



in  
Collaboration  
with



# ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDING *Conference*

**TITLE:**

## **(IN)VISIBILITY OF BLACK FAMILIES & OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS**



**Date:** Monday 5th &  
Tuesday 6th September 2022  
**Time:** 9:00am - 1:00pm (UK GMT)

AFRICA



UK



ITALY



ROMANIA





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Collaboration  
with



invites you to the:

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# (IN)VISIBILITY OF BLACK FAMILIES & OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

**Date:** Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September 2022

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### COMMITTEE MEMBERS, SPEAKERS & PRESENTATION TITLES

CONFERENCE  
MODERATOR

**'Ugoeze' Ngozi Ike**  
Health and Social  
Care Consultant Director  
For Programmes  
SaffronSACAP  
SaffronSACC  
SaffronSDGF



#### ROMANIA

**Stefan Marian Cojocaru**

Professor Habilitate Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Romania  
**Topic:** Moral panic about parents' migration: implications of research

#### ITALY

**Laura Traversi**

Italian L2 Teacher & Director  
of Percorsi's Social Services  
Studio, Padova (Italy)

**Topic:** Promoting mother tongue in  
foreign families in Italy: an experience  
through children's books.

**Emily Diquigiovanni**

S.O.S. Bambino I.A. APS  
Clinical Social Worker,  
Vincenza (Italy)

**Topic:** Cultural competence,  
racism & the different clients

**Luca Favarin**

Social Cooperative Percorso VITA onlus, Padova (Italy)  
**Topic:** When the quality over crosses the invisibility.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

**Jennifer Bagot**

AFS International Group Member  
**Topic:** Internationally Sustaining  
Black African Families

**Sheila Leighton**

AFS International Group Member  
**Topic:** Disproportionate level of  
black communities in the formal  
societal systems in the UK.

**African Families Service (AFS)**

Geraldine O'Donnell,  
Service Manager,  
Safeguarding & QA  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

**International Group:**

Amma Anane-Agyei,  
Jennifer Bagot,  
Sheila Leighton.

**Saffron Safeguarding African Children & Adults Partnership Ltd**

**'Ugoeze' Ngozi Ike**  
Director for Programmes

**Opeyemi Ebulu-Eyuruntari:**  
Executive Director

SAFFRONSACAP | SAFFRONSACC | SAFFRONSDGF | SaffronAFSS



**Amma Anane-Agyei**

Coordinator, African Families Service, London Borough  
of Tower Hamlets Lifetime Achievement Award winner  
(KoolaAnney Daddlands Community Champion Award 2019)  
Patron of Ghanaian Social Workers  
Association Midlands (GHSWA)

**Topic:**

Safeguarding black African Children  
through the prism of intersectionality



**Ius Marco, PhD**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Humanities,  
University of Trieste, Italy

**Topic:**

Families, migration background and vulnerability:  
the experience of the Italian programme P.I.P.P.L.



**Dr Bernadine Toyin Idowu**

Associate Professor of Biomedical Science,  
University West London. Founder Charity,  
Youth Against Crime not Crime Against You

**Topic:**

Missing Black Young Lives  
Matter in the UK



**Lisa Bugno, PhD**

Department F. I. S. P. A.,  
University of Padova, Italy

**Topic:**

Along the way. Unaccompanied  
minors: a case study in the  
Italian context



**Dr. Jo Finch**

Professor of Social Work  
& Postgraduate Research,  
University of Suffolk.

**Topic:**

SHARE



**Ms Opeyemi Ebulu-Eyuruntari**

Safeguarding and Child Protection Specialist,  
Trainer, Health, Social Policy and  
Social Development Consultant.  
Founder & Executive Director:  
SaffronSACAP | SaffronSACC | SaffronSDGF

**Topic:**

Strengthening Cultural Competence  
in Assessment and Decision Making



**Catalin-George Fedor**

Senior Researcher PhD, Romanian Academy,  
Iasi Branch, Center of Anthropological Research.  
Areas of interest: Sociology and Social Anthropology

**Topic:**

Ethnic self-representations in  
the Romanian diaspora



**Daniela Cojocaru**

Professor PhD,  
Cuza University of Iasi, Romania

**Topic:**

(In)visibility of childhood  
and peripheral centrality



**Irene Pavanello**

Social Worker, vice-president  
of Social Cooperative Percorso  
VITA onlus, Padova (Italy)

**Topic:**

When the quality over  
crosses the invisibility.



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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

## (IN)VISIBILITY OF BLACK FAMILIES &amp; OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September 2022

## SPEAKERS AND TITLE OF PRESENTATIONS

## Monday 5th September, 2022

- 9:00'** 'Ugoeze' Ngozi Ike (Conference moderator), Welcoming and Opening
- 9:15** Rev. Fr. Augustine Owusu-Addo, Keynote
- 9:35** Jo Finch, SHARE - Seeing Hearing Action Reading Evaluation
- 10:00** Dana Cojocaru, (In)visibility of childhood and peripheral centrality
- 10:25** Amma Anane-Agyei, Safeguarding black African Children through the prism of Intersectionality

## 10:55 Break

- 11:05** Opeyemi Ebulu-Eyuruntari Saffron, Bridging-The-Gap:(In)novative ways of Engaging with Black Ethnic Communities In Accessing Health and Social Care Services
- 11:30** Emily Diquigiovanni, Cultural competence, racism, and the different clients
- 11:55** Lisa Bugno, Along the way. Unaccompanied minors: a case study in the Italian context
- 12:20** Stefan Cojocaru, Moral panic about parents' migration: implications of research
- 12:45** Marco Ius, Day closing remarks
- 13:00** See you tomorrow

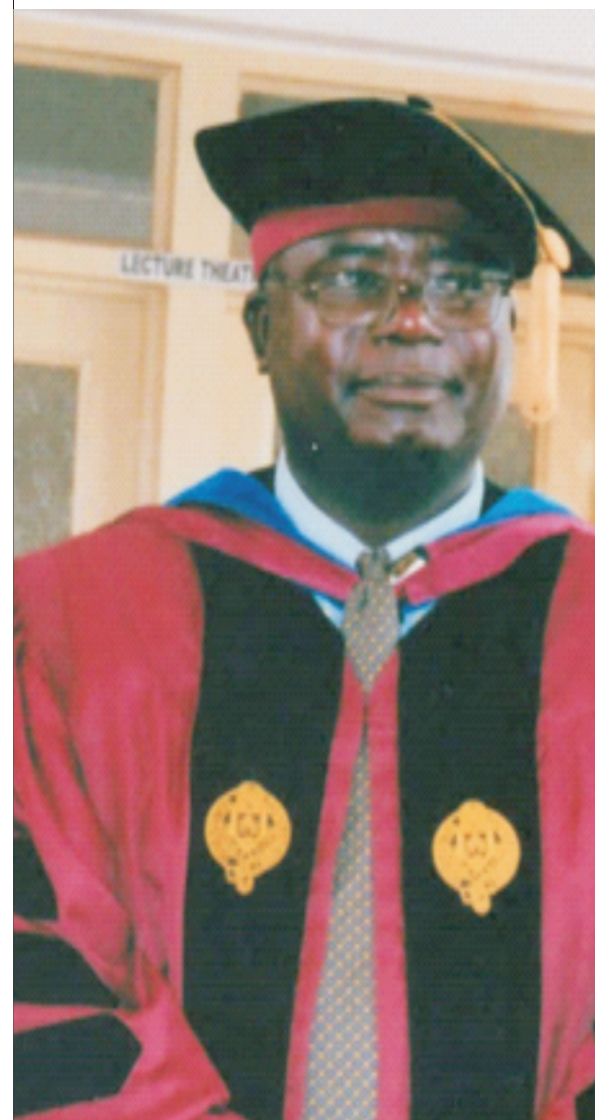
## Tuesday 6th September, 2022

- 9:00** 'Ugoeze' Ngozi Ike (Chairwoman), Opening
- 9:15** Irene Pavanello, Luca Favarin, When the quality over crosses the invisibility
- 9:40** Bernadine Toyin Idowu, Missing Black Young Lives Matter in the UK
- 10:05** Jennipher Bagot, Internationally Sustaining Black African Families
- 10:30** Sheila Leighton, Disproportionate level of black communities in the formal societal systems in the UK

## 10:55 Break

- 11:10** Cătălin-George Fedor, Ethnic self-representations in the Romanian diaspora
- 11:35** Laura Traversi, Promoting mother tongue in foreign families in Italy: an experience through children's books
- 12:00** Marco Ius, Families, migration background and vulnerability: the experience of the Italian programme P.I.P.P.I.
- 12:25** Amma Anane-Agyei, Closing of the conference

## AFRICA



International conference – Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September 2022, (In)Visibility of black families and other vulnerable groups About the members of the organising committee, keynote speaker, Moderator and Speakers

## Keynote Speaker

## Rev. Fr. Augustine Owusu-Addo, PhD

Dean, Faculty of Education, Catholic University College of Ghana.\*

Educational background:

- Ph.D: May 2007: Fordham University, New York (USA): Education and Administration
- MBA: May 2006: Mount St. Mary College, Newburgh, New York (Management Sciences)
- MsEd: May 2001: Fordham University, New York: Education & Management.
- MA: May 1999: Fordham University, New York: Religious Education Diploma in Theology 1989: University of Ghana, Legon-Accra.

## International Seminars &amp; Conferences

August 15, 2016 - "Year of Mercy": Speaker at the conference with the Ghanaian Laity in the Tri-State of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

January 2017: Seminar for Enterprise Financial Group, Sunyani.

August 4, 2012: Delivered a keynote address on LECTIO DIVINA at All African Clergy, Association of USA (AACA) @ Bethesda, Maryland USA.

3rd May 2012: Served as the Moderator for the Brong-Ahafo Policy Fair: live on GTV. Speaker V.C University of Energy & Natural Resources, Sunyani. Programme organized by the Gov't of the Republic of Ghana. Venue: Sunyani Polytechnic University Auditorium.

Research and publication 2007-2022: More than 20 publications have been made in both local and foreign journals.

## UNITED KINGDOM

**'Ugoeze' Ngozi Ike**

Moderator of the International Conference

Director for Programmes, SaffronSACAP United Kingdom (UK), a Safeguarding organisation.

Ngozi's role involves working in collaboration with various organisations and agencies providing services to communities. The organisation provides support, guidance, and advice to the African and Caribbean communities in the UK. It is based in Gillingham- Kent.

Ngozi is proud to have been instrumental in the development of SaffronSACAP's collaboration with the Home Office (UK), to provide virtual hubs for immigration enquiries via zoom every 3rd Saturday of the month. Saffron engages with Children, Young People, Families and vulnerable Adults.

Working in the UK and currently also in Nigeria, Ngozi is the Community Development Facilitator. She oversees three communities (three villages) within a Local Government area in Nigeria. Her roles involve empowering, equipping and facilitating the needs of the communities. Delivering training and setting up hubs within the villages for literacy and computer training. Assisting farmers with tools, and various equipments.

She undertakes this role as the (Ugoeze) head of these three villages. She also engages with all schools from primary to secondary, assisting with their individual needs.

## UNITED KINGDOM



**Amma Anane-Agyei**, co-ordinator African Families Service (AFS) in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, United Kingdom (UK).

She is also the lead person of the AFS Academic partners and the international members group. She is a qualified social worker and has been employed since 1978 in London Borough of Tower Hamlets, UK.

She received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by Keolis Amey Docklands which covers the City of London, the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Greenwich, and Lewisham at the third Community Champions Award Ceremony 2019. This award recognises an individual whose achievements have been far-reaching and sustained over several years.

She is also a Trainer, offering a culturally appropriate five sessions parenting programme for Black African Families, one day Black identity development training, two days Safeguarding Black African Children and Families, etc. She is also a Consultant & Registered Expert Witness Assessor on issues pertaining to Black African Children and Families.

She has chaired, spoken, and organized local, national, and international conferences and seminars. She is often called upon to contribute to government report, research and offered opinion on national television, newspaper, and radio broadcasters. She is a co-author and author of four publications.

Email: ammayaw@aol.com



## UNITED KINGDOM

**Ms Opeyemi Ebulu-Eyuruntari** is an International Safeguarding & Child Protection Trainer and Consultant, also a Health, Social Policy & Development Consultant, with a specific focus on Black African Children and Families.

Opeyemi is the founder and Executive Director of Saffron Safeguarding African Children and Adults Partnership Ltd., also Saffron Safeguarding African-Caribbean Centre.CIC, both based in the UK.

Saffron offers a unique 'Tripod Holistic Community Engage Platform' 'bridging-the-gap', by raising awareness, advocacy, advice, training, youth workshops, senior citizens hub, and support services. Two major accomplishments that stand out for Saffron and our wonderful team, is the 'Voice Over Talk Show', a platform we started over the covid-19 lockdown, and continue to use as a bridge to engage with our communities. It was also on a discussion about Domestic Abuse and the interface with immigration, that facilitated a unique collaboration with the UK Home Office Immigration Engagement Team. We now have an immigration hub every third Saturday of the month.

Opeyemi is a leading pioneer and professional in the forefront of Safeguarding Children in Lagos and Nigeria.

She founded Saffron Social Development Global Foundation (SaffronSDGF), an International Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) in 2015, which works to promote the 'Safeguarding Agenda' in Nigeria, developing solutions to social



problems through Policies, Procedures and Research, actively advocating stakeholders to adopt the 'Safeguarding Children Agenda'. As a result, on 16th December 2016, Lagos State Government signed into law, the first ever Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

She is very passionate about Saffron's Safeguarding the Nigerian Child Initiative (SNCi) registered with the United Nations (UN) partnerships towards achieving the 'Global Sustainable Development Goals' for Nigeria. Saffron SNCi is also confirmed as a member of the 'Global Partnership on Ending Child Violence'.

Opeyemi continues to contribute to the wider goals of involving the well-being of all children and families globally.

yemieeng@gmail.com

## UNITED KINGDOM

**Jennipher Whitney** is an experienced social worker for 30 years who has worked extensively with disadvantaged children and their families as a children's reviewing officer assuring quality service for children in care. Within her capacity as a social worker, she has worked for non-governmental organisation as a service manager, practice assessor and specialist worker for children with disabilities.

Jennipher is an independent link worker of the African Families Service(AFS), a member of AFS Academic partners and the international members group.

A service founded by Amma Anane- Agyei that provides specialist support to families from the African diaspora, where she has delivered training internationally to the Erasmus project Parental Guidance and educator (PAGE) for the European consortium, delivered training at community forums and supported parenting programmes and reflective practice sessions with social workers.



**Dr. Jo Finch**, University of Suffolk

Jo is Professor of Social Work and Post Graduate Research at the University of Suffolk. Jo was formerly a child and family's social worker, practice educator and play therapist, working in a number of London Boroughs.

Jo has written extensively about practice learning and assessment and PREVENT. She is the author of "Supporting Struggling Students on Placement (Policy Press) and co-author of "SHARE: A New Model for social work (Kirwin Maclean Associates).

She is the chairperson of the African Families Academic partners group.

She continuously shares her knowledge with the link workers of the African Families Service by several presentations at the link workers meetings voluntarily.



## UNITED KINGDOM

**Dr. Bernadine Toyin Idowu**

University of West London / Kings College London

Dr Bernadine Toyin Idowu is an Associate Professor of Biomedical Science at the University of West London (UWL). She is a graduate of King's College London (KCL) and obtained her PhD from the IRC Queen Mary University of London.

She has published in peer reviewed journals, with her most notable publication in the Histopathology Journal, which won the Roger Cotton Prize of €10,000 for the best paper in the Journal that year, making her an award-winning scientist.

She is a Visiting Lecturer on the Intercalated BSc Regenerative Medical Course at the Dental Institute, KCL, and was previously a Lecturer on the Biomedical Sciences degree at the University of East London.

As a STEMM ambassador Dr Idowu has been invited to talk about diversity in science, including Westminster School. As a Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Champion, she is invited to sit on panels to talk about issues relating to D&I in academia, including at the House of Parliament in the United Kingdom and various Universities, such as Cardiff, Manchester and Salford.

She founded the charity Youth Against Crime not Crime Against You (YACnCAY), 2010. This is a preventative charity that runs a mentoring program which matches university student with young people in underprivileged schools.



She freelances for the Guardian newspaper and is also the Founder and Chair of the Black Minority and Ethnic (BME) Early Career Researcher (ECR) – How to Stay in Academia conference, which commenced April 2017, and is now a yearly conference. The conference aims to empower BME-ECR to remain Positive, Practical and Pragmatic, when navigating the academic space.

Tools and resources are supplied during the conference, as well as mingling with BME academics from various disciplines. Now in its 6th year, this is a testament to the success and impact of the conference, it will be a hybrid conference which will be in person at the UWL Ealing campus co-hosted with KCL <https://www.uwl.ac.uk/whats-on/BME-early-career-researcher-conference>

## UNITED KINGDOM

**Sheila Leighton**

African Families Service (AFS) Link worker, a member of AFS Academic partners and the international members group. She is a social worker, Safeguarding Lead, consultant and a doctorate in social work student.

She has worked in the community for over 38 years in several areas of safeguarding and each one has embedded understanding, knowledge and skills of formal social systems, the engagement of those who need and seek support.

She believes that we never stop learning especially when we choose to work with people, She shares this on her journey.

**Geraldine O'donnell**

Started her social work career working in children's homes, before qualifying as a social worker in 1996. Since that time Geraldine has worked in Children's Services working at the front door of statutory services before progressing to Team Manager, then a Child Protection Conference Chair and Independent Reviewing Officer.

Geraldine has a keen passion for ensuring children's rights are upheld and their voices heard. Geraldine is now the Head of Service for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in Tower Hamlets and manages a range of services, including the African Children's Service.





## ROMANIA

**Dr. Daniela Cojocaru**

Professor PhD , Cuza University Iași, Vice-  
rector for International Relations and Study  
and Research Partnerships.

Dr. Daniela Cojocaru is Professor in the  
Sociology and Social Department of the  
Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political  
Sciences, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of  
Iași, Romania and Vice-Rector for  
International Relations and Study and  
Research Partnerships.

She teaches the methodology of  
sociological research, sociology of family,  
sociology of childhood, qualitative research  
methodology.

She holds a PhD in Sociology, with a thesis



on Childhood and the social construction of  
parenthood.

She has published over 70 papers on topics  
such as childhood, parenthood, social  
representation on parenthood, research  
ethics, public health, evaluation of social  
and medical services.

**Dr Cojocaru Stefan Marian**

Professor Habilitate Cuza  
University of Iași, Romania

Dr. Cojocaru Stefan Marian is  
Prof.univ.dr. in the Department  
of Sociology and Social Work  
of the Faculty of Philosophy  
and Social-Polical Sciences,  
from "Al.I. Cuza" University of  
Iași, where he teaches the  
methodology of sociological  
research, methodology of  
elaboration of intervention  
projects, supervision in social  
work, appreciative methods of  
research and social  
intervention.

He is the director of HoltIS, who  
promotes the practices on  
appreciative parenting He is also  
known as a trainer, social services  
evaluator and practitioner in  
social field, being a resource-  
person at national and  
international level.

It is the promoter of the  
appreciative approach in the field  
of social work, counselling, case  
management and supervision, a  
vision that focuses on giving up  
the "paradigm of deficiency" and  
focusing on success.

Email: [contact@stefancojocaru.ro](mailto:contact@stefancojocaru.ro)

## ROMANIA

**Dr Cătălin-George Fedor,**  
Senior researcher PhD,  
Romanian Academy, Iași Branch,

Dr Cătălin-George Fedor is graduated of the  
Faculty of Philosophy and Social-Political  
Sciences of the "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași  
in 1996, and specialized in sociology-  
politology.

He holds a PhD in Philosophy in 2007 and a  
PhD in Sociology in 2016 at the same  
institution.

He is senior researcher at the Center for  
Anthropological Research of the Romanian  
Academy - Iași Branch. Sociology and Social  
Anthropology are his areas of interest. He is  
the author and co-author of numerous  
studies on the anthropological structure of  
current populations in Romania,  
communities (ethnic, religious, cultural,  
etc.), and domestic and social violence.

He is the  
author and  
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numerous  
studies on  
the  
anthropolo  
gical  
structure of  
current  
populations  
in Romania,  
communities (ethnic, religious, cultural,  
etc.), and domestic and social violence. He  
also carries out didactic activity, as an  
associate professor, at the Faculty of  
Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences,  
where he teaches "Paradigms of  
sociological thinking".

**Ius Marco**

Assistant Professor,  
University of Trieste,  
Italy.

Marco Ius has a PhD.  
in Education and is  
assistant professor  
in Education at the  
Department of  
Humanities,  
University of Trieste  
(Italy) where he

teaches Intercultural pedagogy, Teaching  
pedagogy, and Citizenship education.

He is member and cofounder of LabRIEF  
(Lab of Intervention in Family Education  
<https://labrief.fisppa.it>) at the Department of

Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and  
Applied Psychology (FISPPA), University of  
Padova (Italy).

LabRIEF since 2011 has led the National  
Programme P.I.P.P.I. (Programme of  
Intervention to Prevent Institutionalization)  
founded and promoted by the Minister of  
Welfare and Social Affairs.

He is trained on psychodrama, active  
methods, expressive arts, and oneiric  
drawing that he uses and combine in his  
research and training activities on  
resilience, communication, and social work  
with families living in vulnerable situations.



## ITALY

**Emily Diquigiovanni**

Emily Diquigiovanni has a master's in social work from the University of New York (USA) and the University of Verona (Italy) as well as an undergraduate degree also in social work from the University of Georgia (USA).

She works in Italy as a freelancer mainly in the fields of international adoption with SOS Bambino I.A. aps, family and children services, migration, and justice.

She collaborates with the University of Verona, department of Social Work. She is also an art therapist and uses such tool in the work with adolescents and children.

Emily has always been fascinated about other cultures having lived and travelled abroad in very culturally mixed, and sometime socially difficult, countries: from Haiti to Russia, from Colombia to Guinea Bissau. She thinks that understanding the different cultures, ethnicities, countries of origin of the people social workers work with requires more than words and good intentions.

The journey to cultural competence requires a willingness to experiment, learn from those experiences, and act.

She believes that change happens when professionals are willing to explore the social system they work with and challenge it if needed, giving support to people for them to draw on their own strengths and realize their potential to live fulfilling

## ITALY

**Luca Favarin**

Priest, founder ,President of the social cooperative, Percorso VITA onlus, Educator and trainer.

Founder of an association of volunteers in the Northeast of Italy, of his city, including girls who were victims of Human trafficking in the city of Padova. He encouraged them to put an end to their deplorably way of life. He also set up projects of cooperation in many African countries, (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Angola, Uganda, Senegal).

In 2012, he and some friends started a volunteering work. A vision which brought the social cooperative "Percorso Vita", with the idea of solving Human trafficking of minors in city of Padova. This included young boys and girls from North Africa who were dealing in drugs and other illegal activities. The main problems the organisation encountered was due to lack of integration and exclusion of migrant people, especially refugees, victims in many cases due to racism.

In 2014 the organization started hosting people who were seeking refugee status from Africa and Asia, men, women, and families. The Organization is also currently giving accommodation to twelve children with many kinds of disabilities from Ukraine.

In 2016 A restaurant was opened in Padova, with the help of volunteers, focusing on providing employment for



migrant people including , people who needed to do alternative measures to prison or who need to do public utility work.

In 2019 the organisation accommodated unaccompanied minors from Tunisia, Albania, Kosovo, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt and Senegal.

The philosophy of this organization is that everyone has the right to rise, to rebuild a new way of life, regardless of past traumatic experiences.



## ITALY

**Irene Pavanello**

Social Worker, vice-president of,  
Social Cooperative Percorso VITA onlus

A young social worker from Padua, in the northeast of Italy,  
graduated in 2012 in Venice.

My parents taught me to give value to other people easily  
because they are people like me, with rights, skills and  
competences, that may be different from mine, but still  
human beings.

I've done many experiences in Africa as volunteer with an  
association of Padua and finally I found my way and my job founding a cooperative in 2012,  
"Percorso Vita", with Luca Favarin and other friends.

**Lisa Bugno PhD**

Department F.I.S.P.P.A.,  
University of Padova (Italy)

She graduated in Political Science,  
International Relations and Human Rights  
(2008), and in Primary Education (2014).

In 2014 she achieved the special needs  
teacher qualification. In 2018, she obtained  
her PhD in Pedagogical, Educational and  
Training Sciences at the FISPPA  
Department of the University of Padua, her  
thesis was entitled "Analysis of teachers'  
conceptions about cultural diversity  
between theory and practice in education.  
An action-research", supervised by Prof.  
Giuseppe Milan.

Since 2018, She was a research fellow and  
got involved in several projects relating to  
intercultural education in the school  
contexts and family involvement, early  
childhood services, educational  
communities for unaccompanied minors,  
and after-school programs.

She currently works on the P.I.P.P.I. project  
(Programme of Intervention for the  
Prevention of Institutionalisation), under the  
scientific responsible of prof. Paola Milani in  
Italy

## ITALY

**Laura Traversi**

Laura Traversi graduated in Social Work at  
the University of Verona and has been  
working for over 20 years within public  
social services. She worked for several  
years with vulnerable families and children  
for the Municipality of Padua.

She currently works in adult social services,  
particularly with vulnerable adults in need  
of protection and with people with housing  
and economic problems.

she has been working as a freelance Social  
Worker in Studio Percorsi as a trainer for 10  
years, in agreement with Regional Social  
Worker Organization.

She also works as a project consultant for  
public and private organizations and has a  
specific interest in Social Work in Palliative  
Care.

In 2019 she obtained a First Level Master in  
"Didactics and promotion of the Italian  
language and culture to foreigners" at  
Venice University and started working with  
foreign families for language integration  
paths.

She designs and implements literacy and  
language integration projects working in  
particular with groups of North African  
women and their children, using reading  
aloud activities in mother tongue with  
illustrated books.