



UNMASKING ORGANIZED CRIME: EMPOWERING YOUTH TO BREAK THE CYCLE

Discover our conference:

The conference explores the topic of the relationship between the younger generation and **criminal organizations**. First, we would like to provide a brief overview of the structure, operation and sources of profit of mafias in the Italian context and the links between the **mafia and politics**. Given the pervasive nature of the phenomenon on the international scene as well, the second point will be devoted to outlining the links that exist between criminal organizations in different countries. Then, we analyze the relationships between organized crime and young people, while maintaining a focus on the Italian panorama: investigating the impact of these organizations on young people and the roles they are assigned; narrating the condition of the children of mafiosi, sometimes victims of myth. This central phase will close with a request to prospect the expectations for change that the authorities have, in relation to the influence of criminal organizations on young people.

Finally, the last part of the conference will be open for the public Q&A.

Why is it important talking about ...?

To unmask organized crime, knowledge is the pivotal first step towards change. It is important to acquire profound insights into organized crime and its ramifications on the younger generation, exploring the intricate associations between criminal entities and the youth, illuminating their roles and the hurdles they confront, including the offspring of mafia members. The conference holds significant importance as it gives the opportunity to gain knowledge, advocate prevention, involve the youth, and instigate actions aimed at confronting the challenge posed by organized crime and its repercussions on the youth.

Key Words:

- **OCG:** It is challenging for law enforcement to identify organized criminal groups because they are active throughout the world yet maintain a very low profile outside of Italy. The ownership and exploitation of land and communities is where the Italian mafias get their power. The significance of a pan-European strategy and improved cooperation to combat these criminal organizations was highlighted in a 2013 threat assessment on Italian organized crime, which was the result of two years' worth of study by Europol intelligence analysts.
- **Educational quality:** education as a tool to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness.
- **TOC:** Transnational organized crime (TOC) poses a significant and growing threat to national and international security, and it has serious repercussions for global public health, safety, democratic institutions, and economic stability. Not only are criminal networks expanding, but they also are diversifying their activities. This convergence of threats is having an increasing impact on state institutions and governance.
- **Mafia and politics:** OCG is capable of manipulating elections and installing their people in administrative positions even in places far from the territories they control.



HIKMA SUMMIT 2023 OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Statistics:

- Compared to 2014, minors reported for mafia-type association have increased by +93.8%
- In Italy, the number of minors reported for drug-related offenses has increased significantly, from 578 in 1984 to 5,123 in 2016. Magistrate Francesco Cascini highlights the substantial impact of drug-related crimes, with almost 50% of offenses falling into this category, despite being often underestimated socially.
- In Campania, among minors aged 14-17, 1.4% are arrested for association with a criminal organization or mafia-type offenses.

Latest news (or Find out more)

- In Calabria in 2012, the removal of some children from their respective mafia families ignited a debate on how the state should protect children raised in organized crime families. Some argue for immediate separation, while others question potential emotional trauma resulting from family separation. <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230919-the-kids-leaving-mafia-families>
- Today, many young people in Naples find themselves involved in the Camorra, the local criminal organization. This involvement of the youth is not new but has taken on new forms. In the past, they were used as "muschilli" (small intermediaries) for minor tasks, but today they are more actively engaged in the gangs, often reaching positions of authority. These young Camorra members represent a new generation actively involved in crime, often displaying a bold and violent attitude. <https://www.vice.com/en/article/bnpywq/the-new-generation-of-mafia-camorrists-terrorising-naples-876>
- In Italy, young members of the mafia utilize social media to wield a different form of influence, often referred to as 'soft' power, and to propagate their criminal way of life. - <https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/mafia-millennials-camorra-italy-ocindex/>
- Younger generations are reshaping the mafia, adopting more digital approaches and challenging older generations. This change reflects generational shifts in organized crime.- <https://www.businessinsider.com/millennial-mobsters-mafia-downfall-colombo-fbi-2021-10?r=US&IR=T>