



Left: Senator Fiona O'Loughlin speaking about the 'Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence' at the ACJRD Annual Conference

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ACJRD Events Calendar 2025

October 10th: **The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference** (full day) focussing on youth detention matters. Details to follow.

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

Other Events

[Expert Voices webinar: The value of HOPE in the Family Justice System](#), CJINI, 30 June (online).

[An Omni-crisis in international law: Iran, Israel and Gaza](#). Transitional Justice Institute-Ulster University. 8 July, online.

[International Conference on Deradicalization and Radicalization](#), 28-29 August, Dublin.

[EUROCRIM 2025 Conference](#), 3-6 September in Athens, Greece.

[Ethnic inequalities in the Criminal Justice System: Evidence from the Crown Court in England and Wales](#), 23 October (online).

ACJRD's 28th Annual Conference 2025

ACJRD's **28th Annual Conference** on the theme of '**Opportunities and Challenges of Technological Innovation in the Criminal Justice System**' took place in Dublin on 12 June. The conference offered a timely platform to explore how digital transformation can enhance justice delivery. As advances in AI, digital surveillance, forensic science, and data analytics rapidly reshape the criminal justice landscape, the need for thoughtful, informed dialogue has never been greater.

We are very grateful to the speakers for their thoughtful and informative exploration of the issues. The speakers included **Senator Fiona O'Loughlin**, **Chief Inspector Jacqui Durkin** of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, **The Hon. Ms. Justice Nuala Jackson**, Judge of the High Court, **Professor Jens Erik Paulsen** of the Norwegian Police University College, **Chief Superintendent Derek Smart** of An Garda Síochána, **Heather O'Shea** of Barnardos' Dóchas Project, **Donna Creaven** of Irish Prison Service, **Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche** of Maynooth University, **Saoirse Brady** of Irish Penal Reform Trust, **Tricia Keilthy** of the Ombudsman for Children's Office, **Dr Brian Barry** and **Chris Greene**, both from Trinity College Dublin and **Donna O'Leary** of DOL Consultancy.

The conference explored the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, AI hallucinations, questions about transparency of AI's methodology, AI and children's rights, along with the benefits such as AI's data analysis abilities, speed of translation and transcription, and cost reduction.

Other aspects of technology explored included data sharing systems, digital presentation of evidence, body worn cameras, drones and facial recognition technology, the need to maintain digital literacy for prisoners to integrate back into their communities, and the impact of video technology - including connecting prisoners with their families through video calls. It also explored the views of the Irish judiciary on technology in the courts.

The [conference programme is available on ACJRD's website](#), and a conference report will be available shortly.

Latest News

Women's Aid Impact Report launched

The Women's Aid Annual Impact Report 2024 revealed that it has recorded the highest level of both contacts by victim-survivors and disclosures of domestic abuse in its 50-years history. Click [here for the press release and to view the impact report](#).

Excessive legal costs: More than 100 complaints upheld by regulator

The Irish Times, 26 June 2025. The report said 143 of the more than 1,400 complaints finalised against legal practitioners last year were upheld, while more than 40 per cent were inadmissible. Click [here to view article](#).

PCSA publishes Assessment of Policing Performance during 2024

PCSA, 23 June 2025. An assessment of An Garda Síochána's policing performance throughout 2024 by the Policing and Community Safety Authority (PCSA) has found that only four of 18 targets were fully achieved, nine partially met and five not achieved. Findings include recruitment and retention remain key challenges; ICT systems lag behind; progress has been made on public order policing and detection rates for 'Lifesaver' offences; there is continued success on organised and serious crime; the Performance Assessment Framework has contributed positively to the consistency of incident and governance management. Click [here to access the report](#).

New report recommends specialist legal service for children

The Irish Times, 17 June 2025. A new report by Caoilfhoinn Gallagher, Ireland's child protection rapporteur, has made a key recommendation for the establishment of a specialist children's legal service with a particular focus on the practice and promotion of child-friendly justice. It recommends that priorities should be reviewed to ensure commitments in relation to children's rights include an access to justice component. Click here to [view the article in The Irish Times](#).

10% of those attending SATUs reported multiple assailants

Irish Examiner, 22 June 2025. The latest annual report of the country's six sexual assault treatment units (SATUs) shows the proportion of cases where someone has been sexually assaulted by two or more individuals increased to 10%; the share of incidents where the perpetrator was described as a stranger also increased to 31% last year. Overall, the report shows the number of people attending the HSE-funded SATUs fell by 4% last year. Click [here to read the Irish Examiner article](#).

Call for Research / Abstracts

[Scottish Institute for Policing Research Responsive Research Fund – Policing & Visibility](#). Deadline for Notifications of Intent to apply: **4 July 2025**.

[Policing and Society Conference](#) 'De-escalation' [1-2 October, Iceland] call for abstracts. Deadline: **15 August 2025**.



Above: The 28th ACJRD Annual Conference on the theme of 'Opportunities and Challenges of Technological Innovation in the Criminal Justice System'



Above: Chief Inspector Jacqui Durkin of Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, Chief Superintendent Derek Smart of An Garda Síochána, ACJRD's Chairperson Mary Griffin and Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche of Maynooth University at the ACJRD Annual Conference

Vacancies

[Senior Principal Prosecutor – Cork Region](#). The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP). Deadline: **Friday, 27 June at 3:30pm**.

[Policy Officer for Knowledge Management](#). European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management (Berlin). Deadline: **29 June 2025 at 23:59 (CET)**.

[Head of Unit Administration](#). The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). Deadline: **30 June at 13:00**.

Vacancies

[Seconded National Expert.](#)

Europol, Terrorist Propaganda Analysis & Referrals in the EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU) of the European Counter Terrorism Centre, Operations Directorate. Deadline: **2 July**, 23:59 Amsterdam Time Zone.

[CEO.](#) International Law

Association. Deadline: **4 July** at 17:00 Hrs (BST).

[Head of Department – European Financial & Economic Crime](#)

[Centre.](#) Europol. Deadline: **14 July** at 23:59 (CEST).

[State Solicitor.](#) Chief State

Solicitor's Office. Deadline: **16 July** at 3pm.

[Trainee Solicitor Programme.](#)

Chief State Solicitor's Office. Deadline: **16 July** at 3pm.

[Specialist – OCG Operational Coordination Team,](#) EU

Organised Crime Unit. Deadline: **21 July 2025**, 23:59 Amsterdam Time.

[Specialist - Technology &](#)

[Development,](#) Data-driven

investigation support. EU Organised Crime Unit. Deadline: **22 July**, 23:59 Amsterdam Time.

[Money Laundering Reporting](#)

[Officer.](#) An Post. Deadline: Not disclosed.

[Global Financial Crimes](#)

[Compliance - Vice President.](#) J.P

Morgan. Deadline: Not disclosed.

[International Protection Panel and Repatriation Panel.](#) No

closing date.

Cork crime series sheds light on the criminal justice system

Irish Examiner, 20 June 2025. The Irish Examiner are publishing a series on crime in Cork - a multimedia project including the written word, visual media, and podcasts. Included in the series are the 10 most common offences, different parts of the city and crimes broken down according to gender. (Subscriber content included).

- [Homeless people account for a quarter of jail terms, new 'Irish Examiner' study reveals](#)
- [Court reports are a snapshot of many messy realities in our community](#)
- [Cork crime and jail time: Methodology statement](#)

Government's plan for permanent non-jury court may require a referendum

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) has warned that the government's plan to replace the Special Criminal Court with a new permanent non-jury court may require a referendum. Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan last month indicated that [he supports in principle](#) the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Independent Review Group, and that he intends to establish a permanent non-jury court. Click [here to view the ICCL website](#).

New Counter-Terrorism Bill to Broaden Scope of Offences

On 10 June 2025, Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan received Cabinet authorisation to publish the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Bill 2025. The Bill expands the extent of terrorist offences to incorporate cyber-attacks and cross-border threats, presents new offences related to terrorist travel and training, and aligns Irish law with EU standards to enhance cooperation across varying member states. Click [here to view press release](#).

Commissioner Harris Defends Garda Reforms Amid Criticism in Final Report

RTE, 9 June 2025. Garda Commissioner Drew Harris has released a report outlining significant changes made under his leadership since 2018. Whilst the report highlights increased public trust and the largest-ever Garda fleet, it has been confronted with criticism by Garda representative bodies. Click [here to view the RTE report](#).

Garrett Croke elected as Vice President of NEIWA

Garrett Croke, Deputy Director from Fiosrú has been elected as Vice President of the Network of European Integrity and Whistleblowing Authorities (NEIWA). Click [here to view details](#).

Overcrowding in Irish Prisons Tied to Surge in Judicial Appointments

The Irish Times, 6 June 2025. The head of the Irish Prison Service, Caron McCaffrey, has informed the Department of Justice that the volume of individuals in prison has reached dangerous numbers, raising serious welfare concerns for staff and inmates. In a letter from 2024, McCaffrey associated the crisis with the appointment of 20 new judges, which led to a further 600 court sittings and a rise in prison numbers. McCaffrey is pushing for action on temporary release rules and advised against the introduction of any additional measures that would worsen the strain. Click [here to view the article in the Irish Times](#).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its use in the legal profession

Law Society Gazette, 20 May 2025. Dr David Cowan, Assistant Professor at the MU School of Law and Criminology recently published an article in the Law Society Gazette Ireland entitled, 'Let me put it to you'. The publication considers Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its use in the legal profession considering pros and cons throughout. The article is taken from Dr Cowan's upcoming book Law and Technology (Bloomsbury Professional Ireland, 2025). Click [here to view the article in the Law Society Gazette](#).

120 New Gardaí Attest at Templemore

Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan has welcomed the attestation of 120 Gardaí at the Garda College in Templemore. All additional recruits will be deployed across the country, with more than half assigned to the Dublin Metropolitan Region. This is part of the government's commitment to recruiting 5,000 Gardaí over a five-year period. Click [here to view press release](#).

Department of Justice's Updated Name

As of 5 June 2025, the Department of Justice has formally updated its name to the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. This change reflects the expanded remit of the Department following the transfer of functions. It better captures our growing responsibilities and provides greater clarity to the public about the full scope of our work.

Ireland and UAE Strengthen Criminal Justice Cooperation

On 4 June 2025, Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan and His Excellency Abdullah bin Sultan Al Nuaimi, Minister of Justice of the UAE, delivered a joint statement on enhanced cooperation in criminal justice matters. The statement followed the extradition of an Irish national involved in a murder and criminal organisation, as determined by the Dubai Court of Cassation. Click [here to view the press release](#).

You may have missed...

[DPP says document disclosure process in criminal cases needs revisiting](#), RTE, 27 March 2025.

[ProtectEU – a new European Internal Security Strategy](#) launched, European Commission, 1 April 2025.

[Emerging criminal threats targeted by INTERPOL's European Regional Conference](#), INTERPOL, 2 June 2025.

[DDoS-for-hire empire brought down](#) [Distributed denial of service], Europol, 7 April 2025.

[Global crackdown on Kidflix](#), a major child sexual exploitation platform. Europol, 2 April 2025.

[Policing and Community Safety Authority \(PCSA\)](#) established, PCSA 2 April 2025. It is a successor organisation to the Policing Authority and Garda Síochána Inspectorate taking on most of their existing functions.

[Fiosrú, the Office of the Police Ombudsman](#) established as the new Policing Oversight agency/body, replacing the [Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission](#) (GSOC). Fiosrú, 2 April 2025.

[Tosú](#) website and new strategy launched (formerly the Irish Association for Social Inclusion Opportunities [IASIO]).

Study

Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)

HELP is the main educational Programme of the Council of Europe for legal professionals. Its aim is to train judges, prosecutors and lawyers, but also other professionals, where relevant, on European human rights standards. As well as the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, HELP covers other Council of Europe instruments such as the European Social Charter or CoE Conventions in key areas like data protection, violence against women or bioethics. In order to access them, you will need to create a HELP account (click [here to create/login to your HELP account](#)). To [view the catalogue of courses click here](#).



Above: Chief Inspector Jacqui Durkin, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, who spoke on 'Transforming the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland: A Strategic Overview' at the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Dr Cormac Behan of Maynooth University at the ACJRD Annual Conference

Record Low in Garda Roads Policing Staff

The Irish Times, 4 June 2025. According to figures from the Department of Justice, the quantity of gardaí assigned to roads policing has dropped significantly to a historic low of just 618. This marks a substantial decrease from 1,046 officers in 2009, with reductions observed across all regions. Despite recruitment efforts, campaigners warn that road safety is being compromised, predominantly in areas like Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, where road deaths have risen. Click [here to view the article in the Irish Times](#).

Record Helpline Contacts Expose Scale of Sexual Violence

The Irish Times, 29 May 2025. In 2024, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre received over 22,000 contacts, a 22% rise from 2023. The surge in contacts underlines the "scale of our sexual violence epidemic." According to the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre more than half were first-time callers, while also reporting a worrying rise in cases involving physical restraints. Click [here to view the article in the Irish Times](#).

Publication of the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025

April 2025, Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan secured Cabinet approval to progress historic reforms to Ireland's asylum laws in conjunction with the EU Migration and Asylum Pact. The proposed International Protection Bill 2025 intends to update the asylum process and reduce decision making times. Subsequently, introducing faster returns for applicants who fail to meet protection criteria. These reforms will guarantee fairer, more efficient system, while also protecting the rights of those seeking international protection. Click [here to view the press release](#).

New measures brought in for child defendants

30 April 2025. Following engagement with the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO), the Department of Justice has introduced a new court accompaniment service for child defendants, which is being rolled out in over 100 youth diversion projects across the country throughout 2025. The Ombudsman for Children's Office report [Child Centred Justice: support for child defendants in the Irish court system](#) outlines the lack of support previously provided to child defendants and the work undertaken to address this deficit. Click [here to view press release](#).

News – Northern Ireland

Tributes after ‘exceptional’ former chief of Prison Service passes away

Belfast Telegraph, 23 June 2025. Tributes have been paid over the weekend to the former head of the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Robin Masefield CBE, who has passed away after a short illness. Mr Masefield served as Director General of the NI Prison Service for six years from 2004 to 2010 and previously headed the Government’s team that implemented the recommendations of the Patten Commission on Policing. Click [here to view the Belfast Telegraph article](#).

NI Justice Minister calls for stronger protections for police officers

The Brief NI, 19 June 2025. Justice Minister Naomi Long used the launch of a new Police Federation awareness drive to denounce the recent wave of violence against Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) officers and staff after a week in which more than 60 officers were injured during rioting. Adam McBride looks at key point from the Minister’s speech, what remains unclear, the broader context and questions worth asking. Click [here to view article in The Brief NI](#).

Non-Jury Trials to be Extended

The UK Parliament have approved an extension of the non-jury provisions under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007. Such provisions, permit criminal cases to be tried without the involvement of a jury prompted by risks of intimidation or interference. These provisions will remain in place until July 31st, 2027. Click [here to view the Draft Justice and Security \(Northern Ireland\) Act 2007 \(Extension of Duration of Non-jury Trial Provisions\) Order 2025 debate transcript](#).

Illegal Working Crackdown Results in Almost 150 Arrests

Belfast Telegraph, 7 June 2025. Since July 2024, because of the UK Government’s increased efforts to combat illegal immigration and employment, almost 150 arrests have been made in Northern Ireland. The Immigration Enforcement teams have conducted 113 enforcement visits targeting sectors like construction, retail, and beauty services. One major raid of Belfast’s Titanic Quarter resulted in 36 arrests, including a 16-year-old. The Home Office stressed that illegal working frequently involves exploitation, including underpayment and unsafe working conditions. Employers found guilty may face fines up to £60,000 per worker and possible criminal charges. This crackdown is a part of the Labour Governments wider “Plan for Change” to reform the immigration system. Click [here to see the Belfast Telegraph article](#).

Watch/Listen

[Natasha documentary](#), RTÉ Player. Natasha O’Brien, a young woman from Limerick who survived a violent assault by a serving soldier, speaks of her experiences of criminal justice.

[How crime is accelerated by AI](#), The Europol Podcast - hear from law enforcement experts across the EU, all based at Europol HQ, about the latest trends in cybercrime: online child sexual exploitation and abuse material, ransomware, crime-as-a-service, and AI’s role as an enabler.

[Webinar recording: Growing up in Ireland: substance use and childhood adversity](#). In 2022, the HRB in collaboration with Trinity College Dublin began analysing a longitudinal study of substance use among young people. Dr Deirdre Mongan provides an overview of the study and its progress, followed by a panel discussion. Click [here to access the blog](#).

[The changing DNA of crime](#), The Europol Podcast, May 2025. The battle against serious and organised crime is now fought in cyberspace, in AI labs, dark-web markets, and the shadows of geopolitics. In this episode, you’ll find out about the transformation of organised crime, as identified in Europol’s flagship report, the [EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment \(EU-SOCTA\)](#) and how the EU is responding.

Watch/Listen

[Investigation of offences and criminal case prosecution](#), Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) podcast. CJI has a wide range of organisations in its statutory remit, including some that investigate and prosecute offences. Guests discuss the inspection of investigations of offences and criminal cases by Departments and other bodies.

[An Interview with Sgt Patrick O'Donnell, Ireland Crimes and Mysteries podcast](#). A retired sergeant discusses insight from his law enforcement career and transition into writing and podcasting. O'Donnell discloses the realities of police work, incorporating memorable cases, the significance of community policing and the challenges and rewards of the job.

[The Stardust Tragedy, The Irish Sun podcast](#). Through interviews with survivors and families, the podcast series presents the decades-long fight for justice and accountability.

[Women and Crime – Female Voices in Justice](#). Hosted by criminologists Dr. Meghan Sacks and Dr. Amy Sholsberg. Women and Crime investigates cases involving women as offenders, victims and changemakers.

[The Witness - In His Own Words](#). In 2005, at age 12, Joseph O'Callaghan testified against a Dublin gang, becoming Ireland's youngest state witness and Ireland's youngest person to enter the Witness Protection Programme in Ireland. 'In His Own Words' is a documentary podcast series produced by the team behind The Stand with Eamon Dunphy.

Commissioner for Victims of Crime Reappointed to Resume Reform Work

5 June 2025. Justice Minister Naomi Long has formally prolonged Geraldine Hanna's term as Commissioner Designate for Victims of Crime for a subsequent two years, until June 2027. The role was constructed to magnify the voices of victims, promote their rights under the Victim Charter, and push for a more victim-centred justice system. This extension guarantees continuity as the Department plans to appoint a statutory Commissioner in the future. Click [here to view press release](#).

Warning Over Disability Benefit Cuts: 15,000 in Danger of Severe Poverty

Belfast Telegraph, 9 June 2025. A new report from the Trussell Trust warns the proposed UK Government reductions to health and disability benefits could force over 15,000 Northern Irish people into severe hardship. Over the past five years, Trussell Trust underlines a 71% rise in food bank use. The charity pushes the government to reconsider what it calls a "cruel" and "ill-considered" cuts. Advocates, such as Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC), are crying out for compassionate policymaking to protect vulnerable communities. Click [here to view the Belfast Telegraph article](#).

International News

Why is the manosphere on the rise? UN sounds alarm over online misogyny

UN News, 21 June 2025. A growing network of online communities known collectively as the "manosphere" is emerging as a serious threat to gender equality, as toxic digital spaces increasingly influence real-world attitudes, behaviours, and policies, the UN agency dedicated to ending gender discrimination has warned. Click [here to view article on UN News website](#).

US decision to sanction ICC judges 'deeply corrosive' to justice

UN News, 6 June 2025. The United States have imposed sanctions on four judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC had formerly issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and previous Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. The ICC has described the sanctions as an attempt to challenge its impartial work and global mandate. This development raises genuine questions surrounding the independence of international justice mechanisms, the politicization of accountability, alongside the future of global cooperation in prosecuting war crimes. Click [here to view the UN News website](#).

Ministers call on tech firms for ‘bold ideas’ to tackle justice system crisis

Irish News, 7 May 2025. Shabana Mahmood urged companies including Microsoft, Amazon Web Services and Google to work with ministers as part of Government plans to use technology to overhaul the justice system. Click [here to view article in the Irish News](#).

Teenagers recruited as hitmen: Denmark and Sweden

Europol, 19 June 2025. A coordinated effort led by Denmark’s National Special Crime Unit, with the support of the Swedish Police and Europol under the Operational Taskforce GRIMM, has resulted in the arrest of several individuals suspected of recruiting others to carry out contract killings in Denmark. These cases are part of a growing trend observed across Europe, where youngsters are recruited online to carry out violent crimes, often across borders. Click [here to view Europol press release](#).

Unpacking Criminal Detention Rules and Regulations Across the EU

In 2025, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released an updated form of its online criminal detention database. This update contains national standards, laws and monitoring reports on detention conditions from across the EU and United Kingdom. Click [here to access](#).

Learning from the world: How global innovations can shape UK policing

[Policing Tomorrow](#) magazine explores two international innovations. Firstly, the Netherlands’ National Police Lab AI (NPAL) - a partnership between the Dutch National Police, Utrecht University, and the Delft University of Technology, aiming to make policing safer, smarter, and fairer by integrating scientific knowledge into how technology is evaluated and deployed.

Secondly, Western Australia Police and digital engineering company Akkodis’s tool Söze, designed to simplify complex digital investigations. Söze gathers large amounts of digital data and can sift through evidence from different forensic sources in 137 languages. Söze does not rely on Generative AI, avoiding the risks of fabricated or false data. Instead, it acts as augmented intelligence, boosting human analysis without replacing it. Click here to [access the article in issue 2 of Policing Tomorrow](#).

Psychosis survey 2024. Perspectives on breaking stigma & improving support

April 2025, Shine, Mental Health Reform, HSE National Clinical Programme for Early Intervention in Psychosis. Click [here to view information and access the report](#).

Watch/Listen

[The Pro Bono Fight for Victims: Campaigns, Inquiries & Commissions](#), Voluntary Assistance Scheme Podcast Series, 30 May 2025. The third instalment of the series looks at the pro bono work required to assist the victims of historic injustice. Diarmuid Brecknell, Phoenix Law Solicitors, and Andrew McKeown BL talk about inquests, inquiries and campaigns and the intense yet rewarding work required to assist victims.

Glasgow beat its youth violence reputation once. Can it do it again? Alistair Fraser, June 2025, in the [The Bell](#) writes about his new podcast [Young Warriors](#) where he learns about youth violence in Glasgow, and how projects like G20 are helping turn lives around.



Above: Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche of Maynooth University and Heather O'Shea of Barnardos' Dóchas Project at the ACJRD Annual Conference

A selection of pictures from the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, An Garda Síochána, who spoke on 'Improving the Digital Evidence Journey using Body Worn Cameras' at the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Prof Jens Erik Paulsen from The Norwegian Police University College, who spoke on 'Moral Responsibility in Digital Policing' at the ACJRD Annual Conference

The role of policing in UK economic growth

Commissioned by the Office of the National Police Chief Scientific Adviser, Crest Advisory and RSM Consulting undertook research into the role of UK policing in economic growth. The research sought to understand what evidence exists, as well as conceptualise the links, both evidence and hypothetical, between policing activities and economic impacts. This included recommendations to improve the evidence base and a logic model to better evaluate economic impacts in the future. Click here to read the full report: [The role of policing in UK economic growth](#).

Psychosis survey 2024. Perspectives on breaking stigma & improving support

April 2025, Shine, Mental Health Reform, HSE National Clinical Programme for Early Intervention in Psychosis. Click [here to view information and access the report](#).

Commission presents Roadmap for effective and lawful access to data for law enforcement

The European Commission presented a Roadmap setting out the way forward to ensure law enforcement authorities in the EU have effective and lawful access to data. The Roadmap focuses on six key areas: data retention, lawful interception, digital forensics, decryption, standardisation and AI solutions for law enforcement. Find out more:

- [Roadmap for effective and lawful access to data for law enforcement](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Cybercrime](#)
- [High-Level Group \(HLG\) on access to data for effective law enforcement](#)

Recent Publications

Review of the In Camera Rule in Family Law Proceedings

May 2025, Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan has published a significant research report on the operation of the in-camera rule in family law proceedings. The report, directed by a team from University of Cork and Trinity College Dublin, examines the balance between privacy and the protection of those involved in family law cases. Ultimately, ensuring transparency within the justice system. Click [here to view the press release](#). The report can be found here: [The Operation of the In Camera Rule in Family Law Proceedings](#).

Steal, deal and repeat: How cybercriminals trade and exploit data

Europol, June 2025: The 2025 Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) report *Steal, deal and repeat: How cybercriminals trade and exploit your data* takes a deep-dive into how cybercriminals trade and exploit illegal access to data and how they commodify these good and services. Click [here to access the IOCTA report](#).

‘You no have to treat me with your hate’: The needs and experiences of female foreign national prisoners

Maria Cleary, PhD Candidate, Dr David Doyle, Senior Lecturer and Dr Joe Garrihy, Associate Professor all in the Maynooth University, School of Law and Criminology, have recently published an article in *European Journal of Criminology*. Female foreign national prisoners (FFNPs) are a distinct cohort of prisoners with specific experiences and characteristics. These women not only experience the gendered pains of imprisonment but also endure the additional challenges associated with being a foreign national prisoner. Yet although these women suffer multiple layers of disadvantage, little is known about the critical problems that define the daily lived experiences of FFNPs during their imprisonment. This article aims to open up these areas of inquiry in an Irish context and examine the needs and experiences of 13 FFNPs residing in the Dóchas Centre. Click [here for more information](#).

New Report: Major Developments and Trends on Terrorism in Europe in 2024

This flagship report – the only one of its kind in Europe - describes the major developments and trends in the terrorism landscape in the EU in 2024, based on qualitative and quantitative information provided by EU Member States and other Europol partners. Access [Europol's European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2025 \(TE-SAT\)](#).

Women attending the sexual assault treatment unit services in the Republic of Ireland: A 7-year review

Sexual assault is pervasive in today's society, with the numbers of those reporting it increasing. In Ireland, 50% of women will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime. This review sought to describe the incident details of females presenting to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) network in the Republic of Ireland and to determine associations between incident characteristics and: (1) victim age, (2) presence of injury, (3) victim-perpetrator relationship, and (4) number of assailants. Click here to access the [review in the International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics](#).

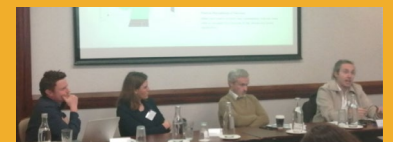
The ACJRD Annual Conference Thematic Sessions



Above: Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche and Dr Cormac Behan, both of Maynooth University, Donna Creaven of Irish Prison Service and Heather O'Shea who took part in the thematic session on 'Applications of Technology in the Criminal Justice System' at the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Tricia Keilthy from the Ombudsman for Children's Office, Prof Ian O'Donnell of UCD Sutherland School of Law and Saoirse Brady of Irish Penal Reform Trust, along with volunteer rapporteur Saoirse Breathnach, who took part in the thematic session on 'Human Rights and Ethical Issues in the Use of Technology in the Criminal Justice System' at the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Dr Brian Barry of TCD, Donna O'Leary of DOL Consultancy, James O'Mahony of Revenue Commissioners and Chris Greene of TCD, who took part in the thematic session on 'Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Criminal Justice System' at the ACJRD Annual Conference

A selection of pictures from the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: The 28th ACJRD Annual Conference on the theme of 'Opportunities and Challenges of Technological Innovation in the Criminal Justice System'



Above: The thematic session on 'Applications of Technology in the Criminal Justice System' at the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Lauren Hayden and Kissmat Salami at the registration desk for the ACJRD Annual Conference

Review of Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland)

The 2025 annual review of the [Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2021](#) Year Two Progress Review assesses the progress made and actions taken towards implementing the recommendations from the [2024 Review Report](#). Click [here to download the report](#).

The review found encouraging cultural change in how domestic abuse was understood and dealt with by those working within the criminal justice system; the Information Sharing Agreement required more collaboration; progress was made in the development of a PSNI-PPS Prosecution Team approach to domestic abuse; completion rates for the e-learning course providing statutory guidance on the Act were low; no meaningful progress on annual domestic abuse training was found; there were positive developments of an IT solution to prevent Section 15 domestic abuse aggravators being missed; and urgent, collaborative action was needed to ensure accuracy and completeness in the recording of the impact of domestic abuse aggravation on sentencing at Court. Click [here to view more information](#).

Reducing the criminalisation of children in the care system

The Centre for Justice Innovation's new report, produced in partnership with [the Centre for Care](#), looks at the reasons that children in contact with the social care system face higher risks of criminal justice involvement and explores practical responses. Access [Safeguarding Futures: Reducing the risk of criminal justice involvement for children in contact with the social care system](#).

CJINI - Listening to the Public

The Centre for Justice Innovation is proud to be incubating the [Common Ground Justice Project](#), which aims to engage and listen to members of the public, finding common ground on which people can agree for a more thoughtful and effective justice system. In collaboration with More In Common, the initiative has published 'Course Correction', the results of opinion poll surveys and focus groups designed to begin to understand the complexity and nuance of differing attitudes to crime and justice. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the research confirms that most people are not at the extremes that while they want punishment to be swift and certain, they also want people to have better access to rehabilitation and support for those who need it. There are unifying messages to be found in the research, not least that the public want people who commit crimes to demonstrably make amends and contribute back to their community. We look forward to further supporting this initiative in the months to come. Click [here to access the report](#).

Global Prison Trends 2025: A Critical Look at Global Justice Systems

The Global Prison Trends 2025 report, published by Penal Reform International and the Thailand Institute of Justice, proposes a comprehensive, evidence-based analysis of primary developments in prison systems and criminal justice worldwide. Click [here to view the report](#).

Eurojust Annual Report 2024

Eurojust, 15 May 2025. In 2024, Eurojust supported almost 13,000 cross-border criminal cases, making it a record holding year for judicial cooperation throughout Europe. Pinnacle factors included over €1 billion in criminal assets frozen, a 25% rise in joint investigation teams, and the introduction of the European Judicial Organised Crime Network (EJOEN). The report highlights Eurojust's expanding role in tackling serious organised crime and enhancing international justice. Click [here for more information](#).

Symposium Report Expresses Human Rights Risks of AI in Policing

City Law School, 6 June 2025. A symposium at City Law School in London investigated the human rights implications of AI and modern technologies in criminal justice. Topics discussed included live facial recognition, retrospective surveillance, and the absence of transparent legal frameworks governing biometric data use. Experts cautioned that existing practices may infringe on civil liberties, specifically in the absence of robust oversight and consent mechanisms. Click [here for more information](#).

Restorative practices and relational prison leadership in Ireland

Dr. Ian Marder (MU School of Law and Criminology), Triona Kenny and Katharina Kurz published a new research paper in the journal 'Contemporary Justice Review. The article, entitled Restorative Practices and Relational Prison Leadership in Ireland', outlines the findings of a project, funded by the Irish Prison Service, involving 22 interviews with senior prison leaders 3–5 months after they received restorative practices training to examine its self-reported effects on their thinking and practices. Click [here to access the article](#).

Sentencing Serious Sex Offenders: How Judges Decide

A new book analysing sentencing in cases of serious sexual offences and exploring the factors that influence the decision-making of judges has been formally launched by justice minister Jim O'Callaghan. Sentencing Serious Sex Offenders: How Judges Decide When Discretion is Wide, published by Policy Press, presents research carried out by Dr Diarmuid Griffin, a lecturer in criminology and criminal law at University of Galway School of Law. Click [here to view the report in Irish Legal News](#).

A selection of pictures from the ACJRD Annual Conference



Above: Donna Creaven of Irish Prison Service and Dr Ciara Bracken-Roche of Maynooth University



Above: Mary Griffin, Chairperson of ACJRD and Chief Superintendent Derek Smart, An Garda Síochána



Above: Dr Brian Barry of Trinity College Dublin and Donna O'Leary of DOL Consultancy

Thank you to the volunteer rapporteurs



ACJRD particularly want to thank the volunteer rapporteurs, pictured above, for all their work at the ACJRD Annual Conference. Pictured are Wilona Silitrari Chen, Tosadi Ajiboye, Saoirse Breathnach, Kissmat Salami and Lauren Hayden.

To submit notices for the ACJRD newsletter and website, please email enquiries@acjrd.ie.

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

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Neoliberalism, State-Corporate Power and Regulatory Failure

Dr Rhiannon Bandiera, MU School of Law and Criminology, has recently had her book *Neoliberalism, State-Corporate Power and Regulatory Failure: The Harms of Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicine Regulation in Australia* published by Routledge in the 'Routledge Studies in Crime and Society' series. Dr Bandiera is a specialist in state-corporate crime/social harm, regulation, and their transnational dimensions. Click [here for more information](#).

Other reports and publications:

- [Emotional Labour & Public Protection Policing](#), Scottish Institute for Policing (SIPR).
- [Implementing Anti-Racism in the Context of Policing](#), SIPR.
- [An Exploration of the Personal Experiences of Forensic Scene Investigators' Daily Work](#), Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology.
- [An exploration of the personal experiences of digital forensics analysts who work with child sexual abuse material](#), Frontiers in Psychology.
- [Experiences of Burnout, Post-Traumatic Growth, and Organisational Support in Police Officers Working in Specialised Units](#), Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology.
- [EU Gender-Based Violence Survey](#), FRA.
- [Being prepared for emotionally demanding research](#), Communications Psychology.
- [Justice for children with SEND & neurodivergence](#), Michael Sieff Foundation.
- [Child Poverty Monitor 2025](#), Children's Rights Alliance.
- [Humiliation and perceived power loss as drivers of radicalisation vulnerability in Northwestern Europe](#), Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression.
- [Reformers or reinforcers: an exploration of how legal educators perceive their role and its relationship with the legal profession](#), Legal Studies.

ACJRD Membership

Membership runs for the calendar year January – December and entitles 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 €10.

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