**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council**

**General Debate Item 3: Child Rights and Criminal Justice**

In a session that has celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by considering how to mainstream child rights, Quakers would like to emphasise the need to ensure that criminal justice systems uphold the rights of the child.

One group of children who too often find themselves in institutional blind spots are children of incarcerated parents: our new International Legal Standards Briefing Paper provides a thorough update on the growing body of international law relevant to these children and their rights.

We draw the Council’s attention to the upcoming UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Kyoto in April, as an opportunity to concretely contribute to mainstreaming child rights in criminal justice systems.

As part of a group of civil society organisations, we urge Member States present at the Congress to acknowledge that their crime prevention activities and criminal justice systems impact on children, and to recognise their duty to prevent harm to children caused in the name of crime prevention and criminal justice. We are asking States, in line with their international commitments to the rights of the child, to pledge to ensure that children are seen, children are heard, and children’s rights are upheld in criminal justice policies and practices.

We call on all States to commit to incorporating this pledge on Child Rights and Criminal Justice into their interventions at the Kyoto Crime Congress. We call on you to work with your colleagues negotiating the Congress Declaration to ensure that it is child rights based.

ENDS

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For further analysis see our recent publications:

[Children of Incarcerated Parents - International Standards and Guidelines](https://quno.org/sites/default/files/resources/QUNO%20-%20Children%20of%20Incarcerated%20Parents%20-%20Intl%20Standards%20and%20Guidelines_02032020.pdf)

[Key Human Rights Concerns for Children of Parents Accused or Convicted of Association with Designated Terrorist Groups](file:///%5C%5Cch-srv1%5CPublic2%5CHUMAN%20RIGHTS%20%26%20REFUGEES%5CHuman%20Rights%20Council%5CHRC43%5COral%20Statements%5CGD%203%20-%20CIP%20Kyoto%5CDRAFT%20FWCC%20oral%20statement%20-%20HRC43%20-%20GD3%20-%20CIP%20and%20Kyoto.docx)