

COPE'S 18<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**12 June 2026, Palazzo Marino, Sala Alessi, Milan, Italy**

## **5-D Learning: Building Holistic Ecosystems for Children with a Parent in Prison**

*— across NGOs, prisons, schools, media and society*

This Conference presents a shared European vision of education as a continuous, cross-cutting and collective responsibility. The 5-Dimensional Learning concept recognises that the wellbeing, rights and development of children affected by parental imprisonment depend on interconnected learning and action across NGOs, institutions (prisons and probation services), families, the media and society at large. This conference invites participants to move beyond silos and institutional boundaries, to build bridges across holistic learning ecosystems. Support for children must go beyond policies, services and co-created solutions, to include shared values, informed action and a long-term societal vision.

### **Agenda\***

**08:30 – 09:30** Welcome Coffee & registration

**09:30 – 09:40** Opening Remarks

**Kate Philbrick**, COPE President, Conference chair  
**Lia Sacerdote**, Bambinisenzasbarre President

**09:40 – 9:55** **Carla Ciavarella**, Vice President, Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP),  
Council of Europe

**9:55 – 10:40** The Institutions — a Systemic Approach

**Daniele Nahum**, President of the Prisons Subcommittee of the City of Milan  
**Alessandro Giungi**, Vice President of the Prisons Subcommittee of the City of Milan  
**Stefano Carmine De Michele**, Head of the Department of Penitentiary Administration (tbc)  
**Antonio Sangermano**, Head of the Department for Juvenile and Community Justice (tbc)  
**Marina Terragni**, Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents (tbc)  
**Maria Milano Franco d'Aragona**, Regional Director of Penitentiary Administration for Lombardy  
**Luigi Pagano**, Guarantor of the Rights of Persons Deprived of Personal Liberty, Milan

**10:40 – 11:30** Holistic Vision of Inclusion: Different Pathways Toward a Common Goal  
— Panel Talk

**Julie Poehlmann**, Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Evie Mae Stevenson**, Member of the Parental Imprisonment Collective, UK  
**Louise Riondel**, Secretariat, Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP), Council of Europe  
**Kate Philbrick**, Moderator

**11:30 – 11:50** Break

**11:50 – 12:05** Theatre as a Tool for Inclusion, Prevention and Parent-Child Connection:  
In Prison, Schools and the Wider Community

**Ivana Trettel**, Founder and Director of *Opera Liquida*, the theatre company of Opera Prison, Milan

**12:05 – 12:45** The Partnership with the Court of Milan: A Best-Practice Example  
— Panel Talk

**Fabio Roia**, President of the Ordinary Court of Milan  
**Paola Ortolan**, President of the Juvenile Court of Milan  
**Marcello Bortolato**, President of the Surveillance Court of Milan  
**Raffaele Bianchetti**, Moderator

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for Children with a Parent in Prison***— across NGOs, prisons, schools, media and society***12:45 – 13:15****Beyond Prison Walls: The Role of the Community — Panel Talk**

**Orietta Catena**, Director of the Juvenile Social Service Office (USSM)  
**Municipality of Milan Social Services**, Head of Territorial Social Services, City of Milan  
**Raffaele Bianchetti**, Moderator

*Please note that Alex Sanchez, Actor with Opera Liquida will be reading students' responses to awareness raising sessions on parental imprisonment held in schools throughout the morning session.*

**13:15 - 14:15****Lunch break****II. Three Seminars****14:15 – 14:45****Carla Ciavarella - Strengthening Skills and Awareness in Public Institutions**

Collaboration between institutions and third-sector organisations is essential for the development of inclusive projects. Through listening, dialogue and mutual recognition of differences, it is possible to combine resources and strengthen the effectiveness of results. Change takes place between people and through people. Together, our differences can help improve social conditions and promote well-being for everyone.

**14:45 – 15:15****«... I adore you, be happy, and if you're not, I forgive you.»**

**Giulia Marchesi**, Actress and theatre trainer

Fathers and children in a space different from the traditional visitation setting through the workshop "Our Bubble". Through theatrical play, movement, voice and imagination, a time for authentic connection is created, allowing participants to share emotions, strengthen emotional bonds and develop new ways of being together. The workshop explores how to reduce the physical and emotional distance imposed by imprisonment, supporting imprisoned parenthood and creating a "bubble" of listening, presence and connection. An original initiative active in Italy since 2016, developed in collaboration with Bambinisenzasbarre.

**15:15 – 15:50****My father is in a strange place: truths that can be told, spoken and made possible**

**Andrea Prandin** — Pedagogue specialising in the use of aesthetic languages in care processes within child protection and family contexts.

Relationships are made of stories and stories shape relationships; relationships always take place within a context which, in turn, is itself a story. What conditions foster the emergence of good stories? When can a story be considered a "good" one? And what conditions, instead, may inhibit their unfolding and creation, especially in contexts such as encounters between imprisoned parents and their children, where each person carries countless and sometimes hidden stories (which we might call "poetic" stories)?

Video 1 – Children write their Charter; Video 2 – "My father is on a business trip"

**15:50 - 16:00****Concluding remarks**