

Protecting The Rights Of Children In The War On Drugs In Latin America And The Caribbean

SPEAKERS:

**LUCIANO CADONI, CORINA GIACOMELLO, FACUNDO SESSA, COLETTA
YOUNGERS**

INTRODUCTION:

DIEGO GARCIA DEVIS

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ANNOUNCER:

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DIEGO GARCIA DEVIS:

Welcome to the Open Society Foundations. My name is Diego Garcia. I'm a senior program officer with the Global Drug Policy Program. As many of you know, at Open Society we've been promoting-- innovation and a radical change on the drug control regime. The work that we're gonna see today is part of that, is-- part of a new exploration.

And it's basically-- research that we were able to conduct with our great partner, Church World Services-- in an intersection between-- children's rights, incarceration and drug policy. This is a very new topic for everyone. And we-- and the-- the findings that you're gonna hear today are actually the first time that everyone or anyone has-- seen around these issues.

As I said, the-- the new report-- Childhood that Matters, or (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) in Spanish-- is-- it's a innovation for us, so as for Church World services. They're a great partner in this (UNINTEL) and I would like to welcome and-- give thanks to Maurice Bloom (PH), who is the vice president of Church World Service and he's taking time from his busy agenda to be with us today. Maurice.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

MAURICE BLOOM:

Good evening everybody. So, yes, my-- my name is Maurice Bloom and I would for Church World Service. I'm the executive vice president and I'm also-- our-- representative towards the UN. And so I often-- attend those meetings at the UN. And then there are these-- men with the suits and ties they come in and there were a five minute presentation and they leave again. So I always thought that they're so-- disrespectful. And it-- it is exactly what I'm going to do-- today. (LAUGHTER)

But I-- I think-- but I hope is that when you hear, you know, my story that maybe you understand why I leave you in five minutes because-- and-- and that is often-- I-- I think this report is also about that, in terms of-- you know, trying to ensure that-- the worries (?) of people in different settings are being heard. And that is a start for a better situation. So I will have to



leave in five minutes because this is the only day where my organization organizations an event as well in New York.

So we have-- we have another event 20 minutes from here. And, you know, our board members, our supporters are there. So I really need to be there. So my apologies. And-- and-- I'm-- I'm-- I'm really thrilled that my colleagues-- and partners-- so my colleague-- Luciano, from our-- office in Argentina is here with our partners-- from-- now I have to-- to-- s-- to ensure that I pronounce this property-- (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)-- you know, they are also here, our partners.

And Coletta Youngers-- our partner at-- at Wola (PH). Corina Giacomello, the lead researcher of the project. I would like to thank them. They're all also here. And-- I think what will u-- you will realize that-- you know, the fact that all these stories come to the surface and that you will hear that is really important to improve-- you know, not only the situation in Latin America but ultimately there are-- will be a lot of lessons for the rest of the world as well.

Is to ensure that voices of children are heard. That often we-- you know, start with-- making assumptions why a person is acting like he or she-- is at that moment. Many thanks to OSF and-- and we had already a relationship before this research, but I'm really thrilled that-- that-- you know, they are-- you know, and-- and-- a tremendous partner-- within this whole-- endeavor.

So, I-- I think the report "Childhood Matters" is extremely important as advocacy tool-- that will hope will-- we will not only use but-- will also be helpful for many others. And-- I-- I think it's especially-- important in-- during this month-- where we commemorate the convention of the right of the child. So we are really-- proud-- to present this report and-- and-- the voices of children are-- are extremely important in all the work-- we do.

I would like to highlight one-- one thing because-- and that is the present of-- of Facundo Sessa. You know, that-- that we have been able-- and that-- that is what we try to do, is to really have somebody that was part of the research that was interviewed and that you can hear first-hand tonight-- you know, his experiences and-- and his opinion. So-- thanks again to OSF and-- and-- yeah, have a great-- evening. (APPLAUSE)

DIEGO GARCIA DEVIS:

Thank you very much, Maurice, for taking the time and coming to OSF. As-- as-- Maurice were-- was saying we are lucky to have a great panel toni-- today to explore this issue. We're gonna hear from Corina who was the-- the lead researcher-- on this report that has different chapters for different countries in Latin America. Then we're gonna hear from Coletta

Youngers-- who's a senior fellow at Wola.

She's a long-time partner of-- OSF on-- and a leader in the field of drug policy reform. She's a mentor of many of these issues as well. So we're lucky to have you here. Thank you. Then we're gonna hear from-- from-- Luciano, who is a program officer at Church World Services. He is-- basically the mastermind behind their-- report. So he has pushed and pull all the strings to make this happen. And finally we're happy to have Facundo Sessa.

Facundo is a young leader in (FOREIGN LANGUAGE). He has been leading a group of-- young people that has suffered the effects of-- of-- incarceration and drug-related offenses. So, as-- as Maurice was saying, we're celebrating and OSF wants to join the celebration of-- of-- the convention. But as well, we shouldn't-- we-- we shouldn't move forward without reflecting on-- on two events that happened earlier this week in relation to drug control and-- and children.

In August this year-- the Columbia president, Iván Duque, was celebrating-- bombardment of-- insurgent's camp where he said-- they were accomplished killing-- 15 narco terrorist, as-- he called them. Two days ago we learned that eight of those narco terrorist were between 12 and 17 years old. Two days or three days ago in Mexico-- there was a family ambush by-- an arm-- actor related to a cartel. Six children died, all members of the same family.

So if we-- if we think that-- about the convention and try to celebrate accomplishments of the convention we should also think about what the drug control regime has imposed on children as well. The convention-- the single convention on narcotics drugs (?) that's ruled also by-- by the UN is many times clashing with the convention of the children's rights. So on incarceration-- and the-- and the Childhood that Matters report-- we like to hear from Corina-- about the report, they're funding-- findings and then trigger a conversation with the panelist and you. Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

(UNINTEL), hi. How are you? Thank you, Diego. Shall I stay here? Can you hear me? (BACKGROUND VOICE) Okay. Then I'll stay here. Well, it's a pleasure to be here. Thank you, Diego, for organizing this. And-- thank you Luciano, (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), for the trust in giving me the opportunity to-- be the-- the coordinator of Childhood that Matters.

And the idea is that I present the report. After this we will watch a small video that we did in the context of Childhood that Matters and then we'll go to the panel. So Childhood That Matters is the product of two years work

that we conducted in eight countries in Latin America, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Panama and Uruguay.

In all these countries we gather quantitative and qualitative data on children with incarcerated parents, mothers and fathers who are in prison for drug-related offenses. Our focus was on minor, non-violent drug offenses. It was a-- a-- a titanic task to get the data because these children are simply unseen and unaccounted for. But luckily, we had people who did an amazing job. Actually, Childhood that Matters is the proof that teamwork actually works because it was eight-- teams of amazing researchers, two NGOs, a great funder that all together could, you know, in just two years have these eight national reports and-- regional reports that-- that looks at an intersection that are usually not seen: the cross in-between children's rights, drug policy and incarceration.

So, in all the countries we did same instructor interviews with children with incarcerated parents, interviewing all together 70 girls, boy, adolescents that generously, with the trust that's shared with us, what it meant to have their mother or father in prison and how their life had-- changed because of that.

And-- we also like to stress as part of these-- teamwork and what it matters to have finally-- a piece of work that tells us what it means, what's the impact of drug policy on children, that two members of the Committee of the Rights of the Child actually wrote-- the prologue to-- the report. So really encourage you to read.

The Committee of the Right of-- of the Child hasn't really pronounced itself on drug courts. And actually, the convention is usually of-- is often used to-- justify death penalty. So it's very important that we're looking at the intersection between drug policy and this convention from a completely different perspective, that not only the UN (UNINTEL) on drug policies but not even-- the Committee on the Rights of Children have actually seen.

So, what are some of the data? (COUGH) Well, as you might know-- drug offenses are the leading cause for the mass incarceration in North American continent. And Latin America is no exception. So the big prison crisis we have in Latin America, violence, (UNINTEL) government from (UNINTEL) groups in Mexico, for example-- appalling conditions, violation of all sorts of rights, like education, health, violation of the rights of the children who go to visit, overcrowding and so on, part of it is related to the implementation of-- harsh drug policies that always prefer the use of prison, pre-trial detention-- longer sentences, no alternatives to incarceration above other alternatives.

So drug policy, the implementation of the drug-- of international drug system is the leading cause of incarceration in Latin America and the leasing-- the leading cause for a prison s-- for a prison crisis. However,

when looking at the data bet-- about-- between, you know, on how many people are in prison for drug offenses we have to make a gender difference, which is very striking and-- just very evident.

So these are some percentages of the amount of men in prison for drug offenses. As you can see in Panama we have about 30, 26.2-- .2 of men in prison in Ecuador and in prison for drug offenses and so on and so forth. But look at the difference when we look at women in prison for drug offense.

So even if in quantitative terms we will always have women (UNINTEL) we will. But we have more men in prison for whatever crime. And also for drug offenses, when we look at proportion drug policies are impacting on women mainly. And this is clear in these data. And that does have an impact on the children with incarcerated mothers, also because of the gender arrangements in the region that still puts a heavier load on women as caretakers of children.

So, for example, Panama, 70 percent of women in prison are in prison for drug offenses. So the gender dimension that Coletta will tell us more about it, but it's one of the issues we have to look at. However, when-- when looking at children with incarcerated parents-- with all the data we could gather we have (COUGH) an estimation of about 2,300,000 people-- children with an incarcerated father or mother in Latin America. So more than 2 million children.

This is-- in-- the best estimate we could get with the data available in 25 countries in the region. Of these children, half a million are kids-- children, are sons of the war on drugs. They're a direct product of this specific drug policies. Twenty percent of these kids have their mother, father, both of them, siblings, aunts, uncles in prison for a drug-related crime, usually a minor, non-violent offense that could be answered to with an (UNINTEL) measure.

So that's one of the issues as well. So, when we talk about children with incarcerated parents we talk about like a general group, a category, that we have to name in this way so that it's made visible about something that, you know, in a context where they're not usually seen. But we never have to forget that each story is unique and as such must be approached. There's not just a (UNINTEL) thing or, you know, every life is unique kind of thing.

It's one of the recommendation of the Committee of the Rights of Children on how to legally and judicially approach how to handle the cases of children with incarcerated please on a case-by-case methodology. So we cannot use just-- you know, general framework-- when sentencing, for example, a person who commits a drug offense. But we have to look at how this will impact on his or her children from the perspective of the

unique life and situation of that children-- of that child. Sorry.

But also, within the big group of (UNINTEL) we have to look at what are the different categories or subgroups and how every category has a different situation. So have children (UNINTEL) prison with their mothers and then at some point will go back to the community. And that will have-- that will have different implications. Children who live outside and can go and visit.

So what does it mean to go and visit a prison, and Facundo will tell us about this-- about it. What-- there are children who live outside the prison and cannot go to visit because they don't have an adult to take them there because-- the way they're searched are so-- are so-- terrible that, you know, their parents will just say, "Don't come back anymore. I don't want you to go through those-- searches."

We have children that we define as transnational children, and they are completely the product of drug policies, immigration policies. With the (UNINTEL PHRASE) international (?) children will refer to those children who live in the country where their relative is detained, but it's not the country of origin or those children who live in a country of origin but it's different from the country where the referent is detained.

So let's say I get arrested in the US for introducing cocaine, my son remains in Mexico. He's a transnational child. And that will have different implications. So we have all different groups of children we have to look at and we have to be very careful when talking about this. You know, children with incarcerated parents (UNINTEL) having the sensibility to look at specific situations of each of them and each group.

So, the most important part of this report is children's voices. Seventy of them. They all trusted us. They all shared their story, their pain, what they went through to help us build this product, to help us be here and try to make a difference and try to make a change. These children told us through their voices how we had-- to analyze the information, how we had to structure it. So if you don't have time to read the report, which I highly recommend you do anyway, read the chapter three, which is where the children's voices are included.

And they're separated in this big group of analyses. So the different forms of violence children are exposed to. The main source of violence is not the family, it's not drugs, it's the state. That's the most violent actor in their life. When they arrest, when they beat, when they treat them like criminals, when they go to visit in a prison, when they're at school and they get bullied, so the state is the-- is the most violent act-- actor in their life.

They can get stigma or support in the community and at school. Usually they get both. We have an analysis of how they perceive the crimes associated with the drugs. So we have an example here from a girl from

Panama saying, "My mom did it because-- she could not read and didn't have a job. Who was going to hire-- hire her like that? I promise that I will teach her to read so she would get out of that." That's Gabriella.

The perception of state authorities. We have Carla from Costa Rica saying, "They should not take advantage of the power they have. There should be mutual respect." Visits to prison, screening, that's crucial. And then we'll hear more about it. And then the impact of incarceration of children's daily life, which is bigger, it effects, you know, emotions, care arrangements, the economy, you know, the come-- from the most disadvantaged, the poorest-- sectors of society.

And with incarceration poverty still increases because they lose a provider but also because in Latin American prisons, who pays for everything, the mattress they sleep on, the toilet paper, the shampoo, the food, everything is the family. Not the state. So these are some of the implications. And, again, children's voices are the backbone of these implications. So, some findings and recommendations.

CWIP, children with incarcerated parents, are exposed to multiple forms of violence. Violence in the neighborhood. Violence in the family sometimes. Violence from the state. Violence during the-- police raids in the state, in their houses, in their bedrooms, against their bodies. Children with incarcerated parents are usually defined as the invisible victims, collateral damage. But here we state they're not invisible. It's not like with a magic wand, the (MAKES NOISE).

We have children with incarcerated parents and everything, you know, gets sorted out. They're invisibilized (PH) by drug policy. The single convention of 1961-- has the purpose to protect society and children from the evil of drug use. But in order to protect some children the parents of others must be incarcerated, must be treated as criminals, must be locked away. So these children exist so that other children can live out-- in a drug-free world.

So-- they're a direct product of drug policy and we have to change that. We have to change that narrative and that reality. The implementation of punitive drug policy is-- directly impacts the increase in number of CWIP that we mentioned. Again, transnational CWIP is an issue of special concern. Schools and communities can reproduce-- stigma and discrimination but also they are the places where stigma and discrimination can be fought against and, you know, where they should have better-- inclusion and-- and opening from the-- you know, their community and so on.

In all the-- in all the-- in all the stories of children we have a lot of ambivalence. Children express a desire to do things, to live things in a different way. They express a desire for change. However, unless they get

public policies, fully support, no stigma, social inclusion, they're very likely to repeat again or to see again, once and again, the same story. So it's very important to take into account this need and desire for change but also to create the conditions for that change to actually take place.

Specifically-- links direct to drug policy (UNINTEL) in terms of conclusion, violence in police operation is particularly acute in-- where drugs are sold or in the specific neighbors where the war on drugs is waged. Criminalization of drug use as-- as-- traffickers and (UNINTEL PHRASE) trafficking is, again, the leading cause for incarceration, so a real decriminalization or changes, I mean drug policy reform, could help to have less children with incarcerated parents for drug offenses.

Imprisonment often happens in sites far from home. That's the case in Mexico, for example, where people-- accused of drug offenses are put in federal prisons (COUGH) that are usually in the middle of nowhere. It's very expensive to go there so they get completely abandoned. And-- invasive screenings when entering prison. If your father or mother is-- thought to be a drug trafficker then you are one of-- as well, of course.

So they will search you more invasively-- to make sure you're not taking drugs into prison. This is just some of the findings, you know, the specific impact of drug policies. The gender dimension. Of course women in prison is a very important issue and it's much more-- known about worldwide. But we have to look also at the women who stay outside.

The women caretakers of people-- of-- people in prison, so the mothers, the sisters, the wives, the state is basically relying on women undertaking tradition gender roles to do the job that the state is completely incapable and unwilling to do. So women are doing all the job, making sure that the lawyers actually get the process going, that the judges do their work, that their men have their food, their toilet paper, they-- whatever.

So it's a completely-- consequence (UNINTEL) women caretakers outside the prison. Again, transnational (UNINTEL) and we have to go beyond women in prison and start looking at men in prison also as fathers who have a right to fatherhood and to be considered as-- such. Because when we-- when we think of children in prison we always think, "Mothers. Mothers."

Most of them are fathers and they want to be fathers as well. And then we have 38 amazing recommendations. I'm not going into them. Divided in three groups. Comprehensive policies directed towards children, generation of information and recommendations on how children with incarcerated parents should be seen and treated-- in-- the judicial system, in the criminal justice system. So-- I think this is it. Oh, just one thing under recommendation.

Again, they're all the product of what children showed us. You know?

There's a lot of, like, academic review and stuff into this report. But, again, the backbone is-- children's voices and it's also the most important thing of-- of this event. So I'm gonna shut myself up now and we can proceed to watch the video and then to the panel. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

(VIDEO NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Okay. So this is one of the two videos that you can find in the page-- can we put the presentation back on? I forgot one slide. Thank you. And-- all the material we did, the regional report, the eight national reports and the two videos are available-- available in the page that I'm going to show you. And in the meantime I kindly ask Lucian Facundo and Coletta to come to the panel. Ch-- look, what we didn't t-- yes. (LAUGH) So, yeah. Here in the-- in this page you can find all the information and the two videos.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Okay. So-- well, the idea now is to have a conversation among the four of us. I'm going to moderate it. I'm going to be very strict, I'm not going to be rude. So if you see that I shut them up it's for the sake of the listening to the most important person in the room, (COUGH) that is Facundo.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

And-- so we're gonna start with Coletta. Coletta Youngers, as Diego already introduced her, is-- a senior fellow at Wola. She also works with ADPC (PH). She's a reference for all of us working in drug policy reform. She's one of the people who most knows about drug policy and drug policy reform in Latin America, about women in prison for drug offense. But she's, more than anything else, a very good friend and a person who made-- this possible by introducing us to Luciano and everything. So thank you for many reasons.

And-- so we're gonna start with Coletta. And I'd like to ask you (THROAT CLEARING) from, you know, all your-- baggage of knowledge and experience, what is the contribution of-- Childhood that Matters in order to-- to-- to, you know-- to-- to understand or to give some-- other ideas on how drug policy reform should take place in Latin America and also how

does it build up on all the work you've been doing on women and incarceration for drug-related offenses in Latin America? What's the importance of listening to these children?

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

Good evening. And thank you very much for the wonderful introductions. (MIC NOISE) Can you hear me okay? It sounds very loud. Okay. That-- that-- I think that's better if I put it a little farther away. So I'm just gonna be very brief-- really provide comments more as-- as a commentator-- so that there's time for Facundo, in particular, to-- to be able to speak. And we don't have a lot of time. So-- what I-- I-- I have four basic points I wanna make. Is this workin' okay? No. I'll just leave that there.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

So, anyway, I have four points I wanna make. But first-- I'm-- I wanna begin by describing two ah-ha moments in my life. So I'm part of a research team called the Collective for the Study of Drugs and the Law. And we did the first-- report looking at the way in which drugs laws-- had created the problem overcrowding crisis in Latin America.

And so when we did the first study on that-- we looked at different sectors and one of them was women. And when I saw the data that Corina presented before about the-- not only the percentages of women incarcerated for drugs but the increasing rate of women's incarceration for drug offenses it really-- (BACKGROUND VOICE) it-- it-- it-- it was-- it was just shocking to me that that was happening.

And that's when I first started working on the issue of-- of women and incarceration. I think one other point I would make in addition to what Corina talked about is it's very important to recognize that most of these mothers-- most of these women are not only mothers, they're single mothers. So if you-- it depends on the country, but we find countries where 80, 90 percent of women in-- in prison are single mothers.

So you can imagine the impact of that on their children. So my second big ah-ha moment was when I saw the estimates that were produced as a result of this-- of this project. There may be more than 2 million children with one of their parents behind bars in Latin America. And nearly half of those are their-- be-- h-- have their parents incarcerated for drug offenses. Those are staggering statistics.

I think it's just a really stark illustration of the tremendous damage done by

the carcer-- carceral state and by punitive drug policies. So that brings me to my first point, which is this report is a wake up call. Corina didn't go into the guideline-- to the recommendations and-- and the guidelines that they-- policy guidelines that have been produced as a part of this project.

You should all review them. It's a tremendously important effort. But these policy guidelines must be taken up at every level, from national level governments down to school officials. And this is, of course, also true in the United States, which is not part of this-- this study but where we see that women are not only separated from their children when they are put behind bars but-- can be s-- permanently separated from them when those kids get lost in the foster care system, they lose their parental rights and that sort of thing.

The second point I wanna make is that this report fills a void in the research-- and in our advocacy efforts. So I mentioned s-- said before the research team that I'm part of in Latin America, we've done a lot of studies documenting the impact of drug policies-- in Latin America, particularly on prisons. There are lots of other groups who've done amazing work around drug policy. Lots of good networks.

We also have now the working-- a working group on women, drug policy and incarceration that Corina-- (COUGH) and is-- is-- works very closely with me on. We produced a guide for policy reform. We focus on the disproportionate impact of drug policies on women. And there is definitely a disproportionate impact. But I think this report is really-- it really challenges us, and Corina's constantly challenge-- challenging me along these lines, to address the impact on fathers.

We can't just talk about mothers. We have to talk about fathers, parents, families and children. We have to step back and take a broader look. And I-- I've really learned a lot myself from my own work in-- in accompanying this project. Third point. This report provides even more evidence for the urgency of reforming drug laws now. There are a whole range of reforms that many of us in the room have been working on now for quite a long time. I won't go into them and-- really in any detail.

Decriminalization of possession for personal use. Proportionality and sentencing. Creating legal regulated cannabis markets. Et cetera. Et cetera. But the bottom line is we need to stop putting people in cages. And we should start-- at least start that effort-- by-- working with those accused of lower level drug and other-- low level, less serious offenses. A lot of these parents-- (COUGH) we're talking about probably should not even be in the criminal justice system.

And if they are, they should be able to benefit from alternatives to incarceration. And when I talk about-- alternatives to incarceration I don't mean house arrest or electronic monitoring that doesn't allow you to be a

parent. We need to find-- community-based alternatives-- that allow men and women to continue to parent and provide for their kids.

There's one interesting example in the United States where-- the state of Tennessee recently passed a primary caregiver bill, which requires courts to consider option for keeping a parent with their children, offering-- alternative community-based-- s-- sentences for those with children who are convicted of non-violent offenses. It would be something interesting to look at in Latin America.

And my last point is that this report underscored s---- underscores the need to-- incorporate the voices of these children in national level, regional and international debates. I think we've done a pretty good job of-- making progress and incorporating the voices of formerly incarcerated into those debates, but we have not done that with the-- with the children of these women and, of course, the-- the fathers as well.

Church World Service is making great strides in-- in beginning to do that. They've done really good work within the organization of American states at the regional level. There is a tremendous need to do this at the level of the United Nations-- and particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which is the annual meeting-- of-- drug policy officials from around the world at the UN level, where, as Corina mentioned, the debate on children is very much focused on the dangers of drug use for children and not the dangers of drug policy for children.

So I really hope we're able to replicate this panel this year in March at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs-- with OSF support. (LAUGHTER) Anyway, again, this-- (COUGH) he didn't ask me to say that. I swear. (LAUGHTER) (BACKGROUND VOICE) Any-- but again, this is a challenge to us, to all of us, who are working on drug policy and/or incarceration-- that we need to incorporate these voices in our work and in the debate. And finally, I just-- am I okay on time?

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

One minute.

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

Okay. Yeah, I have one minute. I wanted to just conclude with a-- a little anecdote or story. I don't know if any of you have gone to the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls here in the United States, does an annual conference called Free Her. That just happened last month in Montgomery, Alabama. So I-- we organized a

workshop with family members of people who have been in prison.

We brought five people from Latin America and we did this with the Essie Justice Group, which is an amazing organization based in California. So it turned out that many of the participants in the workshop had been in prison and-- and-- and-- for long terms. Like as people were talking it seemed like 20 years was the sort of average-- average amount of time.

And they were trying to rebuild their relationships with their now-adult children. And at the same time, there was another group that came of young women who had actually just spoken in a plenary about what it was like to be-- children of incarcerated parents and talked very openly about-- we'd just heard them talking very openly about the tremendous anger, frustration-- just-- just all of the things that they-- they faced-- in having to support their parents in prison, et cetera, et cetera.

So what I had planned as a discussion of sharing organizing strategies across borders ended up being this-- this emotional dialogue between these two groups about how to rebuild families. At one point everyone in the room was cl-- crying, including the two interpreters. And I felt-- I might have gotten in over my head, but fortunately it was okay.

And I think it was a really healing moment for-- for a lotta the people who-- who had participated in the workshop. So-- so I think these are the kinds of discussions that need to happen and I-- I'm-- very certain that this report will contribute-- contribute to and provoke more such discussions. Thank you.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Thank you. Applause, please. (APPLAUSE) (LAUGH) Okay. Thank you, Coletta, a lot. So now Luciano-- as Diego already explain, Luciano is part of-- Church World Service-- the office in Argentina in Buenos Aires. He's also part of the coordination team of the regional platform for The Defense of Rights of Children with Incarcerated Parents in Latin America and the Caribbean. (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), that's how it's called.

But, again, he's a great friend and especially the mastermind behind the project, the one who was pulling all of our strings and-- making this happening basically. So, Luciano. After all, like, five years of work around this topic, after the reports you have produced, the conferences you've given, the-- you know, the (COUGH) meetings you've been to-- what's-- what are the highlights of Childhood that Matters in which way does this report sum up (UNINTEL) to the work you've been doing and to the work of the platform in Latin America and the Caribbean?

LUCIANO CADONI:

Well, thank you. Can you hear me well? Well, I have to start by thanking, of course, OSF and all of you to-- for being here and particularly some old friends that I met. Actually when I we first-- started working around this issue there was nothing in (MIC NOISE) Latin America about children of-- with incarcerated parents.

So because I work for a US-based organization I had the chance to come to-- to New York and to go to Brooklyn and to meet-- the people from the Osborne (PH) Association, the guys from (UNINTEL) incarceration that I'm happy that five years down the line are here taking pictures and listening to these-- stories that I actually first-- started listening from them.

So five years down the line-- when I thought that I was not going to get surprised by listening to the voices of these children-- I was wrong. So when we heard-- you heard some of the testimonies. If you go to the video (UNINTEL) has five-- nine minutes you can hear more. And if you wanna hear more we can send you more.

But-- it is just so clear to me, to us, that these kids are directly impacted. I was on Saturday at a symposium here-- John Jay (PH), and they asked me to redefine directly impacted. And I just-- I didn't need to do that. I show some of these sentences and some of the things that the kids were saying and people were so clear that these kids are directly impacted. So, for me-- the highlight of this report are definitely the voices of these children.

I mean-- I won't get tired of listening to that. And-- and that, somehow, is the-- the thing that push us to do more. And the second thing is for most of the country, so for all the countries that have signed the convention on the rights of the child that has constitutional-- level-- like us in Argentina, in Uruguay and-- and most of all Latin America country, and almost actually almost all countries in the world but one-- it is very important that the Committee on the Rights of a Child has-- written the forward.

The Committee on the Rights of a Child in 2011 had a (UNINTEL) general discussion about this issue. And that, for us, became a roadmap on how to address this issue. We followed those recommendations and that's how we plan the work we did for the last five years. So, for us, this new report is the last thing that the (NOISE) report-- the-- the Committee on the Rights of a Child has written about this issue and its link to drug policy. So, for us, it now has become s-- a new roadmap. And what we hope is that it will become also a new roadmap for people that from the drug policy perspective want to look at children rights. So that's what I would say.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Wonderful. Now going to the recommendations.

LUCIANO CADONI:

Yeah.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

What's the position of the platform on that issue? Will you-- would (COUGH) you want some specific recommendation on public policies for children with incarcerated parents or what are you suggesting with this report and with the work that you're doing on children with incarcerated parents in terms of, yeah, public policy (UNINTEL)?

LUCIANO CADONI:

Well, we live in a particular situation in Latin America where we have public policies but-- none of those policies take this into consideration. It would be ideal for us that there is a program-- specifically targeted for children with incarcerated parents as long as they ask for it. You know?

I think that's-- an important thing. Sometimes we believe we need to create a program but sometimes that's not what we need. For us, what we've been advocating for in-- in the last-- during the last five years, and you guys maybe-- the-- the ones that are specialized on this issue can correct me or can give your opinions afterwards, what we've been saying is that it's not that important to create a specific program for these children.

Although, I've seen that when there are specific groups-- are really beneficial for-- for the guys that are impacted. What we believe is that every public-- every public policy should take the rights of these children into consideration. We (SNIFF) were in Guatemala a month ago and our colleagues there said that they sort of made-- an overview in all ministry but-- but one, the ministry of energy, has something to do with the issue.

They had sometimes to do. Like, even the labor of ministry, I don't know how you call it, they're important because they need to provide work for the parents when they come out of the prison. Health, education, culture, recreational, they all need to understand that these children are there, they're just sometimes not (UNINTEL) and not voicing it out because of the fear of-- stigma and discrimination.

So, to wrap it up and to say that quite clear, we don't really-- it would be great, we don't feel that we can achieve in our lifetime public policies for children with incarcerated parents in all countries. So what we hope is that everyone from the field where you work, whatever you do, if you do research, if you do education, if you quantitative data, that would be very important, you include this question.

That's what we are--include the question. Just give it to us and we'll use it. Prison systems, you are not there to take care of the children. Right? Just collect the information. Ask the parents, the mothers how many children do they have. And-- what that information we'll try to create public policies to address those things.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Wonderful. Thank you. (APPLAUSE) Okay. (SNIFF) So now we're gonna give the (UNINTEL) to-- Facundo. Facundo is a young leader from Uruguay, 19 years old. He's traveled all the way from Uruguay-- Uruguay to come and stay with us today, (COUGH) accompanied by (FOREIGN LANGUAGE). And-- he comes from-- (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), a neighborhood in mob-- Montevideo, characterized by-- high social exclusion and vulnerability.

His father was incarcerated when he was a young kid. So now what I'm going to do is to ask Facundo some questions. I will speak to him in Spanish-- and sum up very briefly my questions in English. And then his answers will be translated to you by the translator, who we thank a lot. (BACKGROUND VOICE)

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

So that's how we are going to do it.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

So the first question to Facundo is basically, what happened? If he can share with us how his father got arrested and how this whole story unleashed.

(QUESTION NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

I was having-- breakfast in the morning and three police-- men with-- cap--
(BACKGROUND VOICE) hoods-- appeared.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

They-- check my backpack. They check my sister also.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

They asked me where I was going and I said-- I was going to-- study--
going to school. And my sister also.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And-- when I came back from school-- my father was not there-- anymore.
The police had taken.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

How old are you, Facundo?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

This time I was 12.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And-- and-- my-- your sister-- 15.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And-- yesterday-- we-- talk about-- this experience changed your life completely.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

(LAUGHTER) Can you-- can you tell us-- how this-- experience-- change-- for you-- for you-- your sister and your whole family?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

After-- my-- father was arrested-- my-- mother got cancer.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

S-- my-- sister-- at the-- this point-- the age that-- she was-- she-- got much more mature.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

She was in charge-- she had a lot of-- responsibilities in the house. And-- we collect-- trash.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The-- and-- following year my mother-- died and-- my-- sister was more-- even more responsible than ever.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Your sister-- had-- to-- quit school and-- start working?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

My-- sister stop-- study-- quit-- study and-- start working and she was-- collecting-- trash.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

To-- maintain-- a relationship with your father you-- go visit him in the-- in prison. Right?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Can you tell us-- a little bit more-- how-- was-- where the visit-- how-- the-- how they-- check-- on you, how-- they-- investigate-- your?

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

They searched you and the conditions of the setting--

TRANSLATOR:

Search-- the-- the conditions-- of-- these-- visits.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The prison where my father was-- was-- a very-- far from us. In the beginning-- we-- use to go with my mother.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

So-- after my mother-- died-- my-- half-sister-- father's side-- she was in charge of-- myself and-- my sister. So-- we could-- visit him in prison.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

When-- we enter-- to visit I-- it was-- very ugly. They-- strip us-- completely-- before entering.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And-- they made-- us-- bend over and-- cough three times to see if we had something inside our bodies.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And then we go to a hall-- that-- had-- was very small for the number of families and-- incarcerated-- people-- to meet.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

In terms of-- food-- they would-- decide-- determine-- what-- we-- could-- bring or what we could not bring.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

How-- did you-- feel when-- you go visit-- your father? What-- this-- represent to you?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

On one hand-- I was-- happy to see my father. But on the other hand I feel shame because-- you have to-- strip-- completely-- and-- show-- yourself-- to the policemen.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

When-- this happened-- you were-- very little. You're-- only 12. And-- your sister-- what-- things-- had to happened that-- help you o-- what-- things-- were missing that-- didn't help you?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

When this happened-- what-- helped me was (FOREIGN LANGUAGE).

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Because the state-- wouldn't-- give anything-- any help.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Was-- because the state-- and-- judicial-- party-- wouldn't give us-- anything, was-- just-- the help-- was-- coming from (FOREIGN LANGUAGE).

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

It's-- hard for your father also to be in-- (NOISE) in prison. And when-- he-- came out of-- prison-- what-- help him-- or-- or what-- lack (?)-- that-- because it is difficult-- to-- go back to work-- and things like that. So what are things-- help your father-- and-- what things-- miss?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The first thing-- that my father did-- when he came out of-- jail-- he-- tried to find-- a s-- a steady job-- but-- he was not-- not-- successful.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Because-- he-- he couldn't find-- a stable job-- because the society-- had-- put him-- aside-- stigmatized-- him. And so he-- went back to do the same thing that he was-- doing.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Sorry. Just add to that, a very important issue was the criminal record that didn't let his dad get a job.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

As-- when-- my father was-- released from jail-- he-- was-- my-- my mother had-- died-- already. And-- the treatment-- with him-- was different-- so-- my-- sister and I-- we decided to leave him.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

So according to your experience what you have-- lived-- what-- (THROAT CLEARING) is-- are your recommendations-- not-- to-- to avoid-- having the same situation for other kids in the same-- situation?

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And-- also-- talk about the positive-- things that-- had happened-- to you--

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

They-- they should give to people in prison-- the basics things they need because it's harder for the family to have on top of everything to provide for basics things to people in prison.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

To give opportunity to the-- incarcerate-- people when they-- leave-- jail-- so-- they won't-- re-- reinsidate (PH).

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Also to give-- support-- financial support and psychological support-- to the f-- family and to the person that is incarcerated because--

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

In my case, I couldn't-- I didn't have anybody to talk about my situation. So I would keep all-- inside.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

I would-- ask-- that-- the-- the-- penal system-- wouldn't be-- so violent and-- they-- wouldn't-- trash-- the-- food that-- we bring to the-- the incarcerate-- person.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

And to the justice-- department I would say that-- they should-- determine-- in a shorter-- period of time-- what is going to be the sentence because-- they-- take-- very long time-- to-- tell-- the-- the-- the person-- how long-- he or she's going to-- be in prison.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Okay. So-- now we were going to have a session of questions and answers. And-- (NOISE) so please feel free to ask or comment. We just ask you to be kind of to the point with your comments or questions. And to kindly come to the microphone if you don't mind. Thank you.

(BACKGROUND VOICE) And we hope that you will participate.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

What role-- what role does-- in your opinion, US play in setting up this terrible situation? (NOISE) We overthrow Chile and all these different countries. We put in ba-- dictators time and time again. What role does the CIA and the US involvement in Central and South America play in this problem?

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

Thank you. Is this working this time? Okay. Oh, okay. Good. Very good question.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Yeah, it is.

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

I've spent a lot of-- (LAUGHTER) spent (BACKGROUND VOICE) a lotta my life-- documenting the role of the US government in-- drug policies in Latin America. And the very short answer-- for the long answer you can read my book, *Drug and Democracies* (LAUGH) *in Latin America*. I edited it. I-- it's not just me, it was-- a collective project.

But on the short answer is that basically the US exported its-- punitive drug-- paradigm, its drug laws to Latin America. Latin America countries that were dependant on US assistance-- and the US economic support in international multi-lateral institutions, like the Inter-American Development Bank, the IMF-- were basically-- forced to-- adopt one-size-fits-all-- extremely punitive drug policies that-- included things mandatory minimums-- very disproportionate sentences-- et cetera.

And so I think that-- this was largely a US-made problem in Latin America. And for years it was really considered taboo to even have a discussion about it. It really wasn't until the emergence of the Latin America-- drug policy commission in 2006, around 2006, where you started have former presidents speaking out about-- what-- what-- about the damage that had been caused by these policies.

And if you look at it from a Latin American perspective, they did everything that the US asked them to do for decades. And what did they get for it?

Drug use expanded tremendously across the (COUGH) region. Drug-- the drug trade was not dented in any way. In fact, it's as live-- it's alive and well as never before-- as documented in the last world drug report put up by the United Nations.

Violence increased dramatically. Corruption increased dramatically. So you finally had a period where Latin American governments began questioning-- the role-- questioning the policy itself, the paradigm, and began talking about alternatives. I-- I don't wanna go into, like-- I could talk about this all night, and I won't, but I think that the point where we are at-- in Latin America is that there is a lot more discussion and debate.

We've had some important reforms-- in some countries, such as Costa Rica, some in Mexico. But we're still in a situation where the r-- the-- the rhetoric and the debate has not been matched by action. So Latin America still has-- a long way to go to correct-- the injustices caused by these laws--

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

(OFF-MIC) (UNINTEL PHRASE) US taking money, taking profits (UNINTEL) drug dealing?

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

Many people were making-- well, most of profits of-- the drug trade remain in the-- in the consuming countries. So, yes, there were a lotta people in the United States you-- you know, if you're-- if you're in-- in the illicit drug trade in the United States you're gonna be making a lot more money than if you're at the other end, you know, in Columbia, and let alone-- a small farmer producing coca.

But there's also the whole-- (COUGH) drug industrial complex, if you will. You have the companies, Sikorsky and others, making the helicopters. You have Dion Corps (PH) flying the planes. You have-- monst-- is it Monsanto producing glyphosate. You know? So there are a lot of-- and you see this in Washington, where I live, where these companies are lobbying heavily to keep these policies in place.

And now you're starting to see-- very disturbingly, the export of-- the US prison system to Latin America. And both the private-- the privatization of prisons, the con-- the beginning of an expansion of elec--tronic monitoring, which I find deeply, deeply problematic-- so, yeah.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

(OFF-MIC) (UNINTEL PHRASE) and many others (UNINTEL) huge (UNINTEL).

COLETTA YOUNGERS:

Yeah. Yeah.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Thank you. Thank you very much. Is there any other question, comment? Will be great. Go here. You.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

First of all-- (THROAT CLEARING) first of all, th-- thank you so much. This is really great.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

I have two questions, if you'll permit me. One is-- you pro-- you've presented the research on eight countries. How much do you see variation between countries or is essentially the situation the same across the board? And-- and secondly-- what has been the response of the governments in these eight countries or some of the countries where you've been able to present these findings? (BACKGROUND VOICE) Maybe Facundo has actually spoken to officials in-- in-- in Uruguay. Has-- is there a sense that there's a willingness to try to tackle this issue?

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Wonderful. Somebody could answer the first part and then (UNINTEL) and Luciano maybe something more on-- generally speaking, we could say that throughout the eight countries we have very similar situations. S-- so on the (COUGH) one hand, you have the implementation of the international drug policy regime with (UNINTEL) and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

A number of people in prison for drug offenses are increasing. In terms of

children's rights, in basically all countries we have the same recognitions of children's right at the constitutional level. We have laws that protect children's like-- rights but we also have a lot of articulation among institutions. We have lack of data basically in our countries. Then we have some interesting differences. So, for example, you have Uruguay that's regulated in marijuana. So there are some thoughts on the effects of that. But still, it's very interesting about the Uruguay chapter because-- it's very critical of the effects of regulation. Critical which doesn't mean-- pessimistic or-- (COUGH) or, you know, in a way that-- that doesn't mean anything.

But still, we are seeing how it doesn't-- still the number of-- children with incarcerated parents is increasing. And at the same time, as you have the regulation of marijuana, you have the increase for the trafficking of-- crack (NOISE) cocaine. So basically you-- you have the most progressive the regime with the worst legacy of prohibition, which is-- sustenance based.

Then you have-- Costa Rica, which is the only country where there's been a drug policy reform focused on women who are in prison. So that's an interesting-- example. Mexico has a bit of a bad practice. Surprise. (LAUGHTER) Sorry, I live there. That's where I do my research. So it's what I know better. Where you have-- federal prisons for people in prison for drug offenses-- pretty much based on the US prison system.

So with very devastating effects on keeping people away from their families, very expensive to go visit. So within this general framework of similarities, which allowed us to do a general report-- a regional report, we have some kind of differences. But nothing too striking, to be honest.

And maybe another thing that's-- similar and it's very worrying is the criminalization of micro trafficking and how that's pushing up the number of people in f-- in prison for minor, non-violent offenses. I think that's it for the first-- for the first-- first part of the answer. Do you wanna talk about the presentation of the report in Uruguay? Maybe some of that experience or something? Because I think it's--

(OVERTALK)

LUCIANO CADONI:

--that the answers have been also different. Actually, in some of these countries it is the first time that it's-- there is a report written about the issue. So the advocacy part needs to be done now. The good thing is that, for example, last week we were at a meeting where all children rights authorities gathered and we presented.

And-- and there are some documents there on the table, guidelines for the

states, on how to address this issue. Many of the things that we included in those guidelines came out of these reports. So, coming from countries where we didn't have relationship with the government or they-- (NOISE) they didn't provide the information we asked for to Uruguay, that again (UNINTEL) away.

Actually, initially this project was supposed to be only five countries when we presented the proposal. But we included Brazil because of its magnitude and because we found a great researcher there. We included Panama because our partners there were-- studied a project in-- in a community and they called us and they said, "Listen, all the kids--" as you saw in the stats that (UNINTEL), "all the kids here who has parents in prison are because of-- of drug policies." (SNIFF)

And then Uruguay because actually Uruguay has-- correct me if I'm wrong, but they have the national-- drug board basically, which is form or representatives from all ministries that gather together to think about how to address drug policy. So we, (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), we presented the proposal to-- for them to fund the Uruguayan chapter, which they did, which they revised, which they help us present.

They-- w-- we actually-- they actually presented and Corina was there in August at the municipal hall of Montevideo. So the government's pretty much behind this project and is willing to find ways in which to start addressing drug policy from the children's right lenses. I don't know if I'm answering, but we-- we still have a way to go. And-- and-- and, you know-- I think-- Coletta mentioned something, we have a lot of turnover in our country so when you're working with an authority that is behind, suddenly they change and you need s-- to start back over again. And you know-- maybe you know that. Yeah. (SNIFF) So that's the answer.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

(OFF-MIC) (UNINTEL PHRASE) only one thing. I think Facundo represents--

(OVERTALK)

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

The thing I want to say that Facundo represent the boys of-- of-- of many of-- of the children that have incarcerated parents all over the region, all over America Latina, because-- they-- they happen-- they-- they live the same things and the same effects (BACKGROUND VOICE) of drugs

policy all over America Latina and Caribe.

Perhaps-- it's-- (UNINTEL) or difference, perhaps they have difference, make (UNINTEL) bad. The effects of polic-- of drug policy-- ea-- to children are the same. We can bring here and-- and-- here-- (UNINTEL) children or Brazilian pe-- our Brazilian children-- (UNINTEL) Argentina (UNINTEL) and they will say the same. We are not visible. We go to school and we cannot t-- talk about this. No one ask us if we have our mom or our parent-- incarcerated. (BACKGROUND VOICE) And we-- we have shame to talk about that.

And we-- (BACKGROUND VOICE) in-- in America Latina we-- most of-- of the children says to us that when their parents-- were-- goes to prison they were poor. And after the parents go to prison they were more poor. And that's one of the most-- strong effect that policy of drugs (BACKGROUND VOICE) are having in America Latina and Caribe. (BACKGROUND VOICE) I'm sorry. I'm Gonsalo Sanchez (PH). I'm from (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) and (UNINTEL) NGO and means something like Untied Kids (FOREIGN LANGUAGE). (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) means kids in-- in-- in-- (LAUGH)

LUCIANO CADONI:

Guarani.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Guarani. (LAUGHTER) Yes? And I'm-- also member of (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), (UNINTEL PHRASE) on the difference of the right of children with incarcerated parents. (APPLAUSE)

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Thank you to all the speakers. It's-- it's-- my experience is in Brazil. I'm from New York but I spent some time in-- a community in Brazil that was kind of in the midst-- in the m-- middle of both police and rival gangs in Rio de Janeiro. So it's a complex things that-- there-- there are many questions that come to mind, and I've never met anybody from Uruguay.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

And I don't think this was translated but I think you said that (FOREIGN LANGUAGE), which that has to do, I think also (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) with conditions in prison. And I'm also very interested in the question of men and masculinity and how-- and what that does. So--
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

And I don't think-- the-- the question of-- of reconstituting a family if the father comes out and he's more violent and the children have to leave, is what I understood from Facundo. Then you've got a very basic problem.
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Make a channel. How would I say that in Spanish?
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Sure. A lot of words. I-- I w-- so basically I'm asking him, in these difficult times what were the-- the forms, the things he did and the people in his community, families that helped him transcend, as I was trying to say, or-- or find strength as a young man, I'll add that--
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

How did you find the-- strength--
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

How-- how'd you find the strength to continue? Yeah. Concrete point.
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

I wouldn't talk to anybody. I w-- I-- talked to my sister. I-- and-- but we didn't say much. And we talk-- between-- each other.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The main thing that I-- used to do to-- calm my mind-- is-- was-- (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)-- but-- was-- I couldn't calm my mind completely. I always-- had anxiety-- towards my-- father being prison.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

What activities-- w-- was-- (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)--

(OVERTALK)

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Just going to school. So--

TRANSLATOR:

Is that-- one-- I was-- participating in-- ma-- football match and-- the other one was going to school.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

And-- so just one quick follow-up.

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The school had-- resources--

(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

Support and psychological repor-- support-- or-- colleagues-- friends.
(FOREIGN LANGUAGE NOT TRANSCRIBED)

TRANSLATOR:

The school-- the high school that I went-- they knew about my situation but
I didn't have any-- support psychological or-- from-- friends.

CORINA GIACOMELLO:

Okay. So we're gonna finish this interchange here. But we can continue
talking afterwards.

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *