

## IRISH CRIMINAL JUSTICE NETWORK

*CONNECTING PEOPLE,  
CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE*

### Vision, Mission & Values

Our vision is of a more collaborative and evidence-informed criminal justice system.

The Association for Criminal Justice, Research and Development (ACJRD) is an independent, charitable organisation dedicated to the fair and effective operation of the criminal justice system.

Our mission is to connect, inform and inspire people and organisations across the criminal justice system.

We believe in a more collaborative, open and innovative approach to criminal justice reform, research and education.

### Strategic Goals 2026–2030

Our strategic focus is built on our standing as a neutral, trusted convener that bridges the gap between academia, policy, and practice.

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**Objective 1:** Strengthen ACJRD's Role as a Community for Convening, Learning, Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

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**Objective 2:** Deepen Member and Stakeholder Engagement through Inclusivity and Collaboration

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**Objective 3:** Strengthen and modernise digital, organisational and communication capacity

# Guiding Principles

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**Maintain a trusted, non-partisan space for dialogue**



**Promote high-quality, research informed dialogue**



**Bridge academia, policy, community and practice**



**Ensure diverse voices and early-career professionals are represented and heard**



**Embrace new formats, technologies and outreach models**



# Summary

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Our strategic focus is built on our standing as a neutral, trusted convener that bridges the gap between academia, policy, and practice. By leveraging our reputation for high-quality, solutions-focused dialogue, we provide a space for cross-sector collaboration where evidence-informed ideas can flourish.

To grow, we are evolving beyond our traditional event-based model. We are committed to a digital transformation that will expand our year-round visibility and modernise how we share information. A core priority is ensuring our network is more inclusive; by broadening our membership to include students, community & voluntary groups, and frontline practitioners, we will ensure our insights reflect the full diversity of the justice sector.

As the external landscape becomes increasingly polarised, our role as a hub for sharing learning is more vital than ever. We will maintain a sharp strategic focus, deepening our partnerships across the criminal justice sector and beyond to ensure that evidence remains at the heart of the public discourse on justice.



# Strategic Objectives

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## Objective 1:

Strengthen ACJRD's Role as a Community for Convening, Learning, Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

**Goal:** Evolve ACJRD from a respected event organiser to a criminal justice network for learning, policy discussions and practice.

## Key Actions

- Define and communicate a clear mission and unique value proposition
- Continue flagship events, making them more inclusive
- Develop a broader range of opportunities for networking, learning and collaboration
- Where appropriate, have events organised on an all-island basis
- Explore how ACJRD can best contribute to a criminal justice learning centre
- Maximise opportunities for hearing more international perspectives and learning from best practice through in-person and online events
- Facilitate thematic working groups and collaborative initiatives, including partnering with other organisations and networks



# Strategic Objectives

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## Objective 2:

Deepen Member and Stakeholder Engagement through Inclusivity and Collaboration

**Goal:** Build a diverse, engaged community of people and organisations contributing to ACJRD's mission year-round.

## Key Actions

- Broaden membership to include relevant agencies, early-career academics and professionals, community partners, private companies and students
- Create communities of practice and mentoring programmes in which all stakeholders can participate
- Increase accessibility through regional and online participation
- Provide more opportunities to members and other stakeholders to engage after events (e.g., podcasts, briefing notes, webinars)



# Strategic Objectives

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## Objective 3:

Strengthen and modernise digital, organisational and communication capacity

**Goal:** Build a modern, visible and sustainable ACJRD that effectively communicates its mission, shares knowledge, and delivers lasting impact through strong governance, partnerships and digital innovation.

## Key Actions

- Modernise ACJRD's digital and communication systems
- Develop a searchable repository of ACJRD conference reports
- Produce diverse digital outputs to broaden ACJRD's reach and influence
- Review and strengthen governance structures to ensure accountability, mission alignment, and effectiveness
- Implement systems for impact measurement, evaluation, and transparent reporting
- Establish succession planning to ensure leadership continuity and organisational renewal
- Strengthen ACJRD's brand and visibility through social media, partnerships, and media engagement, including potential rebranding to reflect the organisation's updated vision and mission
- Develop a sustainable funding model through communication of the contribution of ACJRD to stakeholder learning, stakeholder engagement and consensus-building
- Build partnerships with academic institutions, justice agencies, and networks to enhance synergies and avoid duplication