



# acjrd NEWSLETTER

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## ACJRD 24th Annual Conference - 8th October, 2021 (Online)



The ACJRD 24th Annual Conference “**Criminal Justice and Public Health: Policy and Practice Post-Pandemic**” will take place online on **Friday, 8th October, 2021**, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

**Criminal Justice and Public Health:  
Policy and Practice Post-Pandemic**

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

This year’s conference will focus on the opportunities and plans to continue the rollout of policy and practice changes that were implemented during the pandemic, together with other welfare-focused policies and practices that are on the threshold of implementation at this time.

National and international speakers will explore opportunities to reboot the Criminal Justice System in a constructive manner, through reflection on the lessons learned during this critical period.

This full day conference will appeal to those working in government agencies and in the community to include policymakers, practitioners, academics, and those involved in civil society groups from a wide range of disciplines, within or tangential to the Criminal Justice System that focus on the victims and perpetrators of crime.

This is a FREE Conference for ACJRD members. Non-members of ACJRD are welcome to attend this event on payment of the Conference fee of €20. To book a place, please [click here](#).

To view the Conference Programme, please [click here](#).

## Review on Economic Crime and Corruption Seminar



The ACJRD White Collar Crime Working Group hosted a seminar on **“A Review on Economic Crime and Corruption”** on Thursday, 15th July, 2021.

**James Hamilton**, former Director of Public Prosecutions and Chair of the Multi-Agency Review Group, presented this online event on the *“Review of structures and strategies to prevent, investigate and penalise economic crime and corruption”* (the Hamilton Review). It is planned to have a summary of the event’s discussions available to members in due course.

To view the *“Review of structures and strategies to prevent, investigate and penalise economic crime and corruption”* (the Hamilton Review), please [click here](#).

## 7th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference



The 7th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference took place online on Friday, 4th June, 2021. The theme for this year’s conference was **“Protecting the Human Rights of Vulnerable Suspects and Offenders: Defining, Identifying and Responding to Vulnerabilities”**.

This one-day conference was a collaboration of the Department of Justice, the Policing Authority, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service, the Courts Service, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2021 was the Policing Authority.

A Conference Report is being prepared and will be published on the ACJRD website in due course. In the meantime, to view copies of the speakers’ presentations, please [click here](#).

## 14th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

**Charlie Brooker**, Honorary Professor, Centre for Sociology and Criminology, Royal Holloway, University of London, presented the 14th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, *“Probation and Mental Health: Do We Really Need ‘Equivalent’ Care?”* online on Monday, 24th May, 2021.

Charlie Brooker has been a researcher and academic for over thirty years. His main interest was in psychosocial approaches for the care of people with serious mental health problems up until 1995 when he was professor of mental health both in Sheffield and Manchester. Since then, he has almost exclusively researched aspects of the Criminal Justice system and mental health. This work has taken him into police stations, prisons, courts, sexual assault referral centres, and, in the last ten to fifteen years, probation services.

To view a copy of Professor Brooker’s Lecture, please [click here](#). To view a copy of Professor Brooker’s lecture slides, please [click here](#).

## Parole Board

**Parole:** the temporary or permanent release of a prisoner before the expiry of a sentence, on the promise of good behaviour

A new Parole Board has been announced following the commencement of the Parole Act.

The purpose of the Act is to place the parole process on a statutory footing, and establish an independent, statutory Parole Board to decide on parole applications. The Act sets out clear and transparent criteria for how the Board will reach its decisions, which will be independent of the Minister for Justice of the day.

The time which must be served by a life-sentence prisoner before being considered for parole has now increased to 12 years, compared to the previous 7 years. The average sentence served in the last ten years before a life sentenced prisoner is released on parole is 18 years, and in 2019 it was 20 years.

The Parole Act also sets out clearly how decisions on granting, revoking and varying parole orders will be made. Parole can only be granted if the Board is satisfied that the prisoner does not pose an undue risk to the public, that he or she has been rehabilitated, and that it is appropriate in all the circumstances to release him or her on parole. Victims of crime will be able to make submissions to the Board if they wish and may, under the Act, receive legal assistance in this regard.

The members of the Parole Board are:

- The Hon. Mr Justice Michael White
- Ms Ann Reade
- Mr Kieran Kenny
- Mr Paddy Richardson
- Ms Sinéad McMullan BL
- Dr Shane McCarthy
- Dr Patrick Devitt
- Dr Laura Mannion
- Dr Sharon Lambert
- Mr Paul Murphy
- Ms Dolores Courtney
- Chief Superintendent Pdraig Dunne
- Ms Leah McCormack

## Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change (RJS4C)

*Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change (RJS4C)* aims to support the development of restorative justice across Europe. In ten countries, a core group – the ‘Core Members’ – are collaborating with local policymakers, practitioners, researchers, activists and other interested parties – the ‘Stakeholder Group’ – to co-create national strategies to guide their work.



The purpose of the project is threefold:

- to contribute towards refocusing European criminal justice systems, agencies, policies and practices around restorative principles and processes;
- to share successful strategies used in different countries to develop law, regulation, policy, practice and public awareness around restorative justice; and,
- to determine how the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2018) concerning restorative justice in criminal matters, adopted in October 2018, could be used as a vehicle to support this work.

The project involves ten participating jurisdictions:

- Albania
- Belgium
- the Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Italy
- the Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Ireland
- Scotland

In each jurisdiction, between two and four persons, drawn from policy, practice, academia and civil society, are acting as Core Members. At a European level, RJS4C is coordinated by Dr. Ian Marder, Department of Law, Maynooth University, Gert Jan Slump, Restorative Justice Nederland, and the European Forum for Restorative Justice.

To learn more about the Irish participation in RJS4C, please [click here](#).

## Public Consultation on the Review of Prison Rules

The Irish Prison Service is carrying out a full review of the 2007 Prison Rules and has opened a public consultation on the "Review of Prison Rules". The Prison Rules set out the rules and regulations with regard to the various conditions in prisons in Ireland, including admission, registration, accommodation, visiting rights, health, discipline, education, the role of Prison Officers and the Prison Governor, and the operation of regimes and services within prisons on a daily basis.

The current Prison Rules were enacted in May 2007. The review of Prison Rules 2007 aims to ensure that the revised Prison Rules reflect the changing nature of European penology law and recommendations by taking account of the European Prison Rules and Council of Europe recommendations made since the introduction of Prison Rules 2007.

The closing date for submissions is **5pm on Thursday, 30th September, 2021**. Submissions may include views and opinions on areas for updating outside of the changes made in the European Prison Rules. For further information, please [click here](#).

## ACJRD Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting of ACJRD will take place online at **4.45 pm on Friday, 8th October, 2021**. Notification of this meeting has been sent to all ACJRD Members. For those wishing to attend, please RSVP to [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie).

The benefits of membership include reduced fees to attend our seminars. **Free attendance** at this year's Annual Conference is also a benefit, as well as preferential booking opportunities for certain events, and the opportunity to become involved in one of the ACJRD Working Groups. To become a member or to renew your membership, please [click here](#). New members are always welcome. Fees: Student €25 Individual €35 Organisation €155

## Recent Publications

To view the following annual reports, please click on the titles:

- [Irish Prison Service Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Probation Service Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Policing Authority Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Oberstown Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Courts Service Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Forensic Science Ireland Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Office of the Inspector of Prisons Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Mental Health \(Criminal Law\) Review Board Annual Report 2020](#)
- [Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission \(GSOC\) Annual Report 2020](#)
- [PACE Organisation Annual Report 2020](#)
- [HSE Adolescent Addiction Service Report 2021](#)



### Countering the Threat of Garda Corruption

This report by the Garda Síochána Inspectorate is a comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of the Garda Síochána at preventing, detecting and mitigating the threat of internal corruption. It also assesses the structure, strategies and processes in place to counter corruption. To view this report, please [click here](#).

### Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence: An Audit of Structures

The Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, commissioned Mary Higgins and Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop to undertake this audit of how responsibility for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence is segmented across different government agencies. To view this Audit Report, please [click here](#).

### **Developing Effective Relationships Between Youth Justice Workers and Young People**

This report, which presents the up-to-date scientific evidence of how to build purposeful relationships between youth justice workers and young people, is the seventh in a series of reports completed by the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice (REPPP) project in the School of Law in the University of Limerick. REPPP works in strategic collaboration with the Department of Justice to improve the evidence base for youth crime policymaking, and this report will inform the implementation of the new Youth Justice Strategy. To view, please [click here](#).

### **Piecing It Together: Supporting Children and Families with a Family Member in Prison in Ireland**

This report by the Irish Penal Reform Trust assesses progress on a series of recommendations made by IPRT in "Picking up the Pieces" in 2012. To view, please [click here](#).

### **Effective Penalty Enforcement**

This report by Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland examines the arrangements in place to take enforcement action when someone defaults and fails to pay either a fixed penalty notice, a fine or other financial penalty imposed by a court. To view this report, please [click here](#).

### **Unheard Voices: Reflections of a Prison Chaplain**

This book by Sr. Imelda Wickham provides us with a brief human insight into life behind bars in our penal institutions. The author challenges the use of prisons to deal with addictions, mental health issues and homelessness, arguing that true justice lies in healing for all involved in criminal behaviour, including victim, perpetrator and society. This book is available to buy [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **ACJRD 24th Annual Conference - Friday, 8th October, 2021 (Online)**

*"Criminal Justice and Public Health: Policy and Practice Post-Pandemic"*

For more information about this full-day conference, please [click here](#).



### **Closing the Revolving Door - Travellers' Insights and Recommendations - Tuesday, 5th Oct, 2021 (Online)**



This half-day conference (10am to 1 pm) by Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI) will be opened by his Excellency, Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland. The conference will focus on the experiences and insights of Travellers in prison and their families. Speakers will talk about the impact of imprisonment and will make recommendations for positive change.

The Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI) was developed as a response to the particular needs and circumstances of Travellers in prison in Ireland. It aims to embed changes in policy and practice that will have a positive impact on Travellers in prison, their families and communities. It is a programme of the St Stephen's Green Trust, which is also funded by the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. To book for this free event, please [click here](#).

### **Stronger - Webinar on Restorative Justice - 4pm on Thursday, 7th October, 2021**

*Stronger* is a play which will be presented during the Dublin Theatre Festival and is inspired by true events. *Stronger* tells the gripping story of Jan, a teacher who is sexually assaulted by her student. As Jan journeys through the legal system, she struggles to find closure and her life is in danger of falling apart. A glimmer of hope appears but it could mean lying to the person she loves the most and confronting the person who has done her most harm.



Unfortunately, tickets are already booked out but a waiting list is in operation. (Phone the DTF Box Office at 01 6778899 to be added to the waiting list for tickets).

However, a free webinar at 4 pm on Thursday, 7th October, 2021, will feature a discussion based on the themes of Restorative Justice raised in the play. The panel will include national and international Restorative Justice experts including academics, advocates and legal practitioners. To book, please [click here](#).