

SPOTLIGHT

on

SOLUTIONS

From Intervention to Transformation

Spotlight on Solutions: From Intervention to Transformation

November 4-6, 2025

Join us for **Spotlight on Solutions: From Intervention to Transformation** – a premier three-day event from November 4-6, 2025, exclusively designed for professionals who are passionate about revolutionizing intervention programs for those who choose to be abusive to their partners. This dynamic conference offers a unique platform to explore cutting-edge strategies that promote participant accountability, foster genuine compassion, and prioritize victim safety.

Experience a collaborative environment where leading Battering and Abuse Intervention Programs, community partners, and research experts share groundbreaking ideas and innovative approaches. Engage in thought-provoking sessions that examine conventional practices and explore adaptive interventions tailored to the evolving needs of diverse communities.

We hope you can join us in November, in-person or virtually, to elevate your professional practice, expand your network with industry pioneers, and be at the forefront of a transformative movement in intervention programming. Secure your place at an event that promises to inspire change and drive systemic progress.

Note: The conference is in Eastern Time (ET)

Pre-Conference: Monday, November 3, 2025

Time - ET	Description	Minutes	CE's
8:00pm - 9:30pm ET	Conference Check-In: At the registration area adjacent to the Grand Ballroom in the Kensington hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan.	90 min.	0

Day One: Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Time - ET	Description	Minutes	CE's
8:30am - 9:30am ET	Registration and Breakfast Provided	60 min.	0
9:30am - 10:00am ET	Welcome: to the 29th BISC-MI Annual Conference	30 min.	0
10:00am - 11:30am ET	<u>The Ethics Of Addressing Women's Use Of Force In A Coordinated Community Response & Nonviolence Program</u> - Faculty: Melissa Scaia Description: Are the women who are being arrested and/or court ordered to nonviolence programs battering their partners, using resistive violence, or neither? Does the local Coordinated Community Response (CCR) have a differentiated response or are all cases of domestic violence treated the same? What are effective interventions that address the violence women experience and the violence they use? Interventions to end domestic violence that are successful always account for: 1) the abuser; 2) the victim of the abuse; 3) those who are in relationships with the abuser and/or victim (children, family members, friends); and 4) the outside intervener. When the facts are clear the role of the intervener is clear. However, getting those facts and putting them into context isn't always easy. To be effective, interventions for women who use violence must address the contextual factors of women's lives. Turning Points: A Nonviolence Curriculum for Women is a group curriculum for women who have used violence in their intimate partner relationships. The Turning Points curriculum focuses on helping women understand the connections between the violence they experience and the violence they use. This training will cover the underlying assumptions of Turning Points and the three parts of the curriculum.	90 min. Ethics	1.5
11:30am - 11:45am ET	Break	15 min.	0
11:45am - 12:45pm ET	<u>Nuggets Of Wisdom: A Reluctant Retiree Relies On Your Collective Work</u> - Faculty: Juanita Jones Description: Ah, the dilemma of retirement when there's still so much to do! At age four I used a broom to chase away a boy who was making my three-year-old cousin cry, and I began an unintentional career working for victims of abuse by intervening with perpetrators. I've dropped the broom, refined my strategies, and some additional original tactics. Now I'll share "affirmation projects," the "stick figure" exercise, and other unique practical tools that can be integrated into curricula for safety and healthy relationships.	60 min.	1.0
12:45pm - 1:45pm ET	Lunch Buffet Provided - with Door Prizes	60 min.	0
1:45pm - 3:15pm ET	<u>Research Evidence From Australia On The Intergenerational Impact Of Violence And Men's Behaviour Change Program Initiatives</u> - Faculty: Silke Meyer Description: This session will cover research evidence regarding the intergenerational impact of violence from childhood experiences of parental/ carer domestic violence (DV) and their own use of violence in the family home during adolescence. Findings will be used to explore opportunities for early, child-centered, and whole family interventions.	90 min.	1.5

	The second part of the session will focus on research evidence from diverse examples of men's behaviour change program initiatives, including a 'standard format' of an MBCP in Australia, a pilot program addressing comorbid substance use and use of DV and a father-focused MBCP. Findings will be used to explore opportunities for diverse approaches to MBCPs, including barriers to and enablers of engagement, completion and maintaining behaviour change. This part of the presentation will draw on program participant and (ex)-partner data to ensure the voices of victim-survivors are incorporated into MBCP evidence and inform future policy and practice.		
3:15pm - 3:30pm ET	Break	15 min.	0
3:30pm - 5:00pm ET	<u>Ethical Partner Contact in Abuse Intervention: Current Practice Standards and Future Directions</u> - Faculty: Chris Murphy Description: Effective partner outreach has the potential to extend the positive impact of abuse intervention (batterer) programs. Although partner outreach is a part of many abuse intervention programs, very little research has focused on this component of our work. A content analysis of partner contact requirements and recommendations in U.S state standards reveals wide variation in current practice. These findings raise important questions about the philosophy and purpose of partner contact, common challenges in conducting outreach to partners, and best practices for promoting the safety, well-being, and autonomy of victims. This presentation will review data from a needs analysis conducted with partners of individuals receiving abuse intervention services, along with research on their help-seeking patterns to suggest strategies for innovation and enhancement of this component of our work.	90 min. Ethics	1.5
5:00pm - 6:30pm ET	<u>Beyond the Group Room: Ethics and Advocacy During Policy Shifts</u> - Moderators: David Garvin & Kathy Hagenian Description: We will examine and discuss how recent and emerging shifts in Federal policies and procedures are influencing the work of battering intervention programs (BIPs) as well as advocacy efforts to enhance survivor safety and well-being. Panelists will discuss the evolving landscape of immigration policy, funding structures, new programmatic requirements, and how these changes are prompting BIPs and community-based organizations to take on expanded roles. The conversation will also highlight the value of Coordinated Community Response (CCR) models in adapting to these developments, emphasizing the importance of cross-sector collaboration in maintaining effective, offender focused/survivor-centered strategies in an uncertain and changing policy environment.	90 min. Ethics	1.5
6:30pm ET	Dinner on own	0	0
8:30pm - 9:30pm ET	Cookies & Chat (<i>for in-person attendees only</i>)	60 min.	0

Day Two: Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Time - ET	Description	Minutes	CE's
8:30am - 9:30am ET	Registration and Breakfast Provided	60 min.	0
9:30am - 10:00am ET	Welcome: Johanna Kononen, Associate Director Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV)	30 min.	0

10:00am - 11:30am ET	<u>Bridging Accountability And Support: Effectively Engaging Men For Lasting Change</u> - Faculty: Shon Hart Description: This presentation explores the complexities of working with men who have caused harm, focusing on understanding their experiences while holding them accountable for their actions. Engaging men in meaningful change requires a balanced approach—one that acknowledges the personal, societal, and systemic factors influencing their behaviors while maintaining clear expectations for responsibility and transformation. Highlighting the work of InvolvedDad, this session will provide real-world strategies and interactive discussions on how to effectively connect with men and guide them toward positive change. Participants will learn how to reduce defensiveness, foster self-awareness, and encourage accountability while ensuring interventions are ethical, impactful, and sustainable.	90 min.	1.5
11:30am - 11:45am ET	Break	15 min.	0
11:45am - 1:15pm ET	<u>Abuse Intervention Participants: Hearing Directly From The Participants</u> - Moderators: Chris Huffine & Holly Rosen Description: This Zoom panel will feature several abusive men who have participated in a number of abuse intervention groups, including some who have attended for years. They will discuss what led them to initially engage in services as well as what have been some of the key takeaways for them. There will be ample time allowed to field questions from the audience.	90 min.	1.5
1:15pm - 2:15pm ET	Lunch Buffet Provided - with Door Prizes	60 min	0
2:15pm - 2:45pm ET	<u>Awards Ceremony</u> The COMPASS Award: Rich Tolman The Michigan Icon Award: Jim Henderson	30 min.	0
2:45pm - 4:15pm ET	<u>The Experience Of Associazione LUI: an Italian BIP</u> - Faculty: Giulia Degeia, Gabriele Lessi, and Jacopo Piampaini: Italy Description: In addition to meaning 'him' in Italian, LUI is also the acronym that, back in 2010, was chosen by two friends—one a psychotherapist, the other a lawyer—to name an association that aimed to serve as a platform for dialogue on masculinity in all its forms. Associazione LUI began in Livorno, Tuscany, as a male self-awareness group and, over the years, expanded to include more activities focused on combating domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence. Among these initiatives is a BIP (Batterer Intervention Program) built on the Association's founding principles, which continues to evolve both in terms of content and legal framework. It will address both the specific features and common challenges faced by Batterer Intervention Programs, with particular emphasis on creating content and stimuli that comply with legal provisions and foster the integration of key concepts and awareness into participants' perspectives, while also referencing the statistical model that Associazione LUI is refining to monitor each user's progress within the program in light of recent European and Italian legislative changes.	90 min.	1.5
4:15pm - 4:30pm ET	Break	15 min.	0
4:30pm - 6:00pm ET	<u>When You've Heard It All: Vicarious Trauma, Compassion Fatigue, and Caring for Yourself in Battering Intervention Work</u> - Faculty: Apryl Pooley Description: Vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue are prevalent occupational challenges in fields of counseling, healthcare, law enforcement, prosecution, corrections and probation, victim services, and more. While many people think of	90 min.	1.5

	vicarious trauma in the victim services or first responders realm, it is relevant across sectors, as vicarious trauma simply refers to being exposed to details of abuse, violence, or other trauma from any source. Exposure to accounts of others' trauma has been shown to change the worldview of professionals and can put individuals and organizations at risk for a range of negative consequences including compassion fatigue, or a diminished capacity to feel sympathy and feelings of helpless and hopelessness at work. The good news is that with proper awareness, support, organizational policies, and personal practices, professionals exposed to trauma can mitigate the effects of vicarious trauma. This session will provide an overview of the effects of trauma exposure at work, warning signs for recognizing when the work is starting to take a toll, and practical "tools for resilience" to improve your professional and personal quality of life.		
6:00pm ET	Dinner on own	Varied	0
8:00pm-9:00pm ET	Cookies & Chat (<i>for in-person attendees only</i>)	60 min.	0

Day Three: Thursday, November 6, 2025

Time - ET	Description	Minutes	CE's
8:30am - 9:30am ET	Registration and Breakfast Provided	60 min.	0
9:30am - 10:00am ET	Welcome: Angelita Gunn, Deputy Director, Division of Victim Services, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services	30 min.	0
10:00am - 11:30am ET	<u>The Intersection Of Brain Injury And Domestic Violence: Finding A Path Forward</u> - Faculty: Russsha Knauer Description: Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) affect about 18.2% of the general population (Karamian, Luck-Wold, SEifi, 2024), yet rates soar in criminal justice settings. In a Colorado study, 45% of legal system participants had a TBI—with 55% among adults. Among probationers (the most common sentence for domestic violence offenders), TBI correlated with previous felonies, higher reoffending risk, more intensive supervision, and increased recidivism (Gorgens, Meyer & Dettmer, 2020). Higher containment levels further amplify these rates. This presentation explains how brain injuries are often overlooked, as their impairments mimic and overlap with mental health issues, substance use disorders, and criminogenic needs. It will outline simple, brain injury-informed adjustments to intervention, to identify brain injuries and strategies that foster healthier, less controlling interpersonal behaviors.	90 min.	1.5
11:30am - 11:45am ET	<u>Break</u>	15 min.	0
11:45am - 1:15pm ET	<u>The Ethical Role Of An Abuse Intervention Program (AIP) In A Coordinated Community Response</u> - Faculty: Melissa Scaia Description: This session will seek to answer the questions: What is the role of a Men's Battering Intervention Program in a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)? What is the role of a Women Who Use Force program in a CCR? What is	90 min. Ethics	1.5

	a CCR and how is it different from a task force or a monthly networking meeting? What is the role of an abuse intervention program (AIP) in coordination with other community and government agencies? This session will explore the role of AIPs in a CCR and how an AIP can contribute to or can diminish survivor safety.		
1:15pm - 2:15pm ET	Lunch Buffet Provided - with Door Prizes	60 min	0
2:15pm - 3:15pm ET	<u>Let's Keep Talking: BIP involvement in the CCR</u> - Hosted discussion: Faculty and Board members Description: This will be an opportunity to continue the conversation. Conference participants will meet in small, facilitated groups to share their questions, perspectives, expertise, and wisdom with each other.	60 min.	1.0
3:15pm - 4:45pm ET	<u>The Ethics of Working with Personality Disorders in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Populations</u> - Faculty: Erin Gazelka Description: This session is intended to provide frameworks for identifying, understanding, and intervening with personality disorders and related trait patterns in intimate partner violence perpetrator populations.	90 min. Ethics	1.5
4:45 pm ET	CONFERENCE CLOSING: Raffle for 2 Free Registrations for the 2026 BISC-MI Conference (In-Person and Virtual) Must be present to win!	15 min.	0
Total # CE's for Full 3-Day In-Person and Virtual Conference: Day One: 7 Day Two: 6 Day Three: 5.5 Total: 18.5 Ethics: 6.0			

Conference website: <https://www.biscmi.org/2025-conference/>

Membership Fee Reduction: There is a reduced fee for in-person or virtual attendees who are BISC-MI members. For more information about membership, go to:
<https://www.biscmi.org/about/get-membership/>

Door Prizes: For those attending in person, please help make our conference fun and successful!

Please bring any item(s) that highlights your program, community, or that would make fun gifts to receive! Bring these to the registration table when you check-in to the conference. These will be passed out throughout the conference. Thanks, in advance, for adding to the BISC-MI conference.

BISC-MI is delighted to be joined once again by the Self Esteem Shop Bookstore!



The Self Esteem Shop is delighted to share a preorder coupon code for free pick up at the event!

Use Coupon Code "BISCM2025" for 15% OFF and FREE Conference pick up on your order, offer expires October 31st, 2025!

This program has been intentionally designed to ensure an integrated, comprehensive, dynamic professional development experience. Full, in-person conference attendance is strongly encouraged. For those unable to attend all three days (in-person or virtually), daily virtual livestream registration is available. We regret that we are not able to offer daily in-person registration, and virtual programming is not being recorded.

NOTE: In-person registration includes two meals per day, snacks, and an opportunity to attend evening events. Hotel costs at or near the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan are an additional fee. Virtual registration covers additional technology expenses.

In recognition of the current fiscal climate and our commitment to supporting our partners and communities, we have decided not to increase the conference registration fee after the early bird deadline. The registration rate will remain the same through the close of registration.

We hope this decision helps make participation more accessible for all attendees, and we look forward to connecting with you at the conference!

REGISTRATION COSTS

Member Early Bird by October 1, 2025: \$360.00

Member Regular after October 1, 2025: \$460.00

Member Daily Registration: \$160.00

Non-Member Early Bird by October 1, 2025: \$460.00

Non-Member Regular after October 1, 2025: \$560.00

Non-Member Daily Registration: \$205.00

Registration rates will also include a minimal processing fee at the registration site

[Click here if you require a w9 from BISC-MI](#)

Student Rate offered for Virtual or In-Person Conference

Students interested in a low-cost conference:

BISC-MI is offering student scholarships and seeking applications available to undergraduate and graduate students, for our 2025 hybrid conference.

Students, whose applications are accepted can attend virtually or in-person for \$35.00 per day, with the choice of attending one, two, or three of the days.

Note for students attending in-person: The \$35.00 daily fee covers meals and conference registration.

Lodging costs are not included at or near the Kensington Hotel in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

To fill out an application to apply for the student rate, click: <https://forms.gle/6KnHmHHjurqTbn2C6>

Fee for Social Work CE's: \$50.00 total (for one, two or three days) – for those covered by Michigan NASW CE's: 18.5 CE's (6.0 Ethics CE hours)

**** Up to 18.5 BIP or Social Work CE's for virtual attendance ****

~ Other States CE's are dependent on reciprocity with Michigan ~

This course is approved by the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative
Course Approval:#072225-00

Up to 18.5 Michigan Social Work CE Hours (6.0 Ethics CE hours)



Conference website: <https://www.biscmi.org/2025-conference/>

Make lodging reservations early with THE KENSINGTON HOTEL – ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN!

NOTE: Lodging reservations is a separate process from conference registration



LODGING RATES & RESERVATION Link:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/113707?groupID=4593529>

The Kensington website: <https://www.kcourtaa.com/>

[The Kensington Hotel – Ann Arbor](#) offers BISC-MI guests a reduced rate of \$112.00/night for single and double occupancy, plus applicable taxes. *If you are state of Michigan tax exempt, be sure to present appropriate documentation at hotel check in.*

DON'T WAIT!

The deadline for making reservations is **Monday, October 13, 2025** but the conference block may easily fill sooner and rooms may no longer be available at the reduced rate. After this cut-off date, reservations may be accepted at the group rate on a space available, rate available basis. *If the Kensington Hotel block fills, BISC-MI will share information for alternate partner hotels in the area, but reduced rate offers are not guaranteed.* Group room rate is offered the nights of Sunday November 2, 2025 through Thursday, Nov 6, 2025 (checking out Friday November 7, 2025).

RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please make note of the hotel cancellation policy when making your reservations and remember to make any reservation changes according to the policy. BISC-MI is not responsible for any fees incurred for personal hotel reservations during the conference.

Hotel check-in time is 4:00 pm; check-out is 11:00 am

To make hotel lodging reservations online:

- **In order to receive the discounted hotel rate, you must use this link:** <https://reservations.travelclick.com/113707?groupID=4593529>
- Enter the dates of your stay

The reservation links accepts reservations for the nights of Nov. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 only.

Hotel phone: 734.761.7800

Please note: some features and information display differently across various mobile and desktop devices. Please contact the hotel with questions or issues about the online reservation process.



[THE KENSINGTON HOTEL – ANN ARBOR](#)
Address: [3500 S State St, Ann Arbor, MI 48108](#)
Phone: 866.315.7075
Email: ask@kcourtaa.com
Easy Parking!

Ample, free self-parking is available at the Kensington Hotel Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

2025 Conference
Faculty



Faculty Bio Page

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2025 Conference
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Giulia De Gioia



Giulia De Gioia was born in 1985 in Pisa, Italy, where she works as an interpreter and counselor. After graduating in Translation and Liaison Interpreting from the University of Bologna, she obtained her counselor certification in Transactional Analysis, specializing in interpreting in the fields of psychotherapy, psychology, neuroscience, and psychosocial matters.

She has dedicated the last ten years of her life to combating domestic and gender-based violence, first as a telephone operator at the Anti-Violence Center of the Association “Casa della Donna” in Pisa, and later as a facilitator for groups of men who are perpetrators or potential perpetrators of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence at the Associazione LUI in Livorno, where she also coordinates the staff. Currently, she is pursuing a second degree in Psychology, further expanding her knowledge and expertise in the field.



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Erin M. Gazelka

Ms. Gazelka, J.D., M.A., LPC, DVCS, ADS, has been working in the intersection of law and psychology since 2000. She has been a forensic therapist and clinician in Denver, Colorado since 2006. She is currently focused on providing therapy and assessment services to adult offenders in the community corrections and parole systems as a forensic clinical supervisor at Correctional Psychology Associates (CPA). She was listed as a full operating level DVOMB Approved Provider in June 2019 and a DVCS for male and female populations in April 2025. She started a fledgling DV program oriented to Colorado's Department of Corrections at CPA in September 2019. Her focus has been on high-risk intimate partner violence perpetrators for the past 8 years.

Ms. Gazelka has practiced as a Licensed Professional Counselor (#6534) since June 2012. She also became a Licensed Addiction Counselor (#435) in March 2014. She trained in auricular detoxification in April 2023, adding the ADS to her credentials. Ms. Gazelka has been an active Adjunct Professor of Psychology at the University of Denver since 2014, as well as teaching at three other Colorado universities and four different training agencies related to BHA-approved addiction courses. Ms. Gazelka has been recognized for her work as Contributor of the Year at CPA in 2010, and again in 2012. She was also recognized by University of Denver with the Alumni Impact Award in 2019. Ms. Gazelka received her Master of Arts degree in Forensic Clinical Psychology from University of Denver's Graduate School of Professional Psychology in 2009. Ms. Gazelka also received her Juris Doctorate from William Mitchell College of Law in 2007, obtaining attorney's licenses in both Minnesota and Colorado (currently inactive and not practicing law).



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Shon Hart



Shon Hart is the visionary Executive Director of InvolvedDad and Family Matters in Flint, MI, a leading figure in the transformative journey of men towards healthy manhood. An accomplished author and motivational speaker, Shon's seminal work, "Broken Boys Become Broken Men," delves into empowering men to confront and heal the boy within, guiding them to mature into confident, responsible adults. He is also the creator of the impactful "Man 2 Man" curriculum and the author of "From Average to Elite."

With a deep commitment to fatherhood and family dynamics, Shon specializes in fostering self-assurance among men, promoting family reunification, and enhancing the overall stability of family structures. His pioneering work has set a benchmark in the field, as he champions the cause of eradicating fatherlessness by empowering men to become actively engaged fathers and positive role models.

Through InvolvedDad, Shon's initiatives have profoundly influenced a generation, ensuring fathers are equipped to contribute significantly to their children's lives and the community. His leadership not only redefines fatherhood but also inspires other practitioners with his innovative approaches to building stronger families and communities.



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Juanita Sprengle Jones

My work in gender equity began when my college dorm had a 7:30 pm curfew and men had none. After college I convened a group to found a York rape crisis center and helped found ACCESS-York for DV victims. Realizing victims couldn't stop domestic violence, I began working in battering intervention as a group facilitator, later program coordinator, of Domestic Abuse Solutions. In 1991 Barbara Hart invited me to help write the country's first battering intervention standards.

Working for a men's BIP, in 1999 I added the first PA program for women who used force, and in '2008' integrated a parenting curriculum. Named one of 25 Extraordinary Women in York County PA in 2014, I also received a York Bar Association award for advancing rights and safety for women. With too much passion and adrenaline for retirement, I am now in private practice at Relationship Risk Solutions, facilitating groups for men and for women and evaluating risk in custody cases. I have a wonderful (and slightly bossy) support system of four children and six grandchildren who keep me grounded and I occasionally sell the artwork I do for my own therapy.



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Russha Knauer



Russha Knauer is the Director of the MINDSOURCE Brain Injury Network, the State of Colorado's lead state agency on brain injury. Housed within the Colorado Department of Human Services, MINDSOURCE serves several functions with the overall aim of improving the care for people living with brain injuries. Russha came into this work after serving for over 20 years in various roles across the juvenile justice and criminal legal systems. This work gradually highlighted how unidentified brain injuries can interfere in successful behavior change and community transition for people involved in the criminal legal system. Eventually, the paths of Russha's past and current careers began to converge.

As an analyst within the Division of Probation Services in the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office, Russha joined a cross-agency team of professionals to study the prevalence of brain injuries across the spectrum of juvenile justice and criminal legal system settings. This team identified and created tools effective for identifying lifetime history of brain injury and current symptoms, simple compensatory strategies, and ongoing group support. This set of tools is now known as the Online Brain Injury Screening & Support System (OBISSS) and Colorado Brain Injury Model. The latter model is used in more than 14 states and internationally.

In addition to Russha's experience with brain injury and the criminal legal system, she has an extensive background working with and using implementation science to reinforce change in practice and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT).

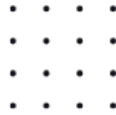


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Gabriele Lessi



Gabriele Lessi, Attorney, was born in Livorno, Italy, in 1980. He is a Lawyer registered with the professional association, a Mediator for civil and commercial conciliation, an Expert in Law of affective relationships and an Expert in Gender Violence and Clinical Criminology. He has a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Pisa (Italy), Master's Degree in Comparative Law from the University of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain), Specialization in Lawyer for the Court for Violence against Women at ICAM (Madrid, Spain), Specialized in intervention programs for perpetrators of violence against women at Emerge Domestic Violence (Boston, Mass., USA), Master's Degree in Clinical Criminology (Rome, Italy).

He is co-founder in 2010 of Associazione LUI of Livorno, Italy, and co-director of the associative program called PUM-CUAV (Center for perpetrators or potential perpetrators of domestic, sexual and gender violence). He is an association manager, speaker, teacher and deals with planning, consultancy and substantive, procedural and doctrinal legal research, anamnesis interviews, coordination and representation of association activities. He is a senior facilitator of groups for perpetrators of violent behavior inside and outside prison.

Lawyer Lessi deals with innovating and developing the interconnections between the criminal, civil, juvenile and administrative judicial system with treatment-re-education programs for perpetrators of family abuse, trying to provide personalized re-education plans based on precautionary needs and on judicial rulings, with a view to restorative justice and social reintegration. He promotes dialogues, awareness of masculinity and male self-awareness and for the non-violent resolution of conflicts.



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Silke Meyer



Dr. Silke Meyer is a Professor of Social Work and the Leneen Forde Chair of Child & Family Research at Griffith University, Australia. She is a criminologist and social worker by training, bringing practical and theoretical expertise to her research, teaching and writing. Her research centres on different aspects of domestic and family violence, including women and children's safety, wellbeing and recovery, men's accountability in their role as perpetrators and fathers, experiences specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the role of domestic and family violence-informed practice in child protection, policing and court proceedings. Silke has led numerous evaluations for government and non-government organisations, including victim-support services, perpetrator interventions, child protection, court and police responses to domestic and family violence.

Silke is a Subject Matter Expert for the Raising Children Network and a former non-government member of the inaugural Qld Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board. Silke provides expert reports and evidence on different aspects of domestic and family violence (including coercive control) in coronial, criminal law and family law matters. She further develops and delivers DFV specialist training and professional development sessions for government and non-government organisations.



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Chris Murphy



Christopher M. Murphy, Ph.D. is Professor of Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. His research focuses on psychosocial risk factors for emotional and physical abuse in intimate adult relationships; strategies to enhance the efficacy and impact of interventions for individuals who engage in intimate partner violence; and the prevention of relationship abuse and sexual violence in emerging adulthood.



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Jacopo Piampiani



Jacopo Piampiani is a psychologist, family mediator, and psychotherapist. He was born in Pisa, Italy in 1980. In November 2005, he obtained a degree in Psychology of the Old Order at the University of Florence with a thesis (Cognitive Failures Questionnaire: comparison between Italians and Spaniards) resulting from a research course at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. In November 2007 he qualified as a psychologist and registered with the Order of Psychologists of Tuscany. He continued his training as a systemic-relational psychotherapist from 2008 to 2011, attending training at the Institute of Family Therapy in Florence. In February 2011 he also obtained the title of Family Mediator from the Institute of Family Therapy in Florence.

Since the 1990's he slowly began to develop a constant interest in gender issues, a passion that found form in the co-foundation in 2010 of the LUI Association together with the lawyer (wedding witness), Gabriele Lessi and Co-director of the PUM-CUAV Program. He is a senior facilitator of groups for perpetrators of violent behavior inside and outside prison, with certifications from the most important global centers in the sector, just to name a few: Emerge Domestic Violence (Boston, Mass., USA), at ATV – Alternative To Violence in Oslo, at Fundacion Ires in Barcelona.

He is an association manager and deals with planning, fund-raising, medical history interviews, coordination and representation of association activities. In addition, he is a trainer and consultant for public and private institutions on the fight against gender violence. He practices his profession as a freelancer.



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Apryl Pooley



Dr. Apryl Pooley is an expert trauma consultant, trainer, and qualified expert witness who holds a Ph.D in Neuroscience from Michigan State University where she researched the neurobiology of trauma and published research on the therapeutic efficacy of neurofeedback and yoga in trauma survivors. Dr. Pooley is currently the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for the Michigan Victim Advocacy Network, a project that supports crime victim advocates across the state. Dr. Pooley has trained victim advocates, prosecuting attorneys, healthcare professionals, adult protective services workers, multidisciplinary sexual assault response teams, and other community service providers on the neurobiology of trauma, trauma-informed approaches, vicarious trauma, and more—with a goal of helping services become more trauma-informed, survivor-centered, and sustainable for those who do this work.



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Melissa Scaia



Melissa (Petrangelo) Scaia has worked to address gender-based violence for over 25 years locally in Minnesota, nationally, and globally. She is committed to continuing to be a practitioner in work that she trains on internationally related to domestic violence/coercive control. In Minnesota, she works part-time for Domestic Abuse Project as an Intervention/Prevention Therapist for their men's perpetrator program and as the Systems Advocate Coordinator of the Minneapolis Coordinated Community Response (CCR) (i.e. Integrated Response) to domestic violence. She works internationally as part of the Global Alliance for Women's Safety and Equality (GAWSE). As part of GAWSE, she works for UN Women to provide training and technical assistance, currently in Greece, Moldova, and the Asia-Pacific region. She provides training and technical assistance on addressing women's use of violence in an Integrated Response and in non-violence programs as co-founder of Domestic Violence Turning Points. She co-wrote a curriculum and videos for working with perpetrators as fathers entitled, Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter. She is the former Director of International Training at Global Rights for Women, co-founder of Pathways to Family Peace, and former executive director of Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs (DAIP), also known as "the Duluth Model." 2006.



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