

CHILDREN IN THE SHADOWS:

From marginalization to actualization – social and legal context of the children of incarcerated parents

Ana Krakan i Doroteja Jačmenica Pušenjak Students at Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb

The poster presentation entitled "CHILDREN IN THE SHADOWS: from marginalization to actualization – social and legal context of the children of incarcerated parents" is a result of a student academic study focusing on the best interests of the children of imprisoned parents.

The presentation outlines the main research goals of the study and the empirical tools that helped the authors in fulfilling declared objectives. Within the framework of aims, the authors worked to incorporate the wide range of adversities sustained by children after parental incarceration, taking into consideration the best interests of the child. After having primarily analysed the socio–psychological framework of the situation of this vulnerable group of children, followed by multidimensional research, the researchers detected several problems directly related to numerous risk factors, dangers and life changes when a parent has been sent to prison. The researchers suggest potential solutions with a view to meeting the principles set out in Article 3(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. By way of conclusion, the presentation portrays real life stories experienced by the children and their incarcerated parent.