'INCARCERATED CONNECTION'

-- a conference marking the --

22nd Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Thursday 17th November 2011

10:00 – 13:30 at UNU-MERIT, Kaizer Karelplein 19, Maastricht
14:00 – 18:00 at UCM, Zwingelput 4, Maastricht

Speakers include
Maria Herczog, UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Cees Flinterman, UN Human Rights Committee (tbc)

+ Panel Discussions with
The Service Network for Children of Inmates
International Coalition Against Violence in Iran

For more details / To register
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22\textsuperscript{nd} Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child  
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The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession on 20 November 1989. It is the most widely accepted human rights treaty and one of the first treaties to incorporate civil, political, social, economic, cultural and humanitarian rights. Various groups of children are therefore acknowledged and referred to in the Convention, including children of incarcerated parents. In its Article 9, the Convention refers specifically to the children of imprisoned parents, while other articles have indirect references and application to this group of children.

Children of incarcerated parents live all around the world, regardless of their country’s development and democratic status. However, there is little known about the similarities or differences of their situation. For instance, do children of prisoners have different sets of problems and obstacles in countries with less advanced legal systems, weak social organizations, or less developed Non-Governmental Organizations?

NGOs and activists in many countries have long been concerned about the children of incarcerated parents. However scholars in the field of child rights have been involved only recently in campaigns and research to promote the rights of this group of children. This year, the Committee on the Rights of the Child will dedicate one day of its 58\textsuperscript{th} Session (19 September – 6 October) on ‘Children of Incarcerated Parents’.

To join in the spirit of this action, and to further its cause, the United Nations University in Maastricht plans to mark the 22\textsuperscript{nd} anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with a conference on 17\textsuperscript{th} November 2011.

The main theme of our event is ‘Children of Incarcerated Parents’. In focusing on this topic, the UNU-Merit/School of Governance, join hand in hand with other international organizations to seize the momentum created by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to advocate for the rights of this group of children.
This event aims to:

- Raise awareness of the specific needs of this group of children
- Explore the struggles and issues faced by children of prisoners
- Examine local contexts and explore how legal systems, social organizations, NGOs, local communities, social networks, and political systems all shape the experiences of children of incarcerated parents.
- Explore possible strategies to protect the rights of children of prisoners based on the local context
- Explore strategies for strengthening the bond between children and their imprisoned parents, extended families and local communities.

The event will start with a keynote followed by panel discussions with representatives of research institutes, universities, and NGOs, as well as activists and lawyers.

**Agenda:**

Opening lecture:

Maria Herczog, member of the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Cees Flinterman, member of the UN Human Rights Committee and former member of the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (TBC)

Panel discussion, with representatives from:
- **COPING**: Centre for applied childhood studies, School of Human and Health Sciences, the University of Huddersfield, UK
- **NIACRO**: Voluntary organization working with prisoners, families and children
- **Trinity College, University of Dublin**
- **Maastricht Graduate School of Governance**
- **Faculty of Law, Maastricht University**
- **ICAVI (International Coalition Against Violence in Iran)**

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