



**IPRT**  
Irish Penal Reform Trust

## **IPRT Annual Lecture 2011**

### ***“Squaring the Circle – Penal Policy, Sentencing Offenders and Protecting the Community”***

**Mr Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence**

**Friday, 16th September 2011 - Law Society of Ireland, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7**

The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of everyone in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy, with prison as a last resort.

In recent years, we have invited leading national and international figures in penal reform to address our members and a wider audience of key stakeholders in the Irish penal system. Among those who have presented our annual lecture in recent years have been Dame Anne Owers, then HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Professor Nils Christie, world renowned criminologist.

This year it is our great honour to welcome Minister for Justice Alan Shatter to present our Annual Lecture and to set out his vision for the development of penal policy under the Fine Gael-Labour coalition Government.

The evening will be chaired by Judge Catherine McGuinness. Minister Shatter will take questions following his lecture; this session will be hosted by Colm O'Mongáin.

A wine reception will follow the event.

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### **KOD/Lyons Solicitors**

KOD/Lyons are delighted to be a sponsor of the IPRT Annual Lecture, in support of their invaluable work in penal reform. KOD/Lyons are also pleased to announce the launch of their new website: [www.kodlyons.ie](http://www.kodlyons.ie)

**KOD/Lyons**  
Human Rights & Criminal Law

### **Irish Penal Reform Trust**

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**T:** +353-1-8741400    **E:** [info@iprt.ie](mailto:info@iprt.ie)    **W:** [www.iprt.ie](http://www.iprt.ie)

## Biographies

### **Mr Alan Shatter TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence**

Alan Shatter was re-elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 having represented Dublin South Constituency in the Dáil since 2007 and previously from 1981 until 2002. He was appointed Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny on 9th March 2011. As a Fine Gael TD and an advocate of radical legal, social and environmental reform, Alan Shatter had previously published a wide range of Bills.

Educated at High School, Rathgar, and Trinity College Dublin, where he obtained a law degree, Alan Shatter also studied European Law, Politics and Economics at the Europa Instituut of the University of Amsterdam. As a student, he was Director of the Crumlin Free Legal Advice Centre (FLAC) and later became Chairman of FLAC. He subsequently became Chairman of CARE (Campaign for Deprived Children). Alan Shatter has practiced as a family lawyer in Dublin and is the author of Family Law in the Republic of Ireland now in its 4 edition.

As a TD representing Dublin South Constituency he has held various positions on the Fine Gael Front Bench including Spokesperson on Justice and Law Reform, Health, Labour, Defence and Children. He has served on the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and on the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Constitutional Amendment on Children.

### **Judge Catherine McGuinness, former Supreme Court Judge and former President, Law Reform Commission**

Judge Catherine McGuinness was born in Belfast and educated in Belfast and Dublin, studying in Alexandra College, Trinity College Dublin and Kings Inns. She was called to the Irish Bar in 1977 and to the Inner Bar in 1989. Judge McGuinness was appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 1994, and has served as a judge in the High Court and the Supreme Court.

In addition to her prestigious judicial career, Judge McGuinness also served on An Bord Uchtala (the Adoption Board), the Voluntary Health Insurance Board, the National Economic and Social Council, and the Second Commission on the Status of Women. Furthermore, she has acted as chairperson of the National Social Services Board, the National College of Art and Design, the Employment Equality Agency, the Kilkenny Incest Investigation, and the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation. She received the Rehab 2010 People of the Year Award for her pioneering and vast contribution to Irish life, including her contribution as an advocate for children's rights reform.

She is currently chair of the Irish University Quality Board, the National Council of the Forum on End of Life in Ireland, and Adjunct Professor of Law in NUI Galway. She is Patron of the Irish Refugee Council.

### **Colm Ó Mongáin, RTÉ**

Colm Ó Mongáin is a presenter and programme editor on RTÉ Radio 1's longest running current affairs programme 'This Week'. Colm previously worked with Newstalk106 as a producer and presenter and with TV3 as a journalist. He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he was Vice President of the Students' Union. Colm also worked as Communications Officer with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

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## Become a Member of IPRT

IPRT relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its work. By becoming a member of IPRT, you will be actively contributing to our research and awareness-raising activities, and thereby making a statement that you believe progressive penal reform is necessary, and that there is a better, more effective way of dealing with the most vulnerable in our society.

**Membership fees:** Individual - €40; Seniors, students, unwaged - €10; Organisation - €80; Prisoner/former prisoner/prisoners' families - no membership fee.

**Sign up online at <http://www.iprt.ie/become-a-member> or speak to an IPRT staff member after the event.**