



ACJRD
ANNUAL REPORT
2010

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Executive Summary

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development Ltd (ACJRD) has hosted a wide array of events, workshops and publication launches during 2010. Furthermore, all of the six working groups established by the ACJRD (Addiction, Education, Re-integration, Mental Health, Restorative Justice, White Collar Crime), have successfully organised seminars and events for ACJRD members, at which they had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives. Such events are cost free to paid up members.

Research has continued to be a focus of the ACJRD activities with several projects underway during 2010.

Regular council meetings of the association were held throughout the year and members of the ACJRD Council represented the association at several events.

Memberships with other organisations related to Children's Rights, Justice and various charitable organisations reflecting aspects of ACJRD Vision and Mission Statements were also continued during 2010.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2010 under the following headings: Research, Main Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Database, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Associations Memberships.

1. ACJRD Research

The ACJRD currently has the following Research projects in process:

- **Research in Justice Research Project**

The Association believes that quality research findings are essential to a more effective and responsive criminal justice system. To assist future research efforts, the Association wishes to explore how collaboration between criminal justice policy makers, practitioners and researchers might be further enhanced to their mutual benefit. To this end a study has been commissioned to consider what works best in conducting criminal justice research projects, what difficulties arise in terms of data, access, etc., and what actions might be taken to support efficient and effective research projects into the future. The study will involve compilation of the views of policy makers, practitioners and researchers who have recent experience of criminal justice research projects.

This study commenced in October 2010. It has been funded by a grant from The Children Act Advisory Board (CAAB) and will be overseen by the ACJRD Research sub-committee.

- **St Patricks Institution Research Study**

This is a three-phase study that will look at pathways to detention, interventions while in detention and re-offending after release for a sample of young people detained in St Patrick's Institution. Findings from the study will contribute to the deliberations around the White Paper on crime as well as to the goals of the Irish Prison Service, Irish Youth Justice Service and the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (especially the emphasis on diversion and rehabilitation).

Phase one of the study was completed on-time and on-budget in 2010. It was funded by a grant from The Department of Justice & Law Reform, Organisational Development Unit and was made possible due to the co-operation of the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. Phase one collected baseline information about the characteristics and antecedents of young people imprisoned in Ireland. It is intended that this baseline information will be used as a basis for the further two stages of this study.

A proposal has been submitted to the Irish Prison Service for funding of phase two of the project. Phase two aims to establish how the young people profiled in phase one engaged with the services and programmes available to them in custody and the outcomes of that engagement. It is intended that Phase Two will begin in early 2011.

- **Follow up to the Dublin Children Court Pilot Project**

In 2005, ACJRD (formerly IASD) published a study of 50 young persons who had been charged with offences before the Dublin Children Court between January and October 2004. This research is a follow-up study to the 2005 pilot project with the aim of establishing the whereabouts and development of the 2005 study sample.

This study was funded by a grant from The Department of Justice & Law Reform, Policy Planning Research Unit.

The data collection phase of the project has been completed and the final report submitted for approval to the ACJRD Research sub-committee. A desk-top launch is anticipated in January 2011.

2. ACJRD Main Events 2010

The following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately at page 7.

- **2009 Conference Report Launch, 15th February 2010**

The 2009 Conference report – *‘Perspectives on Sex Offending – The Victim & the Offender’* was launched by Barry Andrews T.D.(Minister for Children and Youth Affairs).

- **3rd Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 26th May 2010**

Prof. David B, Wexler, Distinguished Professor at the Rogers College of law, University of Arizona gave the lecture entitled “Therapeutic Jurisprudence in Theory and Practice: International and Interdisciplinary Dimensions” at the Criminal Courts of Justice on 26th May 2010. The lecture was very well-attended and a multi-sector audience was achieved. Legal professionals, representatives from many of the main government agencies including the Irish Probation Service and non-profit organisations were present. The ACJRD hosted Prof. Wexler in association with the Irish Child & Family Institute.

- **“Dynamics of Desistance” Dr. Deirdre Healy (Book Launch), 9th June 2010**

“Dynamics of Desistance” by Dr. D Healy was launched at the National University of Ireland, Merrion Square. Dr. Healy, IRCHSS Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute of Criminology, University of Dublin presented an informative summary of her work which was followed by a discussion that was chaired by Maura Butler – ACJRD Chairperson. Many expert speakers including, Prof. Ian O’ Donnell, Director of the Institute of Criminology, UCD, Michael Donnellan, Irish Probation Service, Dr. Gwen Robinson, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield and Dr. Colin Webster Reader in Criminology, Leeds Metropolitan University, presented their perspectives to those in attendance.

- **ACJRD 13th Annual Conference “Women in the Criminal Justice System” 15th October 2010**

The ACJRD Annual Conference 2010 was held at the Camden Court Hotel, Dublin 2 on 15th October 2010. This one-day event was launched by The Hon. Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, President of the Law Reform Commission. An array of workshops and plenary sessions were provided for participants. The esteemed plenary speakers included: Chief Inspector Kathleen O’Toole, Garda Síochána Inspectorate, Prof. Loraine Gelsthorpe, Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, Dr. Azrini Wahidin, Queens University, Belfast and Eimear Fischer Cosc.

Participants were invited to choose two of the eight available workshops, again the workshop coordinators were leaders in their fields of expertise.

Delegates engaged with many areas within the ambit of “Women in the Criminal Justice System”; such as: “Media Profiling of Women in Criminal Justice System North & South”; “Prostitution in Ireland Today – A Changed Reality”; “Gender & Policing”; “Community Based Interventions for Women Offenders in Northern Ireland”; “Women

as Victims of Intimate Partner Homicide - Links with Domestic Violence”; “Mental Health Issues for Women in the CJS - Legal and Welfare Perspectives”; “Education for Young Women in Detention” and “Experience of Prison for Women and Homelessness”. The coordinators included: Faith Gordon Queens University Belfast; Lynsey Black, Dublin Institute of Technology; Hilka Becker, Immigrant Council of Ireland; Sarah Benson, Ruhama; Mary O’Rawe, University of Ulster; Jean O’Neill, INSPIRE Women’s Project; Kate Mulkerrins, Office of the DPP; Margaret Martin, Women’s Aid; Janice Kelly, Probation Service; Maria Mulpeter, Probation Service; Aine Hynes, Irish Mental Health Lawyers Association; Anne O’Sullivan, Oberstown Education Centre; Dr Christina Quinlan, Dublin City University; and Dr Paula Mayock, Trinity College Dublin.

Throughout the conference, delegates were encouraged to share information, present their own perspectives and network with colleagues who engage in similar and related areas of work. Chatham House rules prevailed throughout the conference.

This was a successful event for which the association received much positive feedback. A report containing the papers from this Conference will be launched early in 2010.

- **New Skills for New Opportunities: How to Win Research & Development Contracts - Research & Development Master class 16th December**

In response to the request for tender released by the Law Society Skillnet, representing the legal profession, it chose ACJRD Ltd. as a provider for the design and delivery of this training programme to up-skill practicing and unemployed solicitors.

The course which consisted of a mixture of plenary and workshop sessions took place at the Law Society of Ireland. The programme took each solicitor step by step through the process of planning a successful research proposal for submission to an NGO or Government agency. It provided essential tips, tools and best practice that to make research proposal preparation easier, ensuring a greater chance of success.

Course modules were presented by: Dr Christina Quinlan, Dublin City University; Candy Murphy, CM Advice Ltd; Nicola Carr, Queens University Belfast; Claire Hickey, Barnardos; and Michael Cox, MCX Training and Development. The Master Class was designed and chaired by Maura Butler (ACJRD Chairperson).

3. Membership

Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer, - student €20.00, individual €30.00 and organisational membership €150.00. Organisational membership is based on a flat rate: this includes all members of that organisation, with up to five members able to attend any one ACJRD event.

Benefits to ACJRD members include: special rates on ACJRD conferences, seminars and other public events, publications on research and conference/seminar proceedings, priority bookings at all ACJRD events, circulation of the newsletter, the option to become involved in the ACJRD working groups and access to a range of peer networks.

Membership rates for 2010 were down 10% on 2009 figures, (where all Organisational memberships are counted as five members).

4. ACJRD Working Groups

The ACJRD has established working groups through which members can input into the activities of the association. Current groups include: Addiction, Education, Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime (See Appendix 1. Terms of Reference for Working Groups).

Please find detailed below a numbers of ACJRD Working Groups activities for 2010. The association was facilitated throughout by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar and provided venues free of charge.

- **Seminar: Restorative Justice, 13th April 2010**

Chaired by: Kieran O'Dwyer

Following the release of the National Commission on Restorative Justice's final report the ACJRD and the Restorative Justice working group held a seminar with Brian Fitzpatrick (Director of the National Commission on Restorative Justice) in the Law Society of Ireland. Mr. Fitzpatrick presented a comprehensive analysis of the aforementioned report and its findings. A lively discussion ensued which facilitated the sharing of perspectives from some of the main government agencies and community groups, working through Restorative Justice processes.

- **Seminar: White Collar Crime and the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation, 20th April 2010**

Chaired by: Jane Farrell

The ACJRD and the White Collar Crime working group hosted the seminar: *White Collar Crime and the Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation* in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, 90 North King Street, Smithfield. Chief Superintendent Eugene Corcoran, Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and Detective Sergeant Michael Gubbins Computer Crime Unit, Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation presented an overview of the breadth of activities the Bureau undertakes. This seminar was followed by a discussion.

- **Seminar: Reintegration of Prisoners in Ireland, 13th July 2010**

Chaired by: Maura Butler

The ACJRD and the Reintegration working group hosted a seminar at the Law Society of Ireland, concerning the reintegration of prisoners in Ireland. Agnieszka Martynowcz (Research and Policy Officer for the Irish Penal Reform Trust) presented a summary of her paper entitled "*It's like stepping on a landmine – Reintegration of Prisoners in Ireland*"; in which she assessed the current provision of reintegration services and support for prisoners before and after their release from prison. She also identified key systemic failure and proffered fourteen recommendations for necessary improvements. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion from attendees including representatives of various government agencies, legal practitioners, academics and community groups. This event was followed by a meeting of the Reintegration working group.

- **Meeting with Minister Moloney 18th August**

Representatives from the ACJRD and the Mental Health working group met with Minister Moloney, Department of Health and Children with special responsibility for Disability and Mental Health at this offices on Hawkins Street. Maura Butler (ACJRD Chairperson), Finbarr O’Leary (Chair of the Mental Health working group), and Mairead Quigley a member of the Mental Health working group attended the meeting to discuss the ACJRD, inputs from its members, research news and ways in which the association can work with the Department of Health on Mental Health issues, within the context of that departments policy document entitled *A Vision for Change*. There was particular focus on the intersection between Mental Health and the Criminal Justice process.

- **Seminar: Addiction, 23rd September 2010**

Chaired by: Gerry McNally

The ACJRD and the Addiction working group held a seminar on Addiction presented by Fiona Ryan, Director of Alcohol Action Ireland in the Law Society of Ireland.

Fiona’s presentation focused on alcohol, young people and Juvenile Justice. She also highlighted the availability of alcohol to young people and raised questions relating to how we drink, how we think about alcohol and the attitudes that young people have towards alcohol. The level of advertising targeting young drinkers was also discussed.

The presentation was well received with members of the audience interacting throughout the seminar

- **Seminar: Education, 5th October 2010**

Chaired by: Maura Butler

The ACJRD and the Education working group held the seminar: *Education on the inside - a view of the educational process in Irish Detention Schools and Prisons* at the Law Society of Ireland.

The seminar was co-presented by Anne Marie Byrne IRCHSS Ph.D candidate, St Patrick’s College Drumcondra who spoke on Education for young offenders in detention schools; and Jane Carrigan Ph.D candidate, St Patrick's College Drumcondra who spoke on Education for adult prisoners, from a life-history point of view.

- **Seminar: Mental Health, 17th November 2010**

Chaired by: Finbarr O’Leary

The ACJRD and the Mental Health working group held the seminar: *The Issues of Mental Health in the Irish Criminal Justice System* at the Law Society of Ireland.

The seminar was co-presented by: Siobhan Young, Head of Mental Health, Irish Youth Justice Service; Fergal Black, Director of Healthcare, Irish Prison Service; Michael Brennan, Researcher, Trinity College Dublin; and Dr. Damien Brennan, Sociology Dept. Trinity College Dublin

5. Newsletter

The ACJRD Newsletter is produced quarterly. It is delivered via email to members and interested parties of the Association and is also available on the ACJRD website. The newsletter keeps members informed about current and forthcoming events and includes news from our members and developments in other agencies and relevant organisations.

As well as promoting the ACJRD, the Newsletter is designed to attract and encourage new members. This service is produced in-house and there are no printing or postage costs. It promotes the creation and development of, an online community for the ACJRD.

The first issue of the Newsletter was released in October 2010.

6. Database

The ACJRD Database contains published information by Government Departments, information on projects, published research and journals, it is regularly updated.

During 2010 preparations began for the provision of database information availability on the ACJRD website as a resource for members and interested parties involved in delivering services within the criminal justice system. Hard copies of some database documents are also available in the ACJRD office.

7. Commitment to Achieve Change

ACJRD will make appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website www.acjrd.ie.

During 2010 research reports the ACJRD had commissioned on the Childrens Court, and ACJRD Annual Conference reports 2007 - 2009 were submitted as background information for the White Paper on Crime. The Restorative Justice working group also made a submission in relation to the White Paper on Crime 'Sanctions' discussion document.

8. Governance

The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2010:

2nd February 2010, at University College Dublin, School of Criminology
16th March 2010, at the Law Society of Ireland, Education Centre
27th April 2010, at the Irish Prison Service, Psychology/Probation Building
1st June 2010, at the Barnardos offices, Christchurch Square
6th July 2010, at Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Smithfield
21st September 2010 the Council will meet at the Probation Service, Smithfield
2nd November 2010, at the Irish Prison Service, Psychology/Probation Building
7th December 2010, at the Garda Inspectorate offices, Stephens Green

The Council of the ACJRD also represented the association at a number of events as detailed below:

- Maura Butler, (ACJRD Chairperson) attended the White Paper on Crime consultation seminar on 5th November 2010 in Dublin Castle.
- Maura Butler, attended the official opening of the Tivoli Training Centre by Minister Dermot Ahern 24 Tivoli Terrace South, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin on 9th July.
- Maura Butler represented the association at the North South Criminology Conference, hosted by Queens University Belfast in 21st/22nd June 2010
- Maura Butler, and Finbarr O'Leary, (ACJRD Vice-Chairperson) attended the White Paper on Crime Consultation Seminar on Criminal Sanctions at Dublin Castle on 28th May 2010.
- Maura Butler represented the association at the Queen's School of Law Devolution Conference, 27th/28th January 2010.

9. Associations Memberships

The ACJRD maintained their memberships in several organisations during 2010. Details of these organisations and the ACJRD's involvement with them during the year are detailed below.

- **The Children's Rights Alliance**

The Children's Rights Alliance is a coalition of over 90 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working to secure the rights and needs of children in Ireland, by campaigning for the full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It aims to improve the lives of all children under 18, through securing the necessary changes in Ireland's laws (strengthening children's rights in the Constitution), policies and services.

The ACJRD responded to the Children's Rights Alliance's request for nominations to the National Children's Advisory Council in September 2010. Elaine Slattery, Manger of Céim ar Chéim and an ACJRD member, was nominated by the ACJRD Council. Their nomination was accepted.

- **The Irish Penal Reform Trust**

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. Established in 1994, IPRT has a well-established role as an independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies. In operational terms this means our focus is on: the use of imprisonment, including sentencing; alternatives to custody and diversion; and the treatment of those in detention.

In 2010 the ACJRD supported the launch of the IPRT Research "It's like stepping on a landmine" – Reintegration of Prisoners in Ireland. ACJRD Staff attended the IPRT research launch and the ACJRD Reintegration working group held the seminar: Reintegration of Prisoners in Ireland on July 13th which was presented by one of the reports researchers Agnieszka Martynowicz.

- **The Wheel**

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, The Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector.

The ACJRD manager, Danelle Hannan, attended the Wheel Annual conference on 28th May 2010.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference for Working Groups

1 Regularity and location and length of meetings

- An Inaugural Meeting of each Working Group [WG] will occur in July 2009 (if not already convened by then) or at the earliest possible date thereafter at a location to be determined by the Working Group Chair [WGC] who will host the meeting.
- The WGC will liaise with the Manager with regard to the funding requirements of the Inaugural Meeting and any planned future meetings.
- This funding request must be compatible with the Annual Business Plan, which is subject to variance as may be determined from time to time by the Council.
- An Inaugural Annual Convention of All Working Groups will occur in September 2009 at a venue to be determined by the ACJRD Manager, who will organize this event with the ACJRD Administrator.
- Meetings will occur monthly via the online forum and quarterly in a physical location.
- Each WGC will ensure that the Group Members are conversant with the necessary on-line access skills and will alert the Manager to any Training requirements that may arise. The Manager will then organise that training in the usual manner.
- All WGCs will carry out a needs assessment within the WG to ascertain where gaps in expertise arise which result in (a) the co-option of identified expert/s to the WG or (b) meeting training needs [e.g. a seminar on a particular identified aspect of the WG topic]
- All group members are expected to familiarise themselves with relevant WG records and materials and to actively participate in the tasks set by the WGC.

2 Group Objectives

- Individual Group objectives consistent with ACJRD and overall Working Groups aims and objectives, as are outlined by the WGC and ratified by Council.

3 Group Membership

- Application for admission to a WG is initially addressed to the ACJRD Administrator, who will report to the Manager on a regular basis as may be determined between them.
- Where a WG has a sufficient number of members to meet its outcomes as determined by the WGC, an applicant will be offered an opportunity to participate in another WG of their choice.
- Additional group members can be nominated by existing group members and decisions to accept such nominations will be determined by the WGC and the process of such nomination and determination will be reported to the Council.

4 Decision Making

- Where decisions need to be made it is important that the WGC facilitates sufficient time for discussion. The WGC is responsible for helping the group to reach consensus and come to decisions. In the event that a vote is necessary and a deadlock exists the WGC will have a second casting vote.

5 Reporting

- The WGC is responsible for regular reporting on group activities to the ACJRD Council.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

- Individual groups' roles and responsibilities will be delegated by the WGC where relevant.

7 Administration

- All WGCs will draft agenda for discussion which will be circulated on a Monthly basis by the WGC prior to physical or on-line meetings via the forum.
- All WGCs will collate an accurate record/minutes of those discussions and any discussion topics arising from that interaction, or will delegate a member of the WG to record/collate on an individual or rotating basis as the need arises, and will be assisted by the Manager or Administrator in particular regarding on- line collation as appropriate.