



The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference



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FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2025

IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (IMMA), KILMAINHAM, DUBLIN 8 (THE GREAT HALL)

ACJRD Events Calendar 2025

October 10th: **The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference** on the theme '[Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution](#)' (full day in IMMA, Dublin 8). Fully booked, waiting list in operation.

November 13th: **'Meet the Pros: Criminal Justice Career Paths'**, ACJRD seminar open to third level students only (online, 4.30-5.30pm). Details to follow on [our Events page](#) shortly.

December 11th: **'High Volume but Low-Level Crime: A Dialogue'**, ACJRD December networking event open to ACJRD members only (Law Society, Dublin 7, 5.30-7.30pm with reception until 8pm). Details to follow on [our Events page](#) shortly.

Keep an eye on [the ACJRD Events page](#) for updates and details of ACJRD events in 2026.

ACJRD News

ICJA 2025: 'Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution'

The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference focussing on 'Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution' will take place on **Friday, 10th October 2025** in Dublin. Tickets are in great demand this year, and a waiting list is in operation for any cancellations. The conference explores the evolving landscape of youth justice through the lens of movement and progress.

The conference will be launched by **Kevin McCarthy**, Secretary General, Department of Children, Disability & Equality. The programme includes a session on **Youth Justice in Motion** with **Koulla Yiasouma**, Chairperson, and **Damien Hernon**, Director, of Oberstown Children Detention Campus, along with **Derek Byrne**, of Way2Work Ireland, followed by a discussion on **25 Years of the Children Act – Taking Stock** with **The Hon. Mr. Justice Paul Kelly**, President of the District Court; **Dr. Niall Muldoon**, Ombudsman for Children; and **Prof. Nessa Lynch**, University College Cork. This discussion will be facilitated by **Gerry Curran**, Media Relations Advisor to the Courts Service and President of the NUJ.

Thematic Sessions speakers include: **Gráinne Berrill**, National Office for Community Safety; **Ronan McLoughlin**, Probation Service; **Chief Superintendent Paul Franey**, An Garda Síochána; **Dr. Gilly Sharpe**, University of Sheffield; **Saoirse Brady**, Irish Penal Reform Trust; **Michelle Griffin**, Oberstown; **Niamh Hodnett**, Coimisiún na Meán; **Aaron Swift**, National Inter-Agency Prevention Programme and **Wayne Denner**, Online Safety Educator. The [full conference programme is available here](#).

This annual conference is a collaboration of criminal justice agencies and ACJRD partner organisations. The lead partner for 2025 is Oberstown Children Detention Campus. A report on the conference proceedings will be published after the event. See [the ACJRD website for more information](#).

The 18th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture paper

The paper for the 18th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture, at which Dr. Stephanie O'Keeffe, CEO of Cuan, spoke on 'Strategy to tackle domestic, sexual and gender based violence in Ireland', is [now available to download from the ACJRD website](#).

Dr O'Keeffe's powerful lecture was a fitting tribute to the public service principles espoused by Martin Tansey and ACJRD wish to thank her for her reflections. Drawing on her experience of national strategy development and implementation, Dr. O'Keeffe discussed national strategies over the last 15 years to address Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Ireland, with a particular focus on Zero Tolerance, the current, third national strategy.

Latest News

Ireland Remains at Tier 2 in 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report

IHREC, 30 September 2025. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has said that Ireland needs a concerted focus on the elimination of human trafficking in the next year, and to proactively deliver for trafficking victims and survivors. The [2025 Trafficking in Persons report](#) acknowledges the State's increased efforts, including more investigations, convictions, and funding for victim assistance and awareness raising. However, it highlights persistent failings to 'fully meet the minimum standards', including no convictions for labour trafficking, serious gaps in victim referral, assistance and identification, including regarding children and Irish nationals, and the continued failure to implement the new National Referral Mechanism. See [IHREC website for more details](#).

'Always Here' new sexual violence awareness campaign launched

The Journal, 29 September 2025. Justice Minister JIM O'Callaghan has said "we need to do better" for victims and survivors of sexual assault as a new awareness campaign is launched. The Always Here awareness campaign is designed to inform and reassure victims and survivors of sexual violence that help is available when they are ready to seek support. This new multimedia campaign was developed by Cuan – the Irish domestic, sexual and gender-based violence agency. Click [here to view the Journal.ie website](#).

Victim of attempted murder seeks to have law changed

Irish Examiner, 29 September 2025. Fionnuala Bourke, who was stabbed nine times in a random attack by a stranger, is angry that her attacker has been deemed to have served her 10-year sentence – even though she has not spent any of it in prison. Click [here to view article in the Irish Examiner](#).

Upcoming Events

[Gangs in the Global South: Future lessons from Haiti?](#) (Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research), October 6 (Online)

[Tools for justice and accountability: universal criminal jurisdiction over enforced disappearances](#), (International Bar Association) October 6 (Online)

[Supporting Justice through the Rule of Law](#), Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), together with the Bar of Northern Ireland and the Law Society of Northern Ireland. Belfast, October 13 · 3:45 - 7pm.

[The age of sanctions: opportunities and challenges for the new generation of lawyers](#), (International Bar Association) October 16 (Online)

'Five Books That Could Save Your Life' event, 16 October 2025 at 1 pm, The Atrium, Department of Justice, Dublin. See [information on the discussion with domestic abuse experts here](#). See also '5 Books' **webinar with authors**, 20 Nov 1-2 pm - [Book Here](#).

[The Role of the Ombudsman: Fairness in Public Services](#), 17 Oct, The Wheel members-only webinar.

[Parole Futures with Professor Nicola Carr](#) (UCD Criminology Salon), 20 October from 1 - 2:30pm, UCD Sutherland School of Law.

[Dublin International Disputes Week](#). 20-24 October.

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

Upcoming Events

[International Corrections and Prisons Association Conference.](#)

26-31 October, Istanbul, Türkiye.

[9th Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptoassets.](#) 28-29 October, Vienna, Austria.

[DCU Postgraduate Virtual Information Evening.](#) 27 November 2025, 18.00 - 20.30.

[Annual EU CharterXchange.](#) European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the European Commission, 8-9 December (online).

Seized proceeds of crime should go back into areas scarred by crime

Dublin Inquirer, 26 September 2025. The annual fund directs the proceeds of crime, gathered by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, back to local projects supporting community safety. While many organisations around Ireland have reaped benefits from the Community Safety Fund since it launched in 2021, there are voices calling for changes in where the money goes. Click [here to view the Dublin Inquirer article.](#)

ICCL warned watchdog about sale of sexual abuse survivors' data in 2020

Irish Council for Civil Liberties, 20 September 2025. ICCL claim they first blew the whistle on unlawful practice in 2017; but also warned Minister McEntee in 2020 data was available to buy about Irish people under categories 'AIDS & HIV,' 'Incest & Abuse Support,' and 'Depression'. Click [here to view the ICCL website.](#)

Changes to children visiting closed prisons coming into effect

Irish Prison Service, 12 September 2025. Under the Children's First Act 2015, all organisations and agencies who are the provider of a service to children (persons under 18 years of age) shall ensure as far as is practicable that each child availing of the service is safe from harm. Click [here to view the Irish Prison Service website.](#)

Research can help support victims – a dialogue between academics and victim services

Irish Legal News, 22 September 2025. Irish Legal News presents the latest in a series of dialogues between criminal justice researchers, policymakers and practitioners. In this piece, Dr Sophie van der Valk summarises the key findings and practical implications of her recent book, 'Overseeing Rights in Prison: The Irish Experience of Human Rights Protection in Prisons', published in 2025 by Routledge. Click [here to view Irish Legal News website.](#)

Online dispute resolution and AI 'could revolutionise' Irish courts system

The Irish Times, 29 September 2025. Online dispute resolution and Artificial Intelligence could revolutionise the Irish courts system, leading to fewer judges and faster and cheaper disposal of cases, a High Court judge has said. The experience in the US is that, to succeed, ODR needs drive from within the judiciary, said Mr Justice Max Barrett, the author of a new book on ODR. Click [here to view the Irish Times article.](#)

IHREC announces Human Rights and Equality Grants

IHREC, 30 September 2025. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission has today announced the 23 civil society organisations to be awarded a total of €350,000 in funding for projects under its Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme 2025-2026.

This year the Grants Scheme is supporting projects that actively apply the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in combatting disinformation, misinformation, and hate; in challenging the structural causes of poverty; and in ensuring a human rights and equality led approach to climate and environmental justice and a just transition. Click [here for further detail on the IHREC website](#).

Mark Wilson retires from the Probation Service

On 4 September Mark Wilson retired as Director of the Probation Service. Mark had a long and varied career, joining the Probation Service in March 1995 as a Probation Officer. In 2015, Mark brought his probation expertise to the Irish Prison Service as a Principal Officer, later joining the IPS Operations Directorate in 2016. In the Department of Justice, he managed the Reception and Integration Agency (2018) and International Protection Accommodation Services (2019), roles pivotal to Ireland's response to migration and integration. In 2020, Mark returned to where his career began, appointed as Director of the Probation Service.

Mark was a great support to ACJRD over the years, for which we are very grateful. He spoke with Cathal Morgan at the ACJRD Annual Conference 2009: Perspectives on Sex Offending - The Victim & the Offender, and more recently addressed Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference 2023: 'Penal Policy Reform: Putting Community at the Heart of the Criminal Justice System', of which the Probation Service was lead partner. We wish him a long and happy retirement.



Pictured at the 2023 Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference, 'Penal Policy Reform: Putting Community at the Heart of the Criminal Justice System' from left to right: Maura Butler, former Chairperson of ACJRD; Mark Wilson, Director of the Probation Service; Minister James Browne, formerly Minister of State Department of Justice with responsibility for Law Reform and Youth Justice; Judge Paul Kelly, President of the District Court; Catherine Pierse, Director of Public Prosecutions.

Vacancies

[Chief Court Delays Assessor](#).

Deadline: **2 October**

[Panel of Legal Assessors \(Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal\)](#). Deadline: **3 October**

[Solicitor: Legacy, Committee on the Administration of Justice \(Northern Ireland\)](#). Deadline: **6 October**

[Head of Unit – Corporate Communications \(Europol\)](#). Deadline: **6 October**

[Garda Trainee](#). Deadline: **9 October at 3pm**

[State Solicitor \(CSSO\)](#). Deadline: **16 October at 3pm**

[Advisory Counsel \(Grade III\) and Assistant Parliamentary Counsel \(Grade II\)](#), The Houses of the Oireachtas. Deadline: **24 October at 3 pm**

[Specialist – Deployment Management and Support](#), Europol. Deadline: **27 October at 23:59 CET**

[Residential Social Care Worker \(Oberstown Children Detention Campus\)](#). Deadline: **31 December 2025 at 5:00pm**

Learning & Development

[Recognise and Respond to Technology-Facilitated Abuse](#)

UCC have launched a course to provide participants with an introduction to the dynamics of technology-facilitated abuse and explore the various forms it can take. The primary use of this training is as a resource for frontline responders and allied professionals. However, it is also a valuable resource for university staff, university students and other community members who may be supporting someone at risk of technology-facilitated abuse.

[Team Teach Behaviour Support Training](#)

Levels 1, 2 & Advanced strategies for de-escalation and crisis intervention. A toolkit of holistic strategies on de-escalation and crisis intervention, both verbal and non-verbal for supporting and reducing instances of disruptive and distressed behaviours. See also [the blog on the Team Teach website](#).

[Beyond reasonable stress: the case for trauma literacy as a core competency](#)

Rebecca Norris and Camilla Wells, founders of Trauma Informed Law, make a case for recognising trauma literacy as a core legal competency. In a profession defined by relentless pressure, exposure to distressing material and intense emotional demands, the ability to recognise and navigate acute human responses is not a luxury - it is a legal imperative. It protects lawyers, strengthens outcomes and safeguards the integrity of the justice system.

[Guidance for Justice Professionals on Effectively Communicating with Autistic people](#), National Disability Authority.

Dr Ciarán Seoighe to head Forensic Science Ireland

Irish Legal News, 25 September 2025. Dr Ciarán Seoighe has been appointed as director general of Forensic Science Ireland, which this year marks its 50th anniversary. Justice, home affairs and migration minister Jim O’Callaghan announced the appointment and praised Dr Seoighe’s immediate predecessor, Chris Enright, for his leadership of the organisation during his seven years as director general of FSI. Click [here to view the Irish Legal News article](#).

Collecting diversity data of student barristers and trainee solicitors

Irish Legal News, 25 September 2025. The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) today published its second six-month update documenting progress made towards its recommended actions to address economic and other barriers facing many aspiring and early career solicitors and barristers. The latest update notes progress on recommendations including the introduction of annual reporting on diversity of students and trainees. Click [here to view Irish Legal News](#).

Restorative justice referrals nearly double in one year

Irish Legal News, 8 September 2025. Demand for restorative justice in Ireland has nearly doubled in a year, according to new research. The figures have been revealed by researchers at Maynooth University, working in collaboration with the Probation Service and community-based restorative justice providers. It is the highest number of referrals since “Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change”, the project mapping the annual use of restorative justice in Ireland, began in 2019. Click [here to view article in Irish Legal News](#).

New prisons ‘will not solve’ overcrowding crisis

Irish Legal News, 5 September 2025. Prison expansion “will not solve” the overcrowding crisis, the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) has stressed after figures showed the Irish prison population reaching a record high. The Irish Prison Service [revealed](#) that more than 200 prisoners were sleeping on mattresses on cell floors at the end of 2024 as the prison population reached 5,001. “The fact that over three-quarters of sentences were for 12 months or less shows that prison is still being used inappropriately for minor offending.” Click [here to view article in Irish Legal News](#).

Crackdown on human trafficking network active across continents

Europol, 4 September 2025. Europol coordinated a joint action day between the Brazilian Federal Police (Polícia Federal) and An Garda Síochána against a criminal network involved in human trafficking for sexual exploitation of victims. Active in Ireland and across several EU Member States, the criminal network, composed mainly of Brazilian nationals, is suspected of having exploited several hundreds of victims. Active since 2017, this network operated from Brazil and Ireland, is believed to have been involved in the recruitment, transportation, accommodation, advertisement and overall control of female victims from South America. The women were exploited sexually in multiple countries around the world including Ireland. Click [here to view the Europol website](#).

Youth Justice in Action: Court Accompaniment Training

When people think of Youth Justice work, they often picture community outreach or mentoring. But a less visible, equally important part of our work is supporting children and young people through the court process. For many, walking into a courtroom can feel overwhelming and isolating, which is why Solas's Youth Justice Workers stand alongside them to offer guidance and support. Click [here to read a blog about the training on the Solas website](#).

Bereaved families want to discuss domestic homicide

Irish Examiner, 1 August 2025. Being 'shocked' at domestic homicides is not good enough. Back in June, [Women's Aid](#) confirmed that 180 women have been killed in their own homes (63% of femicide) since 1996. Some 87% of women (where the case has been resolved) were killed by a man known to them. In almost all murder-suicide cases (23 out of 24), the killer was the woman's current or former intimate partner. Some 20 children have died during incidents where women have died violently. How can we help the families and future victims in how we discuss domestic violence? Click [here to view the Irish Examiner article](#). See also:

- [Domestic killings rooted in control and entitlement, not mental illness](#) (Irish Examiner, 30 July 2025)
- [Misogyny is an epidemic fuelled by social media, Amy Hunt tells BBC in first interview](#) (BBC, 26 June 2025)
- [Make domestic abusers flee to shelters – not the partners and children they terrorise](#) (Irish Independent, 2 August 2025) [Subscription]
- [UK: Femicide Census identifies 122 women killed by men in 2022](#) (Irish Legal News, 1 Sept 2025)

You may have missed...

[General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025](#). The Bar of Ireland, 30 June 2025.

[Almost 4,000 give views on policing priorities](#). Policing and Community Safety Authority, 10 June 2025.

[Catfishing: Hook, Line, and Victim](#). The Bar Review, June 2025.

['Ordering a woman to be sexually exploited is as easy as ordering a takeaway': How trafficking victims are being sold online](#), Sky News, 9 June 2025.

[Dive into the world of law with QUB's curated pre-law reading list!](#) Recommended by staff, the list offers a diverse mix of books, films, and podcasts to inspire new and returning scholars.

[Interview: Catherine Pierse, Director of Public Prosecutions](#), The Bar Review, June 2025.

[Judge orders Tusla to provide care leaver with reasons for its determination on abuse allegations](#), Dublin Inquirer, 23 May 2025.

[Right to be forgotten for old criminal convictions: a Luxembourg perspective based on a recent ruling](#), International Bar Association, 6 April 2025.

Watch / Listen

[Ending Online Child Sexual Abuse in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities](#). Full recording of Panel 1 at the launch of the Children's Rights Alliance Online Safety Monitor.

[Explaining the Rules of Sentencing](#). Limerick Today interview with UL Professor of Law Paul McCutcheon. The feature received a Certificate of Merit at the Justice Media Awards, run by The Law Society of Ireland.

[What does justice mean to you?](#) (Transform Justice). Podcast.

[Pia Sinha: Why our prisons are broken and how to fix them](#). Krishnan Guru-Murthy presents Ways to Change the World podcast.

[The Cycle](#), directed by Georgie Yukiko Donovan (short film). Criminal Justice Alliance. The film follows a young man navigating scenarios in and outside of prison, showcasing the breaking of this cycle.

[‘What’s wrong with consent’](#) interview featuring Professor Robin West from Georgetown University Law Center. These Conversations on Consent videos are part of a project led by Dr Kate Greasley, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Oxford.

[‘Between Precedent and Present: The International Court of Justice as a Producer of History’](#) presented by Dr Connor McBain (Ulster University) as part of Panel 5: The ICJ and Time.

[Interpreting at the Court of Justice](#). Ever wondered what interpreters at the EU Court of Justice do? Discover their mission in this video created for this year's Open Day of the Court.

Government urged to increase alternatives to custody and bail

Irish Examiner, 25 July 2025. The inspector of prisons Mark Kelly has echoed the “deep concern” about the state of Irish prisons documented in a detailed report by a European inspection body. Mr Kelly said the findings by the Council of Europe Committee on the Prevention of Torture (CPT) mirrors those that he has made. The comments come as prison overcrowding reached another record, with 5,539 in custody. That compares to just under 5,000 when the CPT team visited in May 2024. Justice minister Jim O’Callaghan said that €495m in the revised National Development Programme would go to prison capital projects over the next five years and create 1,500 spaces. The projects at existing jails are not expected until 2028 onwards. Click [here to view the article in the Irish Examiner](#).

IHREC Raises Grave Concerns Over Proposed Asylum System

IHREC, 15 July 2025. The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (‘the Commission’) issued its initial analysis of the General Scheme of the International Protection Bill 2025 which proposes to introduce a new international protection system in Ireland. The Commission expressed deep concern that implementation of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact (‘the Pact’) could introduce a system prone to legal challenge, administrative dysfunction, and human rights violations. Concerns included: the tight timeframe resulting in meaningful pre-legislative scrutiny being heavily circumscribed; doubts about the State’s ability to deliver the services required; delivery of the necessary level and quality of vulnerability assessments; the assumption of literacy; the lack of human contact and advice among other concerns – see [the IHREC website for more detail](#). See also:

- The Bar Council also detailed concerns, among them that the creation of undefined roles such as “legal counsellors” and “cultural mediators” risks undermining this principle of Guarantee Access to Qualified Legal Representation and should be reconsidered. See [details on the Law Library website here](#).
- [Voluntary return incentives branded ‘unethical and inappropriate’](#) (Irish Legal News, 1 October 2025)

Suppliers to major Irish retailers linked to forced labour cotton

RTE Investigates, 26 September 2025. At least 15 Bangladeshi factories that imported hundreds of tons of cotton fabric in 2024 from two companies linked to a Chinese forced labour programme are supplying some of Ireland's major clothing retailers, an RTÉ investigation has found. The retailers include Penneys, Dunnes Stores, Marks and Spencer, and Tesco. Click [here to view the report on RTE website](#).

First nominations following Judicial Appointments Commission

Gov.ie, 8 July 2025. The government has nominated eight new members for appointment to the judiciary. These are the first judicial nominations following the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission on 1 January 2025. One judicial nomination has been made in relation to the High Court - Mr. Sean Gillane S.C. - and six nominations in relation to the District Court - Ms. Valerie Corcoran, Solicitor; Ms. Emile Daly B.L.; Ms. Karen Dowling B.L.; Ms. Liz Healy, Solicitor; Ms. Catherine Ryan, Solicitor; and, Ms. Áine Shannon, B.L. The government has also made one nomination in principle to the District Court - Mr Derek Cooney B.L. Click [here to view the press release on Gov.ie](#).

New powers for CAB

Gov.ie, 8 July 2025. The Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Jim O'Callaghan received government approval to strengthen the State's ability to identify, freeze and confiscate assets linked to serious and organised crime. The Bill will strengthen CAB powers and reduce delays; it enables immediate possession of assets; the 7 year waiting period has been cut to 2 years before final disposal; and there are new powers to freeze bank accounts so criminal money cannot be hidden. Click [here to view the press release on the Gov.ie website](#).

A group seeks to push the case for abolishing prisons in Ireland

Dublin Inquirer, 4 July 2025. A lifelong cycle of incarceration and trauma is what members of the Irish Penal Abolition Network (IPAN) say they hope to finally break. What abolitionists are trying to do is effect a deep social transformation so that we have a society that doesn't produce people who cause tremendous harm to others. Abolitionism is about building systems and institutions based on values of inclusion, autonomy, solidarity, liberation, emancipation, and empowerment. Click [here to view the Dublin Inquirer article](#).

Labour proposes reforms to Attorney General's office

Irish Legal News, 3 July 2025. Labour has proposed legislation which would provide greater transparency on government legal advice and require public litigation strategy to give regard to the State's duty of care to its citizens. Labour's bill would provide a mechanism for both acknowledging and accommodating public interest concerns in State litigation, and ensure that claims of legal professional privilege are not made in relation to advice of the AG referred to and relied upon by the government in explaining its policy approach to bills and resolutions before the Oireachtas. It would also bring the Office of the Attorney General under the remit of codes of conduct for office holders that are provided for in the Standards in Public Office Act 2001. Click [here to view the article in the Irish Legal News](#).

Watch / Listen

[Probation Matters podcast - taking a trauma informed approach](#). This is the first of a number of episodes about being trauma informed. Head of Communications Gail McGreevy talks to Probation's Trauma & Resilience Implementation Coordinator Kirsten McFarland and Safeguard Board NI's Trauma Informed Practice Implementation Manager Marian Molloy.

['Why Wouldn't You' selected for Dublin International Short Film and Music Festival](#)

The 12-minute film was created by the DCU Irish Refugee Integration Network (IRIN) and Sanctuary, is a visually evocative portrait of solidarity. Through the stories of community members, activists, and educators, it explores how people are working together across difference to welcome and support forcibly displaced people. It will be shown on Friday 3 October in Cineworld on Dublin's Parnell Street, and [tickets can be bought on the festival website](#).

International Bar Association podcast, [FGM: Legislative gaps, data poverty and actionable reforms](#). In this podcast, produced by the IBA Criminal Law Committee, five experts explore the global legal and policy response to female genital mutilation (FGM), which affects over 230 million women and girls worldwide.

You may have missed... Northern Ireland

[Probation Board for Northern Ireland statistics and research](#) - statistics on PBNi caseload at of 31 March and includes comparisons with previous financial years.

[TEO Announce Joe McVey as new Commissioner](#). First Minister Michelle O'Neill and deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly have announced the appointment of a new Commissioner for Victims and Survivors. The new Commissioner, Joe McVey, will take up the position for a four-year term from 6 October 2025.

Northern Ireland News

Prosecutions and processing time for domestic abuse cases published

Department of Justice NI, 25 September 2025. Key findings included: there were 2,501 cases dealt with at courts where there was an offence prosecuted under the Act, this was down 8.3%; 56.3% of cases with an offence prosecuted under the Act resulted in a conviction (1,408 out of 2,501); there were 21 convictions in cases with an offence having a child related aggravator attached; People aged 30 to 39 made up the largest proportion of those convicted in cases with an offence under the Act - 36.8% (518 individuals). Click [here for further information](#).

New appointment at Northern Ireland's young witness service

Irish Legal News, 5 September 2025. A new therapy dog has joined a service helping children and young people as they prepare to attend courts across Northern Ireland. Sebastian, a two-year-old St Bernard x Bernese Mountain Dog and certified therapy dog, supports children and young people as part of the NSPCC Young Witness Service. The Young Witness Service is available for all Crown, magistrate and youth courts across Northern Ireland. Click [here to view article in Irish Legal News](#).

The land of good intentions: The implementation of Behavioural Control Orders

Centre for Justice Innovation, 17 July 2025. The CJINI Director, Phil Bowen, reflects on Behavioural Control Orders, outlining that though these are often introduced with the best intentions, their implementation often fails to meet expectations. Click [here to view the blog](#).

Police Custody Follow-Up Review published

Centre for Justice Innovation, 24 July 2025. Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) has published the Police Custody Follow-Up Review looking at the detention of men, women and children held in police custody Inspection Recommendations. This joint review by CJI and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority assesses progress against the strategic and operational recommendations made in the 2020 Inspection Report. Click [here to view the report on the CJINI website](#). See also:

- Podcast: [Episode 18: Police Custody Follow-Up Review](#)

Minister reflects on policing sacrifice

Department of Justice NI, 28 September 2025. The Justice Minister and Chairman of the RUC George Cross Foundation came together this week to reflect on the sacrifice of police officers ahead of National Police Memorial Day. Click [here to the Department of Justice NI website](#).

International News

Eurojust key stakeholders exchange on EU e-Evidence Package

Eurojust, 1 October 2025. With the EU Electronic Evidence legislative package set to come into effect in August 2026, Eurojust's Cybercrime Working Group convened a crucial meeting this week to address the challenges and opportunities of its implementation. Click [here to view the Eurojust report](#).

New report highlights legal pathways to comprehensive accountability

Eurojust, 11 September 2025. The Genocide Prosecution Network Secretariat, hosted by Eurojust, has presented a new analysis of jurisprudence on so-called cumulative charges for suspects of terrorism. Adding or cumulating charges against foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) for terrorism with charges of genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity, also known as core international crimes, leads to full accountability and justice for victims. Click [here to view the Eurojust website](#).

Europol Excellence Awards in Innovation

The Europol Excellence Awards in Innovation, which celebrate innovation in international law enforcement cooperation, went to Portugal, Germany and Norway. Finalists included: The Polícia Judiciária in Portugal, in a cross-national operational effort, disrupted for the first time a self-propelled semi-submersible used for narcotraffic at high-sea, in the Atlantic Ocean; The Delisting Project, which successfully delisted 55 malicious websites, 283 YouTube videos, and 62 TikTok accounts, significantly disrupting access to cybercrime tools and tutorials; Operation STREAM / CSAM Automation (Germany) for dismantling one of the world's largest platforms for child sexual abuse material, KidFlix. Click [here for more details on the award-winning projects](#).

Children Identified in Taskforce Against Child Sexual Exploitation

Europol, 22 September 2025. A total of 51 sexually abused children were identified during the 17th edition of the Victim Identification Task Force (VIDTF17). 27 experts from Europol, INTERPOL, and 22 countries, including Ireland, worked to analyse images of unidentified abused children. In addition to the growing volume of images, the exchange of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) appears to be much more frequent than in the past. In parallel, AI-generated CSAM has become one of the main ways offenders produce, acquire and store such material. Europol has released new pictures to the platform "[Stop Child Abuse – Trace an Object](#)", which calls on citizens to examine objects from child sexual abuse cold cases and see if they recognise any of them. Click [here to access Europol report](#)

You may have missed... international

[Protecting children's rights during a parent's criminal court proceedings](#). On June 27, 2025, COPE held its fourth Judicial Roundtable, hosted by the Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice in Lisbon.

[French authorities take action on new device prisoners use to communicate with the outside world](#). Eurojust, 20 May 2025. Following findings by the prosecutor of the Judicial Court of Paris JUNALCO that these devices are being sold worldwide, Eurojust ensured that critical information on the devices was transmitted to the Agency's National Desks and Liaison Prosecutors. Authorities can now use this information to investigate whether the devices are being used in their own countries.

[Eurojust strengthens cooperation with Gulf Cooperation Council](#). 14-15 May, Eurojust. The meeting was a crucial step in Eurojust's efforts to deepen its cooperation with the GCC countries and bolster the global response to cross-border crime.

[European Commission publishes guidelines on the protection of minors](#). European Commission, 14 July 2025. The Commission published its guidelines on the protection of minors under the DSA to ensure a safe online experience for children and young people. Under the guidelines child participation must be fully embedded, appropriate age assurance mechanisms enforced, ensuring that children's lack of commercial literacy is not exploited, and measures to improve moderation and reporting tools.

[Denmark copyright laws to give a right to own likeness and voice in response to the rise of AI-generated deepfakes](#). Irish Legal News, 30 June 2025. New legislation will make it illegal to share deepfakes and other digital imitations of personal characteristics, though there will be certain exceptions for parodies and satire.

['Important step' as tribunal on Russian aggression agreed](#). RTE, 26 June 2025. Ukraine and the Council of Europe human rights body signed an agreement on forming the basis for a special tribunal intended to bring to justice senior Russian officials for the crime of aggression against Ukraine. The 46-member Council of Europe is not part of the EU and members include key non-EU European states such as Turkey, the UK and Ukraine. Russia was expelled in the wake of its invasion of Ukraine. See also [Frequently Asked Questions - Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine](#) (Council of Europe).

[Western Balkan General and Special Chief Prosecutors meet in Tirana](#). Eurojust, 17 June 2025. The Western Balkan General and Special Chief Prosecutors convened to discuss common experiences and challenges, and to highlight the importance of international cooperation in the fight against organised crime.

New Democratic Pact for Europe

On 15th September, the Council of Europe launched the website of the New Democratic Pact for Europe. According to the website, the Pact will serve as a collective and inclusive process – not to reinvent democracy, but to reinforce its foundations, amplify its benefits, and innovate its form to make it tangible for everyone, especially younger generations. The directions set during the consultation phase running through 2026 will shape the work that follows. Click [here to view The New Democratic Pact for Europe website](#).

From instigator to perpetrator: how violence-as-a-service operates

Europol, 14 August 2025. Young adults with no criminal record are increasingly recruited to carry out violent attacks. From the mastermind abroad to the teenager sent to carry out the attack, violence-as-a-service relies on a chain of criminal roles. Europol's Operational Taskforce (OTF) GRIMM sets out who is who in this process, and where young people are drawn into committing violent crimes. Click [here to view on Europol's website](#).

Europe strengthens media freedom, independence and pluralism

European Commission, 8 August 2025. The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) entered into application across the European Union. The EMFA is designed to strengthen media freedom, independence and pluralism within the EU's internal market. It provides, among others, stronger protection for journalists, ensures adequate funding and editorial freedom for public service media, prevents unwarranted removal of media content by very large online platforms and establishes the European Board for Media Services. Click [here to view the EC News update](#).

Serious offenders to be kept in restricted zones under plans

BBC, 8 August 2025. Restrictions on serious sexual and violent criminals forcing them stay in specific areas are being planned by the UK government. But there are concerns that the plans would place more pressure on the probation service - something the government says it hopes to alleviate with more staff and a greater use of technology. These proposals were [criticised by victims' charities and probation staff](#) when announced in May. Click here to view the BBC article.

Nuremberg-Style Tribunal May Await Putin's Arrest, Legal Scholars Say

Forbes, 7 August 2025. Dr Andrew Forde of the DCU School of Law and Government was interviewed by Forbes on the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine to be established within the framework of the Council of Europe. Click [here to view the Forbes article](#).

Combatting violence against children: The need for effective measures

FRA, 23 July 2025. At an informal Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Copenhagen under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union combatting violence against children was discussed. The director of FRA, Sirpa Rautio, stressed the importance of developing strong, integrated child protection systems, highlighting the need to root child protection in children's rights, and emphasise their rights to equal participation, protection and development. Click [here to view the speech](#).

Global operation targets pro-Russian cybercrime network

In July, a joint international operation, coordinated by Europol and Eurojust, targeted the cybercrime network NoName057(16). Offenders associated to the NoName057(16) cybercrime network targeted primarily Ukraine, but have shifted their focus to attacking countries that support Ukraine in the ongoing defence against the Russian war of aggression. To share calls to action, tutorials, updates, and to recruit volunteers, the group leveraged pro-Russian channels, forums, and even niche chat groups on social media and messaging apps. Volunteers often invited friends or contacts from gaming or hacking forums, forming small recruitment circles. Participants were also paid in cryptocurrency, which incentivised sustained involvement and attracted opportunists. Mimicking game-like dynamics, regular shout-outs, leader boards, or badges provided volunteers with a sense of status. This gamified manipulation, often targeted at younger offenders, was emotionally reinforced by a narrative of defending Russia or avenging political events. Click [here to view the Europol press release](#).

Law Commission sets sights on 'rape myths' in new report

Irish Legal News, 22 July 2025. England and Wales are set to follow Ireland in introducing a right to independent legal advice and representation for complainants in sexual offence trials when requests are made to introduce evidence of their past sexual behaviour. The report recommends mandatory training for all legal practitioners on myths and misconceptions, to "reduce the risk" of advocates introducing them into the trial process. Click [here to read the article](#).

Call for Research & Abstracts

Criminology & Criminal Justice Journal are looking for original research that pushes boundaries, challenges assumptions, and contributes to key debates in criminology and criminal justice. Submit your work: journals.sagepub.com/home/CRJ.

Tell It Straight, DCU's Postgraduate Research Communications Competition.

The registration form will close automatically at 4pm on Thursday, 6th November 2025. Click [here for further details](#).

Europol - Jordan Working Arrangement signed

Europol, 11 July 2025. Public Security Directorate (PSD) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) signed a Working Arrangement in order to support the Member States of the European Union and Jordan in preventing and combating serious and organised crime and terrorism.

The Working Arrangement provides for a structured legal framework for cooperation and enhanced exchange of information (non-personal data) between Europol and the relevant Jordanian law enforcement authorities. It will enable both partners to work on key areas such as migrant smuggling, drug trafficking, money laundering and firearms trafficking. The Arrangement also covers the possibility of sharing specialist knowledge, general situation reports, results of strategic analysis, the participation in training activities, as well as providing advice and support in individual criminal investigations. Click [here to view the press release](#).

Recent Publications

Measuring the prevalence of adult sexual violence in Ireland

ESRI Survey and Statistical Report Series, 29 September 2025. A review of Irish and international literature. Cuan and the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) have established a joint research programme to provide evidence to inform DSGBV policy development. The purpose of this report, the first in a series of reports from the research programme, is to provide an overview of the national and international data and research on adult sexual violence, with a particular focus on identifying the definitional and measurement issues that need to be considered. Click [here to view the ESRI website](#).

Beyond the courtroom: do out of court resolutions work for victims?

What do victims want after a crime occurs? Does resolving crime out of court work for victims? This report answers these questions and more, based on a poll of 1,235 victims and in-depth interviews with 25 victims whose cases were resolved out of court. Click [here for information on the report](#).

Encountering research in Northern Ireland

Critical Military Studies, Aug 2025. Article exploring the methodological challenges of researching the Northern Ireland conflict by Hannah West, Eleanor Williams, Huw Bennett & Thomas Leahy. Click [here to view the Critical Military Studies article](#)

Diversion in the West Midlands: A critical case study

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies. In this working paper, Dr Tom McNeil reflects on the key challenges to organisational change and cultural reform in policing, using community rehabilitation initiatives in the West Midlands as a case study. Drawing on his experience as Assistant Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands from 2021-2024, McNeil outlines some challenges and successes that he observed from local initiatives in diversion and out of court resolutions. Click [here to view information](#).

Irish Attitudes to Tackling Child Sexual Abuse, A Whole of Society Approach

One in Four, Dr. Karen Hand, May 2025. The research reveals not only the overwhelming recognition of child sexual abuse as a crisis in Irish society, but also seven key barriers that are influencing and compounding the problem of sexual violence in childhood within our society. These seven themes - Invisibility, Collapsing Boundaries, Splitting, Outcasts, Explosiveness, Buck-passing and Inevitability - can interact to make people, policy makers and politicians feel that child sexual violence is too complex for us to collectively tackle and have prevented affective action in Ireland. Click [here to download the report](#).

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Other reports

[Pathways to Exit: A study of women's journeys out of prostitution and the response to their complex support needs](#).

The Sexual Exploitation Research Programme (SERP).

[European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report 2025](#) (EU TE-SAT). The European Union (EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (EU TE-SAT) is a situational overview, presenting key figures and developments within the terrorism landscape in the EU.

The [Knowledge Exchange](#) is an online library of guidance and examples of best practice. The resource encourages users to suggest examples of best practice and guidance and allows users to search content by both source and sector. There are over 600 resources instantly available for download including: a report which focuses on what practical [support officers and leaders can offer women in prison](#) to reduce the likelihood that they will resort to self-harm; a report on how [youth justice and probation work together to provide services to young people to ensure Transitional Safeguarding](#); and research evidence on [Working with neurodivergent people in contact with the criminal justice system](#).

[Youth Justice Services: Relationships, Rehabilitation and the Reality of the Young People Involved - A Meta-synthesis of the Qualitative Literature](#), Kerri Moore, Elayne Ahern, Eoin O'Meara Daly, Sharon Houghton, Hannah McAuliffe & Elaine Rogers, Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review.

Other reports

[Criminal Justice in Scotland](#), Jamie Buchan, Sarah Anderson, Katrina Morrison. This book focuses on its key processes (from arrest to post-sentence) and institutions, as well as its history and some of the key challenges and critical issues facing Scottish criminal justice today.

[Reverse mentoring toolkit](#). LawCare and the University of Leeds have created a reverse mentoring toolkit to help law firms and legal organisations become more inclusive, supportive, and fairer places to work. This free resource is for any legal workplace - large or small, in any part of the legal sector.

[Room for Recovery – Housing Hope After Exploitation](#) (Ruhama, 11 July 2025)

[Pathways to Exit: A study of women's journeys out of prostitution and the response to their complex support needs](#). The Sexual Exploitation Research Programme (SERP).

[European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report 2025](#) (EU TE-SAT). The European Union (EU) Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (EU TE-SAT) is a situational overview, presenting key figures and developments within the terrorism landscape in the EU.

From streets to screens: fighting crime in the digital domain

Europol's [Innovation Lab](#) and the European Clearing Board's Strategic Group on Online Policing have authored [a concept paper on 'policing in an online world'](#). Based on practical experience collected from partners across the EU, paired with academic insight and the discussion of wider societal trends, this concept paper delivers not only a situational snapshot but a set of guiding principles. The paper offers inspiration in how police can be present wherever citizens are online, delivering safety and protection much like in the physical world. It guides law enforcement in how to be visible and transparent, and how to create trust with hard-to-reach and at-risk target groups. Click [here for access to the paper on Europol's website](#).

Understanding and mitigating bias to harness AI responsibly

This provides a deeper understanding of the issue and explores methods to prevent, identify, and mitigate risks at various stages of AI deployment. The report aims to provide law enforcement with clear guidelines on how to deploy AI technologies while safeguarding fundamental rights. Key recommendations for law enforcement include: document; evaluate; train law enforcement personnel to prevent bias; test performance, impact and review indicators of potential bias; perform case-by-case analysis; continuously assess; apply fairness testing and post-processing bias mitigation techniques; evaluate the context and objectives of each AI application; ensure contextual and statistical consistency; standardise fairness metrics and mitigation strategies. Click [here to access the report](#).

Evidence briefing: Improving the criminal court experience for women

Anna Watchman, Lydia Clark, and Stephen Whitehead, CJINI, July 2025. This evidence briefing gathers evidence on the diverse needs of women attending criminal courts, whether as defendants, victims or witnesses, and highlights opportunities to improve experiences and better meet the needs of women by: removing barriers to effective participation; improving access to advice and support at court; and implementing strategies to avoid re-traumatising women. Click [here to access on the CJINI website](#). See also Women's problem-solving courts [a new financial analysis](#) and [updated evidence & practice briefing on problem-solving courts for women](#).

AI bias in law enforcement - a practical guide

Europol, 2025. This new report from Europol's Innovation Lab tackles the critical issue of AI bias in law enforcement, highlighting its potential harms and providing strategies to detect and mitigate bias. Click [here to access the report](#).

Modern slavery and digitisation in fashion supply networks

Criminology & Criminal Justice, 22 August 2025 (Jon Davies, Rose Broad, and Michelle Corallo). The purpose of the article 'It's not going to be tech that gets us out of it' is to examine the role of digital technology, especially Blockchain, in addressing modern slavery and labour exploitation within garment manufacturing supply networks. Drawing on empirical research with UK-based industry professionals, the authors argue that while digital tools contain benefits in enhancing transparency, they are limited by structural challenges such as extensive subcontracting, cost pressures, and corporate reluctance to adopt technology that could expose labour rights violations. Click [here to view Sage Journals](#).

The situational character of prison violence

Criminology & Criminal Justice, 16 August 2025. (Dante BC Hoek, Ard J Barends, and Maarten JJ Kunst). Given the detrimental effects of prison violence, understanding why and how incidents occur is necessary. This explorative qualitative research on prison violence investigates potentially violent situations between incarcerated men. Through in-depth interviews with 22 incarcerated men from 3 Dutch prisons and 2 formerly incarcerated men, the authors offer insight into the situational circumstances of prison violence. Click [here to view Sage Journals](#).

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[Youth Justice Services: Relationships, Rehabilitation and the Reality of the Young People Involved - A Meta-synthesis of the Qualitative Literature](#), Kerri Moore, Elayne Ahern, Eoin O'Meara Daly, Sharon Houghton, Hannah McAuliffe & Elaine Rogers, Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review.

[Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal Annual Report 2024](#). Department of Justice, 26 September 2025.

[National Action Plan Against Racism Second Implementation Report 2024](#). Department of Justice, 18 September 2025.

[Office of the Inspector of Prisons Death in Custody Investigation Report and IPS response relating to the death of Mr L 2020](#). Department of Justice, 12 September 2025.

[Irish Prison Service 2024 Annual Report](#), 4 September 2025.

Student Essay

Reframing Justice – Ireland's Shift from Criminalisation to Rehabilitation

By Lauren Hayden

In recent decades, Ireland's penal policy has progressively embraced rehabilitation as a central goal, alongside the traditional objectives of punishment and deterrence. This shift in attitudes echoes a broader societal and governmental recognition that punitive measures alone are insufficient in addressing the root causes of crime. Understanding whether sentencing trends genuinely reflect this move toward rehabilitation is fundamental, not only for law and policy scholars, but also for practitioners, communities, and defendants interacting with the criminal justice system.

Historically, like many others, the Irish criminal justice system has promoted incarceration and deterrence. Nonetheless, Ireland's sentencing system has been transformed through evolving legal philosophies, societal attitudes, and political developments.

During the early 1900s, Irish criminal justice experienced a progressive phase, substantially influenced by positivist criminology. Positivist criminology is a perspective that attributes criminal behaviour to internal and external impacts, as opposed to the individual's free will.

Consequently, key legislation was introduced, for instance, The Probation Offenders Act 1907. As a result, the courts had approval to enact non-custodial sentences, enabling offenders to be discharged under supervision as opposed to prison. The following year, Ireland was introduced to the Children Act 1908. This act demonstrated commitment to the welfare of juvenile offenders and mandated their separation from adult penal systems, displaying the growing concern for age-appropriate justice. Lastly, the Prevention of Crime Act 1908 established an increased interest in structured crime prevention strategies, highlighting the states' self-commitment to confronting the foundation causes of criminal behaviour through early intervention and support.

Over time, it has become clear that imprisonment alone is not effective in preventing offenders from reoffending as evidence has progressively challenged the effectiveness of the punitive approach. For instance, several studies have underlined that longer sentences do not necessarily reduce crime rates. Additionally, over-reliance on incarceration, notably for non-violent/short-term offences, often result in overcrowded prisons and exceptionally limited prospects for meaningful rehabilitation.

While the early 20th century witnessed some degree of transformation, it was in the 21st century that Ireland's sentencing system began to alternate toward a more balanced and rehabilitative approach. During the 2000s, the courts progressively stressed the principle of proportionality. It was thought that a mere sentence ought to reflect not only the severity of the crime but the added circumstances of the offender. The Department of

Justice for example has emphasised while punishment stays a central component, “the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders is at the core of our penal system.”

Now, Irish sentencing law is understood to have an array of objectives, for instance, retribution, deterrence, incapacitation, and rehabilitation. Although judges exercise considerable amounts of discretion, their decisions are progressively more informed by structured principles and data-driven insights. Consequently, exhibiting the broader societal and institutional obligation to a justice system that not only reprimands but furthermore seeks to reform and reintegrate offenders.

One considerable milestone was the enactment of the Judicial Council Act 2019, which afterward led to the establishment of the Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee (SGIC). The committee sought to promote consistency across the judiciary while simultaneously granting judges the flexibility to consider rehabilitative factors and circumstances beyond the offence itself.

Since 2020, Irelands approach to sentencing has reflected a broader shift in criminal justice philosophy. Ultimately, progressing away from punitive traditions and headed for a more balanced, humane, and evidence-based system. One of the most significant policy documents of this period was the Programme for Government (2020). It underlined Irelands commitment to reducing the use of imprisonment, particularly for non-violent offenders, promoting a new constructive, rehabilitative response to offending.

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency public health measures, changes within the penal system accelerated further. For instance, Ireland drastically reduced its prison population, displaying the feasibility of decarceration. This interval of penal moderation was hailed by several organisations, including the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT), as verification of concept for long-term reform. The IPRT claimed that the reductions made because of the pandemic should not be temporary but be the start of a more sustainable and humane penal policy.

Furthermore, the Department of Justice released a comprehensive Criminal Justice Policy Review (2022 to 2024). This review culminated in a tactical document that proposed numerous reforms. In particular, the document underlined that prison ought to be considered only when necessary, and only as the final resolution. In addition, the review called for the expansion of non-custodial alternatives, like probation and community service, along with greater investment in rehabilitative supports, involving mental health and addiction services. The fundamental aim of the proposals was to focus on the root causes of the offending and aid the reintegration of individuals into society.

Similarly, significant development was made on the Sentencing Guidelines and Information Committee (SGIC), formed under the Judicial Council Act 2019. Between 2020 and 2025, the SGIC published draft sentencing guidelines proposed to promote consistency and transparency within judicial decision making. Consequently, judges had to consider

rehabilitative factors and the individual circumstances of the offender, alongside the easing of reliance on mandatory or presumptive minimum sentences.

Additionally, in 2025, a further reform was launched through a new bill addressing life sentences. This piece of legislation permits judges to recommend minimum terms for life sentences, offering clearer guidance for parole decisions while also preserving judicial discretion. The primary goal of the reform is to strike a balance between public safety and potential rehabilitation, guaranteeing that life sentences are applied reasonably and with due regard for the probability of change. Collectively, from 2020 to 2025 there was a significant shift in Irish sentencing, placing amplified attention on proportionality, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

Furthermore, Ireland has increased investment in rehabilitation and support services as a component of a broader shift toward restorative justice. This shift includes key initiatives like Sharing the Vision mental health policy, community-based addiction and mental health supports, and diversion schemes to stop vulnerable people from entering the justice system. Programs like the Athy Alternative Project and Ballinasloe Training Workshop assist offenders as they reintegrate through education and skill training. Also, the government has implemented paid leave for domestic abuse victims alongside plans to launch high-dependency prison units for individuals with complex needs. Increased efforts like these reflect a justice model, focused on accountability, support, and long-term reintegration.

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