she worked for different NGOs, like Caritas Netherlands, the Dutch Centre for International Cooperation and the Dutch Refugee Council as well as for the Amsterdam Mayor's office and the International department of the Amsterdam Municipality. Most of her work focused on human rights and the situation in Central and Eastern Europe. Suzanne has an academic background; a master in Eastern European Studies and in (television) journalism.



Sylvana Gafa'

*Head of Victim Support Services, Victim Support Agency
Malta Police Force*

After graduating in BA (Hons) in Criminology in 2008 Inspector Sylvana Gafa' has enrolled as Inspector within the Malta Police Force. Along the years, she often came across vulnerable victims which situations inspired her to commence her post-graduate studies in Counselling. She completed her four-year Master degree program in 2018 and this has given her the opportunity to realise a long-sought aspiration to set up a Victim Support Unit within the Malta Police Force.

In 2021, the Victim Support Unit amalgamated with the newly set-up Victim Support Agency, and Inspector Gafa' is now heading the victim support services of the Agency.

Sylvana Gafa' also lectures at the University of Malta and the Academy for Disciplined Forces, and is a board member on the Victim Support Agency and the Council for the Counselling Profession in Malta.



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Vittoria Doretti

*Head of Department "Health Promotion and Health Ethics",
Azienda USL Toscana Sud Est*

Vittoria Doretti is an officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, a Specialist in Cardiology, Anesthesia and Intensive Care, an expert in Bioethics, Organization of Basic Health Services and Forensic Sciences (Criminology-Security-Investigations-Intelligence).

She is also Head of Department "Health Promotion and Health Ethics" Azienda USL Toscana Sud Est (Tuscany, Italy) and Regional Network Manager for Codice Rosa (Tuscany).

She has collaborated and collaborates on a national and international level with many Ministries, local authorities and Institutions, mostly on gender policies, actions about violence against women, children and hate crimes. She received many awards and commendations in Italy and abroad for her activity.