

# How to support children to cope with their parent's imprisonment and enhance their potential to lead safe, included, happy, achieving lives?

---

Children of Prisoners Europe: the COPE network

Hannah Lynn | Kate Philbrick  
Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)  
[contact@networkcope.eu](mailto:contact@networkcope.eu)

10 January 2017  
Quality of Childhood session  
European Parliament

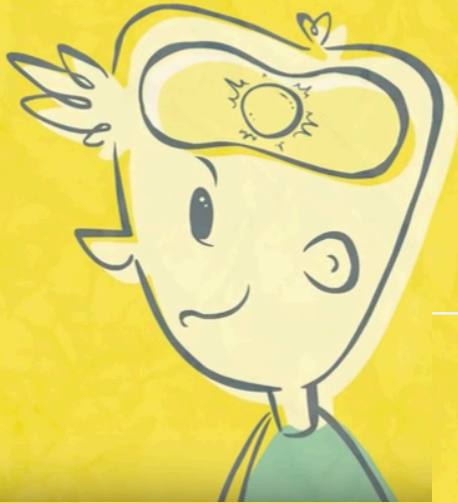


# Structure

- The issue
  - The children's needs
  - The children's rights
- Influencing change
  - Framing
  - What we do
- Progress so far
- Looking forward...

# The child's needs

800,000 voices (and the need for case-by-case analysis)





You are a Child Rights Champion. Thank you for thinking of us in the 2014 EP Resolution on the Rights of the Child (Article 13). Here's a change that I would like to see:

less intense ~~the~~ visits and more freedom for visits and more to do during visits

Age 16

Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE) encourages innovative perspectives and practices to ensure that children of imprisoned parents fully enjoy their rights, and that action is taken to enable their well-being and development.

You are a Child Rights Champion. Thank you for thinking of us in the 2014 EP Resolution on the Rights of the Child (Article 13). Here's a change that I would like to see:

Don't like getting searched. would like me canteen facilities

Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE) encourages innovative perspectives and practices to ensure that children of imprisoned parents fully enjoy their rights, and that action is taken to enable their well-being and development.

You are a Child Rights Champion. Thank you for thinking of us in the 2014 EP Resolution on the Rights of the Child (Article 13). Here's a change that I would like to see:

Children should be helped to see prison as rehabilitation rather than a disciplinary system

Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE) encourages innovative perspectives and practices to ensure that children of imprisoned parents fully enjoy their rights, and that action is taken to enable their well-being and development.

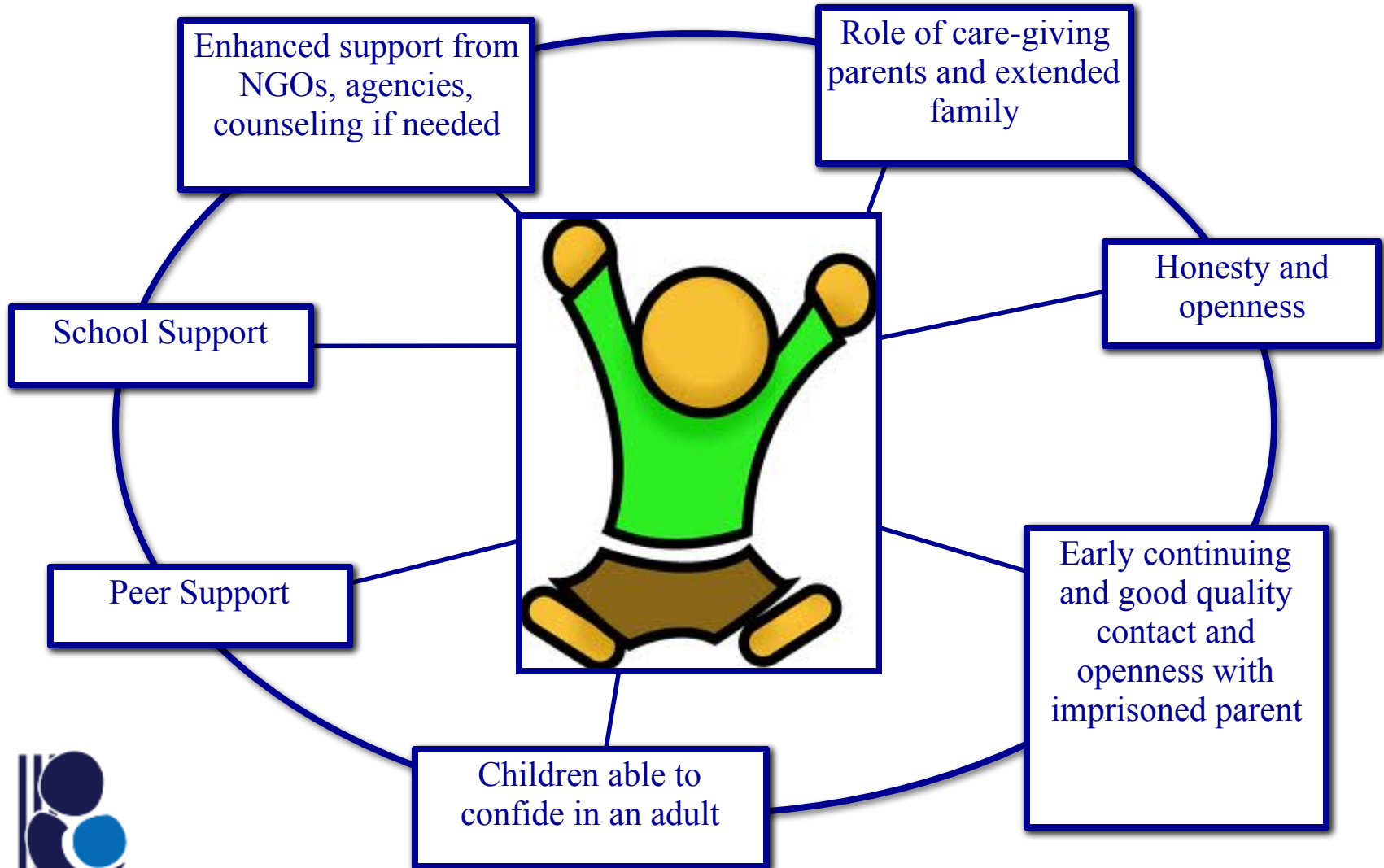
You are a Child Rights Champion. Thank you for thinking of us in the 2014 EP Resolution on the Rights of the Child (Article 13). Here's a change that I would like to see:

I wish my dad could come and see my school!

Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE) encourages innovative perspectives and practices to ensure that children of imprisoned parents fully enjoy their rights, and that action is taken to enable their well-being and development.



# Resilience factors - positive



# Protecting the child-parent bond (part 1)



## Protection from humiliation

## Protecting the child-parent bond (part 2)



Alain Bouregba:

Comment l'incarcération altère la conduite de l'individu /  
How incarceration alters the child-parent relationship

Video documentary: <https://goo.gl/wO62Tk>



# The rights of the child

## **European Convention on Human Rights (1953):**

Article 8: *Everyone has the right to respect for their private and family life*

## **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**

Articles:

2: right to protection from discrimination on the basis of the status or activities of the child's parents;

3: right to have their best interests taken into consideration;

9: right to contact with their parents;

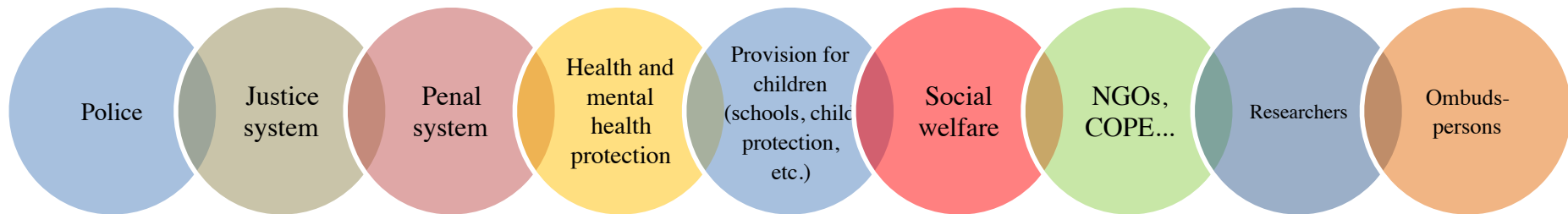
12: right to express their views in all matters concerning them.

as well as 5, 6.2, 9.1, 31...

## **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000/2009):**

Article 24: Rights of the child to protection, care, well-being, express views freely, best interests and the right to maintain a personal and direct relationship with both parents

# A multi-sectoral issue

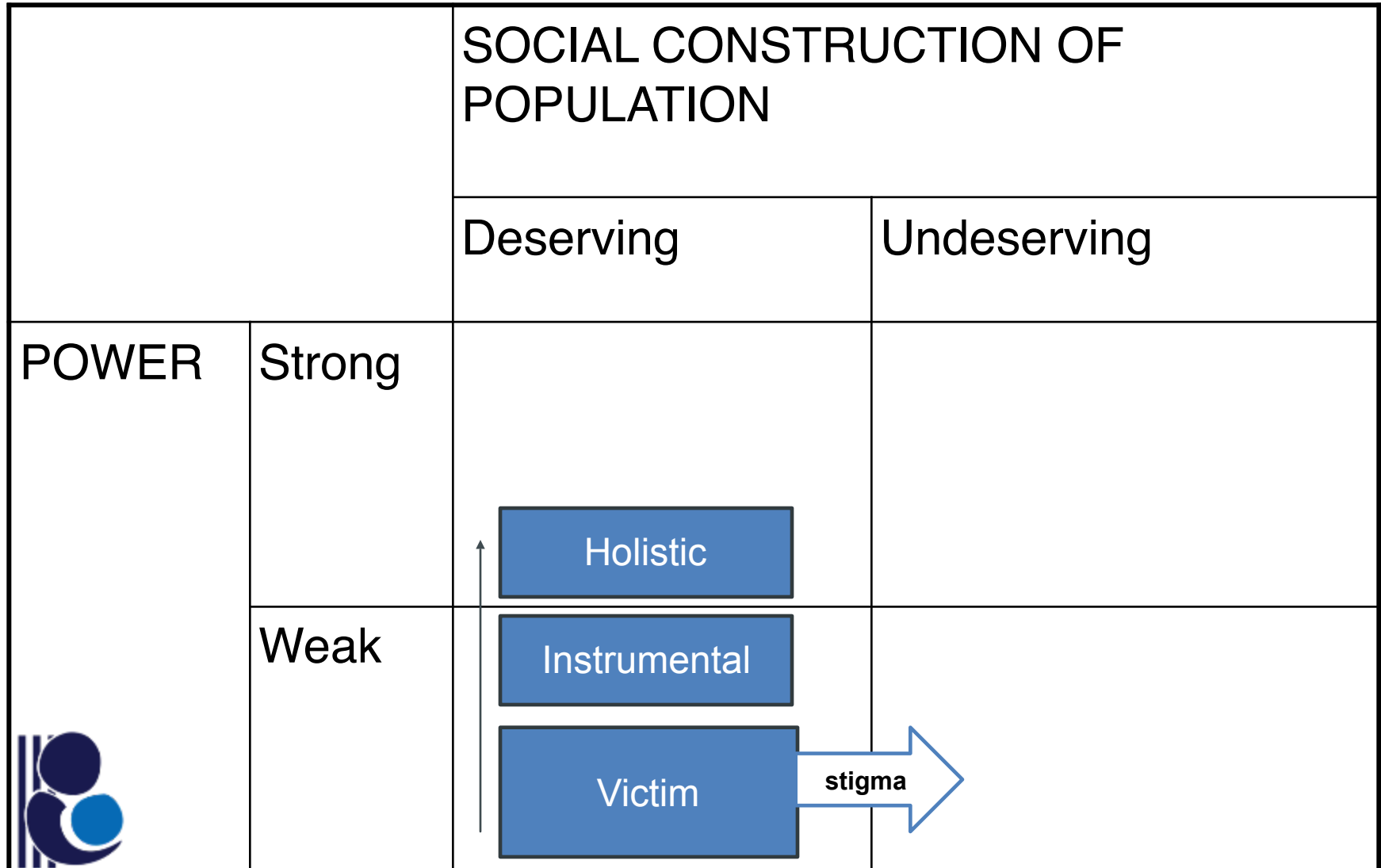


# Frame-reflective advocacy

Types of target populations		SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF POPULATION (US)	
		Deserving	Undeserving
POWER	Strong	<b>ADVANTAGED</b> Business Veterans Scientists	<b>CONTENDERS</b> The rich Big unions Cultural elites Moral majority
	Weak	<b>DEPENDENTS</b> Children Mothers Disabled	<b>DEVIANTS</b> Criminals Drug addicts Gangs



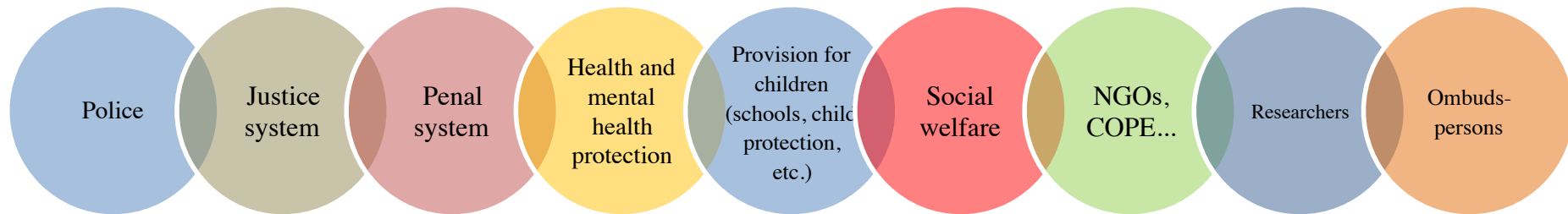
# (Re)framing dynamic: Children of prisoners



Source: Paul Stubbs & Anka Kekez-Kostro

# A multi-sectoral issue

## ... with multi-sectoral importance



With thanks to: Maja Gabelica Šupljika

### Benefiting:

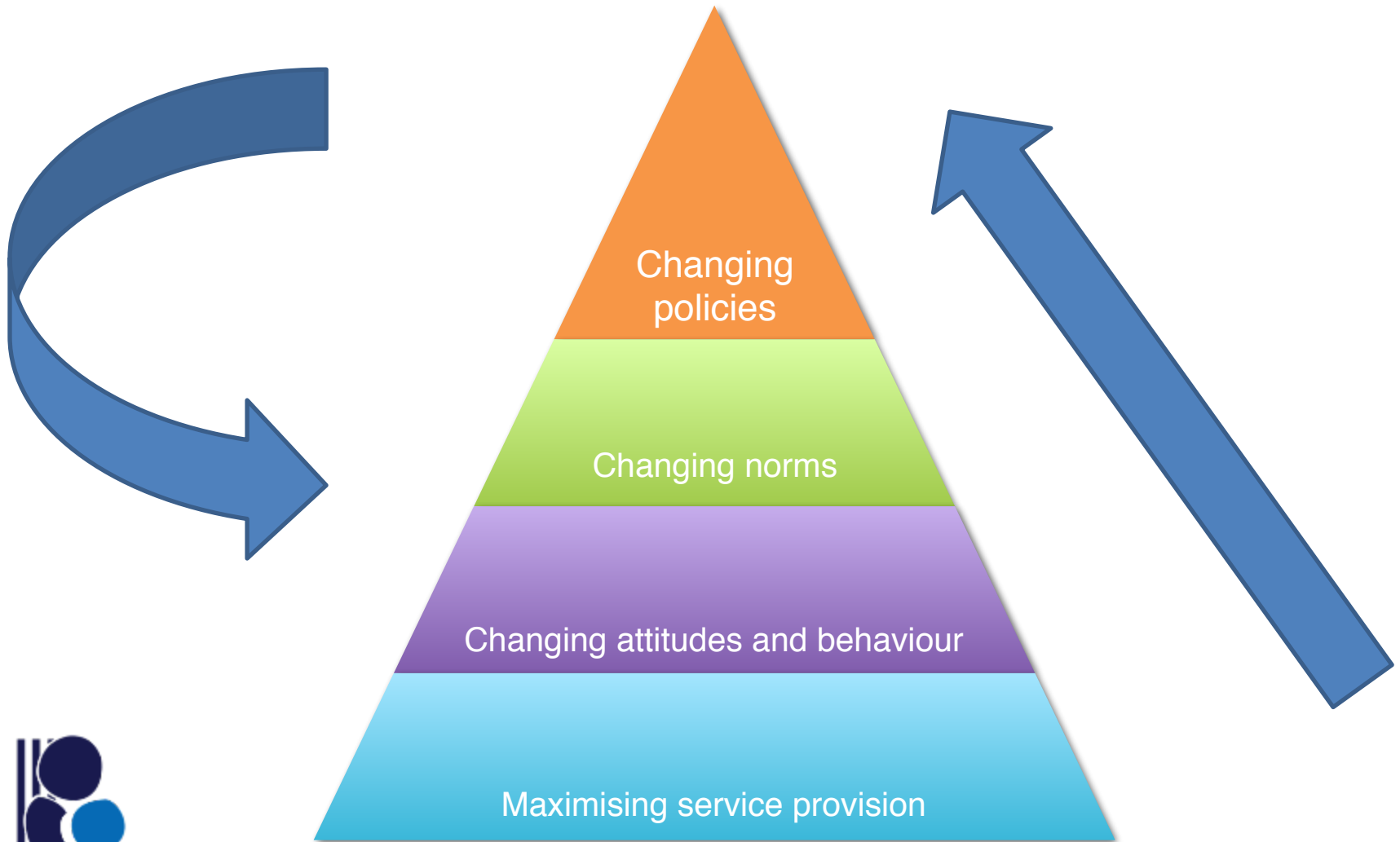
- child (*psychological, rights, interests, school, family life...*)
- imprisoned parent
- caregiver(s)
- the prison (*dynamic security*)
- police
- government
- sectors of health and mental health protection
- schools
- the taxpayer (*reducing reoffending / trans-generational offending*)
- the EU and its Member States

## Where does the COPE network span?

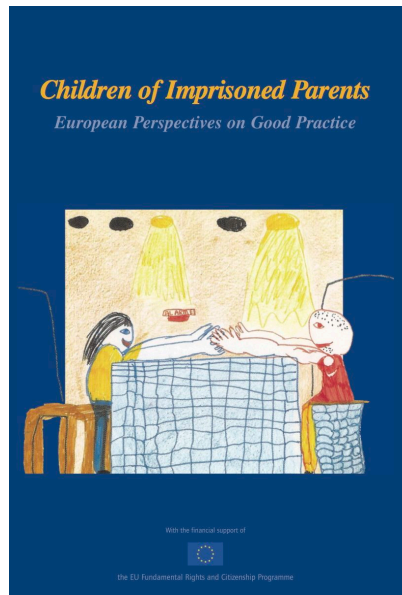
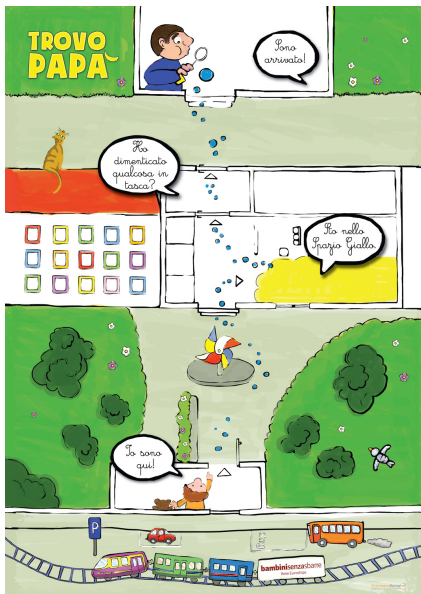


- The only pan-European network
- Members, partners or contacts in all EU States
- Active within prison-related, child rights and welfare fields
- Awareness-raising and new ways of thinking, acting and *interacting*
- Foster cross-sphere collaboration (public and private agencies)

## COPE's pyramid of priorities

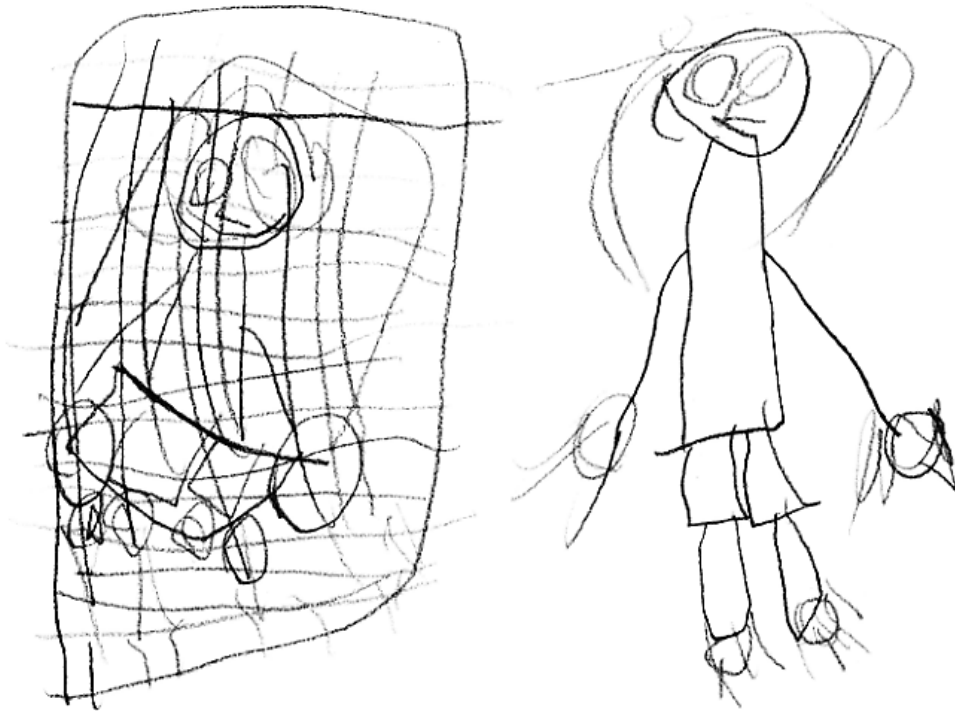


# Promoting good practice





## Ethical considerations



# Children of prisoners... in Europe

- 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 9, separation)
- 2000 European Network for Children of Imprisoned Parents (Eurochips) founded
- 2006 First pan-European conference on issue
- 2008 EP motion for resolution on impact of parental imprisonment
- 2009 1st EU-funded transnational project on *rights* of children of prisoners
- 2010 1st EU-funded transnational project *with* children of prisoners (n=987) on *needs*
- 2011 UN Day of General Discussion
- 2013 EU & UNICEF lists of “vulnerable children”
- 2014 **European Parliament** Resolution on the 25th anniversary of the UNCRC (Article 13)
- 2015 Written Response from Commissioner for Justice, **European Commission**
- 2016 **Council of Europe** Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)
- 2016 **European Parliament** Written Declaration on children of imprisoned parents
- 2017 ...

# Looking forward...

- Council of Europe
- United Nations
- European Union

# Looking forward...

Council of Europe

Council for Penological Co-Operation (PC-CP)

+

European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC)

**Committee of Ministers Recommendation  
on children with imprisoned parents (2017)**

# Looking forward...

- Council of Europe

- United Nations

European Union

# Looking forward...

United Nations

**Intersessional Briefing for States  
1 February 2017**

- Memorandum of Understanding (Italian example)
- Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

**Handbook on Children with Incarcerated Parents**

- UNODC, UNICEF & OHCHR joint handbook



# Looking forward...


- Council of Europe
- United Nations
- European Union

# Memorandum of Understanding (Italy)

Italian Ministry of Justice,  
Ombudsman for Childhood and Adolescence  
&  
Bambinisenzasbarre

- 1. Judicial orders, judgments and sentences**
- 2. Children visiting prisons**
- 3. Other types of contact**
- 4. Training of prison staff**
- 5. Information and support**
- 6. Data collection**
- 7. Children living with mothers in prison**
- 8. Monitoring committee**





**S&D** Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament

**CHART OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN OF IMPRISONED PARENTS**  
**Can the Italian example become European?**

30 NOVEMBER 2016  
 13:00 - 15:00 ASP 5G2

**Written Declaration 84/2016**

- 13.00 **Welcome and Presentation of the WD**
- Hon. Patrizia Toia
  - Hon. Sergio Cofferati
- 13.15 **Rights of the Children of Imprisoned Parents**
- Hon. Caterina Chinnici
- 13:30 **Bambinisenzasbarre ONLUS**
- Lia Sacerdote - President
- 13.45 **Italian Minister of Justice**
- Pres. Santi Consolo: Head of Department - Italian Penitentiary Authority
  - Pres. Francesco Cascini - Head of Department-Juvenile Justice
  - Lucia Castellano - DG Criminal Justice - Department for Juvenile Justice and Community
- 14.15 **Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)**
- Viviane Schekter - Vice-President
  - Edoardo Fleischner - Board of directors
- 14.40 **Telefono Azzurro Onlus**
- Ernesto Caffo - President (Tbc)
- 14.45 **Interventions by the Members of the EP that promoted WD #84**
- Silvia Costa (S&D), Anna Maria Corazza Bildt (EPP), Luigi Morgano (S&D), Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP), Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE), Marian Harkin (ALDE), Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)

# European Union

- Memorandum of Understanding
- Written Declaration
- Parliamentary Questions
- The Open Method of Coordination?
- What else?

# Challenges and priorities

## CHALLENGES

Data collection

Policy gaps

Abstract nature

Reaching those “hard-to-reach” children

Cultural differences (also positive)

Biggest change needed is attitudinal

Funding beyond the EU

Mainstreaming for child protection and support agencies

## PRIORITIES

Italian Memorandum of Understanding

Non-violent role models for children

Strategic framing for advocacy

Data collection

Funding beyond the EU

# Next steps:

New in-schools initiative  
across Europe



# It's time to act



Please leave the postcard with your name + one action you'd like to take to benefit children of prisoners



*"When Dad comes home everything will be resolved and the road will become straight again"*  
Dylan, 11 years old

**Hannah Lynn | Kate Philbrick**  
**Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)**  
**contact@networkcope.eu**

**Thank you**

10 January 2017  
Quality of Childhood session  
European Parliament

Rachelle, 9







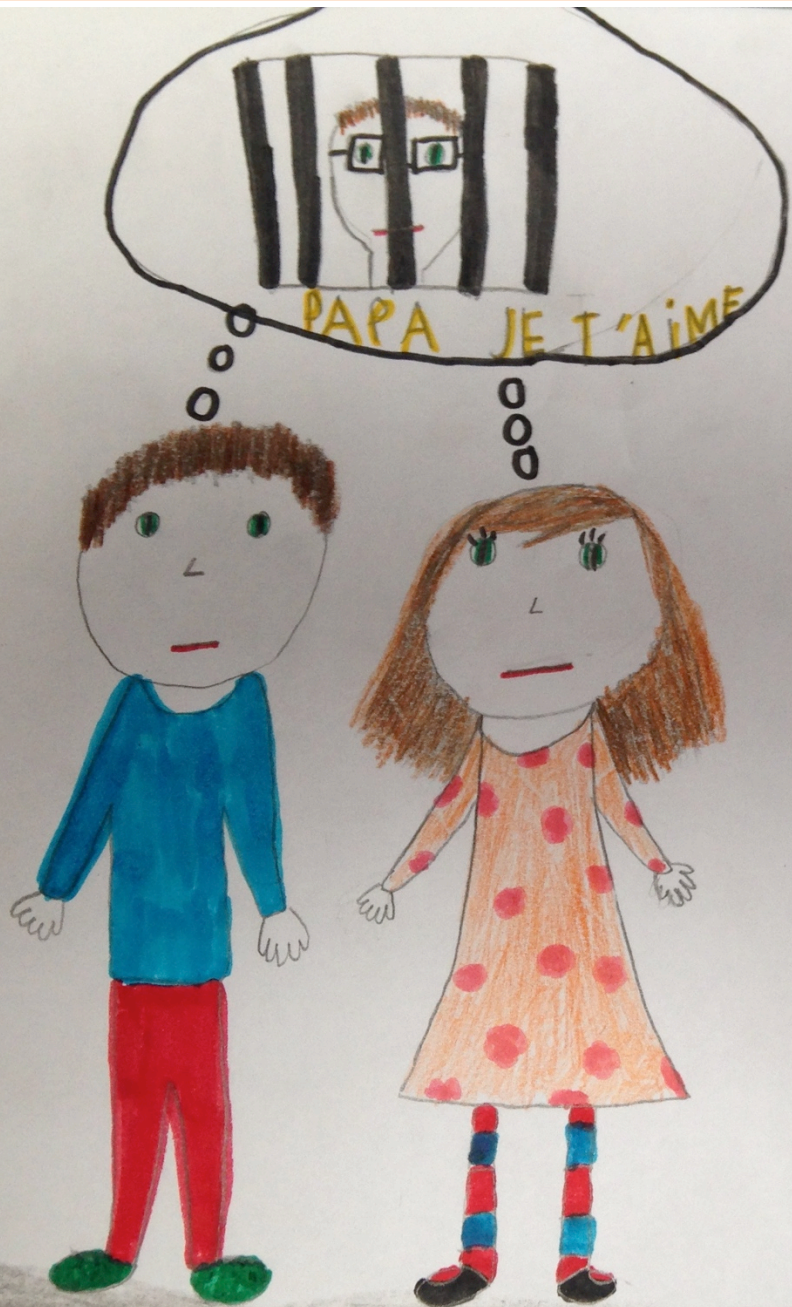


FRANCESCO.

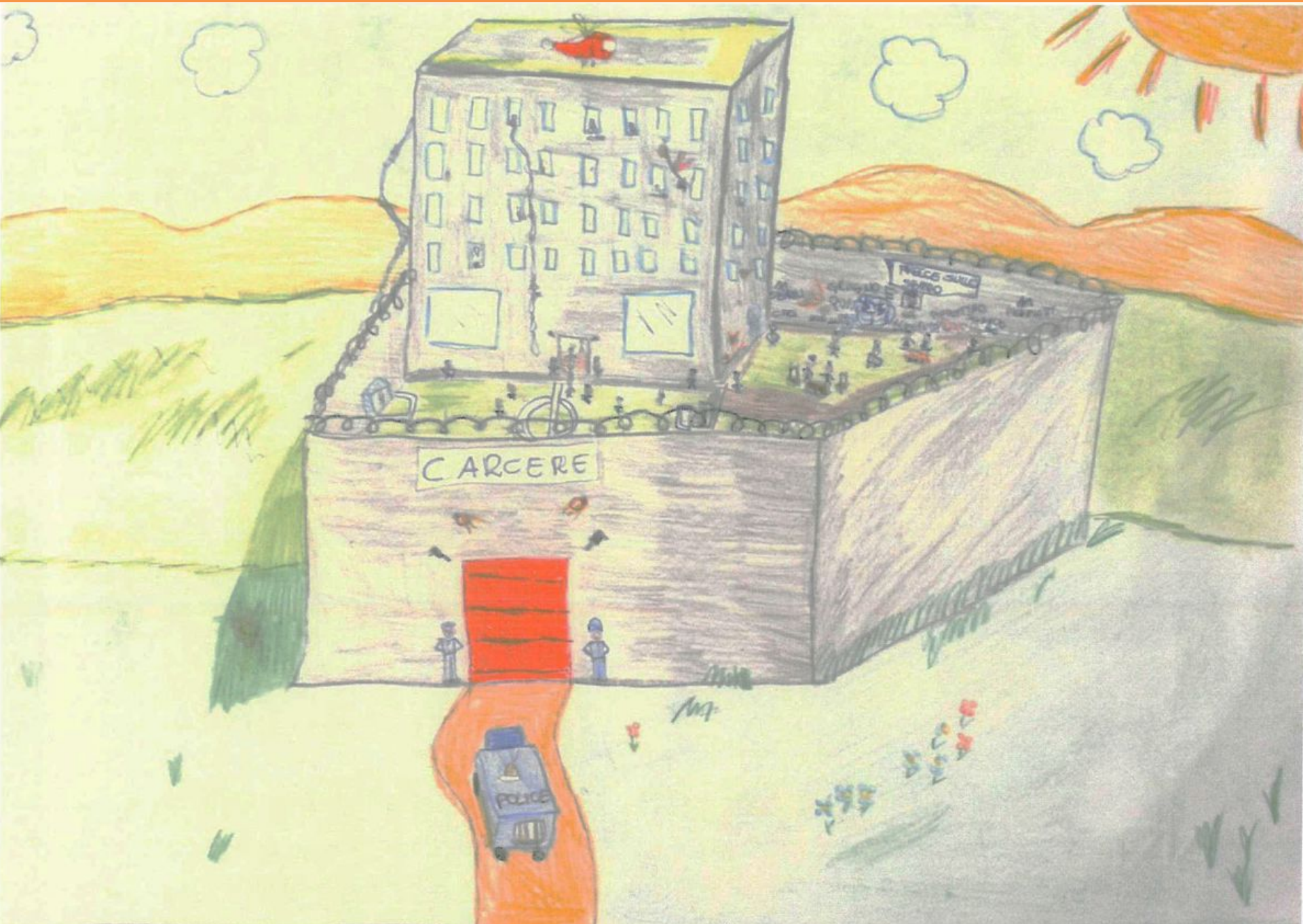
"The big wall scares me"  
Jophy, 7 years old



JOPHY



PRISON



# La Casa





**SONO ARRABBIATA**



**“Io sono arrabbiata  
con papà, ma non dico  
perché”**

**“I’m angry at my dad,  
but I don’t say why”**

*Viola, 6 years old*

Kate Philbrick | Hannah Lynn  
contact@networkcope.eu  
Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)  
10 January 2017  
Quality of Childhood session  
European Parliament

# Food for thought

1. If you were a child of a prisoner, how would you want to be treated?
1. How could you envisage making one change within your work setting, to support a child whose parent is in prison?



# Food for thought

1. If you were a child of a prisoner, how would you want to be treated?

1. How could you envisage making one change within your work setting, to support a child whose parent is in prison?