

# New Directions



## **“Not my crime, still my sentence”**

Coping with having someone you care about sent to prison can be very distressing. It can be particularly difficult for the families of those whose family member is facing prison for the first time or for those whose family member has been convicted of a very serious offence.

Families can be affected in all kinds of different ways. Typical of the challenges to be faced are:

- Coming to terms with having a family member in prison
- Needing support and advice in dealing with this new reality
- Dealing with the complex mixture of feelings and emotions experienced, e.g. confusion, anxiety, sadness, loss
- Dealing with financial, social, parenting issues
- Getting to know how the prison system operates
- Maintaining contact and a sense of relationship through visits, letters and phone calls
- Planning for release and all the issues that brings up

## **Our Vision**

“Our Vision is that families of people in prison be compassionately supported to address their needs, retain their dignity and have their voice heard and respected.”

## **Our Mission**

“Our Mission is to provide quality support and information services for families of people in prison.”

## About Us

Situated in Dublin, New Directions is a new initiative which aims to offer a free, confidential information and support service for families affected by imprisonment. It offers a listening ear and emotional support to help families with the challenges they face. Services are provided by trained and experienced staff in a safe, confidential and welcoming environment.

New Directions was set up in 2018 by Sr Imelda Wickham, a former Prison Chaplain. During her time as Chaplain Imelda witnessed first-hand the challenges and distress faced by families affected by imprisonment. It is an issue Prison Chaplains have raised continually in their annual reports:

*“For every individual incarcerated, there is a circle of people directly affected by their imprisonment. Children grow up with one parent absent from their lives. Mothers are often left to rear these children with constant financial struggles.”*

**Irish Prison Chaplains’ Report, 2007**

## Our Services

- Provision of one-to-one support and counselling to family members
- Provision of group support and counselling for the family
- Provision of practical information covering all aspects of the operation of the prison system
- Provision of restorative justice opportunities for families
- Advocate on behalf of families to highlight the impact of imprisonment on them and for enhanced services to meet their needs.



## CONTACT US

New Directions is situated in Clondalkin, Dublin 22, and is open to all families seeking support.

**Telephone or text:** 087 609 7686

**Email:** [familynewd@gmail.com](mailto:familynewd@gmail.com)

See our website for more information:

**[www.familiesofprisoners.ie](http://www.familiesofprisoners.ie)**

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