



On November 20 we celebrate UN World Children's Day

Children with imprisoned parents — it is not their crime, but still their sentence.

They have rights of their own and special needs.

To whom it may concern,

An estimated 2 million children in Europe are affected by the imprisonment of a parent, a far greater number than the actual prison population itself. Children with incarcerated parents belong to a high-risk group, often grow up in unstable environments and are exposed to multiple risk factors.

In 2018, the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation CM/Rec(2018)5 ([find it here in your language](#)) strengthening the rights of children of prisoners. Member states are guided by these principles in policy and practices. The 56 articles cover Police detention, Judicial orders, Prison conditions, Staff working with children and imprisoned parents, Monitoring, Research and Media.

The recommendation is directed towards correctional services and agencies in charge of children, but also towards other responsible ministries, authorities and organisations. The need for cooperation is recognised. Have a look if your area is also prompted:

- **Public Prosecutors and Courts** in Art. 2, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 17
- **Children/Family Ministry & Social Ministry** in Art. 16, 19, 27, 36, 38, 39, 40, 44, 49, 50, 54
- **Interior Ministry / Police** in Art. 8, 12, 49 and 50
- **Finance Ministry** in Art. 6, 46 and 53
- **Health Ministry** in Art. 34 and 37
- **Civil society organisations and NGO's** in Art. 6, 19, 27, 44 and 49

Some countries have taken important steps to improve the lives of children of prisoners, but many challenges remain. [Click here](#) to view a table with the recommendation and practices in other countries and explore the [EuroPris expert group page](#) on Children of Prisoners in your own language (top right corner of the website). You can also visit [COPE](#) and don't hesitate to contact me.

Name, Institution/Position, Email, Phone