



**acjrd**

**ACJRD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2013**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development Ltd (ACJRD) has hosted a wide array of events, seminars and publication launches during 2013. These included our annual conference entitled "*Preventable Harm: Criminal Justice, Communities and Civil Society*", our joint conference with the Parole Board entitled "*Parole in Ireland – The Way Forward*" and working group events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

Research has continued to be a focus of the ACJRD activities with several projects underway during 2013.

Throughout the year the association has contributed to Government consultations as appropriate and continues to maintain memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2013 under the following headings: Research, Events, Membership, Working Groups, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance and Associations Memberships.

## 1. ACJRD Research

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The ACJRD Research-Sub-Committee oversaw the following projects during 2013:

### **ACJRD Research on Women Ex-Prisoners - *Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners***

Her Hon. Ms. Mary Ellen Ring launched the ACJRD research report entitled “*Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners*” on Monday 29th July 2013 in the Blue Room at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7. This study focused on women serving short sentences who were interviewed as research participants during their time in the Dóchas Centre in Mountjoy Prison. The women outlined their life stories, needs and expectations giving details of health challenges, both emotional and physical. They also reflected on their histories of trauma and victimisation, homelessness and addiction and shared their stories of motherhood, social support networks, service provision and challenges in returning to mainstream society. The resulting research report noted a number of recommendations to improve the service provision available and ultimately the outcomes for these women.

This research was funded by the St Stephens Green Trust.

### **Best Practice, Current Difficulties, Future Needs’, ‘Tracking the needs and service provision for women ex-prisoners’**

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 has been funded by a grant from The Children’s Act Advisory Board.

### **DCU Community Knowledge Exchange**

This programme matches student researchers with community organisations in order to facilitate projects of mutual benefit. The ACJRD has begun discussions with DCU staff regarding potential research projects.

## 2. ACJRD Events 2013

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Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2013, please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on page five.

### **2012 Conference Report Launch, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013**

Claire Loftus, DPP, launched the report from our 15th Annual Conference entitled “*Exit from Custody: Through-care, Resettlement and Related Issues*” on 28 February 2013 to a packed gallery in The Green Street Courthouse, Dublin 7.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, entitled "*Throw Away the Key: Public and Judicial Approaches to Sentencing - Towards Reconciliation*" was delivered on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013 by The Hon Mr Justice Charleton at the Criminal Courts of Justice, Dublin.

### **ACJRD 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Friday 4th October 2013**

#### ***"Preventable Harm: Criminal Justice, Communities and Civil Society"***

Nora Owen, TV3 presenter and former Minister for Justice launched this one day conference, which took place on Friday, 4th October 2013. International and national experts addressed the theme of *Preventable Harm* and the sub themes of *Civil Society in the Criminal Justice System, Harm Reduction and Abstinence from Drugs* and *Community Intervention Experiences* in a number of plenary and workshop sessions.

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.

Conference Plenary Presentations were delivered by Professor Anthea Hucklesby, Professor of Criminal Justice, Deputy Director of the Centre of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds; Sergeant Dave McInerney, Garda Racial Intercultural & Diversity Office; Professor & Senator John Crown; Paper by Professor Catherine Comiskey, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin (presented in her absence by Maura Butler); Claire Casey, Community Engagement Coordinator, Tallaght West Childhood Development Initiative and Maria McDonald BL.

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops. Presentations were delivered by Sergeant Aidan Curtin, The Garda Victim Liaison Office; Shirley Cummins, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre; Tony Geoghegan, Merchants Quay; Kerry Anthony MBE, DePaul Ireland; Susana Nunez and Catherine Sheridan, Barnardos; Sean Kinahan, Le Chéile Mentoring Project; Larry De Cléir, Bedford Row Family Project and Graham Jones, Solas Project.

### **Parole Board/ACJRD Conference, 25th October 2013**

#### **'Parole in Ireland – the Way Forward: Experiences from other Jurisdictions'**

This conference, organised by the Parole Board, in collaboration with the ACJRD, took place on Friday, 25th October 2013 in the Law Society of Ireland. The conference was launched by Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice and Defence.

Conference presentations were delivered by Christine Glenn, Chief Commissioner, Parole Commissioners for Northern Ireland; John Watt, Chairperson, Parole Board for Scotland; Tapio Lappi-Seppala, Director, National Research Institute for Legal Policy, Helsinki, Finland; Ralph Serin, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Carleton University Ottawa, Canada and Michael Lynn BL. The Hon. Mr Justice Garrett Sheehan acted as Conference Chairperson.

### **3. Membership**

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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 2013 are 11% up on 2012 figures. In total there are 59 individual members and 21 Organisational members.

### **4. ACJRD Working Groups**

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The ACJRD has established working groups through which members can input into the activities of the association. Current groups include Addiction, Education, Juvenile Justice (established in May 2013), Mental Health, Reintegration, Restorative Justice and White Collar Crime.

Working Groups activities for 2013 are detailed below. The association was facilitated throughout by the generosity of Council members who chaired each seminar and provided venues free of charge.

#### **Seminar: “Varied Applications of Restorative Practice” 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

The ACJRD and the ACJRD Restorative Justice Working Group held the seminar “*Varied Applications of Restorative Practice*” at the offices of the Probations Services in Smithfield on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

Dr Donna Hicks, Associate at the Weatherhead Centre for International Affairs, Harvard University, gave a presentation entitled “*Conflict and Dignity - the Lessons for Restorative Justice Practice*”. The seminar also featured presentations from Austin Stack, Assistant Governor, Wheatfield Prison; Nadette Foley, Facing Forward and Andy Tuite, Community Relations, Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs.

#### **Seminar: “Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System: Legal Trends and Research Results” 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

ACJRD and the ACJRD Mental Health Working Group held the seminar entitled “*Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System: Legal Trends & Research Results*”, at the Law Society of Ireland, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Speakers at the Seminar included Dr. Louise Kennefick, Department of Law, NUIM, Dr. Conor O'Neill, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Central Mental Hospital and Aine Hynes, Partner, St. John Solicitors.

### **5. Newsletter**

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The ACJRD Newsletter 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.

Three newsletters were circulated in 2013.

## **6. Commitment to Achieve Change**

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ACJRD makes 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](http://www.acjrd.ie).

In January 2013, the ACJRD made a submission to the Department of Justice on the **Review of the role of Joint Policing Committees**. This submission sought to highlight the community policing partnership groups which currently operate in a number of other jurisdictions so as to aid the analysis of Irish Joint Policing Committees (JPCs) and plans for their future. Recommendations for Irish JPCs were made, drawing on the experiences of comparative groupings in the jurisdictions discussed therein. Darren McStravick, DCU assisted the ACJRD with research for this submission.

In April 2013, ACJRD made a submission to the Department of Justice Working Group on Penal Policy on the **Strategic Review of Penal Policy**. The submission focussed on alternatives to custody and made a number of recommendations. Patrick Collins, DCU, assisted the ACJRD with research for this submission.

In June 2013, the ACJRD made a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality regarding the **Criminal Justice (Corruption) Bill 2012**. The submission made carefully considered observations on the content of the Heads of Criminal Justice (Corruption) Bill 2012. Ruth Donnellan assisted the ACJRD with research for this submission.

In October 2013, the ACJRD made a submission to the Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality, on **Restorative Justice**. This submission was researched by Darren McStravick, a PhD candidate in the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, under the supervision of Dr Yvonne Daly. The submission contained a detailed review of restorative justice practices and principles employed within Irish Adult Reparation Panels, as well as a list of proposed recommendations for the Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality.

## **7. Governance**

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The ACJRD Council includes representatives from: The Department of Justice, The Probation Service, The Irish Prison Service, The Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, The Garda Síochána Inspectorate, Dublin City University and University of Limerick.

### **The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2013:**

12<sup>th</sup> March 2013, at the Garda Inspectorate, 87 St Stephens Green, Dublin 2

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013, at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

28<sup>th</sup> May 2013, at the offices of the DPP, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

9<sup>th</sup> July 2013, at the Probation Service, Haymarket, Smithfield, Dublin 7  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, IPS, North Circular Road, Dublin 7  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Garda Siochana Offices, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013 at the Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7

### **AGM 2013**

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Camden Court Hotel on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the associations Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2012 for adoption.

### **Council representation**

The ACJRD Council members and the ACJRD Manager have also represented the association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- Danelle Hannan's attendance at The Wheel *National Giving Campaign Information Seminar* on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Patricia Flynn and Finbarr O'Leary's attendance at the *Children's Rights Alliance Report Card Launch* on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Danelle Hannan's attendance at The Wheel *Charities Act Consultation* on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013
- Dr. Yvonne Daly's attendance at the launch of "*Organised Crime and the Law: A Comparative Analysis*," by Dr. Liz Campbell. Dr Daly represents Dr Shane Kilcommins at ACJRD Council meetings and events.
- Patricia Flynn's attendance at the Symposium on the new Child and Family Support Agency on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013 . Patricia joined a working group on the new Child and Family Support Agency at this event has been representing ACJRD at working group meetings since then.
- Maura Butler's attendance at the ISIS and the Committee for Judicial Studies presentation "*The Growing Relevance of EU Law to Sentencing*" on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013
- Maura Butler's attendance at the DIT Criminology prize giving ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013
- Danelle Hannan's attendance at the Community Knowledge Exchange Information Seminar on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013
- Finbarr O'Leary's attendance at the IPS/Probation Strategy and Annual Report launch on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Maura Butler's attendance at the TWCI Roundtable and launch of CDI report "*Evaluation of the Restorative Practice Programme of the Childhood Development Initiative*" on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013
- Patricia Flynn's attendance at the Barnardos conference "*What about Me? - Prioritising Children in Family Breakdown Proceedings*" on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Danelle Hannan's attendance at the Jobcare Art Exhibition "*From There to Here*" on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Finbarr O'Leary's attendance at the Access Ireland Anniversary and Report Launch event on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2013
- Patricia Flynn's attendance at the launch of the 116000 Missing Children's Hotline on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013
- Maura Butler's attendance at The Wheel "*Shaping Europe's future programme*" on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013
- Maura Butler's attendance at the launch by Minister Frances Fitzgerald of two reports: "*Every Child a Home: A Review of the Implementation of the Youth*



*Homelessness Strategy*” and “*Young People’s Homeless and Housing Pathways: Key Findings from a 6-year Qualitative Longitudinal Study*” on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013

- Maura Butler’s attendance at the “*Roses from the Heart*” exhibition in Kilmainham Gaol Museum on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013
- Finbarr O’Leary’s attendance at the Children’s Rights Alliance “Do children’s rights matter?” film screening. ACJRD contributed a €10 donation to the crowd-funding of his film on 15th November 2013
- Maura Butler’s attendance at the launch of the Horizon 2020 European Union research programme on 10th December 2013

## **8. Associations and Memberships**

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### **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.*

Patricia Flynn has represented the ACJRD in a Children’s Rights Alliance working group on the new Child and Family Support Agency since February 2013. The ACJRD maintained its membership of the Children’s Rights Alliance in 2013.

### **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.*

The ACJRD maintained its membership of the IPRT in 2013.

### **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 maintained its membership of the Wheel in 2013.