

# **International Congress**

Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection: Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children

3 December 2025

**European Parliament - Strasbourg** 

BATIMENT LOUISE WEISS Allée du Printemps F 67070 Strasbourg







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Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection: Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children

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# ABOUT THE CONGRESS

# Internacional Congress

Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection:

## Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children



## Introduction

Violence during pregnancy is one of the most serious threats to the health of women and children. Neuroscience demonstrates that trauma suffered during this phase profoundly affects fetal brain development, with potential long-term consequences for the child's neurological development, psychological well-being, and cognitive abilities.

The conference will analyze the interconnections between neuroscience, prenatal violence, forensic medicine, and legal guardianship to develop multidisciplinary strategies that effectively protect the mental and physical health of mothers and children from the moment of conception. In this context, forensic medicine plays a key role in: detecting and documenting signs of prenatal and postnatal violence; providing scientific evidence for the legal protection of the fetus and newborn; collaborating with the judicial system to ensure swift and fair intervention; and supporting the importance of medical and scientific evidence in preventing unjustified separations between mother and child.

The conference will also analyze the prevention of perinatal and child violence resulting from mother-child separations.

Prevention requires at least the following:

Effective coordination between social services teams and specialized perinatal and child mental health teams to make consensus-based decisions that safeguard mental health and protect the emotional bond between mothers, babies, and fathers.

Maternal and child health services and hospitals specializing in perinatal psychopathology, equipped to provide outpatient or inpatient care to mother-baby or

father-baby units, except when there is a justified contraindication to cohabitation or a relationship between the parents.

Psychological and social support centers to assist and care for families in difficult situations, specializing in protecting fatherhood within the family setting, and interdisciplinary teams trained in mental health and perinatal psychopathology who offer outpatient follow-up at home.

Guaranteeing comprehensive public healthcare for mothers and children in prison, as well as effective public support to facilitate the reintegration of these mothers upon their release. To carry out individual and periodic monitoring of the progress of babies and children under state guardianship in foster families and children's centers, by accredited and independent teams specializing in perinatal and child clinical psychiatry and psychology.



# It is urgent:

Recognize prenatal violence as a form of abuse; reinforce the right to health of the fetus, the newborn, and the mother-child bond; prevent postnatal violence related to forced separations not supported by scientific evidence; ensure the harmonization of European legal frameworks on perinatal health and child protection. Ensure health, social, and legal resources for the prevention of perinatal psychopathology.

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# The objectives of the conference are:

- The creation of a permanent Observatory on Perinatal Mental Health, with a special focus on preventing violence during pregnancy and the postpartum period.
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- The creation of a subcommittee of the European Parliament to study and protect the rights of fetuses and children who are victims of violence, before and after birth.
- The development of innovative early diagnostic tools, such as biomarkers and neuroimaging, to detect the effects of fetal stress and intervene in a timely manner.
- Universal screening for perinatal mental health risks between the second and fourth months of pregnancy, through interviews conducted by midwives or specialized healthcare personnel to identify mental health risks for mothers and fathers. Universal and continuous perinatal mental health care from conception and throughout the first 1,000 days of life, taking into account the specific preventive nature of healthcare and the perinatal psychopathology of both parents and child.

- Strengthening coordinated health and social resources for perinatal mental health care for vulnerable families, in order to guarantee the development of the mother-child bond in high-risk contexts and prevent their separation.
- Guaranteeing effective and comprehensive judicial protection in cases of proposed revocation of custody and guardianship of newborns and children.

# Only a synergy between science, law, forensic medicine, and ethics can guarantee:

Safe and healthy environments for pregnancy and development, real and concrete protection of children from all forms of violence, and effective prevention of the neuropsychological consequences linked to early trauma.

To build a fairer Europe, the protection of mothers, vulnerable families, fetuses, and children must become a political, social, and cultural priority.

To Dra. Giulia Zinno,

"whose vision continues to illuminate the path of this research"  $% \label{eq:continues} % \label{eq:continues} %$ 



# PROGRAM OF THE DAY

# Internacional Congress

Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection:

CONGRESS PROGRAM

07

MORNING (8:30 - 13:30)



Registration of participants and welcome

09:00 - 09:30

Opening session

Institutional greetings: Representatives from the Ministries of Health of Spain, France, Italy, and the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research, as well as several members of the European Parliament

Introduction to the proceedings

09:30 - 11:00 - Session I

When vulnerability becomes an emergency: mother, fetus, and rights

President: Raffaele Zinno

Moderators: Andrea Mele - Carolina Marino

■ The right to health of the fetus and the child within the European regulatory framework

Marco Bona

The role of SMI (Strategic Medical Intelligence) in armed conflicts and humanitarian disasters

Giuseppe Noschese

The impact of toxic stress on neurological development: a psychobiological perspective on fetal

programming

Hamida Ouled Slimane

Analysis of pupil diameter as a predictive index of behavior and emotions

Vincenzo de Cicco

The impact of prenatal violence on children's cognitive development. Neuroscientific evidence

and reflections on diagnostic processes.

Eleonora Grossi

# Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection

Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children





Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:30 - Session II

NORA SYNDROME. THE VIOLENCE OF TRADITION. Psychological gender violence as cultural legacy.

President: Pasquale Malavenda

Moderators: Fernando Boscaino - Gianfranco Vestuto

It doesn't exist! - An existential anthropological view of the phenomenon of gender violence

Gianfranco Buffardi

The profile of the violent man

Luisa D'Aniello

Everyone with Nora to rewrite The Matrix: unmasking the violence of the invisible matrix

Carmine Verino

■ Violence as a wound to human beings: towards a new covenant of care through the Humanities of Health

Silvana Fialioli



Light Lunch



CONGRESS PROGRAM

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EVENING (13:30 - 18:00)

13:30 - 16:30 - Session III

Preventing the trauma of separation between mothers and children in vulnerable families

President: Pascual Palau Subiela

Moderators: Andrea Cagliero- Raffaele Zinno - Hamida Ouled Slimane

Proposal for a paradigm shift in perinatal mental health care for families in difficulty in Spain
 Pascual Palau Subiela

Premature separations between mothers and babies: why, for whom, for what purpose?

Bernard Golse

The separation between mother and child following the declaration of incapacity

Maria Elena Crespo Arce

The failure of the child protection system in Spain. Its necessary judicialization.

Enrique J. Vila Torres

We must and can help mothers with mental illness and their children grow together: facts and experiences from the United Kingdom.

Alain Gréaoire

Joint attendance (parent-child) in France: contributions to the prevention of unfounded separations

Michel Dugnat

## Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children



#### 16:30 - 17:30 - Session IV

Vulnerable bodies and social ties: violence during pregnancy as a matter of public health and social justice

President: Giuseppe Marcega

Moderators: Michele Farinacci - Hamida Ouled Slimane

 Vulnerable bodies and social ties: violence during pregnancy as a matter of public health and social justice

Antonio Sposito

Correlation between perinatal violence and specific postures during adolescence
 Gaetano Agliata

Mindfulness in prenatal and postnatal trauma

Francesco Amore

Psychopostural trauma

Mariarosaria Greco

#### 18:00

Discussion of the final document. Closing of the proceedings.



Representatives from the Ministries of Justice of Togo, Social Affairs of Benin, Health of Mali, Justice, Social Affairs and Health of Cameroon, Health of Ivory Coast, and Education of Tunisia will participate remotely. Experts from New York, Canada, Latin America, several European countries, as well as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, China, and India will participate remotely. Laimei Yeung, president of Femme Courage (Shanghai), will participate in person.





- 01. Gaetano Agliata. Physician, university professor of Movement Sciences, Posturology, Graphopathology, and Osteopathy. President of AIPU Italian Association of University Posturology, Scientific Committee of PSAF Forensic Insurance Healthcare Professionals, President of the Scientific Committee of the Valetudo Foundation, Member of the Provincial and National Scientific Committee of the TSRM PSTRP College of Naples, Avellino, Benevento, and Caserta.
- **02.** Francesco Amore. Psychologist, Master in Psychoneurobiology. Mindfulness instructor (Italian Center for Studies in Durations). Member of AIPU.
- O3. Gianfranco Buffardi. Psychiatrist, psychologist, graduate in Philosophy, PhD in Bioethics. Director of S.P.Es., president of ISUE, professor of Psychiatry at Giustino Fortunato University.
- **04. Marco Bona.** President of the Tort Reform and Access to Justice Group of the Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOPIL).
- **05.** *Fernando Boscaino.* General Director of ISUE S.P.E.S. Director of a nursing home for the elderly (RSA); Head of the social and healthcare and citizen services department in local government; Human Resources Director of a private neuropsychiatric clinic. Consultant for social enterprises, trainer, counselor.
- O6. Andrea Cagliero. PSAF Scientific Committee Neonatologist, psychotherapist, President of Piemonte SIT - Italian Society of Telemedicine.
- 07. Ms. Maria Elena Crespo Arce. Law degree and degree in Political Science and Sociology. Lawyer and researcher in Spain. Specialist in administrative litigation, family law, and immigration law.
  - Luisa D'Aniello. Forensic psychologist, criminologist, neuropsychologist, psychotherapist.
- **08.** Professor of the Level II Master's Program in Criminology at Suor Orsola Benincasa University, Professor of the Level I Master's Program in Psychology of Crime at Giustino Fortunato University, Professor at the S.P.E.S. School of Psychotherapy, former expert at the Naples Surveillance Court, former consultant to the Parliamentary Anti-Mafia Commission.

- O9. Vincenzo de Cicco. Dentist and neuroscientist, Professor at the University of G. D'Annunzio, Chieti (2000-2011). Professor of "Clinical Trigeminal Neurophysiology" in the Pathophysiology and Neurobiology courses, University of Pisa (2006-2009); external collaborator in Dentistry at the Department of Physiology of the University of Pisa.
- Lucio Di Mauro. Forensic physician, National Secretary of SIMLA (Italian Society of Legal Medicine, Insurance, and Forensic Sciences).
- 11. Dr. Michel Dugnat. Perinatal and child psychiatrist, president of the Association for Research and (In)Information in Perinatal Health (ARIP), former head of the Parent-Child Joint Hospitalization Unit of the Child Psychiatry Service at Assistance Publique-hôpitaux de Marseille. Consultant at the Parent-Child Joint Day Inpatient Unit of the Montfavet-Avignon Hospital Center.
- 12. Michele Farinacci. Specialist in Legal and Insurance Medicine, Oncology, Internal Medicine, Hygiene, and Preventive Medicine. Contracted Professor of Legal Medicine and Occupational Medicine at the University of Teramo. Retired Hospital Health Director of ASL Teramo, registered in the Register of Experts of the Legal Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health (Directive Decree of December 6, 2018).
- 13. Silvana Figlioli. Clinical and rehabilitation psychologist, existential psychotherapist in training, specialist in psychiatric rehabilitation, criminologist, expert in forensic science, specialist in child neuropsychomotor development.
- 14. Dr. Bernard Golse. Pediatrician and child psychiatrist, president of the European Association of Psychopathology of Childhood and Adolescence (AEPEA).
  Former head of child psychiatry at Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital in Paris. Professor Emeritus of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at René Descartes University (Paris V). President of the Institute for Contemporary Childhood (ICE).
- 15. Dr. Alain Grégoire. Perinatal psychiatrist, president of the World Alliance for Maternal Mental Health. Honorary president of the Maternal Mental Health Alliance UK. Visiting professor at the London School of Economics.

## Neuroscience, Prenatal and Postnatal Violence, and Legal and Forensic Protection Towards integrated protection for mothers, unborn children, and children

- 16. Eleonora Grossi. Neuropsychologist, forensic psychologist, lecturer at the University of Brescia, member of the CTS Cremona Scientific Committee, and psychotherapist.
- 17. Mariarosaria Greco. Clinical posturologist, specialist in osteopathy.
- 18. Pasquale Malavenda. Member of the PSAF Board of Directors, specialist in legal and occupational medicine, Clinical Risk Manager at Colisée Italia, former president of the Piedmontese Society of Legal Medicine. Lecturer in legal and occupational medicine at the University of Turin. Regional health supervisor for INAIL Piedmont, health director of RSA, president of the ENPAM and ENPAV Turin Provincial Commissions. Former president of the INAIL National Association of Physicians.
- 19. Giuseppe Marceca. Member of the PSAF Board of Directors, Medical Director General of the State Police, specialist in Legal Medicine, cardiologist, Secretary General of the Academy of the History of Health Art - Rome.
- Carolina Marino. Forensic Physician PSAF President's Office Member of the SISMLA Turin Board of Directors (2013-2018), member of the Commission for the Study of Health Legislation on Occupational Risk of the Turin Medical Association (2018-2024).
- Andrea Mele. Head of Programming, Organization, and Risk Management at the INAIL Central Health Supervision.
- 22. Giuseppe Noschese. Member of the PSAF Board of Directors, President of IDMA (International Disaster Medicine Association), Scientific Advisor to the Italian Navy, and Advisor to Strategic Medical Intelligence (SMI).
- 23. Hamida Ouled Slimane. President of PSAF France, clinical and forensic neuroscientist, specializing in neurocriminology, neuropsychopathology, and behavioral neurology. Existential psychotherapist in training, expert in legal medicine and behavioral sciences, professor of Clinical Neurocriminology in the 11th Advanced Training Course in Occupational Legal Medicine at the Hospital Medical School of Rome.

- 24. Dr. Pascual Palau Subiela. Specialist in Clinical and Health Psychology. Psychosematologist for newborns and children. President of the Association for the Mental Health of the Child from Pregnancy (ASMI WAIMH-Spain). President of the Spanish-Language Alliance for Perinatal and Family Mental Health (CONECTA PERINATAL). Responsible for the organization of the Official Master's Degree and the Doctoral Program in Perinatal and Child Psychology and Psychopathology, co-organized by ASMI, WAIMH-Spain, and the University of Valencia (2011-2020). Advisor to the Commissioner for Mental Health of the Spanish Ministry of Health.
- Antonio Sposito. President of ASI (Association of Italian Sociologists); Professor of Social, Human, and Relational Sciences.
- 26. Carmine Verino. Psychologist and psychotherapist.
- 27. Dr. Enrique J. Vila Torres. Lawyer, advisor to the Association for the Defense of Minors in Spain. President of SOS Radici Adottato (registered with the United Nations ECOSOC). Director of SIRCH Europe (International Commission on Human Rights, registered with the UN ECOSOC). Doctor Honoris Causa in Humanities from the AUGP.
- 28. Gianfranco Vestuto. Journalist.
- 29. Zinno Raffaele. President of PSAF (Scientific Association of Forensic Health Professionals and Insurers), forensic physician, specialist in endocrine surgery. Director of the UOC of Legal Medicine ASL NA 2 Nord; lecturer at the University of Naples "Federico II" Nursing Degree (2010/2011 2011/2012). National Secretary of the Italian Union of Specialists in Legal Medicine (SISMLA) 2010-2017, member of the "Consultative Commission on Defensive Medicine and Professional Health Liability" (Ministry of Health), member of the Scientific Committee of the National Guarantee Insurance, journalist, member of the Working Group of the Campana Section of the Italian Society of Psychogeriatrics (A.I.P.) for the development of guidelines for the recognition of civil disability of the patient with dementia.





In-person and online participation is open and free of charge, **upon registration**.





#### **IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION**

For those attending the meeting in Strasbourg

Link option

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https://ep-events.europarl.europa.eu/lincstrasbourg/ViolenzaEGravidanza/e/lk/k/

 Those who request to participate in person must also attach a copy of an identity document.

QR option





#### **PARTICIPATION IN STREAMING**

For those attending the conference remotely

Link option



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• Those who request to participate in person must also attach a copy of an identity document.

QR option

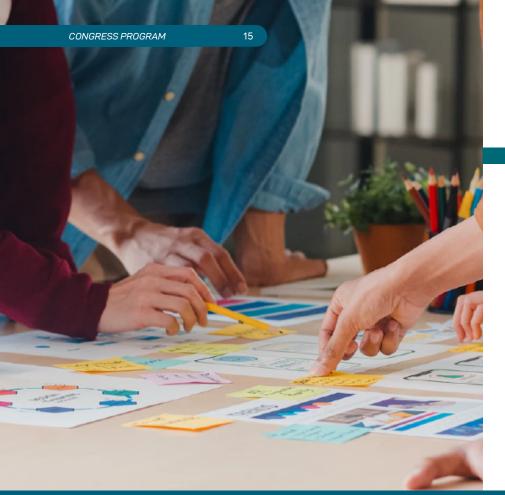




# ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

# Internacional Congress

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#### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Agliata Gaetano

Buffardi Gianfranco

Michel Dugnat

Bruno Gentile

Bernardo Golse

Alain Grégoire

Davide Magnone

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Zinno Raffaele

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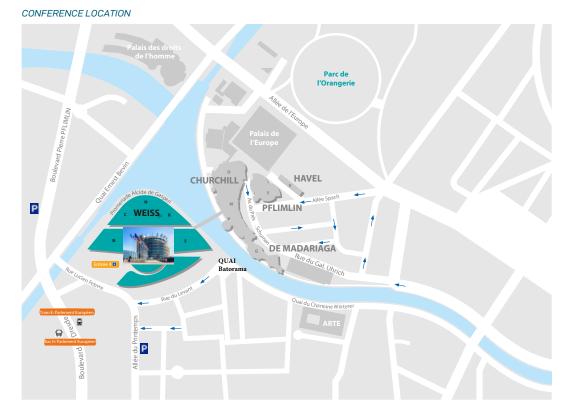
Pablo Palau Garcerá

Ngondi Pierre Bertrand

Florinda Zinno



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INFORMATION



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