



Strengthening legal and rights framework on early childhood education, care, safety and through care management for children accompanying their mothers to prison

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Children accompanying their mothers to prison lack a normal early childhood development program since most of the time they are conformed to the prison routine, hence the need for psychosocial wellness. Children 0-4 whose mothers are in prison custody, and they are taken by the police from the crime scenes to the government children's home and all other children 0-4 under government custody from various circumstances.

Faraja Foundation that has built an early child development centre inside the prison to cater for the children's needs. Faraja provides the prison with the children's day care centre, the effectiveness of meeting the social, spiritual, educational, and psychological challenges of the children is enhanced but the children still have to join their mother in the cells in the evening. The methodologies applied to put together this abstract are based on day-to-day interactions with children and their mothers in the Kenya Prison Service.

The paper brings out observations by stakeholders, information from similar research and documented data in Langata women's prisons addressing the legal and rights gaps with the children in prison institutions as well as rescue centres while maintaining its focus on childcare and safety with regards to Early childhood development. This paper interrogates gaps identified in the Criminal Justice Sector and elaborately puts recommendations on the role of the government in securing the future of the children by allocating budgets to cater for the throughcare procedure processes in Childcare and nurturing, play therapy and learning, education, post separation preparation and child reintegration.

