



DECEMBER SEMINAR & NETWORKING EVENT



HIGH VOLUME BUT LOW-LEVEL CRIME: A DIALOGUE
THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2025

THE BLUE ROOM, LAW SOCIETY OF IRELAND,
BLACKHALL PLACE, DUBLIN 7

REGISTRATION @ 5 PM
SEMINAR @ 5.30 - 7PM
RECEPTION @ 7 - 8 PM

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ACJRD Membership and Mailing List



December Networking Event speakers (l to r): Arnold Dillon, Acting Deputy Commissioner Paul Cleary, Dr Ian Marder, Bridie Flood, Siobhán Brennan and Chairperson, Mary Griffin



ACJRD News

ACJRD December 2025 Seminar & Networking Event: *High Volume but Low-Level Crime – A Dialogue*

On Thursday, 11th December 2025, ACJRD hosted its annual December seminar and networking event at the Law Society, bringing together members from across the criminal justice community for an in-person discussion on the theme *High Volume but Low-Level Crime: A Dialogue*.

The event featured an expert panel offering diverse perspectives on the causes, impacts, and responses to low-level but high-volume crime.

Throughout the session, speakers explored how persistent low-level offences such as theft, shoplifting, public order incidents, anti-social behaviour, and minor assaults, collectively undermine community confidence, impact local economies, and strain frontline services. The discussion highlighted the importance of understanding behavioural drivers, balancing enforcement with prevention, and enhancing interagency collaboration.

Members engaged in a thoughtful exchange on emerging trends, practical challenges, and innovative approaches, with a strong focus on supporting communities, reducing repeat offending, and strengthening multi-agency responses. The event also provided an opportunity for professional networking and shared learning across sectors.

Notes from the seminar will be published in January.

ACJRD Online Student Seminar: Meet the Pros: Criminal Justice Career Paths

We hosted an online student careers webinar on 13 November 2025. The webinar welcomed third-level students with an interest in exploring the diverse and often unexpected career opportunities within the criminal justice system. Three senior leaders from justice agencies, who are also ACJRD Council members shared candid reflections on their personal journeys, the challenges and opportunities they encountered, and the skills that helped them progress.

The webinar offered students a rare, honest look at what working in criminal justice is really like, alongside practical advice for those considering similar careers. The speakers were Ciairín de Buis, CEO of the Parole Board, Gerry O'Brien, Head of Criminal Justice Strategic Policy and Planning in the Dept of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and Úna Doyle, Acting Director of the Probation Service.

ACJRD News

Feedback from Our Strategic Planning Consultations

Over the past number of months, ACJRD has undertaken a wide-ranging consultation process to inform the development of our new Strategic Plan. We would like to sincerely thank all members, subscribers, Council members and external stakeholders who took the time to share their views through surveys and focus groups. Your contributions have provided clear, constructive guidance on where ACJRD is doing well and where we need to evolve.

Overall, the feedback strongly affirms ACJRD's core strengths. Across surveys and focus groups, the Association is widely regarded as a trusted, independent and neutral forum for dialogue across Ireland's criminal justice system. Members value the quality of our conferences and seminars, the opportunity to engage with diverse professionals, and the safe, collegial space ACJRD provides for open discussion under Chatham House Rules. This reputation as an "honest broker" between academia, policy and practice is seen as both distinctive and worth protecting.

At the same time, there was a consistent message that ACJRD must now adapt to remain relevant in a changing justice landscape. Many respondents felt that our current model relies too heavily on episodic events and does not provide enough year-round engagement. Members and stakeholders want more regular opportunities to connect, learn and collaborate beyond conferences, including through digital platforms and thematic communities of practice.


Accessibility and inclusivity also emerged as important priorities. Feedback highlighted that ACJRD can feel Dublin-centric with limited participation from regional members, early-career professionals, practitioners and community or voluntary sector voices. There is a clear appetite to broaden membership, diversify perspectives and create more entry points for engagement, including mentoring and peer learning.

Looking to the future, members see real potential for ACJRD to play a stronger national role in coordinating and sharing criminal justice research, contributing to the learning which allows translation of evidence into policy and practice, and providing leadership on emerging issues such as restorative justice, digital crime, alternatives to custody and trauma-informed approaches.

This feedback will directly shape our strategic priorities over the next five years and we hope to have the completed Strategic Plan 2025-2030 published early in 2026. We are committed to building on ACJRD's trusted foundations while developing a more inclusive, accessible and connected Network that delivers greater value for members and the wider criminal justice community. Thank you again for helping to shape that future.



ACJRD is seeking a dynamic **Events & Communications Officer** to help drive our mission to support collaboration, learning, and evidence-informed policy and practice across the Irish criminal justice system.

 **About the Role** - the Events & Communications Officer plays a central part in strengthening ACJRD as a national network connecting policymakers, practitioners, academics, researchers, and wider stakeholders. This role blends event management, communications, and member engagement to amplify ACJRD's impact and support our strategic goals.

 **Application Deadline**
Friday, 16 January 2026

More information is [available here](#)



Thank you to **Lauren Hayden** who completed her temporary contract as Administrator in December. We are very grateful to Lauren for stepping in to help us out for a few months while we recruit for our new Events & Communications Officer.

ACJRD Events Calendar 2026

February

19th Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

📅 Thursday, 26 February 2026

📍 Criminal Courts of Justice,
Dublin 8

🕒 5.30pm

Keynote Speaker:
**The Hon. Mr Justice Michael
White** (retired 2021)

Mr Justice White qualified as a solicitor in 1975 and was among the first solicitors appointed to judicial office following his appointment to the Circuit Court in 1996. He was elevated to the High Court in 2011, where he later served for three years as Head of the Criminal Division, the Central Criminal Court, before retiring in 2021.

June

29th ACJRD Annual Conference Theme: *Reimagining Crime Prevention: Beyond Enforcement*

🕒 Full-day event

📍 Venue and date to be
confirmed

October

12th Annual Irish Criminal Justice Agencies (ICJA) Conference

📅 Friday, 9 October 2026

Lead Agency: Revenue
Commissioners

👁️ Keep an eye on [the ACJRD
Events Page](#) and [Newsletters](#) for
further updates.

Join the ACJRD – The Irish Criminal Justice Network!

Connecting People • Connecting Knowledge

New Lower Membership Fees for 2026

As part of our new *Strategic Plan 2026-2030* ACJRD Council have agreed a lower membership fee structure for 2026.

Become part of the vibrant network at the heart of Ireland's criminal justice community. Whether you're an organisation, practitioner, student, or researcher, ACJRD welcomes you into a space where collaboration and knowledge come alive.

🌟 Membership Fees

- ◆ Organisations: €100
- ◆ Registered Charities: €50
- ◆ Individuals: €25
- ◆ Students (Associate Membership): €10

💡 Why Become a Member?

- 🌟 Join the leading Irish Criminal Justice Network
- 🌟 Get priority access to events, seminars, conferences & news
- 🌟 Connect with professionals and experts across the sector
- 🌟 Gain insights through publications and policy discussions
- 🌟 Help build a more informed, collaborative justice system
- 🌟 Be part of the movement - membership application form is [here](#)

Speakers and audience at the December Networking Event



ACJRD Publications



Pictured above (l to r): Mary Griffin, Chairperson, ACJRD, Damien Hernon, Director & Koulla Yiasouma, Chairperson, of Oberstown Children Detention Campus.

The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference Report

The 11th Irish Criminal Justice Agencies Conference took place in Dublin on 10th October 2025, bringing together leading youth justice experts, policymakers, and frontline practitioners to share ideas, insights, and practical solutions. Guided by the theme “*Youth Justice in Motion: Prevention, Intervention, Contribution,*” the conference focused on supporting young people, preventing offending, and strengthening communities.

Click [here to read the full conference report.](#)

ACJRD 28th Annual Conference Report Now Published

The ACJRD 28th Annual Conference, held on 12th June 2025 at the Camden Court Hotel, Dublin, examined the *opportunities and challenges of technological innovation in the criminal justice system*. Bringing together legal professionals, policymakers, technologists, academics, and law enforcement leaders, the conference explored how digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies are reshaping justice delivery.

Click [here to read the full conference report.](#)



Upcoming Events

[European Anti-Financial Crime Submit](#)

(AML Intelligence), April 29th, 2026, RDS, Dublin, Ireland

[8th International Conference on Youth Mental Health 2026 \(IAYMH 2026\)](#)

(International Association for Youth Mental Health), November 24th – 27th, 2026, Convention Centre, Dublin

[International Conference on Sociology and Criminology \(ICSC\)](#)

(World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology) August 27th – 28th, 2026, Dublin, Ireland

[International Conference on Violence and Criminal Justice Systems](#)

(WRF) January 21st, 2026, Dublin, Ireland

[International Criminal Court Summer School](#)

(Irish Centre for Human Rights) June 8th – 11th, 2026, (Online)

[International Conference on Criminal Justice Systems and Legal Frameworks \(ICCSLF - 26\)](#)

(APSTE), July 8th – 9th, 2026, Dublin, Ireland (In Person/Online)

[International Conference on Gender Justice and Anti-Violence Strategies](#)

(ISER), January 19th – 20th, 2026, Dublin Ireland

📍 Pictured at the December Networking Event (l to r): Lauren Hayden, ACJRD, Mary Griffin, Kings Inns, Ciairín de Buis, The Parole Board and Orla O’Neill, ACJRD

Vacancies

[Residential Social Care Worker \(Oberstown Children Detention Campus\)](#). Deadline: 31

December 2025 at 5:00pm

[Events & Communications Officer \(Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development\)](#). Deadline: 16

January 2026

[Night Support Worker \(Depaul Ireland\)](#)

[Mental Health Project Worker \(Threshold Training Network\)](#)

[Members, Corporate Enforcement Authority](#). Deadline: 18 December 2025 at 3:00pm

[Director of Talent Acquisition, \(An Garda Síochána\)](#) Deadline: 8 January 2026 at 3:00pm

[District Inspector \(Office Public Works\)](#) Deadline: 8 January 2026 at 3:00pm

[Senior Inspector in the Office of the Inspector of Prisons \(Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration\)](#) Deadline: 8 January 2026 at 3:00pm

[Solicitor x2 Office of Corporate Legal Affairs, \(University College Cork\)](#) Deadline: 6 January 2026

Latest News

Privacy Concerns Over National Cyber Security Bill

November 2025 – ICCL News: Digital Rights Ireland and the ICCL will appear before the Oireachtas committee to raise concerns about the National Cyber Security Bill 2024. They warn the Bill gives the National Cyber Security Centre broad powers to scan networks, block domains, collect private communications and metadata, and compel service providers to install surveillance tools, raising potential mass surveillance and privacy issues beyond EU rules.

Click [here to read more details](#).

Minister O'Callaghan Secures Approval for Criminal Law Bill on Sexual Offences & Domestic Violence

October 2025 Government Press Release: Minister Jim O'Callaghan has secured government approval for the *Criminal Law (Sexual Offences, Domestic Violence and International Instruments) Bill 2025*. The Bill introduces a Domestic Violence Register of Judgments, strengthens sexual consent laws, replaces “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material,” and broadens anti-human trafficking measures. It also removes dual criminality for certain sexual violence offences committed abroad. The Bill will now undergo pre-legislative scrutiny before final drafting.

Click [here to read more details](#).

Click [here to read the full General Scheme](#).

Criminal Legal Aid Costs to Surge to €120 Million in 2025

December 2025 The Irish Times: Spending on the criminal legal aid scheme is set to exceed €120 million in 2025 around one-third more than last year. The Department of Justice had budgeted €99 million but sought an extra €21.5 million after costs for the first nine months rose nearly 30% year on year. The increase is linked to more court cases, recent fee changes, and a higher number of legal aid certificates. Monthly spending has risen consistently, with bigger jumps in May and July, and the Department notes the demand-led scheme is affected by case complexity and growing volumes of disclosure.

Click [here for more information](#).

€4.4 Million Community Safety Fund Supports 42 Projects

October 2025 Department of Justice: Minister Jim O'Callaghan has announced €4.4 million in funding for 42 community safety projects across Ireland. Initiatives target domestic and gender-based violence, youth engagement, addiction recovery, and community reintegration, with support provided by the National Office for Community Safety.

Click [here for more information on the fund](#).

Minister Welcomes Cuan's 2024 Report on Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence

November 2025 Government Press Release: Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan has welcomed the publication of Cuan's 2024 Annual Report, marking the first full year of operation for Ireland's new national agency dedicated to tackling domestic, sexual and gender-based violence. The report highlights major progress, including expanded refuge accommodation, the transfer and oversight of 78 frontline services, and the launch of key awareness campaigns. The Minister also outlined upcoming legislative reforms aimed at strengthening protections for victims and improving accountability for perpetrators. With increased Government funding and a growing organisational structure, Cuan is set to advance the Zero Tolerance strategy and further develop national supports, data systems and policy coordination in the years ahead.

Click [here to read Minister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan welcome the publication.](#)

Click [here to read Cuan Annual Report.](#)

Ireland Moves to Tighten Citizenship and Migration Rules

November 2025 Law Society Gazette: The Government has signed off on a new package of migration reforms, bringing tougher rules for family reunification and higher financial requirements for anyone sponsoring relatives to move to Ireland. A new application fee will also apply.

Refugee residence permits could now be refused or revoked in cases involving security concerns or serious crime. The path to citizenship is changing too: people granted international protection will need five years' residence instead of three, and certain welfare-dependent applicants may no longer qualify.

Those in State-provided protection accommodation who are working will also be asked to make income-based contributions as a new system rolls out over the next year.

The information is outlined in the November 2025 Law Society Gazette. Click [here to read full article.](#)

Bail in Ireland: Risk Management Under Review

November 2025 Government-commissioned report: A new report by Lorcan Staines SC on Ireland's bail system warns that without reform, failures like those that contributed to Shane O'Farrell's death in 2011 could happen again. While constitutional limits restrict major changes, the review finds the system cumbersome, inconsistent and inefficient, with poor information-sharing, long delays, and inconsistent monitoring of bail breaches.

The report makes 15 practical recommendations, including better data systems, bail supervision for repeat offenders, clearer judicial guidelines, and stronger electronic monitoring, aiming to manage risk more effectively and reduce reoffending. The Report dated 10 October 2025 was commissioned by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Click [here to read the full report.](#)

Learning & Development

[Women's Aid Centre for Learning & Practice Development – Allies & Informal Supporters Programme](#)

Women's Aid has launched a free programme designed to support family, friends, and professionals to understand the dynamics of domestic abuse and coercive control and how to safely support someone experiencing it. This new Centre for Learning & Practice Development also offers a range of targeted online and in-person programmes for frontline workers, legal professionals, community organisations, and others working with victims of domestic abuse.

[Adults Safeguarding Resources – MSP Toolkit & Practice Tools](#)

The National Safeguarding Office has developed the Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) Toolkit. The Toolkit is a set of practice tools designed to support professionals in adult safeguarding. The toolkit includes resources on communication, anti-oppressive practice, risk enablement, and guidance on recognising and responding to potential domestic abuse or coercive control.

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

[Trauma-Informed Care, Continuing Professional Development Certificate in UCC](#)

University College Cork offers a part-time online CPD certificate in Trauma-Informed Care. This course is designed for frontline practitioners who work with people affected by trauma. The course explores theory and practical application of trauma-informed practice across diverse settings. Closing date: 30th January 2026.

Learning & Development

[Rape Crisis Ireland Specialist Training & Bespoke Programmes](#)

Rape Crisis Centre delivers training for professionals (lawyers, social workers, community workers, support staff) including trauma-informed response, handling disclosures, privacy & data protection.

[Professional Certificate: Working Therapeutically with Sexual Abuse and Complex Trauma](#)

Provided by One in Four (Dublin) and approved for 55 IACP CPD hours, this course helps deepen understanding of complex trauma and child sexual abuse dynamics for qualified counsellors and psychotherapists. Begins January 31st, 2026, with monthly sessions through the year.

[Law Society Free & On-Demand CPD E-Learning](#)

The Law Society of Ireland currently offers a range of on-demand e-learning CPD modules available through the end of 2025, including training on Domestic Violence and Coercive Control and courses focused on professional wellbeing, client care and the ethics of legal practice. These are valuable resources for solicitors, barristers, and justice professionals needing accessible CPD options. Closing date: 31st December 2025.

Department of Justice Publishes Statement of Strategy 2025–2028

November 2025 Government Strategy Statement: The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has published its Statement of Strategy for 2025–2028, outlining six high-level goals aimed at creating a safe, fair, and inclusive Ireland. The strategy focuses on protecting security, ensuring safe communities, delivering an effective and accessible justice system, maintaining a fair and firm immigration system, increasing Ireland’s influence in Europe, and enhancing people, systems, and technology to achieve excellence.

Click [here to read the full strategy](#).

Citywest Centre Highlighted as “Best Practice” in EU Migration Pact

November 2025 RTÉ News: EU Migration Commissioner Magnus Brunner praised Ireland’s Citywest accommodation centre for International Protection applicants as an example of “best practice.” He said Ireland is well placed to implement the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, which streamlines asylum processes, introduces health and security checks, and improves returns systems.

Justice Minister Jim O’Callaghan highlighted efforts to balance immigration with population control, including reviewing student visas and family reunification. Ireland has opted into most elements of the Pact and will receive EU support for pressures on its reception system. Brunner also welcomed “migration diplomacy” with the UK and solidarity measures to support frontline states.

Click [here to view the article in RTE](#).

Consultation Launched on Changes to Judicial Review Framework

December 2025 Irish Examiner News: The Government has opened a public consultation on proposed reforms to the judicial review costs framework, published in early December and running over the Christmas and New Year period. The proposals include the introduction of “scale fees” that would set out standardised legal cost limits in certain categories of judicial review, particularly environmental and planning cases. The consultation document outlines how these changes would operate in practice, the circumstances in which the scale would apply, and the distinctions between different types of parties involved in proceedings.

Click [here to read more about the reform](#).

Irish Courts Service Podcast

Produced by the Courts Service of Ireland, this podcast series features discussions with judges and legal experts on landmark cases, legal principles such as the role of AI in courts, media influence on justice, and more. Great for understanding Irish law and legal history.

Click [here to listen to the most recent episode](#).

Criminal Justice Inspection Unpacked

A useful listen for anyone interested in policing and prosecution oversight. The latest episodes discuss institutional performance reviews and community resolution notices in Northern Ireland.

Click [here to listen](#).

Justice Gap Podcast - Episode 16: 'Prisons never make things better'

After 35 years leading the Howard League for Penal Reform, Frances Crook reflects on the UK's penal system, the charity's achievements, and why she believes prison is not the answer. Join her conversation with Calum McCrae on the Justice Gap Podcast for a candid look at reform, policy, and what the future could hold.

Click [here to listen to Frances Crook reflect on the UK's penal system](#).

Criminal Legal Aid Costs to Surge to €120 Million in 2025

December 2025 Irish Times: New figures from the Department of Justice indicate that spending on the criminal legal aid scheme is expected to exceed €120 million in 2025, representing an increase of roughly one-third compared with last year. The Department had originally allocated €99.04 million for the scheme, but a supplementary estimate of €21.5 million was sought after costs for the first nine months rose by almost 30 per cent year on year.

The increase reflects higher volumes of cases coming before the courts, recent fee adjustments under the scheme, and a rise in the number of legal aid certificates granted. Monthly spending patterns show consistent year-on-year increases, with notable rises recorded in May and July. According to the Department, the scheme remains demand-led, and factors such as case complexity and greater volumes of disclosure continue to influence overall expenditure.

Click [here for more information](#).

Irish Prisons at Breaking Point: Overcrowding Sparks 'Inhumane' Conditions

December 2025 The Sun News: A shocking new report from the Irish Penal Reform Trust reveals the country's prison system is overwhelmed, with over 600 people now sleeping on mattresses on the floor, often beside open toilets. Conditions are described as lacking dignity and fundamentally inhumane, and experts warn that simply building more prisons won't solve the crisis.

The article highlights systemic failures in Ireland's justice system, the rising prison population, and the urgent need for alternatives such as community sanctions and properly resourced diversion programs to reduce reoffending and restore safety.

Click [here to read more about the article](#).

Templemore Sees Record Garda Trainee Intake in 2025

November 2025 Department of Justice: The Garda Training College in Templemore has officially welcomed 223 new recruits in its largest single intake since 2014. With 794 trainees joining in 2025, interest in a career with An Garda Síochána has never been stronger with over 11,100 people applying this year alone.

As a result of reforms like faster recruitment, updated physical tests, and increased trainee allowances, more candidates can start their journey sooner. Looking ahead, the Department of Justice is exploring new ways to expand Garda training, including the possibility of a second college and collaborations with regional universities, paving the way for a new era in Irish policing.

Click [here to for further details](#).

Watch/Listen

Social Justice Matters Podcast

A regularly-updated podcast from Social Justice Ireland with very recent episodes examining poverty, inequality and policy responses in Ireland. This podcast is essential listening for anyone engaging with the social context of crime, marginalisation and justice outcomes in Ireland.

Click [here to listen](#).

Janet O'Brien on Loss and Restorative Justice

Janet O'Brien, whose son Luke O'Brien O'Reilly died following an unprovoked one-punch attack, joined Claire Byrne to share her story. In a deeply moving interview, Janet spoke about the devastating impact of her son's death and reflected on her experience of engaging with the restorative justice process.

Click [here to listen to Janet's experience](#).

Northern Ireland News

Spotlight on Youth Access to Justice in Northern Ireland

November 2025 Irish Legal News: The all-party group on access to justice in Northern Ireland brought together legal experts to discuss how children and young people interact with the criminal justice system, exploring issues like the age of criminal responsibility and upcoming Justice Bill reforms. Speakers stressed the need for stronger protections and fair access to justice for young people.

Click [here to read full article](#).

Public Backs Plans to Broadcast Northern Ireland Court Proceedings

October 2025 Irish Legal News: Plans to allow news outlets to broadcast some Northern Ireland court proceedings have received strong public support. Justice minister Naomi Long said the move will increase transparency while protecting victims, witnesses and jurors. The proposals follow a pilot allowing filming of Court of Appeal judgments and would require new legislation after the 2027 Assembly elections.

Click [here to view the article in Irish Legal News](#).

Justice Minister Pledges Action on Drug-related Intimidation

October 2025 EPPOC: A landmark report has found that one in eight people in Northern Ireland have experienced drug-related intimidation in the past three years. The research, commissioned by the Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime, highlights links between drug debt, organised crime and social vulnerability. Justice minister Naomi Long said the findings "lay bare the scale and complexity of the challenge we face" and called for a coordinated cross-sectoral response.

Click [here to read the report](#).

New Domestic Homicide Review Underscores Need for Early Intervention

November 2025 Government Press Release: The Department of Justice has published the Executive Summary of the Domestic Homicide Review into the death of Alyson Nelson, shedding light on the warning signs, coercive control, and systemic gaps that preceded her killing by a former partner. The report issues three key recommendations for policing, justice and health agencies, and calls for stronger interventions and education to challenge harmful attitudes that fuel violence against women. Work is already underway across agencies to act on the findings and strengthen Northern Ireland's response to domestic abuse.

Click [here to read more](#).

Click [here to read the full report](#).

Funding Boost for Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services

November 2025 Department of Justice NI: The Departments of Justice and Health have awarded £259,091 to 10 projects supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse. The funding will help deliver vital services, from trauma-informed counselling to legal advice clinics.

Justice Minister Naomi Long and Health Minister Mike Nesbitt praised the projects for their innovative approaches, helping victims access support, prevent abuse, and recover. This second round of grants brings the total funding under the scheme to £568,718.

Click [here to read more](#).

Click [here to read the full Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2024 – 2031](#).

Justice Department ‘Systemically Underfunded,’ says Naomi Long

December 2025 The Irish News: Justice Minister Naomi Long has warned her department is facing severe budget pressures, with its share dropping from 11% to 8% over the past decade while policing, prosecution, and incarceration costs rise. She praised her team’s careful financial management and called for a wider discussion on public spending priorities across departments.

Click [here to read more about what the Justice Minister Naomi Long has to say](#).

Call for Research & Abstract

International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) – Conference 2026 (Galway)

The Communication, Social Justice and Democracy Working Group is inviting abstracts for the IAMCR 2026 conference, to be held 28th June to 2nd July 2026, in Galway, Ireland. Submissions should explore themes such as media, communication, social justice, surveillance, human rights and democratic transformation.

Deadline: 3rd February 2026.

For more information & submission guidelines, [click here](#).

British Society of Criminology Conference 2026 – Nottingham Trent University

The British Society of Criminology invites submissions for papers and postgraduate presentations on themes including digital resilience in justice, sustainability, and global uncertainty. Abstract submissions open from the 12th of January and close 22nd February 2026.

Click [here for more information](#).

International Conference on Law, Culture and the Humanities (ICLCH) – Dublin

The 20th International Conference on Law, Culture and the Humanities is scheduled for 28th and 29th of August 2026, Dublin. Researchers are invited to submit papers on intersections of law, culture, society and ethics across contexts.

Click [here for further information](#).

Other Reports

[Department of Justice Statement of Strategy 2025– 2028: Safe Communities](#)

This strategic document, published in November 2025, outlines priorities for the Irish Department of Justice, including strengthening law enforcement, tackling crime causes, reducing reoffending, and promoting inclusive community safety — useful for understanding policy direction in crime prevention and justice planning.

[The Effectiveness of Diverting Children from the Criminal Justice System \(CJI, UK\)](#)

A report conducted by the Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorates examines youth out-of-court disposals and diversion practices in England and Wales. Highlighting inconsistencies and “postcode lottery” outcomes in diverting children from formal prosecution.

[Scottish Crime & Justice Survey.](#)

Published by the Scottish Police Authority, this report presents the latest Scottish Crime & Justice Survey findings, covering public experiences and perceptions of crime and justice for the 2023–24 period, offering valuable data on safety, crime prevalence and confidence in policing in Scotland.

International News

Seven Months On: The UK Supreme Court Gender Ruling

November 2025 The Guardian: In April, the Supreme Court ruled that the legal definition of a woman is based on biological sex, a decision with wide-reaching implications for access to women-only services. Seven months later, official guidance is still pending, businesses and public bodies face uncertainty, and new legal challenges are emerging as the ruling begins to reshape everyday spaces.

Click [here to view article in The Guardian.](#)

Human Rights Must Guide Ukraine Peace Deal

November 2025 Law Society Gazette: The Council of Europe’s Human Rights Commissioner, Irish lawyer Michael O’Flaherty, has stressed that any lasting peace in Ukraine must be rooted firmly in human-rights principles. While welcoming renewed global diplomatic efforts, O’Flaherty warned that human rights remain the only reliable foundation for a just settlement.

Click [here to read full article.](#)

EU Court Rules Poland Must Recognise Same-Sex Marriages from Abroad

November 2025 Law Society Gazette: The EU Court of Justice has ruled that EU countries must recognise same-sex marriages lawfully performed in another member state. The decision came after a Polish-German couple, married in Berlin, were denied recognition in Poland.

The court said refusal violates EU citizens’ freedom of movement and right to family life, though it clarified that member states are not required to allow same-sex marriage under national law, only to recognise it when lawfully performed abroad.

Click [here to read more about the case.](#)

ICC Under Threat: Member States Urged to Defend Justice

December 2025 Human Rights Watch: A new Human Rights Watch report warns that the International Criminal Court is facing intensifying political attacks, including US sanctions on court officials and Russian warrants targeting ICC staff. As member states meet in The Hague, they are being urged to defend the court, protect human-rights groups that work with it, and ensure the ICC has the resources it needs to function effectively.

Despite the pressure, the past year has seen major achievements, from the surrender of former Philippine President Duterte to a landmark Darfur conviction. The annual Assembly session now offers states a crucial opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to independent global justice.

Click [here to read more.](#)

Recent Publications

[New Research on Restorative Justice Referrals in Ireland](#)

Research led by Maynooth University and the Probation Service shows a significant 88% year-on-year increase in restorative justice referrals in Ireland in 2024. The study captures expanded provision, rising referrals, and completed victim-offender dialogues, marking the highest figures to date and signalling growing use of restorative practices.

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.

ACJRD Mailing List

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

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email enquiries@acjrd.ie stating 'unsubscribe' in the subject line of the email.

Women in Prison: Global Trends and Challenges

November 2025 The Guardian: New evidence highlights an alarming truth: women are the fastest-growing segment of the global prison population, overwhelmingly punished for non-violent, poverty-linked offences while their specific needs go unmet. With nearly a million women behind bars and up to 1,000 on death row, the findings raise urgent questions about justice, proportionality and gender-sensitive reform.

Click [here to read the findings](#).

EU Reaches First-Ever Union-Wide Deal on Criminal Law Rules Against Corruption

December 2025 European Parliament Press Release: The EU has reached a landmark agreement on its first directive to harmonise criminal law on corruption. This is an important step toward closing gaps that allow offenders to exploit differences between national systems. The new rules introduce shared EU definitions of key offences, common maximum penalties, and stronger cooperation between national authorities and EU bodies.

MEPs also secured measures to boost transparency, including the annual publication of EU-wide corruption data and a requirement for each member state to develop a national anti-corruption strategy in consultation with civil society. Click [here to read more about the agreement](#).

A Deadly Crisis for Women in Argentina and Protections Are Disappearing

December 2025 Human Rights Watch: Argentina is facing a sharp rise in gender-based violence, with femicides occurring nearly every day. Yet just as the danger grows, the government has gutted most programmes designed to protect women and LGBT people, lowering budgets, cutting services, and even proposing to remove femicide from the Penal Code.

This article exposes the human cost of these cuts and the urgent responsibility now facing incoming lawmakers: to stop the rollback and rebuild the protections survivors desperately need. Read [more about the unfolding crisis here](#).

Seventy-Nine Years Without a Woman

November 2025 Human Rights Watch: In nearly 80 years, the United Nations has never had a woman serve as secretary-general. With António Guterres' term ending in December 2026, the selection of the next leader is a critical moment to align the UN with its values of equality and human rights. Click [here to read more](#).



ACJRD 2026 Membership Fees

- ◆ Organisations: €100
- ◆ Registered Charities: €50
- ◆ Individuals: €25
- ◆ Students (Associate Membership): €10



Why Become a Member?

- ◆ Join the leading Irish Criminal Justice Network
- ◆ Get priority access to events, seminars, conferences & news
- ◆ Connect with professionals and experts across the sector
- ◆ Gain insights through publications and policy discussions
- ◆ Help build a more informed, collaborative justice system
- ◆ Be part of the movement - membership application form is [here](#)