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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

**Draft Recommendation CM/Rec(20XX)XX of the Committee of Ministers
to the member States concerning children with imprisoned parents**

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Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE)

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members, in particular through harmonising laws on matters of common interest;

Considering the large number of children whose parents are detained in the prisons in its member States;

Recognising the difficulties which these children and their prisoner-parents may face on account of such factors as lack of quality family contact, stigma, and financial, practical and psychological obstacles to maintaining healthy family relationships;

Acknowledging that prison is not a healthy environment for children. Imprisoned mothers and fathers are frequently under stress, prisons tend to be noisy, and privacy is difficult. Many prisons receiving children on prison visits have few specially trained staff, inadequate visits facilities and poor play facilities. In some prisons, physical contact between children and their imprisoned parent is restricted. There are few opportunities for children and parents to experience ordinary family life. The children have little opportunity to strengthen their bond or form relationships with their fathers or mothers. These negative conditions can dissuade children from visiting a parent in prison and jeopardise a child's healthy development;

Desirous of alleviating any possible adverse impact of a parent's incarceration on children and on parental competency, and of facilitating and maintaining their treatment with a view to protecting child development and fostering the parent's social reintegration; and recognising that children of prisoners are considered as vulnerable children and consideration of their needs and rights forms part of the Council of Europe Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2016-2021 and should form part of cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary national child protection strategies;

Considering that such treatment should take into account the special needs of children and their imprisoned parents, arising from the fact that the latter are detained in a prison or remand institution, in order to provide them with opportunities equal to those of other children and parents;

Taking into account:

- the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5);
- the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS No. 112);
- the Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons (ETS No. 167);
- Recommendation Rec(92)16 on the European rules on community sanctions and measures;
- Recommendation Rec(92)17 concerning consistency in sentencing;
- Recommendation Rec(93)6 concerning prison and criminological aspects
- Recommendation Rec(97)12 on staff concerned with the implementation of sanctions and measures;
- Recommendation Rec(2003)22 on conditional release (parole);
- Recommendation Rec(2006)2 on the European Prison Rules;
- Recommendation Rec(2006)13 on the use of remand in custody, the conditions in which it takes place and the provision of safeguards against abuse;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)11 on the European Rules for juvenile offenders subject to sanctions or measures;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)1 on the Council of Europe Probation Rules;

The Council of Europe Convention on Contact concerning Children (2003).

Bearing in mind:

The United Nations Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners and Recommendations on the Treatment of Foreign Prisoners (1985);

The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Resolution 2010/16);

The European Union Council Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments in criminal matters imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union;

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

the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (revised in 2015)

The European Union Council Framework Decision 2008/947/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments and probation decisions with a view to the supervision of probation measures and alternative sanctions;

The European Union Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA on the application, between member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention;

Considering that penal policy, sentencing practice and the overall management of prisons in member States need to be guided by a recommendation on children with imprisoned parents;

Agreeing further that ethical and professional standards need to be developed regarding the impact of a parent's incarceration on children in order to guide the national authorities, including judges, prosecutors, prison administrations, probation agencies, police and agencies providing support services to children and imprisoned parents;

Taking into account the constitutional principles, legal traditions and the independence of the judiciary in its member States;

Recognising that a range of authorities and agencies deal with children affected by parental incarceration and parents who are subject to criminal proceedings, sanctions or measures, and that such bodies are in need of a coherent set of guiding principles in line with Council of Europe standards,

Recommends that governments of member States:

- be guided in their legislation, policies and practice by the rules contained in the appendix to this recommendation;

- ensure that this recommendation and the accompanying report to its text are translated and disseminated as widely as possible and more specifically to all relevant authorities, agencies, professionals and associations which deal with children of prisoners, as well as to the prisoner-parents themselves.

I. Definitions, philosophy and scope of recommendation

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this recommendation:

a. **child** means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

b. **parent is someone holding parental responsibilities; the** term “holders of parental responsibilities” means parents and other persons or bodies entitled to exercise some or all parental responsibilities.

c. **prisoner** means any person who has been convicted of a criminal offence or alleged to have committed but who has not been convicted of a criminal offence; in certain cases the term ‘**suspect**’ is used for those not yet convicted.

d. **prison** means an institution reserved primarily for the detention of suspects or sentenced persons;

e. **judicial authority** means a court, a judge or a prosecutor.

Philosophy

2. This recommendation is written on the basis that:

- respect for the rights and needs of individual children of prisoners and serving their best interests is compatible with ensuring that security can be offered to the public, and quality contact between prisoners and their children has a positive impact on the prisoner-parent, on prison order, on prison staff, on the reintegration of prisoners and on States and society in general.
- children can thrive when they have a sense of agency and feel they can influence events. If adults listen to and respect children, and model collaboration with them, their sense of themselves as competent members of society grows.
- it is necessary to protect the child’s right to an emotional and continuing bond with their imprisoned parent who has a duty and right to play his/her parental role and to promote positive experiences for children.
- children, family and child-parent relationships need support during and after detention.
- all interventions and measures promoted to support children with imprisoned parents and their relationship with them must ensure they create no further stigma and discrimination against these children.
- cultural change and social integration are necessary to overcome the barriers connected with the prejudice and discrimination of familial imprisonment.

Scope

3. This recommendation applies to children with parents in prison, including infant children residing with their parent in prison, and to other children whose parents are subject to criminal proceedings, and criminal sanctions and measures, and who may be or have been deprived of their liberty.

II. Basic principles

4. Prisoner-parents and their children shall be treated with respect for their human rights and with due regard for their particular situation and individual needs. Measures that ensure child protection as well as respect for the child's best interests, for family life and for privacy shall be integral to this treatment.

5. Parents who are imprisoned or suspects shall be entitled to be considered for the same range of non-custodial sanctions and measures as other suspects and prisoners; they shall not be excluded from consideration on the grounds of their status and when the suspect or prisoner is a primary caregiver the impact on dependent children who risk being affected by imprisonment will be taken into account in sentencing and allocation of prison housing. As for other suspects and offenders, prisoner-parents shall be remanded in custody or sentenced to custodial sanctions only when strictly necessary and as a measure of last resort. They shall be entitled to full consideration for early release.

6. Positive steps shall be taken to allow for non-custodial remand measures and sentences in appropriate cases wherever possible when a child's sole or primary carer may be imprisoned as a result of preventive detention or sentencing decisions.

7. The prison regime shall collect information prior to and at entry regarding the family situation of all suspects and offenders, and shall work to systematise this information.

8. The prison regime shall accommodate the special welfare needs of prisoner-parents and their children and prepare them for release and social reintegration.

9.1. Decisions to transfer prisoner-parents to a State in which their dependent children reside shall be taken with respect for human rights, in the interests of justice and with regard to the welfare of the children and the need to socially reintegrate such prisoners and their children.

9.2. Decisions to transfer prisoner-parents from a State in which their dependent children reside shall be taken with respect for human rights, in the interests of justice and with regard to the welfare of the children and the importance of the child-parent relationship for their well-being.

10. Sufficient resources shall be allocated in order to deal effectively with the particular situation and specific needs of children of prisoners and prisoners who are parents.

11. Appropriate training in dealing with children, and with their parents who are suspects and prisoners, shall be provided for the relevant authorities, agencies, professionals and associations which have regular contact with such persons.

III. Use of remand in custody

12.1. In order to ensure that remand in custody is used for suspects who are parents, as for other suspects, only when strictly necessary and as a measure of last resort, it shall be governed by Recommendation Rec(2006)13 on the use of remand in custody, the conditions in which it takes place and the provision of safeguards against abuse.

12.2. In particular:

- a. alternatives to remand in custody shall always be considered for a parent suspect; and
- b. the fact that such a suspect is a parent and the impact on any dependent children should be considered in any decision concerning remand and imprisonment.

12.3. The same provisions for contact with the outside world should be offered to suspects who are parents on remand as specified in 17.1 to 17.17 below.

IV. Sentencing

13.1. In order to ensure that custodial sanctions are imposed on suspect-parents, as on other suspects, only when strictly necessary and as a measure of last resort, sentencing shall take into

consideration Recommendation Rec (92) 17 concerning consistency in sentencing. In particular, suspect-parents shall be considered for the same range of non-custodial sanctions or measures as other suspects, with particular consideration given when the suspect or prisoner is the primary carer of dependent children.

13.2. The judicial authorities shall be provided, where possible and appropriate, with pre-sentence reports about the personal circumstances of prisoners and suspects, their children and their families, and the likely impact of various sanctions on children.

13.3. To avoid disproportionate hardship and obstacles to social reintegration, account shall be taken when considering sentences of the possible impact that such sentences may have on individual suspects or prisoners and their children and other dependents, without prejudice to the independence of the judiciary.

V. Conditions of imprisonment

Admission

14.1. Prior to or on admission, individuals with caretaking responsibilities for children shall be permitted to make arrangements for those children, including the possibility of a reasonable suspension of detention, taking into account the best interests of the children.

14.2. At admission and during detention, prisoners who are parents shall be provided with information about:

- a. their rights and duties as prisoners including regarding contact with their children and families;
- b. the main features of the prison regime and the internal regulations;

14.3. Immediately after admission, prison authorities shall assist prisoners who are parents, who wish to do so, to inform of their imprisonment their families, legal advisers, and other persons or organisations competent to assist them.

14.4. As soon as possible after admission, prisoners who are parents shall be provided with information which they can send to their children and families to explain entitlements to and procedures for visiting.

14.5. At admission, prisoners will be asked about the numbers and ages of any children they have. Prisoners will also be asked about who is caring for their children while the parent is detained or imprisoned.

The prison authorities will collect this data and make this information available to S.P.A.C.E. on an annual basis.

Allocation

15.1. Decisions regarding the allocation of prisoners who are parents shall take into account the need to alleviate their potential isolation and to facilitate their contact with the outside world and to ensure that prison visiting does not place an undue burden on families either financially or geographically.

15.2. Subject to the requirements of safety and security, and the individual needs of prisoners who are parents, consideration shall be given to housing these prisoners in prisons close to their family home with access to transport facilities that would enable their families to visit them.

Accommodation

16. Decisions on whether to accommodate prisoner-parents together shall be based primarily on their individual needs and the facilitation of their social reintegration, while ensuring a safe and secure environment for prisoners and staff. *[to be discussed]*

Contact with the outside world

17.1. To alleviate the potential isolation of prisoner-parents, special attention shall be paid to the maintenance and development of their relationships with the outside world, including contacts with children, family and friends, consular representatives, probation and community agencies and volunteers.

17.2. Special measures shall be taken to encourage and enable prisoner-parents to maintain regular and meaningful contact with their children, to maintain and strengthen the child-parent bond and safeguard children's healthy development, while facilitating the rehabilitation process for prisoner-parents. Restrictions imposed on contact between prisoners and the outside world shall be implemented in a way that does not violate the child's right to contact with their separated parent.

17.3. Arrangements shall be made to facilitate visits, correspondence and other forms of communication by children with their imprisoned parent.

Telephones and other forms of electronically assisted communication

17.4. Systematic use of telephone technology and IT (e.g., video-conferencing, mobile telephone systems, Internet, including webcam and chat functions) shall be authorised when face to face meetings between the imprisoned parent and children prove difficult to arrange and between scheduled face-to-face meetings. These means of communication should never be seen as a permanent alternative to face-to-face contact between children and their imprisoned parents.

17.5. Rules for making and receiving telephone calls and other forms of communication with children shall be applied flexibly to maximise communication between prisoner-parents and their children. When feasible, children should be authorised to initiate telephone communications with their prisoner-parents.

17.6. Prisoner-parents shall be assisted with the costs of communicating with their children if their means do not allow it.

Visits

17.7. Prison visits shall be arranged as to allow prisoners to maintain and develop relationships with their children and families in as normal a manner as possible. Children may be granted visits with their parents that offer privacy, when necessary and in specific circumstances, such as bereavement.

17.8. Children shall be authorised to visit an imprisoned parent within a week following the parent's arrest and, on a regular and frequent basis, from then on. Visits shall be authorised at least once a week, with shorter, more frequent visits allowed for very young children. Visits shall be organised so as not to interfere with school attendance (i.e., six days a week, including afternoons, Sundays, public holidays).

17.9. In order to optimise contact, visits to prisoner-parents from family members who live at great distances from the place of detention shall be arranged in a flexible manner, which may include allowing prisoners to combine their visit entitlements and offering financial support for families and children to help defray travel costs.

17.10. Security checks shall be carried out in a child-sensitive manner that respects children's dignity and privacy. A designated children's space shall be provided in prison waiting rooms (e.g., bottle warmer, changing table, toys, crayons, games).

17.11. Prisons shall have designated "children's and/or family officers", specifically trained to support children, their imprisoned parents and the child-parent bond during visits.

17.12. Prison visits facilities shall provide designated child-friendly waiting areas and spaces that allow for personal contact, including non-verbal contact for young children and their parents, and an environment conducive to play and interaction with the parent.

17.13. Prisons shall respect prisoner-parents as parents. In particular, prison personnel shall avoid humiliating the prisoner-parent immediately prior to their visit with their children, while ensuring the safety and protection of children and others. Such humiliation can have an adverse impact on the child's visit. To the extent possible, children shall be authorised to leave the visits area prior to the prisoner-parent's departure. In this way they are not subjected to witnessing the departure of the parent, which can be traumatic for some children. Clothes provided by prison authorities shall not offend the dignity of prisoners who are parents, particularly during visits with their children.

17.14. Arrangements for child-parent activities shall be made on a regular basis and not attributed as "rewards" for a prisoner's good behaviour or removed to penalise misconduct. These activities include extended prison visits for special occasions (Mother's Day, Father's Day, end of year holidays, etc.) and other visits to further the child-parent relationship, and do not replace standard authorised visits. To the extent possible, prison personnel shall not be dressed in regular prison uniforms during these special visits, in an effort to normalise the atmosphere for children.

17.15. In cases where security requirements are so extreme as to necessitate closed visits, additional measures shall be taken to ensure that the child-parent bond is supported and child-friendly resources are made available, even within these circumstances.

Support and information

17.16. Support and information shall be provided by the prison to the extent possible to enable family members, particularly children, to visit prisoner-parents. Age-appropriate information about visiting procedures and rules (e.g., what can be taken to visits, security procedures) shall be made available to families. Authorities shall endeavour to inform family members about the prison or other facility in which the prisoner-parent is held or to which they have been transferred. Authorities shall endeavour to keep up-to-date contact details of family members of prisoner-parents.

17.17. To dispel potentially damaging preconceptions the child may have about the prison environment, children shall be authorised, when feasible and in the child's best interest, to visit or see photographs of areas in which their imprisoned parent spends time, including the parent's sleeping accommodation.

Prison leaves

18.1. The prison administration should consider, when possible, visits of prisoners to their families, or with their families in the community local to the prison, especially during the period leading up to their release. Visits at home provide a more realistic opportunity to exercise the parental role in preparation for resuming it fully on release and protect children from the harsh prison environment.

18.2. To enable prisoner-parents to relate effectively to their children and to exercise their parental role, they should be offered the possibility of home leave to allow their presence during significant moments in children's lives, especially if children are minors; these include, *inter alia*, birthdays, first day of school, recitals, graduation.

Sentence planning, education, training

19.1 Following the collection of information about whether prisoners are parents prior to admission or at entry (see 14.3, 14.4), consideration shall be given in sentence planning as to which programmes, courses and other interventions will enable prisoner-parents to act as positive, non-violent role models for their children.

19.2. Prisoners who are parents shall be given opportunities to exercise their role as parents, and to receive support and learning to sustain this. Specific support and learning objectives include: retaining maximum parental responsibility during imprisonment; minimising the impact of imprisonment on their children; developing and strengthening constructive child-parent relationships; and preparing for integration into family life on their release.

19.3. To ensure that educational and vocational training is as effective as possible for prisoner-parents, prison authorities shall take account of their individual needs and aspirations, which may

include working towards qualifications that are recognised and that facilitate re-entry into family life. Where possible, support and learning opportunities should also be available following the prisoner's release.

19.4. The prison library shall be stocked as far as possible with reading materials and other resources that reflect the needs of prisoners who are parents and support joint activities with their children.

Good order, safety and security

20.1. Prison staff shall ensure that good order, safety and security are maintained through a process of dynamic security and interaction with prisoners, their children and families.

20.2. To ensure child protection, every effort shall be made to enhance mutual respect and tolerance and prevent potentially harmful behaviour between prisoners, their children and families, prison staff or other persons working or visiting the prison.

Women

21.2. Attention shall be paid to meeting the psychological and healthcare needs of women prisoners, who have children.

21.3. Arrangements and facilities for pre-natal and post-natal care shall respect individuals and be non-judgmental, comprehensive and coordinated.

Infant children

22.1. Decisions to allow children to stay with their mothers or fathers in prison shall be based on the best interests of the children. Children in prison with their mothers shall never be treated as prisoners. Such decisions are based on the presumption that, unless the contrary is shown, that involvement of the parent in the life of the child will further the child's welfare.

22.2. The legal status of any infant children in prison with their parent shall be determined as early as possible during the sentence of that parent.

22.3. Arrangements and facilities for the care of infant children who are in prison with their parent shall:

- ensure the best interests and safety of children living in the prison are a primary consideration;
- safeguard the child's welfare and promote healthy child development, including with the provision of ongoing health-care services, and arranging for specialists to monitor his/her development in collaboration with community health services;
- ensure that all children living in prison shall be able to freely access open-air areas in the prison, and can access the external world with the appropriate accompaniment; shall attend nursery schools and, where relevant, schools outside the prison;
- promote attachment between a parent and their child, allowing the child-parent relationship to develop as normally as possible, enabling parents to exercise appropriate parental responsibility for their child and providing maximum possible opportunities for prisoner-parents to spend time with their children.;
- support imprisoned parents living with their children and parental competency, ensuring that they are provided with opportunities to look after their children, cook meals for them, get them ready for school, and spend quality time playing with them, both inside the prison and in the open air areas;
- ensure children have access to a similar level of services and support to that which is available in the community and that the environment provided for such children's upbringing

shall be as close as possible to that of a child outside prison.

- promote positive staff/prisoner engagement and offer positive role models for prisoner-parents and children.

22.4. Decisions as to when a child is to be separated from their parent shall be based on individual assessments and the best interests of the child within the scope of relevant national laws.

22.5. The transition of the child from prison shall be undertaken with sensitivity, only when suitable alternative care arrangements for the child have been identified and, in the case of foreign-national prisoners, in consultation with consular officials.

22.6. After children are separated from their parents in prison and placed with family or relatives or in other alternative care, prisoners shall be given the maximum possible opportunity and facilities to meet with their children, when it is in the best interests of the children and when public safety is not compromised.

VI. Release/Through-care

Preparation for release

23.1. Preparation for release of prisoner-parents shall start from the onset of their sentence and in a manner that facilitates their reunification with their children and reintegration into society.

23.2. In order to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into their family and society:

- a. their legal status and their situation after release shall be determined as early as possible during their sentence;
- b. where appropriate, prison leave and other forms of temporary release shall be granted to them to promote; and
- c. they shall be assisted in making or re-establishing contact with family, friends and relevant support agencies.

Consideration for early release

24.1. Prisoner-parents, like other prisoners, shall be considered for early release as soon as they are eligible and shall not be discriminated against in this respect. Prison authorities shall utilise options such as home leave, open prisons, halfway houses and community-based programmes and services to the maximum possible extent for prisoners who are parents, to ease their transition from prison to liberty, to reduce stigma, to re-establish their contact with their families at the earliest possible stage and minimise the impact of their imprisonment on their children.

24.2. Decisions regarding all such early conditional release shall favourably take into account prisoners' caretaking responsibilities, as well as their specific social reintegration needs.

24.3. Authorities shall also consider prisoner-parents for pardoning, as a priority, taking into account their caring responsibilities, when appropriate.

Through-care

25.1. When prisoners are released they shall be provided with support and care by prison, probation or other agencies which specialise in assisting prisoners in reintegrating with their children and families. Prison authorities, in cooperation with probation and/or social welfare services, local community groups and civil society organisations shall design and implement comprehensive pre- and post-release reintegration programmes which take into account the specific needs of parents resuming their parental role in the community.

25.2. Children shall also receive support and care from the above-mentioned agencies, and if necessary from specific child-focused agencies, following the release of their parents from prison.

VII. Persons who work with children of prisoners and prisoners who are parents

Selection

26. Persons who work with prisoners who are parents shall be selected on criteria that include child-aware sensitivity, interaction skills and abilities to support the child–parent relationship.

Training

27.1. Staff involved in the admission of prisoners who are parents shall be appropriately trained to interact with them in a sensitive manner.

27.2. Training shall be provided to all persons who work with children of prisoners and prisoner-parents on the following: how to respect children’s needs and rights; the impact of imprisonment and the prison setting on children, the parental role; how to support prisoner-parents and better understand the particular problems faced by such prisoners.

27.3. Such training may include making the visit child-friendly and how to search children appropriately.

27.4. Training programmes shall be evaluated and revised regularly to ensure they reflect changing populations and social circumstances.

27.5. Persons who deal with children of prisoners and parents who are suspects or prisoners shall be kept informed of current national law and practices and international and regional human rights law and standards relating to children, including this recommendation.

Specialisation

28. Appropriately trained specialists shall be appointed to support prisoner-parents and facilitate visits with children of prisoners and prisoner-parents in child-friendly settings. They will also liaise with relevant agencies, professionals and associations on matters related to children and their prisoner-parents.

VIII. Work with the media and with public opinion

29.1. The children’s ombudsperson or other official with responsibility for protecting children’s rights, as well as other relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies, including civil society organisations offering support to children and families of suspects and prisoners will consider ways and means of addressing the problem of negative stereotyping and stigmatisation of prisoners and their children in the media and in political discourse, with due respect for the freedom of expression and freedom of the media.

29.2. This recommendation recognises the limited nature of reliable data and public awareness on children affected by parental incarceration worldwide, the impact of imprisonment on children, and the important role played by information-sharing on research outcomes and good practices in the effectiveness of meeting the rights and needs of these children. It also recognises:

- the key role played by the media in disseminating information on matters relating to prisoners and suspects and their families and children.
- the importance of making available to the media and to those with a professional responsibility in matters concerning children with parents in prison reliable and up-to-date data, in order to enhance and improve the effective implementation of relevant policies and programmes and to provide baseline data for evaluating support initiatives for children, while receiving public support for them.

29.3. The recommendation also recognises the urgent need to train relevant criminal justice officials in the provisions of these recommendations and sensitise them to the situation and needs of children affected by their parent's involvement in the criminal justice system. Criminal justice officials should be regularly informed of the outcomes of new research in order to keep them abreast of new findings and developments so that they can make informed decisions taking into account the potential impact on children of suspects or prisoners.

A multidisciplinary approach

30.1. To implement the provisions of these recommendations, all authorities shall adopt a multidisciplinary cross-sectoral approach considering the best interests of the children. This will necessitate cooperation with local communities, the children's ombudsperson or other official with responsibility for protecting children's rights, as well as other relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies, including civil society organisations offering support to children and families of suspects and prisoners.

30.2. Sufficient resources shall be made available to such civil society organisations offering support to children and families of suspects and prisoners to enable them to provide a satisfactory level of support to children and families of prisoners and suspects, and to enable them to engage effectively with other relevant bodies.

Evaluation of child-friendly practices and policies

31. Authorities shall annually evaluate their implementation of child-friendly practice and policies relating to children of prisoners and suspect- or prisoner-parents and revise them where appropriate. This review will involve the children's ombudsperson or other official with responsibility for protecting children's rights, as well as other relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies, including civil society organisations offering support to children and families of suspects and prisoners.

Research

32. Efforts shall be made to organise and promote research on the number of children affected by parental imprisonment and the impact of this on the children, in order to contribute to policy formulation programme development through the establishment of baseline data, taking into account the best interests of the children.