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and Probation Services (CDPPS)



# What is COPE?

*Pan-European network*

— *146 organisations & individuals in 31 CoE MS*

*(41 countries worldwide)*

— *HQ in Paris*

Civil society organisations (NGOs)  
Prison services  
Academics  
Youth activists  
Child Ombudspersons  
Police  
Judges

# What does COPE do?

Together with members, **prison services** and partners, COPE co-creates change to uphold the rights and meet the needs of children with imprisoned parents



# How?

By sparking awareness  
& strategic action for children  
— elevating this issue on  
**national & international policy  
agendas**



Most recently...

**European Court of Human Rights**

**UNODC, UN OHCHR**

**European Commission**

**Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice**

**Greek Prison Service**





CM/Rec(2018)5 is a  
**guiding framework** for  
this work

*COPE helps implement  
Council of Europe standards*

Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)5  
of the Committee of Ministers  
to member States concerning  
children with imprisoned parents



Building a Europe  
for and with children





How do COPE and its members help make CM/Rec(2018)5 a reality?

**Changing narratives to reduce stigma**

**Child participation**

**Partnerships with stakeholders to co-create change**

**Sharing & promoting effective practice**

**Systematising standards**







***Breathe in,  
Breathe out***



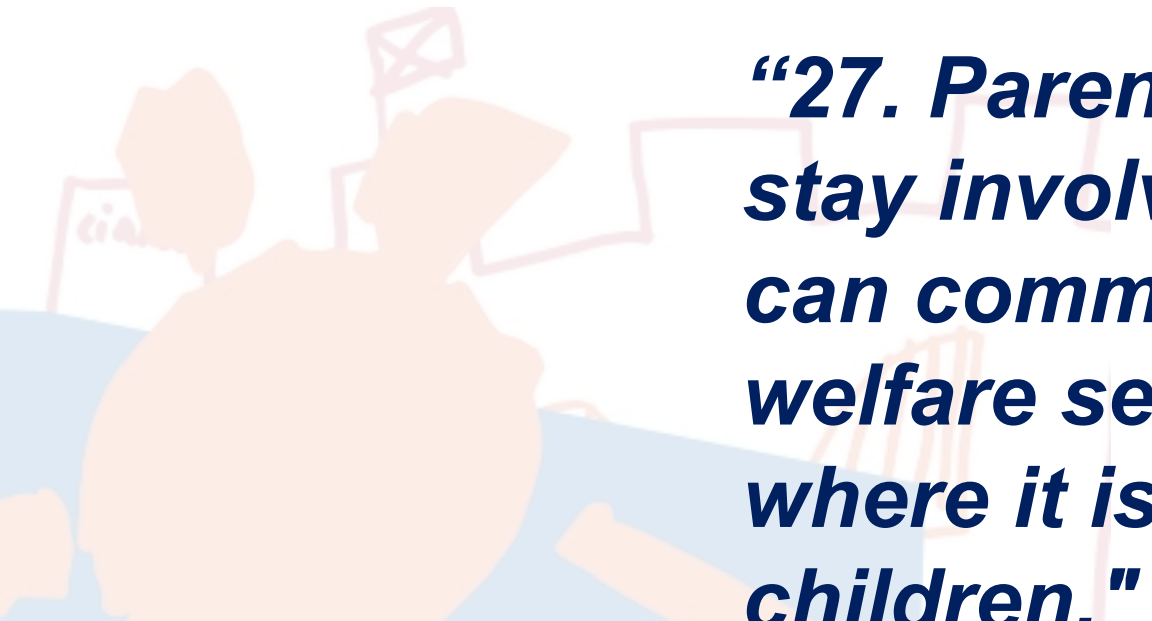
The network in action...

## **‘It’s Time to Act’**

Child-friendly version of  
CM/Rec(2018)5



***“21. Actions should be taken to make sure that each child visiting their parent in prison feels respected, safe and comfortable and has privacy; this is especially important for children who have special needs.”***



***“27. Parents in prison should be helped to stay involved in their children’s lives, and can communicate with school, health and welfare services, and make decisions where it is safe and good for their children.”***

# Case Study

## Turning CM/Rec(2018)5 into practice in **Greece**

- Greek NGOs
- Prison psychologist
- Deputy Child Ombudswoman
- Prison guards
- Ministry of Citizens' Protection
- Academics
- Media

**2022**  
**1<sup>st</sup> roundtable**

**2023**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> roundtable**

**2024**  
**Training  
session in 1  
prison**

**2025**  
**webinar all  
Greek prisons**

**2025**  
**Training  
session**





**In Norway, every prison  
and probation office has  
a **child ambassador**  
dedicated to  
safeguarding the best  
interests  
of visiting children**





## Child-parent **visits outside prison** in child-friendly NGO facility, Malta

NGO & COPE member Mid-Dlam għad-Dawl



**In-prison nurseries for children living with their imprisoned mothers and children of prisons staff, India**

**NGO Aangan Trust**





# Thank you!

**Paula Akyol**

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 **CHILDREN OF  
PRISONERS EUROPE**



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