

Children of Prisoners Europe

Annual Report 2014

FOREWORD

Early 2014 saw the tail-end of the year-long operating grant that COPE received from the European Commission the previous year. 2014 therefore started off a busy one, with many changes put in place, the biggest of which being the name change and complete rebranding of the organisation from Eurochips (the European Network for Children with Imprisoned Parents) to Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE).

The year 2014 held lots in store for our recently rebranded organisation. In early March we published an updated version of "Children of imprisoned parents: European perspectives on good practice". This update, featuring a range of initiatives, expertise and good practice from across the network, is designed by decision-makers and actors whose work impacts children separated from a parent in prison, either directly (e.g., prison officers) or indirectly (e.g., judges and sentencers). The publication revolves around seven broad themes:

- The legal framework
- The impact of parental imprisonment on children
- Parenting from prison: support for the imprisoned parent and the child-parent relationship
- How children can maintain contact with an imprisoned parent
- Mothers and young children in prison
- Training, tools and methodologies to help reduce the adverse effects of imprisonment on children
- Advocacy for policy and practice change to support children with imprisoned parents

This publication served as a fundraising tool for our 2014 awareness-raising campaign, for which we asked for donations of 15 euros to enable us to send a guide to a key decision-maker, child rights advocate or prison service official on behalf of the donor. Within this campaign, we sent over 100 guides to prison governors, Child Ombudspersons and Justice Ministries in order to raise awareness among these key players on the issue of children of imprisoned parents.



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ABOUT US:

Children of Prisoners Europe is a non-profit organisation registered in France under French Association law 1901 comprised of a pan-European network of non profit organisations working on behalf of children separated from an imprisoned parent. The network, whose headquarters are based in Paris, encourages innovative perspectives and practices to ensure that children with an imprisoned parent fully enjoy their rights as guaranteed under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and that every action is taken to enable their well-being and development.



The network raises awareness among child-rights agencies, prison services and policymakers on the specific needs of children with imprisoned parents as well as promotes initiatives that take such needs into account. A main initiative of the network is to expand programmes that support the child-parent relationship and help minimise disruption to this bond. The cope network introduces the child's perspective at every stage of the criminal justice process, from arrest to resettlement and fosters cross-sphere collaboration among public and private agencies involved in supporting and making decisions about children and their imprisoned parents. Further, the organisation strives to obtain better, more accurate information and statistics on children with imprisoned parents and enhance the overall competencies of professionals within the field.

The network promotes action to meet the needs and rights of children of prisoners—right to family life, right to maintain contact with an imprisoned parent and right to greater consideration and support. Only in this way will these children be granted the freedom to be children and be offered a more secure foundation for their lives.

The COPE office is based in Paris, France, yet we are an umbrella organisation consisting of network member organisations and individuals working on behalf of children of prisoners throughout Europe.

Our network acts to bring children with imprisoned parents to the fore of social and judicial policy, protect their rights, and help safeguard their psychological, emotional and social development.

As of 2014, the network member organisations reach across the following countries in Europe: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

The COPE network consists of members at varying levels, with the top tier including full voting rights at the General Assembly held each year, during which time major network decisions are presented. Membership categories as of 2014 include:

- Member Organisations
- Applicant Member Organisations
- Individual Members (invitation only)
- Affiliate Status for Organisations and Individuals

Member Organisation status is offered only to organisations - specifically those who have served a minimum of 2 years as Applicant Members. The voting in of Member Organisations occurs at the General

Assembly where potential organisations are presented.

What membership brings to an organisation:

- Promotion of their work
- Access to a European network of expertise and exchange of experiences
- Sharing in research and development
- Information on events related to children with imprisoned parents as well as on new developments at the European level
- The opportunity to take part in European projects and events and to lobby together for change
- Advice on searching for partners for European projects

What an organisation brings COPE:

- A commitment to and sharing of Children of Prisoners Europe's mission and work ethic
- The sharing of the organisation's particular approach to/expertise in working with children of imprisoned parents
- A commitment to consolidate and strengthen COPE and raise further awareness on global, European and national levels about children with imprisoned parents
- Organisation of awareness-raising events on the issue as part of the June Campaign
- Willingness to engage in cross-European projects and information exchange
- Opportunity to host the annual network meeting, general assembly and conference



LOBBYING:

COPE is a member of the Child Rights Action Group, a lobbying group made up of 15 non-governmental organisations working to protect and promote child rights at the European level. The Children's Rights Action Group (CRAG) is an informal grouping of NGOs who have committed to working together on the follow up and implementation of the European Commission Communication: Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and for the purpose of information sharing. CRAG also follows closely the preparation of the European Forum on Children's Rights. CRAG members are: Children of Prisoners Europe, Eurochild, European Federation for Street Children, European Youth Forum International, Falcon Movement, International Juvenile Justice Observatory, Quality of Childhood, Missing Children Europe, Plan EU Office, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, Terre des Hommes International Federation, The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM), World Vision.

Open Letter to Members of the European Parliament:

In September 2014, the Child Rights Action Group wrote an open letter to Members of the European Parliament. The main aim of the letter was to remind all MEPs of the importance of children's rights in their work, of the existence of the Child Rights Manifesto that was drafted by CRAG and to encourage newly and re-elected MEPs to follow in the footsteps of their 97 colleagues who have already signed and pledged to serve as a "Child Rights Champion" for their 5-year terms. The Members of the European Parliament were also invited to participate in a Roundtable discussion on championing children's rights in the European Parliament on 24 September in Brussels and were asked to support the creation of a more permanent mechanism in the European Parliament to mainstream children's' rights.

The "Child Rights Champions" subsequently formed an Intergroup on Children's Rights consisting of MEPs from across different political groupings. Its members will become focal points for child rights in the parliamentary committees on which they sit.



CRAG calls on the Champions to ensure the rights of all children around the world are respected and fulfilled. All 28 EU Member States have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Lisbon Treaty makes the promotion of children's rights an explicit objective of EU internal and external affairs and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights requires that the best interests of the child is a primary consideration in all EU actions. It is now time to translate these commitments into concrete results for children.

EVENTS:

In 2013, Eurochips rebranded to become Children of Prisoners Europe. In 2014, Children of Prisoners Europe has accomplished a great deal to further the rights of children with incarcerated parents in Europe. Key events and milestones included:

Publication of the updated "Children of imprisoned parents: European perspectives on good practice" :

In 2014, with financial support of the EU Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme, the COPE network published an updated version of the guide "Children of Imprisoned Parents: European Perspectives on Good Practice". The publication is designed for professionals, volunteers and decision-makers whose work impacts children with imprisoned parents. Its seven broad themes include legal framework, the impact of parental imprisonment, support for the parent-child relationship, maintaining parent-child contact, mothers and young children in prison, ways to reduce the adverse effect of parental imprisonment and advocacy for policy and practice change. Each chapter showcases different national approaches and perspectives on current work being carried out across Europe, exploring issues that transcend borders and national judicial and penal policies, rather than providing an exhaustive nation-by-nation approach. As a whole, the publication offers a child-centered guide for ideas and initiatives to bolster the resilience of children whose parents are in prison, promote their emotional, psychological and social development and foster and reinforce family ties. The publication celebrates the 25th anniversary of the

adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a milestone for children's rights, and the rebranding of Eurochips as Children of Prisoners Europe.

Launch of Anti-Cyberbullying Video :

Many young people experience bullying at some point in their lives. Since the proliferation of the Internet and its chat rooms, social media sites and instant messaging providers, there has been a serious increase in the phenomenon of cyberbullying.

Article 19 of the UNCRC clearly stipulates the right of every child to be free from violence, including any form of bullying. The COPE network is concerned about the increase of threats, intimidation and the serious psychological and social issues that result from cyberbullying. With the financial support of the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme of the European Union, COPE therefore created a video message aimed at adults and children alike to show how widespread this problem actually is and launched a call to action from all actors in different sectors. In June 2014, there was a virtual march across global websites against all forms of bullying, including cyberbullying. The event was organised by BeatBullying, an international bullying prevention charity working and campaigning to make bullying unacceptable in the UK and across Europe.

COPE's Italian member, Bambinisenzasbarre, signs Memorandum of Understanding :

On 21 March 2014, Italian network member, Bambinisenzasbarre, obtained the signature of a "Memorandum of Understanding", an agreement between the Italian Minister for Justice, the National Ombudsman for Childhood and Adolescence and Bambinisenzasbarre, regarding the fulfilment and protection of the rights of children of imprisoned parents. Bambinisenzasbarre's President Lia Sacerdote signed the Memorandum, which is valid for two years, on 21 March 2014. The charter is





applicable in all Italian prisons and represents a significant milestone for the Italian charity. Article 1 of the Memorandum covers decisions regarding the encouragement of judicial authorities to take into account the rights and needs of any underage child of an incarcerated person with parental responsibility. The Memorandum also includes recommendations made by the COPE network with regards to visiting conditions and provisions for children of imprisoned parents. Additionally, the signatories committed to implementing all necessary actions to ensure that the location of the prison for parents of minor children guarantees direct contact between the child and parent during the sentence and that the child is able to visit his/her imprisoned parent within a week of the arrest and on a regular basis from then on.

“The Charter of Children of Detained Parents formally recognises the right of children to maintain direct contact with their detained parent—and requires that children be able to visit an imprisoned parent within a week of the arrest and on a regular basis from then on.”



Cologne Prison's visiting rooms renovated:

Also in 2014, German network affiliate Morning Tears Deutschland e.V. began a campaign to create more child-friendly spaces within Cologne Prison. The campaign, “Room to bond,” is an initiative of BAG-S, with assistance from Alanus University, Morning Tears, Children for a Better World and SKM/SKF Cologne. Renovation steps included the creation of a “Tram Station,” where pictures created by inmates are on display to give visitors a glimpse of inside of the prison, “Entrance Control” where drapes printed with motifs designed by prisoners hang and a series of long passageways from “Entrance Control” to the waiting room complete with footsteps painted on the floor to guide visiting children to their fathers. After the long corridors, a large waiting room decorated with graffiti and stencils featuring motifs from urban Cologne is designed to appeal to teenagers. Lastly, the visiting rooms bring in naturalistic elements to visually enlarge the rooms and create a space where relaxation and conversation is natural. A space with toys and walls of blackboard paint facilitate creativity and communication among children and parents. The “Room to bond” project has created a more child-friendly atmosphere at Cologne prison, which allows for better visits and improved bonds between children and their imprisoned parents.

Pact launches ‘Our Voice’: The Charter for children and young people with a family member in prison:

Additionally in 2014, Network member Pact launched ‘Our Voice’: The Charter for Children & Young People with a family member in prison. The Charter was inspired by the San Francisco Bill of Rights for Children of Incarcerated Parents and reflects results drawn from the recent EU-funded (FP7) study, “Children of prisoners: Interventions and mitigations to strengthen mental health” (Coping project). Since 2001, Pact has been working with families of prisoners in England and Wales to support children and families of prisoners inside prisons, in prison visits centres and within the community. Pact therefore teamed up with a group of young

people between the ages of 13 and 17 who had experienced the imprisonment of a family member and pinpointed the rights they would like to see fulfilled. Rights range from the desire to see homes protected during the arrest of a parent and the request for more support and information throughout the imprisonment process, to the right not to be judged for standing by parents and to be considered when the location of a parent's imprisonment is being decided upon. The Charter was launched in London on 8 September 2014 and the event was attended by judges, magistrates, prison governors, local authorities, the police, schools, and a wide range of other organisations.

“The young people's requests are modest and, in effect, they are simply asking for their rights under the UNCRC to be respected but—as we all know—this requires positive action and commitment on behalf of a wide range of agencies and individuals. We are working to win hearts and minds, to raise awareness and build support. This will be a focal point for our advocacy work on behalf of children and young people in the UK. We don't expect any quick wins—not during a time of budget austerity—but we are aiming to build a mass of support over the years to come so that this charter becomes an accepted benchmark.”

Andy Keen-Downs, Chief Executive, Pact

Parenthood and Detention Conference:

Relais Enfants Parents Romands director Viviane Schekter opened the interdisciplinary conference, on 18 November in Lausanne, by emphasising the need for further development of support initiatives for imprisoned parents and increased coordination among sectors involved. Professors Marie Douris of Université Catholique de Lyon, a jurist, and Pascal Roman of the University of Lausanne, then presented their findings from recent research they carried out on imprisoned parents in France. Jean Zermatten, director of the Institut International des Droits de l'Enfant and former chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child explained how children are punished when they are deprived of their parent as a result of incarceration, and how family ties must

be maintained at all costs as per Article 9 of the UNCRC. Additionally, REPR presented its pioneering support initiatives for imprisoned parents and their children. Further, the good practice currently being carried out to support parents and children among the member organisations of the COPE network was presented by director Liz Ayre, who highlighted COPE's priorities, ethical framework and perspectives. The day concluded by exploring prison and probation issues in the increasingly difficult Swiss context and panel members stressed the need for the important roles that prisoners' families play to be recognised from the onset of the prison sentence.

European Parliament resolution on the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

To mark the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution in November to guarantee respect for the rights of all children. The resolution represents a milestone for child rights. Children with imprisoned parents are explicitly mentioned in Article 13, which calls on the Commission to assess the impact of detention policies and criminal justice systems on children, points out that across the EU children's rights are directly affected in the case of children living in detention facilities with their parents and underlines that an estimated 800,000 children in the EU are separated from an imprisoned parent each year. In addition, the EP approved the establishment of an Intergroup on children's rights on 11 December 2014. The Intergroup is a cross-party, cross-national group of MEPs which aims to mainstream children's rights in EU internal and external action. The group is co-chaired by Caterina Chinnici, Italian MEP and Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Swedish MEP. The resolution was a result—at least in part—of the advocacy efforts of COPE and the 14 other organisations that make up the Child Rights Action Group which drafted the Child Rights Manifesto in 2013, calling for the European Parliament to create permanent mechanism with explicit responsibility to protect and promote children's rights across internal and external policy sectors.

ANNUAL NETWORK MEETING:



“No one’s ever asked me”: Hearing the voices of children affected by parental imprisonment

Lecture Theatre
Royal Botanic Garden
20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR

Friday 16 May 2014
9.30 – 16.00

The 2014 joint COPE conference and Annual Network Meeting (ANM) hosted by network members Families Outside and Niacro was held in Edinburgh Friday 16 - Sunday 18 May. The public conference, which took place on the Friday at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, was entitled “No one’s ever asked me’: Hearing the voices of children affected by parental imprisonment”. The conference was chaired by Olwen Lyner, Chief Executive of Niacro.

The event focused on listening to and responding to the views and opinions of children affected by the imprisonment of a parent and delegates heard from a range of guest speakers from across the UK, Europe and further afield who explored issue from a variety of perspectives.

On the Saturday, the COPE General Assembly was held at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House where the formal business of the morning was followed by three discussion workshops focusing on the following issues:

Secrets: telling the truth to the child
Co-facilitated by Kate Philbrick & Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad

Communication in prison
Facilitated by Donnie Sweeney of Niacro

Foreign prisoners and their children
Facilitated by Diane Curry, CEO of POPS

During the conference audio and video montages were played highlighting the thoughts and feelings of children affected by parental incarceration. Families Outside have created a video link of the audio montage collected: <http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk/voices-children-affected-imprisonment-2/#sthash.i8E1orCb.dpuf>

CAMPAIGN AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

Children of Prisoners Europe's June 2014 campaign "Not my Crime, Still my Sentence" called attention to the one in one hundred European children that have a parent in prison. The campaign highlighted the fact that these children often face unwarranted stigma, isolation and shame as a result of parental imprisonment which can adversely impact self-esteem, school performance and mental health. Additionally, parental

are in prison, promotes their emotional, psychological and social development and fosters and reinforces family ties. The publication celebrates the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a milestone for children's rights, and the launch of the rebranding of EUROCHIPS to Children of Prisoners Europe. The campaign was launched in Italy, Scotland, England and Wales, Norway, France, Finland and Croatia. Over one hundred guides were sent to prison governors, prison services, Ombudspersons and Children Commissioners, Justice Ministries, NGOs, and Commissioners for fundamental rights.

Another intrinsic message of the campaign was to create a reversal in the way children of prisoners are viewed in society : "I get angry when people call us 'children at risk'. I see us as 'children of promise'". COPE's Scottish member

Families Outside had created a fantastic, expressive video which was used as part of the June campaign that promotes "reversible thinking." The video was shown at the Annual Network Meeting Conference Edinburgh and can be viewed here : <https://vimeo.com/71246866>

Additionally, in 2014 we brought our French-language Twitter and Facebook back to life and now have approximately 450 followers. We have 2,500 followers on our English-language Twitter and 300 on English-language Facebook.



incarceration can expose children to financial instability and lead to social exclusion and bullying. Further, COPE's 2014 Campaign stated that an estimated one million children are affected by parental incarceration in Europe each year. Often labelled "orphans of justice," the rights of children of imprisoned parents are often overlooked.

To remedy this, the COPE campaign asked for donations of 15 euros to enable the dissemination of the recently published child-focused Good Practice Guide which promotes ideas and initiatives to bolster the resilience of children whose parents

NETWORK EXPANSION:

At the General Assembly of 2014, Children of Prisoners Europe voted for Irish member, St. Nicholas Trust, to pass from the category of Applicant Member to full Member Organisation. Shortly after, the Board approved Manchester-based organisation POPS as an Applicant Member of the network. Both members are doing outstanding work on behalf of children of prisoners in Ireland and England.

St Nicholas Trust :

St Nicholas Trust was voted in from “Applicant” to “Full Member” at the Edinburgh General Assembly on 17 May 2014. The organisation, which was founded in Cork, Ireland, in March 2008 in response to the needs of relatives who sought help and information from various services within Cork prison, seeks to support families of prisoners as a group and as individuals sharing common interests. St Nicholas Trust is managed by a voluntary Board who are assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers. This team includes people who have loved ones that have been imprisoned. Volunteers assist in the running of the support group, the St. Nicholas Trust office and the visitors’ centre at Cork prison. They aim to work from Community Development principles to facilitate self-development, empowerment and full participation in all decision making processes. St Nicholas Trust aims to “benefit the community through the provision of support and assistance to families of prisoners so that family relationships can be maintained and prevent re-offending.” Other objectives include increasing public awareness of the experiences of prisoners’ families, providing practical information to families when a loved one is sentenced to prison, providing a safe, confidential environment where prisoners’ families can openly discuss the issues which affect them, advocating for the rights of children of prisoners and facilitating positive reintegration in order to avoid further offending.

Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS) :

In October 2014, Children of Prisoners Europe welcomed UK organisation Partners of Prisoners and Families Support Group (POPS) as a Member of the network. POPS was first set up in 1988 with the establishment of a peer support group for offenders’ families by Farida Anderson MBE, who was herself supporting her partner through a custodial sentence. Recognising that there was no formal support for prisoners’ relatives, POPS was established to help families cope with the stress and isolation experienced by this hidden group who are so often labeled “guilty by association”. POPS provides information and support to the families of offenders from their earliest contact with the Criminal Justice System (CJS), through to release and beyond. POPS model of service delivery, the “Continuum of Care”, is the skeleton around which they build consistent and coordinated services which ensure offenders’ families have access to timely and appropriate support throughout their contact with the Criminal Justice System. The “Continuum of Care” encourages effective partnerships and robust referral systems to ensure families are able, at all times, to receive the tailored support they require to address their particular needs. POPS wealth of experience and knowledge has caused their influence to grow and as a result they have become increasingly involved strategically in local, national and international arenas. POPS considers it vital that the role of the family as an “offender supporter” is recognised at all levels, from service delivery to strategic development, and that effective support for families is an integral part of the offender journey.



FUNDING:

The Bernard van Leer Foundation:

Children of Prisoners Europe would like to extend a warm thank you to The Bernard van Leer Foundation for its 3-year funding contract renewal in 2014. Since 2000, the COPE network has received funding from The Bernard van Leer Foundation, a private grant-making foundation established in 1949 and based in the Netherlands. Its income is derived from the sale of Royal Packaging Industries Van Leer N.V., bequeathed to the foundation by Dutch industrialist and philanthropist Bernard van Leer. The foundation's mission is to improve opportunities for children up to age 8 who are growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. This is a valuable end in itself and is a long-term means to promoting more cohesive, considerate and creative societies with equal opportunities and rights for all. The foundation aims to leverage its impact by working with influential allies to advocate for young children. Its free publications share lessons learned from grantmaking activities and feature agenda-setting contributions from outside experts. Through the foundation's publications and advocacy, it aims to inform and influence policy and practice not only in the countries where it operates but globally.

LUSH France Charity Pot grant:

In late 2014, the COPE Network received a considerable grant from LUSH France. LUSH created Charity Pot hand and body lotion in April 2007 in order to raise money for charities and other good causes. Charity Pot provides funding for small grassroots groups in the following areas: environment, animal protection and human rights. Every penny paid, except the VAT, goes to helping the carefully selected groups and the work they do. Globally, Charity Pot is now sold in 24 different countries and in 2013, sales raised over 2,500,000 – all of it given away to frontline campaigns for animals, human rights and the environment.

The LUSH Charity Pot grant will fund the COPE Campaign in June 2015: the creation of a new campaign video and a revamping of our campaign website, among other things. In addition, as part of the grant, COPE's image and a short text will appear on all Charity Pots in all 45 LUSH boutiques across France for a period of up to 6 months. We are very excited to see the finished product!



COPE MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

ASBL Relais Enfants Parents
<http://www.relaisenfantsparents.be>



In 2014, ASBL Relais Enfants Parents took many steps to further support children in their relationships with their incarcerated parents. The organisation promotes the child-parent bond through individual and family visits and has created a visiting space for children, the tri-lieu, which contains various spaces to facilitate either creative, mobile or calm visits. Additionally, the organisation holds discussion groups with inmates on parenting in custody, supports of mothers and their young children in Berkendael, Lantin and Mons prisons and facilitates itineraries, or the accompaniment of children, by volunteers, to see their incarcerated parents through the Social Welfare Department of the Belgian Red Cross.

Bambinisenzasbarre
<http://www.bambinisenzasbarre.org>



Bambinisenzasbarre's Memorandum of Understanding, the Charter of imprisoned parents' children was signed by the Ministry of Justice and the national Ombudsman for Childhood and Adolescence on the 21st of March. The unique document, designed both for use in Italy and throughout Europe as a whole, acknowledges that minors have a right to an emotional and continuing bond with their imprisoned parent and reaffirms that the latter has a right to play his/her parental role. It further commits the penitentiary system to a new and more welcoming culture that accepts the presence of the blameless children, rather than subject them to social disgrace.

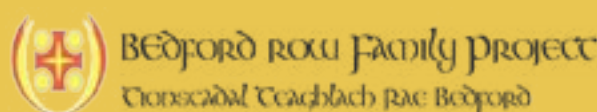
The Memorandum has been officially presented in Italy alongside a press conference/debate

"Adults' rights start from children's rights", at the European Commission of Milan's seat.

Bambinisenzasbarre also commissioned the yearlong painting project, "The Policeman and the Dinosaur", in Opera prison. The innovative project both in its structure and objectives, required active participation of the prison and of penitentiary police to help strengthen the bond between father and child through the language of creativity and the instrument of drawing.

Furthermore, The Training of Penitentiary officers continues throughout Italy through the efforts of the Verbania Police school, the Rome Penitentiary Administration Formation and the Florence Permanent Higher Magistrates' School, among others.

Bedford Row
<http://www.bedfordrow.ie>



Bedford Row has continued work within its Hospitality Centre, where the uncensored views of children's focus groups are heard. In 2014, the centre hosted over 2,800 children visitors.

Additionally, Bedford Row hosts the Ex-Prisoners support group. The support group, formed as a result of the Inreach to the Men's Prison, allows incarcerated men to make significant progress in areas of addiction and family breakdown. Bedford Row places particular emphasis on the fathers' role with the family and the Men's Group is testament to this work. In 2014, the staff also held regular, weekly programs for thirty children of different Groups and a holiday recreational programme for families. The creativity of Staff involved in the Groups ensures a wonderful atmosphere of warmth and belonging. Furthermore, the organization has continued its work with Lifeskills Groups for Women. The Group enables mothers, grandmothers and partners

to put healthy boundaries in place with respect to their sons, grandsons, and spouses/partners in prison. In total, the number of Families, Ex-Prisoners, and Prisoners supported by Bedford Row in all categories, in 2014, was 273. The work covers a wide range of advocacy, counselling, housing/accommodation, etc. but most of all the therapeutic power of listening.

Bryggan Stockholm

<http://www.bryggan.a.se>

In 2014, Bryggan developed a new parental support programme with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service called "For our children's sake". This programme is designed to support prisoner-parents every step of the way: from remand prison to parole. The programme, which is made up of 10 support sessions with prisoner-parents, was piloted in 2014 and new officers have been trained to run the programme in future. The sessions cover parenting skills and look at one's own ability to fulfill the parental role.



Over the course of the year, Bryggan, along with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service organised 7 regional lectures where Coping project results were highlighted. They also participated in the large child friendly justice conference in May where Coping project director Adele Jones was speaker. Bryggan also participated in the annual Nordic forum, "24 hours for children of prisoners", which provides a discussion space for NGOs, Child Ombudspersons and Prison and Probation Services from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. This year's forum took place in Stockholm.

In terms of lobbying, Bryggan spearheaded questions for the Third Optional Protocol within UNICEF's project on the network for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, composed of 30 or 40 NGOs. They also compiled a brief for the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the treatment of and provisions for children of imprisoned parents in Sweden.

Families Outside

<http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk>



In 2014, Families Outside hosted the conference and Annual Network Meeting for Children of Prisoners Europe for the first time. The team delivered training to about 5,000 recipients in prisons throughout Scotland over the course of the year. This included a now well-established programme of training for teachers on the impact of imprisonment on children and how to better support them. Families Outside is also now a regular contributor to training for the judiciary, contributing to three sessions in 2014. Referrals for direct support to families increased by 67%, and included an increase in one-to-one work with children and young people. In collaboration with arts-based charity Vox Liminus, Families Outside facilitated a series of music-based workshops for children and their parents in prison, giving them quality time together as well as links to their communities. Finally, for the fourth year, over 500 Christmas gifts were distributed to children of prisoners throughout Scotland, thanks to donations initially from one church and then gradually from other churches and organisations.

Additionally, Families Outside has developed two new training resources in the last year specifically on children's experiences of familial imprisonment. These included 'The Voices of Children Affected by Imprisonment' (<https://vimeo.com/105547057>) shown at the COPE conference as well as the short '27,000 Voices' video (<https://vimeo.com/96077929>).

For Fangers Pårrende (FFP)

<http://www.ffp.no>



In 2014, Norwegian member FFP furthered its advocacy efforts to implement family officers in prisons by creating a law proposal which asks all prisons to have children's officers.

The proposal became obligatory this year. Additionally, FFP alongside the Associate of Bars and others has made several lobbying efforts against sending Norwegian prisoners to the Netherlands. FFP's holds that such a decision will make it impossible for incarcerated persons and their families to maintain contact. Further, in 2014 FFP obtained funding for its' Minority Ethnic Project, which aims to meet the needs of and advocate for families of foreign national and minority ethnic prisoners while surmounting language barriers. The organisation recently employed a Minority Counsellor and provides counselling and various activities for adults, young people and children. FFP has also continued its family therapy sessions in Trondheim prison. The sessions are led by FFP's Family therapist and a Clinical Social Worker from the prison and use methodology based on reflecting processes. The project is unique in Norway and has been well received and recognized by professionals, prison staff and politicians. The Journal of the Association for Psychologists had two articles on the project in 2014. Further, FFP has recently employed a Minority Counsellor and a new Counsellor responsible for the offers for children and Young people in Oslo. The organization has also contracted a new Counsellor to its local department in Trondheim.

Hoppenbank e.V.

<http://www.hoppenbank.info/home.html>



In 2014, the association Hoppenbank e.V. continued its work in the (re)integration of (ex-)prisoners back into society. More than 2,500 clients were helped to achieve both social and professional reintegration. Hoppenbank also continued its project "I read for you" whereby 32 female and male prisoners created 46 CDs of goodnight stories for children of imprisoned parents, which were then distributed to the children.

In addition, Hoppenbank is working with the Department of Justice in Bremen to create a new holistic approach towards assistance for children of prisoners.

NIACRO

<http://www.niacro.co.uk>



In 2014, NIACRO worked to reduce crime and its impact on people and communities across Northern Ireland. The organization has continued to work with imprisoned individuals and their families, by providing emotional and practical support delivered by their Family Links project and through their policies and influencing work. During 2013/14, an effective pilot project of Family Links staff working in Maghaberry Prison was developed to ensure more families are able to access their support programme. NIACRO also established the 'Inside Education' pilot, working with schools to educate teachers about the particular needs and experiences of children with a parent in prison.

In addition, NIACRO brought the issue of children affected by imprisonment in Northern Ireland to policy makers and media through an integrated programme of influence, including a series of events, media appearances and policy briefings. In particular, the organization is keen to ensure that families and children are not forgotten in the on-going prison reform programme in Northern Ireland and NIACRO will continue to engage with stakeholders to help reduce 'the silent sentence' families serve in the community.

Ninos sin Barreras

<http://www.ninossinbarreras.org>



Ninos sin Barreras works in coordination with the Department of Justice of Catalonia to help families cope with the incarceration of a family member, to prepare the individual for post-prison life and to help him/her rehabilitate both socially and occupationally. The organization created a shelter that mothers have access to while incarcerated.

The Ombudsman for Children, Croatia
<http://www.dijete.hr>

The Ombudsman for Children in Croatia has dealt with more than 20 cases concerning violations of the rights of children of incarcerated parents this year. Representatives from the Ombudsoffice visited four penal institutions and recommended that the prison service make the first week of June Prisoners' Children Week to raise awareness about this group of children. A report from the Prison Service Directorate of the Ministry of Justice stated the instruction had been given to all prisons.

The recommendations given cover a lot of important issues for children such as evidence and data collection; promoting direct contact between child and parent in prison; improvements to the visiting area in order to make it more child friendly; the duration of visit; visit waiting time; the awareness of prison staff including their sensitivity to children and competence in communicating with children.

We received also the CD (in attachment) with photos from different events these days and leaflet about children's questions and possible answers.

During Prisoners' Children Week in June 2014, the Ombudsoffice gave a presentation at a conference organised by the NGO Most“(Bridge) in Split entitled “Children in the prison system”. Furthermore, at the invitation of the Prison Service Directorate of the Ministry of Justice, the organization made a plenary presentation on “The prisoner as a parent”, a 3-day training programme for staff conducted in 12 prisons. Additionally, initial activities have begun within the project “MOTHERS – strengthening women prisoners for the parental role and labour market inclusion”, where Deputy Ombudsman and individual member of COPE Maja Gabelica upljika prepared a review of the best European practices and programs aiming to support children whose parents are incarcerated. Further, the organization created a presentation entitled “The rights of children whose parent is in prison - European perspectives” which was given at the recent annual ENOC (European Network of

Ombudspersons for Children) conference in Edinburgh (Scotland) and at the conference “Child in the City” in Odense (Denmark).

Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact)
<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>

This year, Pact's staff and their team of 565 volunteers supported 162,000 individuals in connecting with their family members in prison. Furthermore, Pact's Family Engagement Workers supported 8541 prisoners in custody and 9226 kids benefited from Pact's supervised play programmes.



In 2014, Pact also teamed up with a group of young people with a family member in prison to discuss what changes they would like to see in the Criminal Justice System and brainstorm as to how their voices can be better heard. The result was ‘Our Voice: the Charter for Children & Young People with a Family Member in Prison’. The young people, supported by Pact, are asking other young people, adults, and organisations to make their voices heard and foster lasting change.

POPS
<http://www.partnersofprisoners.co.uk>



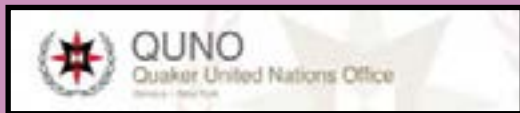
2014 was an extremely busy year for POPS, who were successful in their bid to deliver Women's Services in Oldham. Funding is provided by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPPC). This investment will help promote both national and local policy for women offender's services by diverting women out of the criminal justice system, providing a robust alternative to custody, and assisting with resettlement into the community after serving a custodial sentence.

POPS & 2nd Chance are delighted to announce the launch of the ARC (Abstinence and Recovery Centre) based outside HMP Manchester. The multi-agency hub, provides through-the-gate buddies, training, counselling, support meetings, and housing advice including

families and supporters. This year also saw the launch of the Prison Family Support Alliance, made up of PACT, POPS, NEPACS, and Jigsaw. The Alliance has been established to develop the practice base for the provision of family support. Additionally, 2014 has seen an expansion of POPS community-based Family Support Services. POPS have supported the upscale of the Intensive Community Order (ICO) within Greater Manchester and partnered with Trafford Youth Offending Service and the Integrated Gang Management Unit (IGMU) to integrate family support services into their delivery.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

<http://www.quno.org>



QUNO continued to draw attention to the rights of children of parents sentenced to death as well as children of prisoners in general. For example, these issues were raised by QUNO in the General Debate and in the Panel on the Human Rights of Persons Deprived of their Liberty at the 27th Session of the UN Human Rights Council. This Panel was the first time the Council has dedicated time to considering the full range of human rights violations experienced by people in detention and made reference to the impact on their families including their children. The rights of children of parents sentenced to death or executed remains an issue in Europe in cases where European citizens face the death penalty overseas. The specific support needs of children of foreign nationals sentenced to death were picked up in the UN Secretary General's report on the Question of the Death Penalty. QUNO continues to provide information to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in regard to children of incarcerated parents, working with other members of COPE to do this wherever possible.

Relais Enfants Parents

In the past 5 years, the Relais Enfants Parents has worked in 34 prisons within



Ile de France and various other regions of the country. The organisation has a total of 92 volunteers, 65 of whom work directly in prisons accompanying more than 160 children each year to visit their incarcerated parents. Meetings take place in safe spaces, which the organisation has instituted in most of the prisons.

Additionally, the Relais Enfants Parents, in partnership with the state, has begun to facilitate new projects that reunite the child and his/her incarcerated parent. These projects differ from the usual "parloirs," (which can take place in the form of either family or child-parent visits) and include the sharing of meals, visits between babies and their dads and socio-cultural events.

Since 2006, the NGO has developed close partnerships with private sector companies who share the organisation's ideals on the importance of social responsibility. The organisation, therefore, has established a solid support network made up of several dozen employees throughout the business community.

Relais Enfants Parents Romands

<http://repr.ch>



In 2014, Swiss member Relais Enfants Parents Romands, along with COPE Director Liz Ayre and the University of Lausanne, raised awareness on the effects of imprisonment at its conference "Parenting & Detention" on 18 November in Lausanne. Additionally, the organisation worked to educate detention officers on the problems that prisoners and their relatives face under the "Brevet Fédéral d'agent de détention" (Federal Legislation on prison officers). Further, the organization has continued its education courses offered to prison staff on taking professional care with the children of detainees at the Training Centre for Penitentiary Switzerland Personnel. Additionally, on 20 November 2014 Relais Enfants Parents Romands presented on reflection and exchange around the life of prisoners, resettlement and the prevention of

reoffending. Further, Relais Enfants Parents Romands organized an event, "Prison Days," which took place 11 to 13 November 2014 in Fribourg in which presentations were given by law students from the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne and Neuchâtel taking criminology courses, medical students taking community health courses, and students of the High School Social in Geneva taking classes on the prison. The organization also created an information stand at a conference for Geneva's youth in October 2014, published the article: "Strength: Families of Detainees-Families Perspectives" by Viviane Schekter and created a sponsorship system between incarcerated fathers and Relais Enfants Parents Romands team members in late November.

Service Treffpunkt

<http://www.etat.lu/annuaire/?idMin=5361>

Between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2014 Service Treffpunkt assisted 27 children in visiting their incarcerated parents. Further, In May 2014 they organised a party for children and their incarcerated parents within the prison. During the party there were creative workshops as well as two friendly clowns. Additionally, on 28 November 2014 they organised a conference entitled: "Voyage derrière les barreaux: les droits humains dans les prisons du monde" (Travelling behind bars: human rights in prisons around the world), where Jan De Cock shared his experiences visiting different prisons across the world. This conference was jointly organised with ACAT, Association Luxembourgeoise des Visiteurs de Prison, Amnesty International and Service Treffpunkt.

Solrosen

<http://www.raddningsmissionen.se/verksamhet/solrosen>

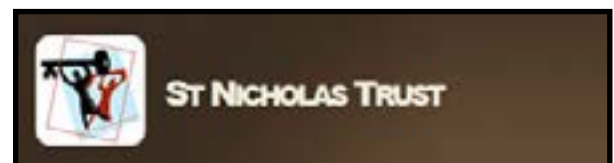
Over the past two years, Solrosen has been coordinating with correctional services at a women's prison in the Gothenburg region of Sweden. The team is on the premises on a



nearly full-time basis and their work is part of the daily functioning at the prison.

Their aim is to look for the best interest of the child in every aspect, whether the child resides with the mother in prison, or if the child lives elsewhere and wishes to visit his/her imprisoned parent. Solrosen's work includes creating an adequate child-friendly environment, supporting the mother in her maternal role, recognising the unique needs of the child and mother, creating routines in relation to every aspect of visiting prison with a child, and providing the best visiting conditions possible.

This project culminated in a comprehensive report given to Swedish correctional services with recommendations born out of Solrosen's experiences over these last two years. Additionally, Solrosen has continued its fundamental activities, including child and parent counseling, support-groups, camps, activities and prison visits.



St Nicholas Trust

<http://www.stnicholastrust.ie>

2014 was a year of consolidation for St Nicholas Trust, Cork. Their work in Cork Prison's waiting room was strengthened through fantastic efforts their volunteer coordinator. The organisation developed a base of committed volunteers who are available to staff the prison waiting room. They provide a warm welcome, refreshments and general information to those visiting the prison.

Their support group of family members affected by imprisonment continued to meet during the year providing a supportive environment for all attending. In addition, the organisation assisted family members in accessing counselling and education services in the Cork region.

There was strong growth of their telephone support service, with information and assistance being sought by people both locally and outside our geographical area as well as from people who for one reason or another would not attend support meetings. Additionally, there has been increase in

inquiries and requests from professionals working in state agencies and voluntary sector organisations seeing information and advice in working with children and family members affected by imprisonment.

A major new initiative undertaken by St Nicholas Trust was their, soon to be published, book for children of prisoners. Aimed at helping children deal with having a parent in prison, it will be launched at an event in Spring 2015.



Treffpunkt e.V.
<http://www.treffpunkt-nbg.de>

In 2014, Treffpunkt e.V. worked diligently to strengthen the rights of children of prisoners and to direct public focus to this often overlooked group of children. Alongside

their usual consulting work, Treffpunkt e.V. continued to offer their Father-Child-Groups in the Nuremberg prison (now offered to remand prisoners) and accompanied prison visits. The Father-Child-Groups allow children biweekly two-hour visits on top of their usual visits. Within the project TAKT, professionals were trained and additional information material was created. The children and youth-friendly online advice and information portal for children www.juki-online.de went online in June 2014 and was well received.

Additionally, the organization accomplished several broad-based public relations activities. Through the creation of flyers, publishing articles in professional journals as well as in the press and through appearances on TV, Treffpunkt e.V. raised public awareness on the issue of children of prisoners.

In 2015, Treffpunkt e.V. will continue to build a professionally operating network in Germany to offer holistic help for the children of prisoners.



COPE MEMBER DIRECTORY:

Member Organisations :

Action for Prisoners' and Offenders'
Families (APF)
Can Mezzanine
49-51 East Road
London N1 6AH
UK
<http://www.prisonersfamilies.org.uk>

ASBL Relais Enfants Parents
Rue de Bordeaux, 62A
1060 Bruxelles
Belgium
<http://www.relaisenfantsparents.be>

Associazione Bambinisenzasbarre O.N.L.U.S
Via Antonio Baldissera 1 – 20129 Milano
Italy
<http://www.bambinisenzasbarre.org/index.php>

Bedford Row Project Centre
Lower Bedford Row
Limerick, Ireland
<http://www.bedfordrow.ie>

Bryggan Stockholm, Magnus Ladulsgatan 6,
118 66 Stockholm, Sude
<http://www.bryggan.a.se>

Czech Helsinki Committee / esk helsinsk
vbor
tefnikova 21,
15000 Praha 5,
Czech Republic
<http://www.helcom.cz/cs/co-delame/clenske-site/enar/>

Families Outside
13 Great King Street
Edinburgh EH3 6QW
Scotland
<http://www.familiesoutside.org.uk>

La Federation des Relais Enfants Parents
(FREP)
4-6 rue Charles Floquet
92122 Montrouge
France

For Fangers Prrrende (FFP)
P.B. 6710
St. Olavsplass
0130 Oslo
Norway
<http://www.ffp.no>

NIACRO
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4 Amelia Street
Belfast BT2 7GS
Northern Ireland
<http://www.niacro.co.uk>

Ninos sin Barreras
Spain
<http://www.ninossinbarreras.org>

Office of the Ombudsman for Children
Croatia
Teslina 10, Zagreb, 10000, Croatia
<http://www.dijete.hr/en.html>

Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact)
29 Peckham Road
London
SE5 8UA
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<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>

Relais Enfants Parents
4-6 rue Charles Floquet
92122 Montrouge
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Relais Enfants Parents Romands
Rue du Tunnel 1
CH-1005 Lausanne
Switzerland
<http://repr.ch>

Service Treffpunkt
19 rue Pasteur
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Luxembourg

Solrosen
Gteborgs Rddningsmission, Andra Lnggatan
29, 413 27 Gteborg
Sweden
<http://www.raddningsmissionen.se/verksamhet/detta-ar-solrosen>

St Nicholas Trust
34 Paul Street, Cork,
Ireland
<http://www.stnicholastrust.ie>

Treffpunkt e.V.
Frther Str. 212
90429 Nrnberg
Germany
<https://www.treffpunkt-nbg.de>

Applicant Members:

Hoppenbank e.V.
Buntentorsteinweg 501, 28201 Bremen
Germany
<http://www.hoppenbank.info>

Irish Penal Reform Trust
MACRO, 1 Green Street, Dublin 7
Ireland
<http://www.iprt.ie>

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)
13 Avenue du Mervelet
1209 Geneva
Switzerland
<http://www.quno.org>

POPS
1079 Rochdale Road, Blackley, Manchester,
M9 8AJ
UKs
<http://www.partnersofprisoners.org.uk>

Affiliate Members:

BAG-S e.V.
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft fr Strafflligenhilfe e.V. Oppelner Str. 130
53119 Bonn
Germany
<http://www.bag-s.de>

Barnardo's Parenting Matters
234 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2FZ, UK
http://www.i-hop.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/383/~barnardos-parenting-matters-northern-ireland

The Croft
St. Enoch's
19 Smithycroft Road
Glasgow G33 2RH
UK

Exodus Nederland, Morssingel 5, 2312 AZ
Leiden
Netherlands
<http://www.exodus.nl>

Freedom Gate Greece
Greece
<http://freedomgategreece.blogspot.fr>

Instituto da Infancia (IFAN)
Av. Padre Antonio Toms, 2420
Ed. Diplomata sl 1404, Aldeota 60140-160
Brazil
<http://www.ifan.com.br>

Heilsarmee Gefngnisdienst Schweiz
Hauptquartier, Laupenstrasse 5, Postfach
6575
3001 Bern
Switzerland
<http://www.heilsarmee.ch/2012/02/23/sie-besuchen-hftlinge/>

Kriminaalihuollon tukisti (KRITS)
Kinaporinkatu 2 E 39, 00500, Helsinki puh.
Finland
http://www.krits.fi/fin/krits_in_english/

Morning Tears Deutschland e.V.
Paracelsusstrae 35, 70771 Leinfelden-Ech-
terdingen
Germany
<http://morningtears.de>

Person Shaped Support (PSS)
18 Seel Street,
Liverpool, L1 4BE
UK
<http://www.psspeople.com>

Pillars
Christchurch (Head Office), PO Box 21209,
Christchurch 8143
New Zealand
<http://www.pillars.org.nz>

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and
Drugs
21 Elmbank Street
Glasgow G2 4PB
UK
<http://www.sfad.org.uk>

Service Network for Children of Inmates
1835 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd
#387
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009
US
<http://www.childrenofinmates.org>

Storybook Dads
HMP Channings Wood
Denbury, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6DW
or
HMP Dartmoor, Princetown
Yelverton, Devon
PL20 6RR
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