

## Children of Prisoners Europe (COPE) Judicial Roundtable IV

How can family and criminal courts join hands to make children's rights a reality during a parent's criminal court proceedings?

### Agenda

**Date:** 27 June 2025

**Duration of roundtable:** 9.30 - 16.00

**Venue:** Supremo Tribunal de Justiça | Praça do Comércio | 1149-012 Lisboa

**Organised by:** International NGO [Children of Prisoners Europe \(COPE\)](#), with support from Judge Chandra Gracias, Judge from Court of Appeal Coimbra

**9.30 - 10.00**     **Arrival**

**10.00 - 10.15**     **Welcome**

- João Cura Mariano, *President of the Supreme Court of Portugal*
- David Mackie, *Retired Sheriff (Judge), Scotland, member of Children of Prisoners Europe network (COPE)*

**The child's right to contact an imprisoned parent: legal framework and best practices**

**10.15 - 11.00**     **Session I — *Hearing the child during a parent's criminal court proceedings: How and why?***

- Presentation by Paulo Guerra, *Criminal Judge from Court of Appeal Coimbra*

**11.00 - 11.35**     **Session II — *'Game with Mum & Dad': games in a Portuguese prison & Professional training on child-friendly justice: good practices with impact - CASPAE (Coimbra)***

- Presentation by Carla Mendes, *Coordinator of the Human Rights Office, CASPAE (Centro de Apoio Social de Pais e Amigos da Escola)*



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- 11.35 - 11.50**    **Session III — *Child-friendly justice in the context of parental imprisonment: insights from the judiciary***  
➤ Presentation by Justice Carlos Campos Lobo, *Supreme Court Justice; former Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Prison Services (TBC)*
- 11.50 – 12.30**    **Open Discussion I**  
➤ Question presented by Moderator and discussion  
  
*Ensuring the child’s voice is heard in criminal proceedings involving a parent – experiences, challenges and best practices*
- 12.30 - 14.00**    Lunch break
- Moderator:**    **Ms. Helena Gonçalves, Lisbon’s Regional Prosecutor General**
- 14.00 - 14.40**    **Session I — *European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence Criminal law, family law: imprisoned parents and children — the right to contact***  
➤ Presentation by João Manuel da Silva Miguel, *Supreme Court Justice, former Agent of the Government for Portugal to the European Court of Human Rights*
- 14.40 – 15.20**    **Session II — *Council of Europe standards***  
➤ Presentation by David Mackie, *Retired Sheriff (Judge), Scotland*
- 15.20 - 16.00**    **Session III — *Moving forward: what could work?***  
➤ Question presented by Moderator and discussion  
  
*What next steps can be taken to ensure that child-centered principles and practices from family law are effectively applied in criminal proceedings involving parents, so that the child’s perspective is meaningfully heard and considered?*
- Concluding Remarks**  
Ms. Helena Gonçalves, Lisbon’s Regional Prosecutor General
- 16.00**            Coffee



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