



*Pictured above at the 27<sup>th</sup> ACJRD Annual Conference (L-R): Gerry O'Brien, Department of Justice; Mary Griffin, King's Inns and ACJRD; Minister Colm Burke; Maura Butler, ACJRD; Judge Patricia McNamara; Dr. Emma Regan, Irish Prison Service; and Assistant Commissioner Justin Kelly, An Garda Síochána.*

## ACJRD Events Calendar 2024

October 4th: **The 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference** (full day)

Keep an eye on [our Events page](#) for updates.

## Vacancies & Opportunities

The ACJRD is seeking an **experienced Treasurer**. Please [see details here](#).

**Webinar & Vacancy: Launching your EU Career: Opportunities in Crisis Management and Migration, 3 Jul**  
11am Brussels time. Register [here by 2 July](#). See also [EPSO recruitment notice](#), deadline **9 July**, at 12.00 (midday), Brussels time.

**Research Assistant with a knowledge of EU law, DANCING project** (Protecting Right to Culture of Persons with Disabilities & Enhancing Cultural Diversity through European Union Law: Exploring New Paths). Click [here for further details](#), deadline **9 July**.

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*Pictured: Mary Griffin, King's Inns and incoming Chairperson of ACJRD, and Maura Butler, Solicitor and retiring Chairperson of ACJRD.*

## Change of Chairperson for ACJRD

In a big change for ACJRD, Maura Butler retired as Chairperson at our Annual Conference on 12 June, having taken up the role in 2007. Maura served on the board of ACJRD since 2004.

During her time with ACJRD, along with our Council members, Maura guided ACJRD through activities – such as conferences, seminars and working groups – which were designed to lead to increased mutual understanding and provide insights into the problems with which all are confronted.

Along with the 2024 Annual Conference focus on the future of drug policy, prior ACJRD conferences during Maura's tenure have shone a spotlight on victims; preventable harm; cybercrime; unlocking the power of data; accountability and monitoring; Brexit; post-pandemic policy and practice; exit from custody; perspectives on sex offending; coercive control and domestic abuse; youth justice; women; minorities; social inclusion; and how gender impacts diverse experiences, among other themes.

The Irish Criminal Justice Agencies conferences, organised in collaboration with our partners in the criminal justice agencies, have considered race and migration; community; trauma responsiveness; evidence-informed decision making; penal policy reform; and human rights of vulnerable suspects and offenders, to name but a few.

We wish Maura a long and happy retirement, and are delighted to welcome our new Chairperson, Mary Griffin, CEO and Under Treasurer of the King's Inns, who will be taking up the role from Maura.

## ACJRD Events and Notices

### Save the date: Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference 2024

ACJRD are delighted to announce that the **Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference** (ICJA) on the theme of *'Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System: the Confluence of Welfare and Justice'* will take place on **Friday, 4th October 2024 (full day)** in Dublin Castle. Please [see further details on the ACJRD website](#).



### ACJRD 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

The **27<sup>th</sup> ACJRD Annual Conference** on the theme of *'Continuing the Conversation – The Future of Drug Policy in Ireland'* took place on 12 June in the Camden Court Hotel. ACJRD want to thank all those who contributed to this exploration of the rationale and implementation of Government Policy and the Citizens' Assembly Report recommendations.

The Annual Conference Address was made by Minister Colm Burke, Minister of State at the Department of Health with special responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, pictured above.

The presentations covered areas such as *the Drug Treatment Court; balancing policing of organised crime and drug decriminalisation policies; prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration; an international perspective on the decriminalisation of drugs; how to rectify major flaws in policies; recommendations to balance decriminalisation, diversion and dissuasion; policing drug markets; and addiction, drug use, crime & recovery.*

Plenary speakers included Judge Patricia McNamara; Assistant Commissioner Justin Kelly of An Garda Síochána; Dr. Emma Regan of the Irish Prison Service; Captain Filipe Correia Paulino of the Information & Criminal Investigation Section in Portugal; Prof. David Nutt of Imperial College London; Paul Reid who was Chairperson of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use; Dr. Johnny Connolly of the Research Evidence into Policy, Programmes and Practice project; and Ger Redmond, an ex-prisoner, now Professional Athlete.

*Continued...*

## Vacancies & Opportunities *cont.*

### **Eurojust Traineeships:**

**24/EJ/TRN/01 to 24/EJ/TRN/05.** Eurojust have announced Traineeships in: Budget, Finance and Planning; Events and Logistics; Genocide Network Secretariat and JITs Network Secretariat; Human Resources; Casework. For information about selection procedures [click here](#). Click [here for information on these Traineeships](#). Deadline **12 July** at 12 noon.

**Le Chéile Mentoring Volunteer Mentors Needed in Dublin City and North Dublin.** Le Chéile Mentoring provides a one-to-one mentoring service for young people who are at risk of offending and their parents. The role offers a first-hand opportunity to make a real impact in the lives of vulnerable young people by being a positive role model and providing support. See [further information here](#), deadline **26 July**.

**Minister McEntee invites expressions of interest for Chairpersons of new Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs).** The LCSPs will bring together a range of service providers & the community to examine/deliver on actions that will improve community safety. Click [here for further information](#).

**The Office of the Attorney General is now recruiting for Assistant Parliamentary Counsel Grade II and Advisory Counsel Grade III.** All details in relation to these competitions are available on [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie), deadline **11 July**.



Captain Filipe Correia Paulino, Chief of the Information & Criminal Investigation Section, Portugal presenting at the 27<sup>th</sup> ACJRD Annual Conference.

## RFQs

**RFQ for A Research and Summative Evaluation of the Barnahus West Project.** The Department would like to invite submissions on a Request for Quotes (RFQ) for A Research and Summative Evaluation of the Barnahus West Project - an integrated response to reduce trauma being experienced by children and their families as a result of child sexual abuse (CSA). Please email <mailto:Jamie.McCarthy@equality.gov.ie> and <mailto:eipp@equality.gov.ie> with queries or submissions. You can [download further information here](#). Deadline for clarifications **10 July 2024**.

## Call for Articles

**The Irish Criminal Law Journal**  
*The Irish Criminal Law Journal* has issued a call for article submissions for [2024] Volume 34 ICLJ Issues 1, 2, 3, and 4. The Journal welcomes article submissions on any aspect of criminal law, criminal justice, criminal procedure that pertains in Ireland. Comparative research articles with a significant focus on Ireland will also be considered. Click [here for further details](#).

*ACJRD Annual Conference continued...*

Conference attendees had the option to select between three parallel thematic sessions: *Supports Services for Drug Addiction - the Status Quo*, with inputs by Louise Mahoney of the Red Door Project, Kevin Byrne of Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement (DRIVE), Eddie Mullins of Merchants Quay Ireland and Andy O'Hara of UISCE; *Prevention - Policies & Practice*, with Dr Richard Healy of Service Users Rights in Action and Rachel Fayne, Davina Project (SAOL Project) presenting; and *Moving Towards Decriminalisation & Desistance*, which heard from Orla Brennan of Wheatfield Prison, Prof. Andrew Percy of Queen's University Belfast, and Dr Suzi Lyons of the Health Research Board. A report of the Conference will be available soon to download from [ACJRD's website](#).

## ACJRD's 17th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

ACJRD hosted the **17th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture**, with

[Maggie O'Neill](#), Professor in Sociology & Criminology, University College Cork, speaking on 'Women and the Criminal Justice System: Gender Matters' on the evening of **Thursday, 2 May 2024** in the Criminal Courts of Justice. The lecture drew upon a long history of research with women who come into conflict with the law, who engage with the criminal justice system as victims or offenders.

In keeping with Martin Tansey's life's work and the values he promoted that underpin independent criminal justice research, the lecture highlighted the usefulness of interdisciplinarity and creative methods for centring the narratives of the actors involved and developing pathways to better knowledge and understanding, education and reintegration.

The lecture paper is available [on the ACJRD website](#) along with papers from previous Martin Tansey Lectures.

## ACJRD's 'Juvenile Justice' Seminar

ACJRD were delighted to host an insightful online seminar on **Juvenile Justice**, with Dr Siobhán Buckley, [Ulster University School of Law](#), and Caroline Rutherford and Michelle Kennedy of [Extern](#) on **20 March 2024**.

Dr Siobhán Buckley spoke on "*Juvenile Justice: From a 'difficult sell' to no 'controversy'? Young adults and transitions in the criminal justice system*", Caroline Rutherford spoke about the "*Keep Safe Stay Safe Interventive Tool*", and Michelle Kennedy spoke about *Extern's Justice Service*.

A [recording of the seminar is now available on the ACJRD website](#) for access by **ACJRD members only** (if you wish to take out membership, please [click here for information](#)). Copies of the [presentations are also available to download](#).



*Pictured: Maura Butler and Maggie O'Neill with Katie Prendergast, CEO of ACJRD.*

## Latest News

### Barristers set to strike again over three days in July

In an escalation from a strike on October 3rd, when hundreds of barristers took part in their first ever national strike over the Government's failure to reverse recession-era cuts in legal fees, three further dates have been set for strike action. The dates barristers are set to strike are July 9th, 15th and 24th. See [article in The Irish Times here](#).

### Legislation aiding victims of human trafficking to be enacted

Minister Helen McEntee has said that legislation to enable more victims of human trafficking to come forward will be enacted. After the enactment of the *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Human Trafficking Bill) 2023*, a range of organisations will be able to formally receive reports of human trafficking. See the [report in Irish Legal News here](#).

### Minister McEntee publishes Courts, Civil Law, Criminal Law and Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024

Minister for Justice Helen McEntee has received Government approval to publish a wide-ranging Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, which she intends to enact by the Summer recess. The Bill will provide for an increase in the mandatory retirement age for uniformed public servants, including members of An Garda Síochána, Prison Officers and the Defence Forces, from 60 to 62 years of age. Click [here for further information](#).

### Over €75m in extra funding for prisons and police

An extra €75 million in funding for the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána was announced by Minister Helen McEntee. The additional funding brings the total capital allocation available for the justice sector in 2024-2026 to €930 million. The extra funding will be used to facilitate prison expansion, and improvements to key technology within An Garda Síochána. Click the following links for reports [in the Irish Legal News](#) or [the Law Society Gazette](#).

### Statement from the Courts Service regarding Pride 2024

The Courts Service issued a statement expressing solidarity with their LGBTQIA+ colleagues, family, friends, and court users despite disappointment at being asked not to attend in an official capacity by the Dublin and Limerick Pride parade organisers, due to security reasons. View [the statement here](#).

## You may have missed...

**Cabinet approval for increased sentences for knife-crime.** This will increase the maximum sentence for knife-crimes from 5 years to 7 years and will distinguish between the crime of possession of a knife and more serious offences such as having the intent use a knife. An increased sentence will also be seen for importing and selling knives to 7-10 years. Click [here to read](#).

**Open letter: Plan for prison expansion is a bad idea, The Irish Times.** The letter aims to rebut the assumption that imprisonment is an effective way of reducing or preventing crime and calls on the government to increase investment in areas such as restorative justice, victim support, addiction, poverty, social, youth and community work. Signatories include legal professionals, academics, Senators and TDs. Click [here to read the letter in The Irish Times](#).

**Increase on assaults on Gardaí and Politicians, Garda Representative Association.** The GRA has said that an emboldening of the far-right has led to increased assaults on both Gardaí and Politicians. This has led to Gardaí being afraid to pursue fleeing suspects and to use their discretion when helping citizens out of fear of being prosecuted. Click [here to view](#).

**Call to end the sharing of counselling notes in criminal justice process, Rape Crisis Network Ireland.** RCNI is calling for urgent action in Ireland following the amendments to British law announced that will raise the legal threshold for when rape survivors' counselling notes can be requested in investigations. Currently, Irish law risks re-traumatising survivors. See [full statement here](#).

## You may have missed...

***Ex-prisoners go from serving sentences to cappuccinos,*** Prisoners Aid through Community Effort was established in 1969 by Coolock residents who realised that former prisoners were in need of support after returning to live in the community. Since 2018, PACE began offering barista training and opened a coffee kiosk outside the Four Courts. Last summer, the business expanded to Bridgefoot Street Park. Maggie Clune, Acting CEO at PACE, spoke about the challenges facing people with criminal convictions. See the [report in Changing Ireland](#).

***Balancing the Scales of Injustice: Inside-Out - Criminal Justice & Social Justice*** booklet.

This booklet has been co-produced with students who participated in the UCC Inside-Out Prison Exchange Programme module called '*Inside-Out - Criminal Justice & Social Justice*'. The aim of this module is to give students an opportunity to critically engage with criminological ideas and explore the workings of the criminal justice system in an environment that places 'inside' and 'outside' students on an equal footing, as co-learners working together. [View the booklet here](#).

**Listen: *Global Freedom Fellowship Incarceration Nations Network* Podcast.**

Incarceration Nations Network are committed to transnational solidarity, intersectionality, working toward a world without prisons, and ensuring that those directly impacted by the justice system lead the way to its radical reimagining. James Leonard spent two weeks in South Africa with other 'formerly incarcerated leaders' from around the world. He did short interviews in Cape Town, which can be [viewed and listened to on Spotify here](#).

## Terms of Reference for inspection of the effectiveness of abuse of position investigations by OPONI

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) proposes to undertake an inspection of the effectiveness of Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (OPONI) investigations of cases involving Abuse of Position by Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Police Officers. The key organisations involved in this inspection are the OPONI, the PSNI and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPS). Representatives from voluntary and community sector organisations who provide support to victims and complainants will also be interviewed. See [further information and Terms of Reference here](#).

## Court Poor Box pays out over One Million Euro in 2023 to hundreds of charities across the country

The Courts Service published figures showing payments of over one million Euro from the Court Poor Box have been made to hundreds of charities across every county.

The fund exists as a means of helping largely first-time offenders avoid a conviction for more minor, non-violent crimes. Organisations dealing with addiction, poverty, homelessness, women's safety, medical services, hospice care and mental health have all benefitted from the dispersal of the fund. Click [here for further information](#).

## A Just Approach - Interview: Minister Helen McEntee, The Bar Review

Minister McEntee spoke to The Bar Review about proposed changes to the family courts system, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Agency, and the current status of proposed hate speech legislation. Click [here to read the interview](#).

## Anti-migrant and racist sentiments among prevalent hate crime motives

Anti-migrant, anti-nationality and racist sentiments have for the first time become the most prevalent motive for hate crimes, according to new garda figures. Gardaí said 651 hate crimes and hate-related incidents were reported last year, an increase of 12%. In 27% of all cases, the motive was racist, followed by anti-nationality at 18% and anti-sexual orientation in 16% of all cases. Gardaí said there are now over 500 Garda Diversity Officers working across the country who engage with minority communities and individuals on a daily basis. Click [here to see RTE report and listen to Morning Ireland interview](#) with Chief Superintendent Padraic Jones.

## 2023 Restorative justice referrals remain below pre-pandemic levels

New data show that the restorative justice caseload remained well below pre-pandemic levels. However, there is reason to believe that there may be an uptick in 2024. Click [here for further information](#).



Pictured: Judge Patricia McNamara speaking on 'The Drug Treatment Court, a Community Court in Action' at the 27<sup>th</sup> ACJRD Annual Conference.

## Recent Publications

### Double Jeopardy – Journal Article Publication

Dr Ger Coffey, Associate Professor, School of Law, University of Limerick, published a scholarly article entitled “*Double Jeopardy and Successive Prosecutions Based on the Same Prohibited Conduct: Equivalence of Approaches to Determining the Same Offence Dilemma in Comparative Perspective*” in (2024) 88(3) *Journal of Criminal Law*.

Post-acquittal retrials for substantially the same offence are possible in jurisdictions that have provided statutory modifications to the common law double jeopardy principle. Through doctrinal analysis of superior court jurisprudence in the United States, England and Wales, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, this article evaluates judicial formulations for determining the sameness of offences in comparative perspective. While the analysis is intrinsic to each jurisdiction, judicial formulations may nonetheless shed light on similar issues coming before courts of criminal justice in cognate jurisdictions. Click [here to view the article](#).

### Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) Business Plan

The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) has published its 2024-25 annual Business Plan and Inspection Programme. Click [here to view the plan on the CJINI website](#).

## To watch...

***Stolen Dreams: A New Video from the Archways Systemic Family Support Team.*** Archways Systemic Family Support have created an animation to highlight one of the many ways that young people are compelled, coerced, directed or deceived by an adult to engage in criminal activity. The initiative aims to inform young people and their families that there are alternatives to drugs and crime and that support is available to them to avoid or exit this lifestyle. View [further information here](#) or [watch animation on YouTube here](#).

***Changing Lives: The Inside Story of the Probation Service for Northern Ireland.*** This film shows the positive impact Probation has on those they supervise, those they support and in the Justice sector. This film is an opportunity for probation officers, a service user, an academic, a victim of crime and a judge to tell the story of Probation and its impact. Click [here to watch on YouTube](#).

***Webinar Recap: Tackling Disinformation and Building Media Literacy.*** Do you feel confident that you can recognise disinformation? Why do people believe disinformation? What role do social media platforms play? These questions and more were explored during The Wheel's recent webinar. Chris Coakley from the European Parliament kicked off the webinar with an overview of the EU's efforts to counteract disinformation. Dr Eileen Culloty from Media Literacy Ireland then delivered a session stressing the importance of distinguishing between various forms of disinformation. Finally, Dr Sara Singleton from TASC shared insights and outputs from their EU-funded project “Media Literacy for Democracy.” Click [here to watch the recorded webinar](#).

## Upcoming Events

***The Contribution of the United Nations War Crimes***

***Commission to International Criminal Law Hybrid workshop.***

July 12 at 09:30, Online & TSI Building Maynooth University. See [details here](#).

***Day of International Criminal Justice - 17 July.***

This marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The **Commemoration of the Day of International Criminal Justice will take place**, 17 July 2024, 15:00 to 16:30, United Nations Headquarters, New York. See [details here](#).

**2024 Forum on Criminal Justice**, August 11-13,

Washington, DC. See [details here](#).

**Supporting people with communication needs in the justice system**, August 15 and 22 (two-day training from ARC Scotland), online. See [details here](#).

**ICLPS 2024: International Conference on Law and Political Science**, August 29-30, Dublin – see [details here](#).

**ICLP 2024: International Conference on Law and Politics**, August 29-30, Dublin – see [details here](#).

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference**, October 4th (full day), Dublin Castle – see [details here](#).

## Irish Prison Service Drug Strategy 2023-2026

The *Irish Prison Service Statement of Strategy 2023-2027* and the *Irish Prison Service Drugs Strategy 2023-2026* mark a new chapter in the approach to imprisonment and substance abuse within the Irish prison system. Click here to view the [Irish Prison Service drugs strategy 2023-2026](#).

## Plan for Criminal Justice Reform, Centre for Justice Innovation, London

*Systems Shift, our ten-point plan for criminal justice reform* argues that a new Government needs to, first, prevent the system from overloading, and then, second, fundamentally shift how the criminal justice system operates, putting it on a path toward long-term recovery. Click [here to download the paper](#).

## Significant Barriers to accessing Mental Health Care in Prisons

A report published by Mental Health Reform on Mental Health Services and Supports in Prisons has found that despite recent progress in the prison system, there are still significant barriers when it comes to accessing mental health services in prisons.

The report highlights the need for increased funding and staffing to allow those in prison to avail of vital mental health services. It also makes 15 recommendations to the government on how to bring improvement to this area. These include aligning Irish Prison Service healthcare standards with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Click [here to read the report](#).

## New book highlights lack of oversight of police custody in Ireland

Edited by Prof Yvonne Daly from DCU's School of Law and Government, *Police Custody in Ireland* brings together experts from policing studies, law, criminology, and psychology, to critically examine contemporary police custody in Ireland, what we know about it, how it operates, how it is experienced, and how it might be improved. Click [here to view more detail about the book](#).

## Oversight of Policing Response to Child Sexual Abuse 2023

A report by the Policing Authority has found that police responses to child sexual abuse have substantially improved since 2017. Read [the report here](#).

## In all fairness: Article 4a of the 2002 Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant

The Bar Review: June 2024, Kieran Kelly BL on Article 4a of the 2002 Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant is intended to bring clarity to the issue of fair trial rights for persons convicted in absentia; however, case law would indicate that complexities remain. Click here to [view the Bar Review](#).

## The impact of court fines on people on low incomes: A data review

Centre for Justice Innovation, London, briefing by Phil Bowen. This review of publicly held data on court fines and those who receive them seeks to answer the following questions: How has the court fine been used over the past five years?; Which offences do people get fined for?; Who gets fined and what are the demographics of those individuals who receive fines?; And what are the outcomes associated with fines, specifically repayment rates, re-offending rates and imprisonment for fine default? This review is part of a research project looking at the impact of court fines on people on low incomes. Click [here to read the review](#).

## Thanks to our Rapporteurs



ACJRD want to thank our Volunteer Rapporteurs - Alice Coady, Ruairi Holohan, Erin Grealis and Emma Canning (pictured L-R above) - who provided us with invaluable support during our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on 12 June, and with various other endeavours.

## ACJRD Membership 2024

Memberships run for the calendar year January to December and entitle members to discounts for our Annual Conference, preferential bookings for certain events and invitations to a limited number of member-only events.

Three types of ACJRD membership are available: Individual Membership €35.00, Organisational Membership €155, Student Membership €25.

Click here for [further information on ACJRD Membership](#).

## ACJRD Website Updates

ACJRD are adding notices of events, vacancies, research calls and articles of interest to our [News section of the ACJRD website](#), so keep an eye on this section for notices that we receive between newsletters.

## ACJRD Mailing List

To sign up for the mailing list [please click here](#).

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie) stating 'unsubscribe' in the subject line of the email.

To submit notices for the ACJRD newsletter and website, please email [enquiries@acjrd.ie](mailto:enquiries@acjrd.ie)

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