

As part of Children of Prisoners Europe's (COPE) campaign "Game with Mum & Dad' (GWMD), football games are taking place in prisons across Europe between children and their detained parents. Playing a game together is a marvellous way for children and parents to strengthen a precious family bond at risk when a parent goes to prison.

GWMD is founded on the principles of child participation, non-discrimination and child safeguarding.

Beyond providing children and their families with a memorable day of fun, GWMD aims to embed perspectives and practices within prison systems that consider the rights and needs of these children. Financial support is required to ensure the sustainability of this campaign.

Your donations will contribute to the following:



Memories of the game

COPE would like to provide t-shirts to children and adults participating in the games. We would also like to provide footballs, stickers and, for younger children, soft toy mascots to take home as a souvenir of a happy day.

Example donation: €1000 will provide 700 participants with a t-shirt.



Travel to the game

Many families often face a long and costly journey to visit a parent in prison. COPE would like to provide families with financial assistance to cover the cost of transport to the games.

Example donation: €500 will help 50 families travel to the football game.



Sharing stories of the game

Much of the success of this campaign depends on good communications – COPE requires funding to keep communications European-wide and professional. Videos are a very strong advocacy tool: COPE would like create a mini-documentary telling the story of this campaign, from a child's point of view. Example donation: €15,000 will allow COPE to hire communications staff to get the key messages out, e.g. via a documentary.



Working with prisons to facilitate more games

The success of this campaign depends on strong partnerships based on shared values. Where we do not already have strongly established partnerships with prison services, we need to fund expert meetings with the relevant staff organising the games to ensure they are carried out safely and in line with our principles of child safeguarding, non-discrimination and child participation. Example donation: €2000 will fund one expert meeting with a European prison service to establish a lasting partnership, overall bolstering COPE's long-term mission.



Find out more about the campaign and how to donate here





