



## **“Children of Imprisoned Parents: European Perspectives”**

Conference organized by

**EUROCHIPS, FEDERATION DES RELAIS ENFANTS-PARENTS  
and the BERNARD VAN LEER FOUNDATION**

**12-13 May 2006**

**Espace Adenauer, MAISON INTERNATIONALE  
Cité Internationale Universitaire, Paris**

The European Committee for Children of Imprisoned Parents (EUROCHIPS), founded by Save the Children and Fédération des Relais Enfants Parents, is organizing a two-day conference in Paris on the issue of children of imprisoned parents within the European Union.

The conference will serve to foster the exchange of expertise and “good” practice, thus providing professionals and volunteers with better tools and resources for working with children of imprisoned parents. The conference will also serve to raise awareness on a national and European level as to the situation of this group of children. An estimated 700,000 children are separated from an imprisoned parent each year within the European Union.

### **Who Should Attend?**

Early childhood professionals and practitioners, prison and probation services, justice ministry representatives, magistrates, international institutions and NGOs and associations.

Some 300 to 350 participants from France, Belgium, Netherlands, the UK, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Luxemburg, Greece, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are expected to attend. The conference will be in English and French.

### **Book Launch**

A book published by EUROCHIPS exploring various initiatives in Europe for children with imprisoned parents will be presented at the conference. Aimed at professionals and volunteers, it will include themes such as • influencing public policy; remaining a parent in prison; • training and awareness-raising campaigns; children visiting imprisoned parents; and promoting a child’s rights approach to maintaining contact with imprisoned parents.

## PROGRAMME

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**FRIDAY 12 MAY 2006**

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- 9:00 Registration
- 9:45 Introduction  
- Kate Philbrick  
President, EUROCHIPS  
- Alain Bouregba  
Director, Fédération des Relais Enfants-Parents, France and Vice-President, EUROCHIPS
- Welcome Address  
UNICEF (to be confirmed)
- 10:00 Keynote Address  
- Taslima Nasreen  
Journalist, Novelist and Human Rights Activist
- 10:30 Video Presentation
- 10:45 Plenary Session  
**Chair:** Alain Thomas, Researcher and Consultant
- (1) Children of Imprisoned Parents: Legal Aspects**
- Child's Rights Approach  
- Ria Wolleswinkel  
Jurist, Professor, Maastricht University, Netherlands
- The perspective of the imprisoned parent  
- Nuala Mole (to be confirmed)  
Human Rights lawyer, Founder of the AIRE Centre,  
United Kingdom
- Q & A
- (2) Children of Imprisoned Parents : Psychological Aspects**  
- Alain Bouregba  
Psychologist, Vice-President, EUROCHIPS and Director,  
Fédération des Relais Enfants-Parents, France
- Q & A

**(3) Children of Imprisoned Parents: Psychosocial Aspects**

- Andrew Coyle  
International Centre for Prison Studies, King's College,  
United Kingdom

Q & A

13:00 Lunch (offered)  
Forum for the promotion of projects  
Informal Discussions

14:45: Plenary Session

Presentation and Promotion of projects supporting children of imprisoned parents

**(1) Community-based projects**

Solrosen (Sweden)  
Foreningen for Fangers Pårørende (Norway)  
Ormiston Trust (United Kingdom)

Q & A

**(2) Child-friendly Prison Visits**

Kids VIP / Austin Treacy (United Kingdom)  
Relais Enfants-Parents (Belgium and France)  
Lucia Castellano - Bollate Prison (Italy)

Q & A

**(3) Parenting and Family Support**

Ulla-Carin Hedin: a national scheme (Sweden)/ Riksbryggan (Sweden)  
Service Treffpunkt (Luxembourg)  
Action for Prisoners' Families (United Kingdom)  
Bambinisenzasbarre (Italy)

Q & A

18:30 Conclusion

- Marie Panayotopolos, MEP, Greece  
Head of Family and Child Protection Intergroup, European Parliament

20:00 Reception

- Book Launch: *Children With Imprisoned Parents: A Handbook of Practice and Experience*
  - Children's Art Contest Award Ceremony
- Jury members:**
- Miquel Barceló, artist
  - Roselyne Bachelot, European Deputy
  - Emmanuelle Béart, actress

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**SATURDAY 13 MAY 2006**

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9:15 Introduction  
- Kate Philbrick  
President, EUROCHIPS

9:30 **Workshops**: Sharing experience and good practice

- Providing support for children living with imprisoned mothers
- Setting up national support networks for children separated from an imprisoned parent
- Abusive parents and family ties
- Visits conditions and accompanying children on prison visits
- Young offenders and family ties
- Impact of continuity of family ties on resettlement
- Supporting and empowering fathers and mothers in prison

13:00 Closing Remarks  
- Elizabeth Ayre  
Project Director, EUROCHIPS