



RECOMENDATIONS ON HOW TO REINFORCE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE POLICY-MAKERS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INCLUSION



Designing better interventions
for the social inclusion and well-being
of the children of incarcerated parents



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Certain attitudes and practices are recommended to reinforce the relationship among organizations working in the field of social inclusion of children of incarcerated people and the policy-makers, especially regarding the parental awareness in prison and its direct consequences on the well-being and full inclusion of the youths in the community.

These recommendations have been treated by the Charter issued by the Italian Organization **Bambini Senza Sbarre**, in which some key topics are taken into consideration.

Professor Edoardo Fleischner, Director of the International Relations at **Bambini Senza Sbarre** and former vice-president of **Children of Prisoners Europe**, conducted an online training on this topic in which partner organizations **CRA Belgrade** and **Medici per la Pace** participated during the implementation of project activity n#4 (Exchange visit to Verona, Italy) within the project “**Not Guilty – Designing better interventions for the social inclusion and well-being of the children of incarcerated parents**”.

The following recommendations were drawn from the workshop.



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1) It is of paramount importance to **actively engage in creating a network that involves lobbying, advocating and raising awareness among institutions, media and the civil society**. In this sense, the establishment of a **permanent round table** is recommended to follow the development of prisons situations and to favor and promote the cooperation of institutional and non-institutional agencies, encouraging the exchange of good practices on the national and international level.



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2) **Co-programming** should become a common practice, involving all relevant actors and stakeholders and **including representatives of the beneficiaries.**



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3) it is important to put into practice a **change of attitude**, a cultural shift that must be on the side of children.

At the same time, there is a strong call for the necessity to **start a process of social integration and of a deeper cultural change** that will be a revolutionary message addressed to the civil society.

The **involvement of the media** is fundamental to reinforce this process, but being careful to avoid the spectacularization of the stories behind the families.



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To promote the full inclusion of the specific target group, the **children of incarcerated parents**, organizations and policy-makers should cooperate on the following aspects:



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- **provide adequate spaces** to accommodate and welcome children:
creation of a waiting room for children who visit their parents in prison so that they could benefit from freedom of movement and physical contact, supporting the right to have an emotional uninterrupted bond with their imprisoned parents.



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- ensure training of prison workers and external professionals in the reception and in their relationship with the children, and in their relationship with the detainees while the children are present.



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- Encourage the penitentiary system to consider **the parental role of the detainees**, being aware of the presence of the minor inside the facility and of the social burden that a parent's detention implies.



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- social inclusion of incarcerated people should continue also during the detention's period and this is why great importance is given to the relationship between imprisoned parents and their children.

In particular, it is necessary to identify means and tools to avoid further marginalisation, to facilitate the strengthening of family ties and accompany the return to the social network of belonging.



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