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supporting families affected by imprisonment

Children with a parent in prison

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Together Scotland
State of Children's Rights Webinar Series
22 June 2020

@FamiliesOutside

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Families Outside

Families Outside is the only national organisation in Scotland that solely supports families affected by imprisonment.

We do this by:

- National Helpline 0800 254 0088
- Direct Family Support
- Information and Resources
- Training and Awareness Raising
- Policy and Practice Influencing

Responsive

Accessible

Independent

Knowledgeable

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Impact of Imprisonment for Families

- Loss of income and financial concerns
- Moving house and/or school
- Stress of media coverage
- Stigma attached to having a family member in prison
- Breakdown of family relationships
- Lack of understanding of Criminal Justice System
- Lack of information available
- Family become victims themselves
- Deterioration in Physical and Mental Health

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How a child might feel if a family member is imprisoned ?

Loss

Anger

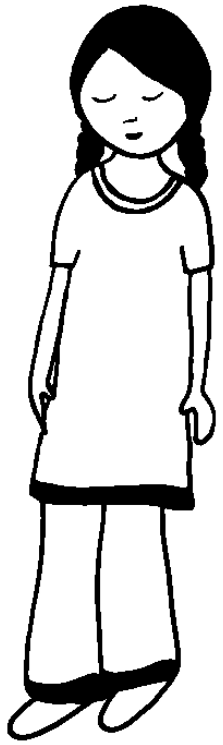
Guilt

Loneliness

Shame

Relief

Pride



“Disenfranchised grief “

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What we know about children affected by imprisonment

Prison population: 6,888 (5th June)

2/3 of the male and female prison population have children under the age of 18

20,000 – 27,000 children affected by imprisonment (estimated)

1/3 of children witness their parent's arrest

30% of children with a family member in prison develop serious mental ill health

Only 5% of children with a mother in prison remain in the family home, and only 17% will be looked after by their father

Higher risk of imprisonment for children who have a parent in prison

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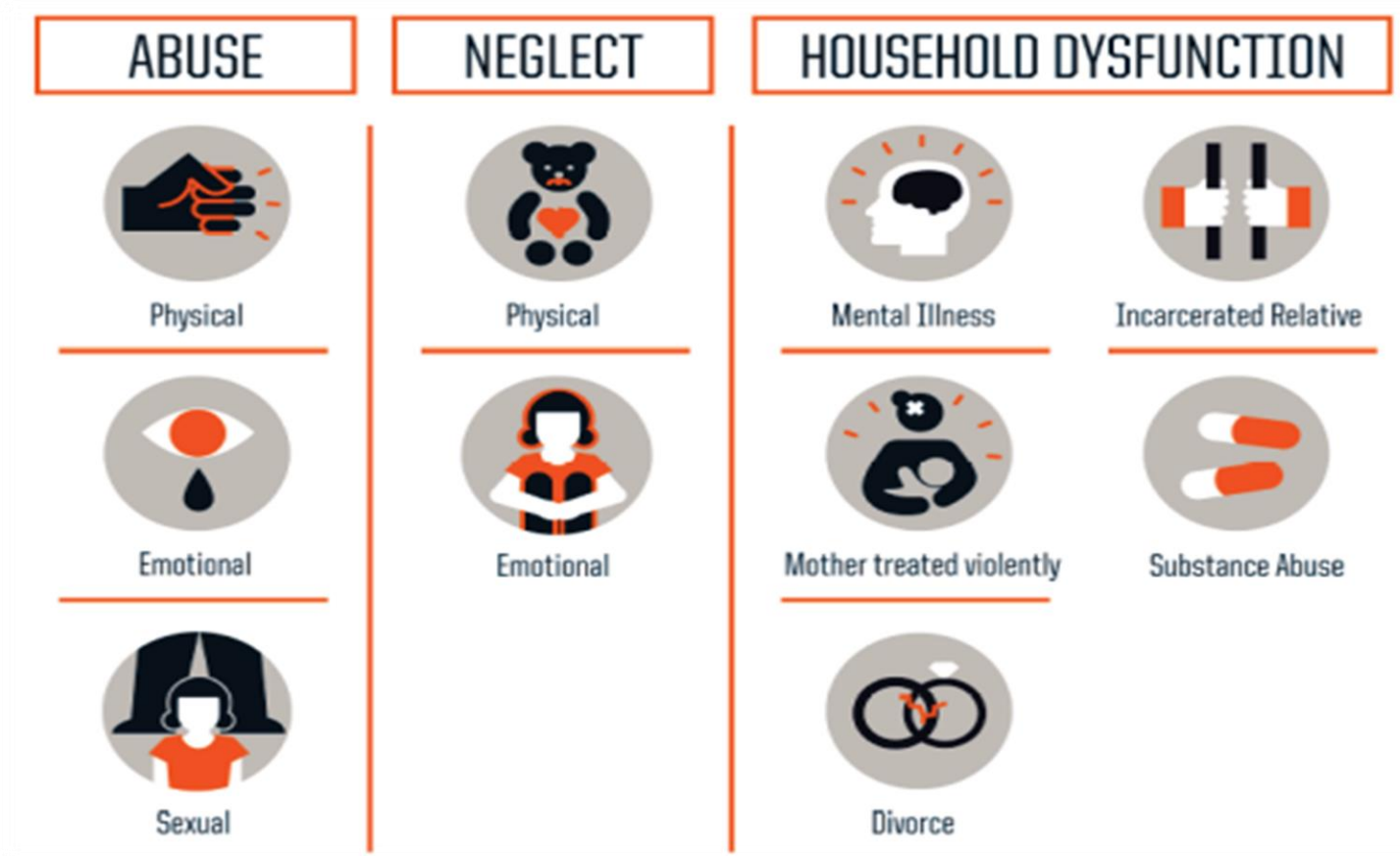
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Imprisonment of a household member is one of the 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) proven to increase long-term risk to health and wellbeing.



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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Imprisonment of a household member is associated with a fivefold increase in exposure to other ACEs. (Turney 2018)

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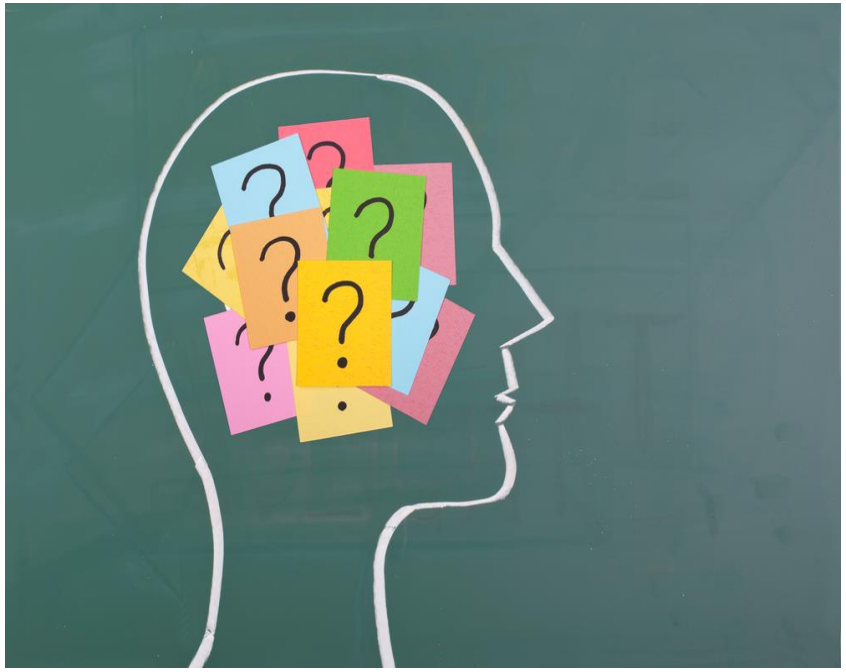
Points for discussion

- What are the major children's human rights concerns?
- Are there any new developments or issues that have arisen since Together's 2019 report, or anything that is missing?
- What needs to happen to ensure children's human rights are protected, respected and fulfilled?
- From your discussion, what are the **top three** issues that Together should include in its report to the UN Committee? Why have you chosen these?



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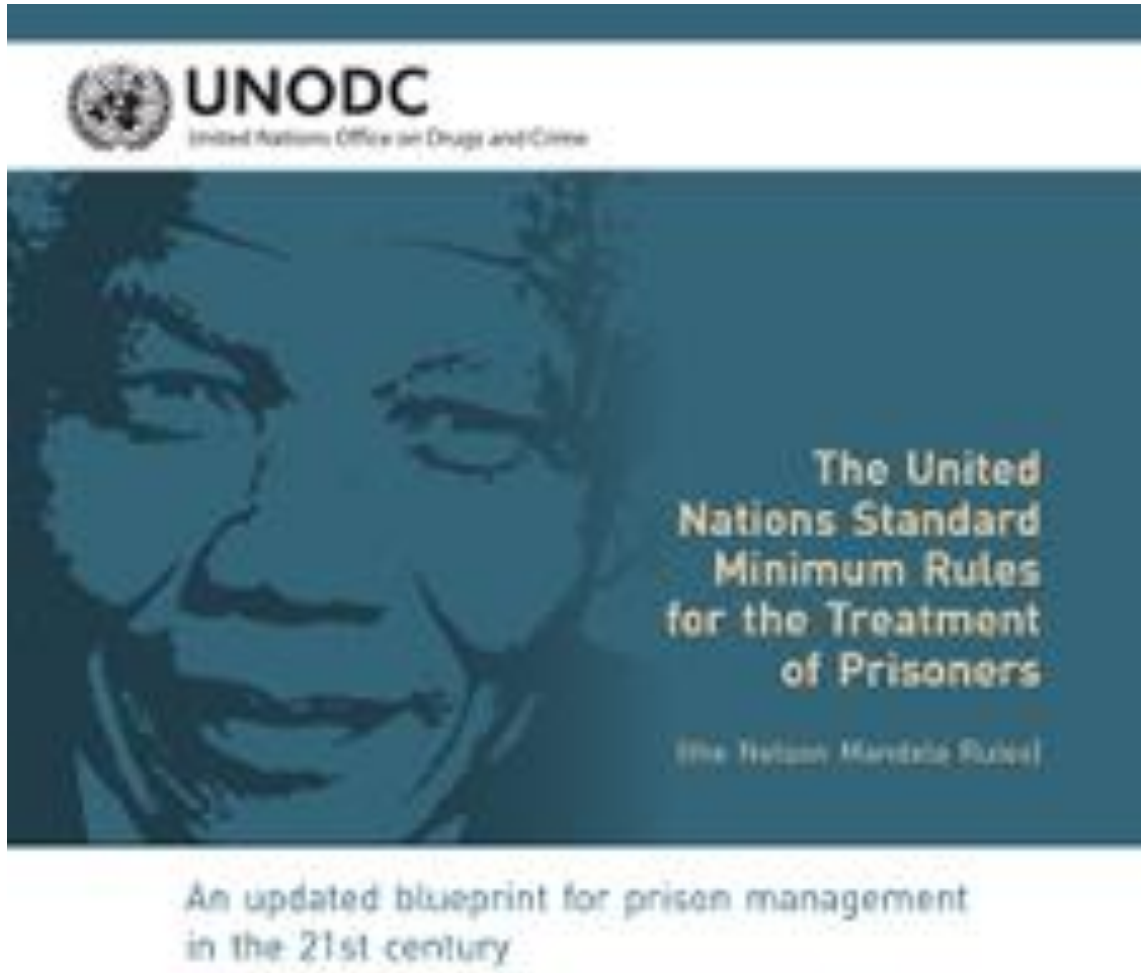
UN Nelson Mandela Rules 2015



We should know who these children and families are.

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A difficult balance…….

Access to support

Right to privacy

Child protection

Freedom of choice

Best interest?

Collusion?

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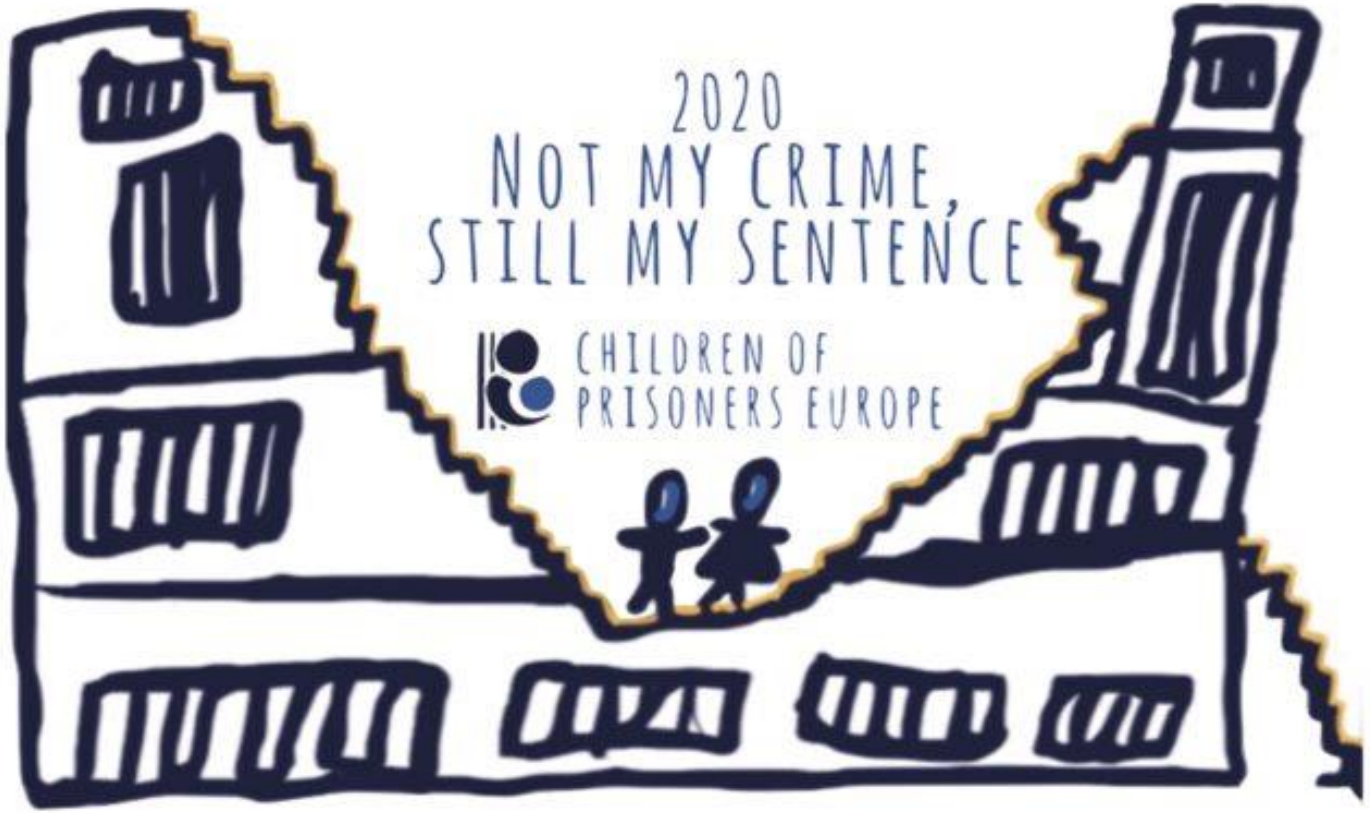
Council of Europe recommendations 2018



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United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

- Article 2 – No Discrimination
- Article 3 – Best interest of the child
- Article 9 – Separation from parents
- Article 12 – Respect for the views of the child
- Article 20 – Children unable to live with their family

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UN Bangkok Rules 2010

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What COVID-19 means for children with a parent in prison

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An invisible group – but with visible rights!

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Contact us:

- Helpline – 0800 254 0088
- www.familiesoutside.org.uk