



The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference

Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution

FRIDAY 10 OCT 2025: IMMA, KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN 8



An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service



An Bord Parúil
The Parole Board



Seirbhís Phríosúin
na hÉireann
Irish Prison Service





The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference
Youth Justice in Motion:
Prevention, Intervention, Contribution

10 October 2025, IMMA, Kilmainham, Dublin 8

08.30 - 09.30 Conference Registration, Coffee & Engagement with Conference Exhibitors

Morning Plenaries

09.30 - 09.40 **Welcome and Conference Outline**

Mary Griffin, Chairperson, ACJRD

09.40 - 10.00 **Official Launch of Conference**

Kevin McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Children, Disability & Equality

10.00 - 11.00 **Youth Justice in Motion**

Koulla Yiasouma, Chairperson, Oberstown Children Detention Centre
Damien Hernon, Director, Oberstown Children Detention Campus
Derek Byrne, CEO, Way2Work Ireland

11.00 - 11.30 *Coffee Break, Networking & Engagement with Conference Exhibitors*

11.30 - 12.45 **25 Years of the Children Act – Taking Stock**

The Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Kelly, President of the District Court
Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children
Prof. Nessa Lynch, University College Cork
Facilitator: Gerry Curran, Courts Service Media Relations Advisor & NUJ President

12.45 - 13.45 *Lunch & Engagement with Conference Exhibitors*

13.45 - 15.00 **Thematic sessions – see overleaf for details**

Afternoon Plenaries

15.00 - 15.30 **Feedback from Thematic Sessions**

Facilitated by Gerry Curran

15.30 - 16.00 **Contribution** *from young contributors whose voices, actions, and insights offer a compelling vision of what justice can look like when it is built with young people, not just for them*

16.00 - 16.20 **Panel: Youth Justice Futures – What if Ireland Got it Right?**

16.20 - 16.30 **Conference Closing**

Mary Griffin, Chairperson of ACJRD



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13.45 - 15.00 Thematic Sessions

Delegates choose one Thematic Session

Format: 20 minutes per speaker presentation x 3 + 30 minutes discussion

Session One: The Continuum of Young Lives

Youth justice is not a single system or structure, it is a constantly shifting jigsaw made up of interconnected parts: education, family, community, policing, courts, social care, and beyond. This session explores the youth justice system as a continuum within the broader trajectory of young people's lives. It recognises that young people move in and out of systems, often unpredictably, and that our responses must be as dynamic and flexible as their realities.

- a. *Gráinne Berrill, Director, National Office for Community Safety*
- b. *Ronan McLoughlin, Assistant Principal, Young Person's Probation, The Probation Service*
- c. *Chief Superintendent Paul Franey, An Garda Síochána*

Session Two: Girls, Gender and Justice

Despite making up only a small proportion of those who come into contact with the youth justice system, girls remain consistently overlooked in both policy and practice. In Ireland, girls account for just 13% of referrals to the Garda Youth Diversion Programme, and their numbers in detention are even lower. While the numbers might be low, research has found that girls in the justice system often experience complex layers of marginalisation, trauma, and unmet needs that go unseen and unheard. This session will explore the invisibility of girls in justice discourse, the drivers of their involvement in offending, and the risks of replicating approaches designed primarily for boys.

- a. *Michelle Griffin, Head of Care, Oberstown Children Detention Campus*
- b. *Dr. Gilly Sharpe, Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Sheffield*
- c. *Saoirse Brady, Executive Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust*

Session Three: Digital Justice and Online Harm

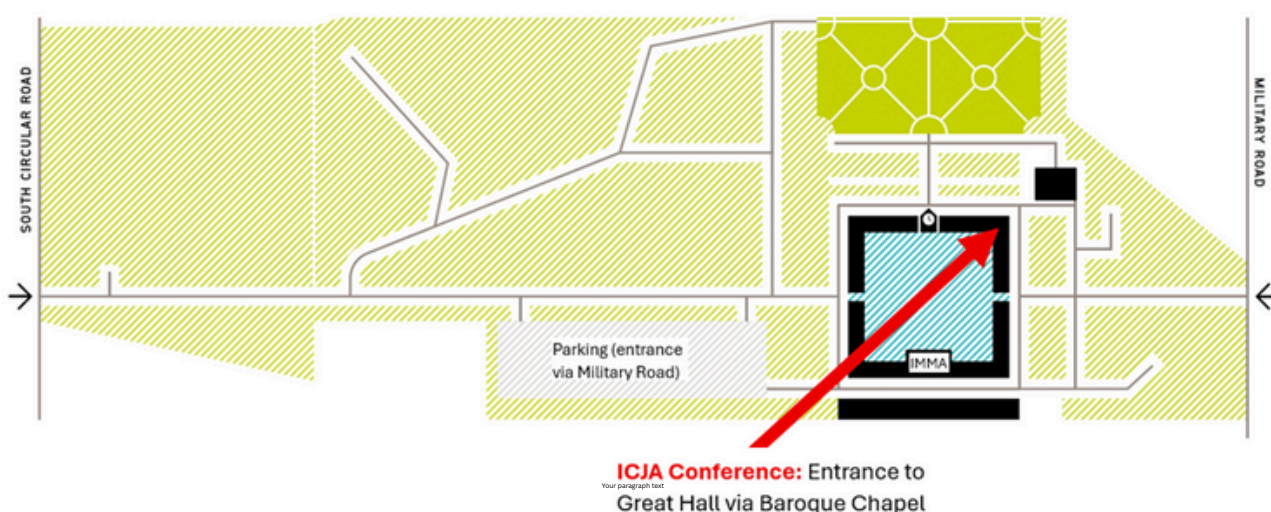
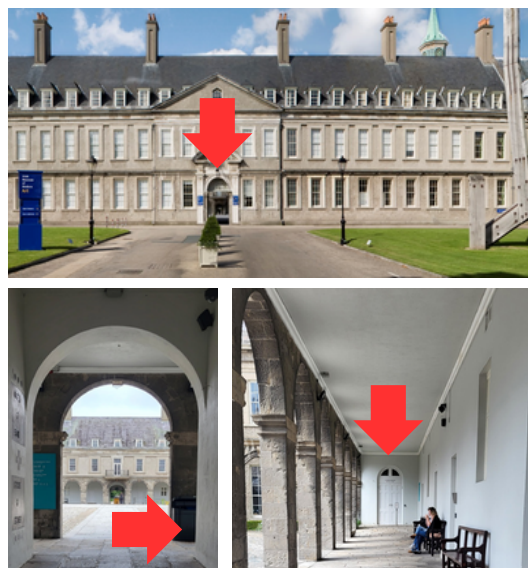
As young people navigate an increasingly digital world, the youth justice system must evolve to meet new and complex challenges. This session explores how harm, surveillance, and criminalisation can occur invisibly and rapidly in online spaces. We will examine the impact of algorithmic bias in reinforcing stereotypes, the role of recommendation engines in steering youth toward extremism, and the growing threat of AI-driven surveillance to youth privacy. This session offers a vital space to reimagine youth justice in the digital age - one that protects, empowers, and includes young people in shaping a safer online future.

- a. *Niamh Hodnett, Online Safety Commissioner, Coimisiún na Meán*
- b. *Aaron Swift, Principal Specialist Psychologist, National Inter-Agency Prevention Programme*
- c. *Wayne Denner, Online Safety Educator*

Location:

The Great Hall,
Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA),
Royal Hospital Kilmainham,
Dublin 8,
D08 FW31.

(Entrance via the Baroque Chapel in
the courtyard)



Directions: IMMA is situated in Dublin 8 and is easily accessible by car, on foot, by rail, bus or bike. The Eircode is D08 FW31. Click [here to view a transport map via Google](#).

The main Museum entrance is on Military Road. There is also a secondary entrance (Pedestrian only) on South Circular Road, opposite the Courthouse at Kilmainham Gaol.

There is a car park (entrance via Military Road). Please note that if you are entering Dublin via car from the West / N4 / M4 you cannot turn right onto Military Road.

IMMA is an 8 minute walk via Military Road from Heuston Train Station and Luas tram stop. Connolly Station is connected to Heuston Station by the Red Luas line.

You can reach IMMA by taking a [bus](#) (145 or C-Spine buses C1,2,3,4) to Heuston Station and then walking 8 minutes to IMMA via the Military Road gate. Or by taking a bus (13, 40, 123, G-Spine G1,2) to St. James's Hospital which is also an 8 minute walk via steps to Bow Lane onto Irwin St. and then Military Rd.