



ACJRD

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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Executive Summary

The Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD) has hosted a wide array of events and seminars during 2019. These included our 22nd Annual Conference entitled "*Behind Closed Doors: Crimes of Violence, Coercive Control and Abuse in Family and Intimate Relationships*", and the 6th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference entitled "*Sexual Offences: The Challenge of Balancing Rights in the Criminal Justice System*" which was a collaboration of the ACJRD, the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Youth Justice Service, The Probation Service, The Department of Justice and Equality, the Irish Prison Service, and An Garda Síochána. The ACJRD also held Working Groups seminars and events at which attendees had the opportunity to contribute their opinions and share perspectives.

The Association also continues to further current and future Research opportunities, maintains a membership base and a number of Working Groups and also contributes to the criminal justice community in Ireland via quarterly newsletters and continued memberships and relationships with other not-for-profit organisations who share common ground with the objectives of the ACJRD. The collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen's University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network, which began in 2018, continued throughout 2019.

This report provides a summary of the events and activities for 2019 under the following headings: Events, Membership, Working Groups, Research Collaborations, Student Engagement, Newsletter, Commitment to Achieve Change, Governance, Annual General Meeting and Collaborations, Associations and Memberships.

Throughout the report are links to further information on the ACJRD website www.acjrd.ie, just click on any text in a green font.

1. ACJRD Events 2019

Below is a summary of ACJRD events during 2019. Please note the following outputs do not include the ACJRD Working Groups outputs which are profiled separately on pages 10 -13.

MARTIN TANSEY MEMORIAL LECTURES

The ACJRD marks the contribution Martin Tansey made to criminal justice in Ireland, and to this association, with a memorial lecture each spring.

Information and papers from the lectures which have taken place since the inaugural event in 2008 can be found at:

www.acjrd.ie/publications

12th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, 6th March, 2019

The 12th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor Claire Hamilton, Maynooth University. The lecture entitled "*Criminal Justice Culture(s) in Ireland: Quo Vadis?*" took place in the Criminal Courts of Justice on Wednesday, 6th March, 2019.

This event was well attended and Prof. Hamilton's lecture was very well received.

ACJRD would like to thank the staff at the Criminal Court of Justice for their continued assistance in hosting this annual memorial lecture.



Pictured Left. **Maura Butler**,
ACJRD Chairperson, and
Professor Claire Hamilton,
Maynooth University.

Launch of 2018 Annual Conference Report “Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice”



Pictured above (L-R): **Pauline Shields**, Garda Inspectorate, ACJRD Council Member, **Tony O'Donovan**, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, ACJRD Council Member, and **Maura Butler**, ACJRD Chairperson

The ACJRD 21st Annual Conference Report 'Unlocking the Power of Data for Criminal Justice Research, Policy-Making and Practice' was launched on Tuesday 10th September, 2019.

The 2018 Annual Conference Report was printed by the Arbour Hill Printshop facilitated by the IPS representative on the ACJRD Council, Jim Mitchell. ACJRD is grateful to Jim for making this possible once again this year.

ACJRD 22nd Annual Conference, 11th October 2019:
"Behind Closed Doors: Crimes of Violence, Coercive Control and Abuse in
Family and Intimate Relationships"

This conference featured the following speakers:

- **Charlie Flanagan** TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- **Carmela Apostol**, Violence against Women Division – Council of Europe Secretariat of the Istanbul Convention monitoring mechanism
- **Professor Marianne Hester**, OBE, FAcSS, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
- **Judge Colin Daly**, President of the District Court
- **Joan Smith**, Author and Journalist
- **Dr. Ian Marder**, Department of Law, Maynooth University
- **Callie Zinsmeyer**, Mediator, Case Worker at Restorative Justice Services
- **Siobán O'Brien Green**, Trinity Research in Childhood Centre, Trinity College Dublin

The conference programme also featured a number of workshops presentations delivered by **Sarah Benson**, Director, Women's Aid, **Patricia Rickard-Clarke**, Chairperson, Sage Advocacy, **Dr. Fergus Ryan**, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Law, Maynooth University, **Caitríona Gleeson**, Programme and Communications Manager, Safe Ireland, and **Caroline Counihan**, BL, Legal Advisor to Safe Ireland, **Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney**, School of Nursing, Psychotherapy & Community Health, Dublin City University, **Andrea McDermott**, Social Care Team Leader, AnyMan, **Stella O'Malley**, Psychotherapist, Writer and Public Speaker, and **Collette Eaton-Harris**, Senior Practice Advisor, SafeLives

The ACJRD would like to thank all of the conference rapporteurs at this event:

Maria Cleary, Beth Duane, Jana Khalil, Bláithín O'Shea, Danielle O'Sullivan, Michelle Reynolds and Orlaith Rice.

ACJRD also thanks the workshop chair volunteers from the ACJRD Council: Dr Susan Leahy, Dr. Yvonne Daly, Pauline Shields, Gerry McNally, Dave Sheahan, Tony O'Donovan and Michelle Johnston. Thanks also to Stephanie O'Brien from the Office of the DPP for chairing a workshop.



Pictured above (L-R): **Maura Butler**, ACJRD Chairperson, **Charlie Flanagan**, TD, Minister for Justice and Equality, **Dr. Ian Marder**, Maynooth University and **Callie Zinsmayer**, Restorative Justice Services



Pictured above (L-R): **Carmela Apostol**, Council of Europe Secretariat, **Prof. Marianne Hester**, University of Bristol, **His Honour Judge Colin Daly**, President of the District Court, **Joan Smith**, Author and Journalist, and **Maura Butler**, ACJRD Chairperson

6th Annual ICJA Conference, 4th June, 2019:

The Challenge of Balancing Rights in the Criminal Justice System

This one-day conference was a collaboration of the Department of Justice and Equality, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Irish Youth Justice Service (IYJS), Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, The Probation Service and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development (ACJRD). The lead partner for 2019 was the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Plenary speakers at the conference were:

- **Charlie Flanagan**, TD, Minister for Justice and Equality
- **Tom O'Malley**, BL
- **Vivian Geiran**, Director, The Probation Service
- **Assoc. Prof. Liz Heffernan**, Trinity College Dublin
- **Noeline Blackwell**, CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- **Peter McCormick**, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

A Roundtable discussion with **The Rt Hon. Sir John Gillen**, **Tom O'Malley** BL and **Caroline Biggs** SC on "*Reviewing the Balancing of Rights; Insights and Challenges*" was chaired by Peter McCormick, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

A report with the plenary speeches and summaries of the workshops will be uploaded on our website, when complete.

Nine workshops took place during the Conference, with each delegate attending one workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon. Workshop presenters included **Dr. Susan Leahy**, School of Law, University of Limerick, **Monika Leech** BL, **Kate Gillen**, Social Work Specialist, Child Care Performance and Social Work Unit, DCYA; **Rhonda Turner**, Principal Clinical Psychologist, TUSLA, National Inter-Agency Prevention Programme (NIAPP), **Detective Inspector Michael Lynch**, Garda National Protective Services Unit (GNPSU), **Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald O'Reilly**, School of Law, University of Limerick, **Tom Ward**, Principal Officer, Circuit and District Courts Operations Directorate, **Detective Superintendent Aidan McCarthy**, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, **Maeve Lewis**, Executive Director and **Deirdre Kenny**, Advocacy Director, One in Four, **Sarah Hume**, Senior Psychologist, Irish Prison Service and **Daragh Bailey**, Senior Probation Officer, Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management (SORAM).

ACJRD would like to thank all of the conference rapporteurs at this event:

Megan McGovern, Sarah McDonald, Ciara McQuillan, Veronica Downey, Rory Penny, Orlaith Rice and Maria Cleary.

ACJRD also thanks the workshop chair volunteers from the ACJRD Council: Gerry McNally, Deirdre Byrne, Yvonne Daly, Dave Sheahan, Pauline Shields and Tony O'Donovan, our workshop chair from the IYJS, Daniel Watters, and our workshop chair volunteers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: Rebecca Coen and Brian McLaughlin.



Pictured above (L-R): **Noeline Blackwell**, CEO, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, **Maura Butler**, Chairperson, ACJRD, and **Assoc. Prof. Liz Heffernan**, Trinity College Dublin.

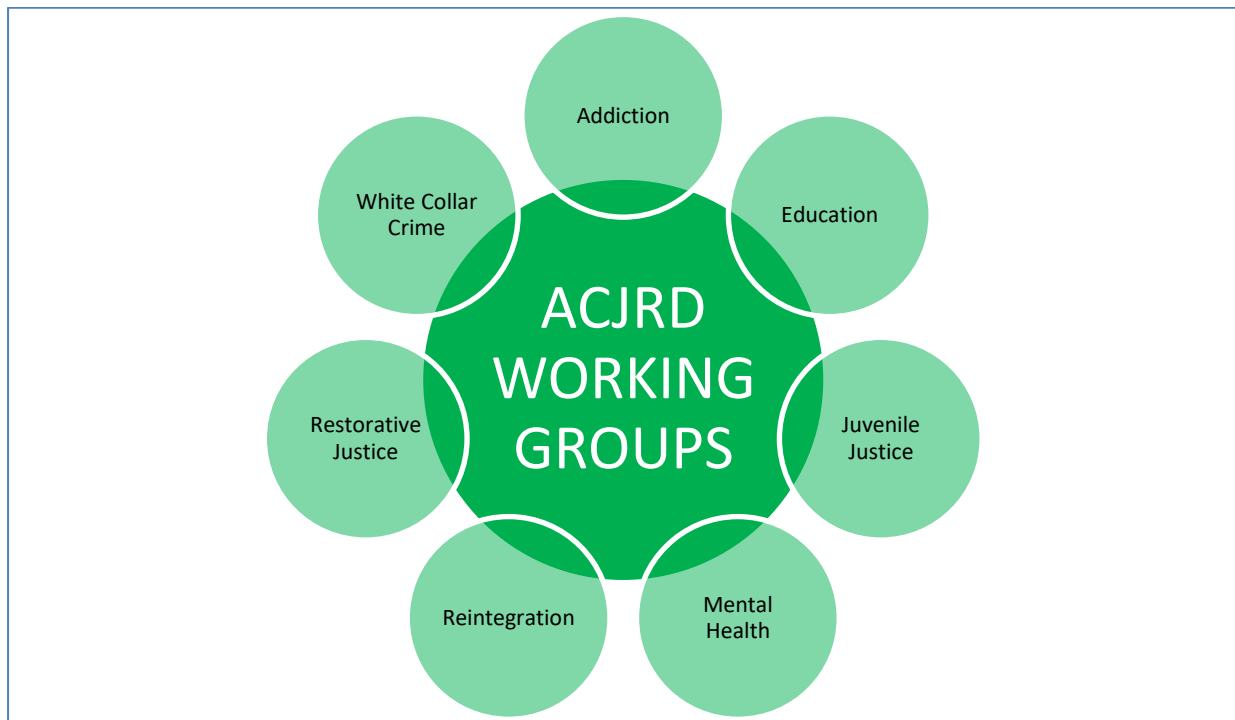
2. Membership

Three categories of ACJRD membership are on offer: Student €25.00, Individual €35.00 and Organisational membership €155.00. 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.

35 Organisations, 46 Individuals and 9 Students held membership of ACJRD in 2019.

3. ACJRD Working Groups



The ACJRD currently has the following working groups in operation:

- Addiction
- Education
- Juvenile Justice
- Mental Health
- Reintegration
- Restorative Justice
- White Collar Crime

At the Strategy Discussion and Training day in 2018 the highest priority goal identified was to *"Complete a rationalisation of the Working Group structure."*. A subsequent Strategy Implementation meeting was convened by Council members Maura Butler, Yvonne Daly and Patrick Clarke and was attended by Danelle Hannan and Katherine Daly from the ACJRD Office. Suggestions from this initial meeting were presented to the full Council furthering ongoing discussion.

Roundtable: Draft Oberstown Children Detention Campus Rules and Support Policies - 9th May 2019

The Chair of Oberstown Campus Detention Centre (OCDC), contacted ACJRD as a stakeholder in the field asking for input into their Draft Oberstown Children Detention Campus Rules and Support Policies document.

ACJRD invited members of its Juvenile Justice Working Group to a Roundtable to give feedback on the Draft document that had been shared with them, on a confidential basis with Oberstown's consent. The outcomes of the Roundtable were submitted to the Chair of Oberstown Campus Detention Centre for consideration.

Seminar on the Bail Supervision Scheme - 10th September, 2019

The ACJRD Juvenile Justice Working Group seminar '***Bail Supervision Scheme***' was held on Tuesday, 10th September, 2019, at the offices of the Irish Youth Justice Service at Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot St. Lower, Dublin 2.

This seminar was presented by:

- **Tony O'Donovan**, IYJS
- **Fiona Murphy**, Extern
- **Stephen Coughlan**, Extern
- **Dr. Catherine Naughton**, University of Limerick

In circumstances where there were reservations during court proceedings to grant bail to a young person accused of wrongdoing, The Bail Supervision Scheme (BSS) offers those courts an alternative option to detention by offering them the possibility of granting bail with intensive supervision.

By reducing the need for remand places, this also provides an opportunity to focus on developing successful community resources designed to prevent young people being detained in a youth justice facility and preventing them from entering further down the path of criminality. Further

information can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0a6bc8-evaluation-of-the-bail-supervision-scheme-for-children-pilot-scheme/>

To view the IYJS and Extern presentations please click [here](#)

To view Dr. Catherine Naughton's presentation please click [here](#)



Pictured above (L-R): **Maura Butler**, Chairperson ACJRD, **Fiona Murphy**, Extern, **Tony O'Donovan**, IYJS, **Dr. Catherine Naughton**, University of Limerick, and **Stephen Coughlan**, Extern.

Working Groups Annual Networking Event and PACE Seminar

- 2nd December 2019

The Annual ACJRD Working Groups Christmas Networking Event, took place in the Law Society of Ireland on Monday, 2nd December, 2019. The evening was an opportunity for ACJRD members and Working Groups to meet those with common interests, to renew acquaintances and share ideas.

This event featured the seminar "***PACE Working with people with convictions for harmful sexual behaviour***", presented by Dr. Lisa Cuthbert, CEO, PACE (Prisoner Aid through Community Effort). See <http://www.paceorganisation.ie/>.

[Click here](#) to view the presentation.



Pictured: **Dr. Lisa Cuthbert**, CEO, PACE

4. Research Collaborations

A Changing Landscape

In its formative days the ACJRD (then IASD) would commission research and or engage the services of researchers when the Association won a research tender. Nowadays ACJRD is often approached by third parties who require a civil society partner to engage in and or facilitate research that has been successfully tendered for.

Council Members engaged in discussions on the implementation of a Strategic Review that included a recalibration of how ACJRD could facilitate the criminal justice research community. It was agreed that our members would be best served by the Association facilitating both commissioners of research and individual researchers. These ideas were discussed intermittently during 2019, with an aim to implement the conclusions of deliberations of new structures during 2020.

5. Student Engagement

ACJRD Academic Sponsorship in Maynooth University

ACJRD continues its academic sponsorship with Maynooth University. Jana Khalil won the Maynooth University | ACJRD Best Criminal Law Essay (2019). The 2019 essay theme was "*Discuss critically (with reference to relevant case-law and academic commentary) whether the legal principles relating to a break in the chain of causation are satisfactory*".

Cliona Mooney, a student from Maynooth University completed a six-week placement with ACJRD in 2019. Maria Cleary, another student from Maynooth University, was the ACJRD summer volunteer for 2019, assisting in the ACJRD office prior to the ICJA Conference 2019.

Other Student Engagement

Students from University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, Maynooth University and the Law Society of Ireland acted as rapporteurs at the ACJRD Annual Conference and the Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference.



Pictured above: **Danelle Hannan**, ACJRD Manager, with the rapporteurs at the ICJA Conference 2019.

6. Newsletter

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.

Spring, Autumn and Winter newsletters were produced in 2019. Emails with "Items/Events of Interest" were also circulated in February and November 2019.

7. Commitment to Achieve Change - Submissions

ACJRD makes appropriate submissions in satisfaction of its mission and vision in areas where there is relevant expertise and interest. The views expressed in ACJRD submissions are those of ACJRD in its independent capacity and are not those of the ACJRD members' organisations or their employers. All submissions made by the ACJRD are available on our website <https://www.acjrd.ie/development>.

In September 2019, ACJRD made a submission to the Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on '*Online harassment, harmful communications and related offences*'. To view this submission, please [click here](#).

In December 2019, ACJRD made a submission to the Department of Justice and Equality on the *Public Consultation on 'Hate Speech'*. To view the submission, please [click here](#).

8. Governance

In 2019 the ACJRD Council was comprised of representation from the following: Department of Justice and Equality, The Probation Service, the Irish Prison Service, the Office of the DPP, An Garda Síochána, the Garda Síochána Inspectorate, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Revenue Commissioners, Dublin City University, University of Limerick, Trinity College Dublin, the Policing Authority, the Courts Service and an independent Chairperson.

The following ACJRD Council meetings took place during 2019:

22nd January, 2019, in the office of the Dept of Justice and Equality, 51 St. Stephen's Green, D2

6th March, 2019, in the office of the Policing Authority, 90 North King Street, Dublin 7

9th April, 2019, in the Irish Prison Service Offices, North Circular Road, Dublin 7

21st May, 2019, in the Meeting Room, Spade Enterprise Centre, North King Street, Dublin 7

2nd July, 2019, in the Meeting Room, Spade Enterprise Centre, North King Street, Dublin 7

3rd September, 2019, in the Irish Youth Justice Service office, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot St., D2

22nd October, 2019, in the Irish Prison Service Offices, North Circular Road, Dublin 7

3rd December, 2019 in the Meeting Room, SPADE Enterprise Centre, North King Street, Dublin 7

Council Training

Board Roles and Responsibilities training was undertaken by 14 Council Members and alternates during 2019. The remaining Council members will complete their training in 2020. Co. Secretary Training was also completed by Deirdre Manninger, Co. Secretary and Maura Butler, Chairperson. Maura Butler also completed a Governance Code Implementation training session.

Council representation

The ACJRD Council members have represented the Association at a number of events during the year. These have included:

- March 1st, Maura Butler attended a One Day Restorative Justice Symposium at Maynooth University.
- April 10th, Maura Butler attended the launch of the '*Women's Aid Impact Report 2018*' at the Wood Quay venue.
- April 26th, Maura Butler remotely attended a webcasted conference on '*Policing, Human Rights and Communities*' at NUI Galway.
- May 2nd, Gerry McNally attended the event '*New Directions for the Irish Legal System After Brexit?*' at the Sutherland School of Law, UCD.
- September 26th, Maura Butler attended the seminar and report launch '*Women's Aid Unheard and Uncounted: Women, Domestic Abuse and the Irish Criminal Justice System*', at the Wood Quay venue.
- November 6th, Maura Butler attended '*PACE 50 years supporting change*', at Dublin City Hall
- November 7th, Maura attended Butler '*Sexual Violence in Ireland: Past, Present and Future*', at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- November 14th, Maura Butler attended a *Charities Trustees week event*, at the office of Arthur Cox & Co Solicitors

9. AGM 2019

The ACJRD Annual General Meeting was held at the Richmond Education and Event Centre on Friday, 11th October, 2019, following the close of our annual conference. At this meeting of ACJRD members the association's Auditors, Browne Murphy and Hughes, presented the ACJRD audited accounts 2018 for adoption by members.

10. International Collaboration

The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network

In 2018 the ACJRD began a collaboration with Northumbria University and Queen's University Belfast on a UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network.

The UK-Irish Criminal Justice Cooperation Network is an initiative which is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by Northumbria University in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development in Ireland. The funding commenced on 1st October, 2018, and the project was initially intended to run for 18 months. The Network aims to bring together policymakers, practitioners and academics to consider the implications of Brexit for criminal justice cooperation between Ireland and the UK. A range of expertise to include academic, policy and practitioner perspectives have been considered, to ensure that the Network constructs maximum sharing of expertise for the benefit of all participants and their stakeholders.

The Network comprises a core group of approximately forty participants and aims to deliver three workshops where the Chatham House Rule¹ applied and a final conference with public access (in Northumbria University). Ireland's Network members were nominated by the ACJRD, many of them from amongst our membership.

Three workshops were held in 2019. The first workshop, "*Overview of Article 50 Negotiations Process and Principles and Policing Perspectives*", was held on 11th January, 2019, in the Law Society of Ireland, and was facilitated by ACJRD. The second workshop, "*The Changing Landscape in Criminal Justice: How to Keep the Lights On*" was held on 10th April, 2019, in Queen's University Belfast and facilitated by that university. The third workshop, "*UK-Irish Policing cooperation after Brexit: exploring European perspectives*" was held on 29th November, 2019, at the Law Society of Ireland, and was facilitated again by ACJRD. A Conference is scheduled to be held in Northumbria University in 2020.

¹ "When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed". <http://www.chathamhouse.org/about/chatham-house-rule>

The unknown nature of Brexit and the constant postponement of milestone dates have inevitably impacted the Network discussions. There are plans to publish the outcomes of these workshops and conference in due course.

11. Conference Collaborations

Neurodiversity and the Criminal Justice System Conference

This Conference was a collaboration of ADHD Ireland, University College Dublin, Maynooth University and ACJRD. The Conference, which was hosted by the Law Society of Ireland on 1st November, 2019, was opened by **Prof. Fiona McNicholas**, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, OLCHC, Crumlin & Lucena Clinic, SJOG. Chair of Academic Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, UCD. **Judge John O'Connor** chaired the Conference. Speakers included **Professor Susan Young**, Author, **Clare Hughes**, National Autistic Society (UK) Criminal Justice Manager, **Maria Ni Fhlatharta**, National University of Ireland Galway and Irish Penal Reform Trust, **Ann Norman**, Royal College of Nursing Professional lead for Learning Disability and Justice/Forensic Nursing UK, **Fiona Murphy**, Irish Criminal/Civil Justice & Disability Network, and **Professor Dame Sue Bailey**, Consultant Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist and Professor of Child and Adolescent Mental Health, A Conference panel discussion was chaired by **Dr Fiona Weldon** and the Conference was closed by **Maura Butler**, ACJRD.

12. Association Memberships

ACJRD is a member of the following organisations:

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 2019.

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 2019. IPRT has reciprocal membership in ACJRD.