



Operating Statement for year ending 31ST March 2003

	2003 €	2002 €
INCOME		
Donations	3,226	1,698
Grants	27,314	40,987
Deposit Interest	785	1,683
Subscriptions	3,922	3,598
Conferences	8,019	1,098
Other Income	2,304	31,142
Legal Challenge	6,389	
	<u>51,959</u>	<u>80,206</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages	30,683	27,102
Rent	11,568	12,730
Office Expenses	15,290	5,993
Reference Material		160
Training	631	622
Communications	6,433	18,319
Conferences	8,751	3,812
Travel	29	1,005
Legal	6,297	3,766
Audit	1,089	1,359
General Expenses	2,719	2,191
Depreciation of Equipment	1,995	1,451
	<u>85,485</u>	<u>78,510</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u><u>(33,526)</u></u>	<u><u>1,696</u></u>

Balance Sheet as at 31ST March 2003

	2003 €	2002 €
ASSETS EMPLOYED		
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	<u>2,371</u>	<u>3,952</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Sundry Debtors	750	761
Cash at Bank	<u>44,592</u>	<u>68,839</u>
	<u>45,342</u>	<u>69,600</u>
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within 1 year	<u>9,498</u>	<u>1,811</u>
	<u>9,498</u>	<u>1,811</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>35,844</u>	<u>67,789</u>
	<u>38,215</u>	<u>71,741</u>
CAPITAL EMPLOYED		
Revenue Reserves	<u>38,215</u>	<u>71,741</u>
	<u><u>38,215</u></u>	<u><u>71,741</u></u>

IPRT Board and Staff

Board

Chairperson:	Edward Boyne
Vice Chairperson:	Fionnuala O'Sullivan
Secretary:	Celesta McCann James
Treasurer:	Fintan Meagher
Board Member:	Tony Geoghegan
Board Member:	Claire Hamilton

Staff

Rick Lines:	Executive Director
Paula Swords:	Administrator

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annual report

2003-04



IRISH PENAL REFORM TRUST

The past year has been a very eventful one at the Irish Penal Reform Trust, and as Chair of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to offer a few comments on the progress of the organisation since the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

For the Board of Directors, the main objective over the past year has been to manage the transition from the able stewardship of Val Bresnihan to a new organisational regime, with a new Executive Director and new Chair. This transition has been achieved and has gone very smoothly. A competent, professional and imaginative new Executive Director has been in place since August. Since that time, the media profile of IPRT has increased substantially and numerous new and interesting projects have been initiated. Many of these developments are outlined in more detail in the Activities Report, inside.

Our major task in the coming year is to re-focus the organisation in relation to our policy development and campaigning priorities. The new Board will tackle this as a matter of priority. There are many areas demanding attention. Some issues have been the subject of IPRT campaigning in the past, and may now require a fresh approach. Others have emerged more forcefully in recent times. Our challenge will be to identify those issues of most urgent need, and to create strategies that will enable us to have a real impact on public debate and government legislation.

Difficulty securing reliable sources of funding is also an ongoing challenge for the IPRT, as it is for many similar organisations. The lack of secure core funding not only limits our organisational and staff capacity to engage proactive political work; it also means that significant amounts of staff and Board energies are necessarily devoted to fundraising rather than campaigning. This issue will also form a priority focus for the Board and Executive Director in the coming year. And the issues at hand are many.

Despite political rhetoric comparing prisons to hotels and resorts, the reality is that most prisons are overcrowded, often dangerous, provide sub-standard medical and mental health care and do nothing to prepare prisoners for the return to the community.

Children locked up in adult facilities are eight times more likely to commit suicide, five times more likely to be sexually attacked and twice as likely to be assaulted by staff than

juveniles confined in a juvenile facility. Adult institutions also lack the same type of programs and services that juvenile facilities provide to rehabilitate young offenders. The likelihood they will return to crime rises when they are initially imprisoned in an adult institution.

Women comprise only a relatively small proportion of adult prisoners, but they constitute the fastest growing segment of the prisoner population. The increasing numbers of incarcerated women require special examination of the issues particular to their confinement. The majority of women in prison have children. Many of these mothers run single-headed households and leave their children behind when they enter prison. The cause of "women in the prison system" was most recently championed in the UK by Cherie Blair.

Prisons are well on their way to replacing mental hospitals in Irish society. The impact and influence of an individual's mental illness affects their likelihood of arrest and incarceration. The majority of arrests of the mentally ill are for nonviolent offenses. When the mentally ill are incarcerated they encounter prisons and jails inadequately equipped to serve them. Untrained staff, limited medical care and access to medication, and inappropriate facilities and treatment put mentally ill prisoners in an extremely vulnerable situation. It is now urgent that ways are found to divert the mentally ill away from the prison system.

Chairperson's Report 2003-04 by Edward Boyne

In recent months we have observed unusual interest on the part of Government in relation to prison issues. This interest unfortunately has not stemmed from any intrinsic interest in the various policy issues. Announcements have been made about prison closures, and other measures implemented, more because of the ongoing war of attrition between the Government and the POA rather than any awareness of the wider policy consequences or implications.

The issues above are not new. Nor do they represent the totality of issues demanding reform. Penal policy has a major impact on a large section of our society. The challenge will be to find new ways to campaign effectively, engage the attention of the public and politicians and maintain an effective voice for human rights in Ireland in the coming years. We look forward to that challenge, and to playing an active role in the promotion of a more just, compassionate and humane society.

On behalf of the organisation I would like to thank our members for your dedication to our cause, and for your continued support for our efforts.



Activity Report April 2003 – March 2004

CAMPAIGNS, EVENTS & PUBLICATIONS

TAKING LEADERSHIP AGAINST PRISON PRIVATISATION



September 2003: IPRT press conference against prison privatisation. L to R - Rick Lines (IPRT), Ivana Bacik, Dr. Paul O'Mahony and Aisling Reidy (Irish Council for Civil Liberties)

The IPRT took the lead in launching a major campaign against the privatisation of Irish prisons, a scheme being discussed openly by the prison service in August. The campaign involved significant media work, as well as networking and collaboration with non-governmental organisations, Irish experts, academics and politicians. The IPRT organised private briefing sessions for TDs and journalists, coordinated the release of an Open Letter to Minister McDowell against privatisation signed by 16 leading experts in criminology and law, filed several Freedom of Information requests and conducted significant media work.

JUVENILE JUSTICE ALLIANCE

The IPRT maintained its involvement in the Juvenile Justice Alliance in 2003/04. Founded in 2002, the Alliance is driven by collaboration between the IPRT, the Children's Rights Alliance and the Irish Council for Civil Liberties and includes membership from several individuals with an interest in the issue.

TWO SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCES

In November we held our 7th Annual Conference – *Juvenile Justice in Ireland: Critical Perspectives, Human Rights & Good Practice*. Speakers included Mr. Rob Allen (Rethinking Crime and Punishment,

UK), Dr. Paul O'Mahony (Trinity College Dublin), Dr. Ursula Kilkelly (University College Cork), Dr. Linda Moore (Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission) and Fr. Peter McVerry. This was followed in December by *HIV, Hepatitis C, and Harm Reduction in Prisons: Evidence, Best Practice and Human Rights*, a conference co-sponsored with Merchant's Quay Ireland. Speakers included Prof. Heino Stover (University of Bremen, Germany), Dr. Jean Long (Health Research Board) and Mr. Rick Lines (IPRT).

RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE DETENTION ON NON-EU IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN IRISH PRISONS

The Irish Refugee Council, the Immigrant Council of Ireland and the IPRT began developing a joint research project on the detention of non-EU immigrants and refugees in Irish prisons. We hope this piece of research will be completed during the coming year.

OBSERVATION CELLS REPORT PUBLISHED

September saw the release of *To Be or no to Be: In Observation Cells?* by Dr. Valerie Bresnihan. This report followed up on the organisation's previous campaign against padded cells, and provided an analysis of the new "safety observation cells" that will replace them.

DISCUSSION PAPER ON MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

As part of our ongoing work on mental health issues, the IPRT commissioned a discussion paper on mental health courts. The report, prepared by Eugene Quinn of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, examines the experiences of diversion schemes for people with mental health problems who come into conflict with the law, and considers the value of their implementation in Ireland. *A Case for Mental Health Courts* will be released in the coming weeks.

NEW INTERNET BULLETIN LAUNCHED

In October the IPRT launched *Voices Rising*, a new internet eBulletin. Published monthly, *Voices Rising* provides

a forum to comment on new and emerging issues, impending legislation and other issues affecting prisoners' rights and human rights in Ireland. The eBulletin also provides an opportunity to promote IPRT events and highlight reports produced by our sister organisations in Ireland and internationally.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IRELAND NETWORK

The IPRT was a founding member of the Restorative Justice Ireland Network in 1997. In the autumn of 2003 the Network made the decision to formally dissolve so that a fresh consultation process could be initiated towards building a new and broader all-Ireland restorative justice project. The IPRT sits as a member of the steering committee for this process. The series of consultations began in February 2004, and the results will be completed later this year.

LOBBYING IN THE DÁIL

Over the past year, the IPRT has been in communication with many Government and Opposition TDs on issues such as prison privatisation, mental health, juvenile justice, incarcerated women and HIV/AIDS. The IPRT has regularly consulted with all but one of the Opposition Justice Spokespeople, as well as with several Government TDs with an interest in prison issues and/or human rights. These relationships have expanded the support for our work and have resulted in more than 50 PQs being submitted to various Ministers on issues directly related to IPRT campaigns. Our thanks to those TDs who have supported our work over the past year.



February 2004: International release of the the IPRT initiated "Dublin Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Prisons in Europe and Central Asia". L to R - Anya Sarang (Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network), Rick Lines (IPRT), Arnaud Wasson-Simon (AIDS Action Europe).

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

DUBLIN DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS IN PRISONS

The IPRT initiated and coordinated the writing and launch of the *Dublin Declaration on HIV/AIDS in Prisons in Europe and Central Asia*. This ground-breaking Declaration, detailing the rights of prisoners to HIV prevention and treatment services, has been endorsed by over 90 non-governmental organisations and experts from over 20 countries. The Declaration was launched internationally on February 23rd in five languages during an inter-ministerial conference on HIV/AIDS organised by the Irish Government, and now serves as an important tool for AIDS and prisoners' rights advocates across Europe and Central Asia.

INTERNATIONAL WATCH ON EDUCATION IN PRISONS

The IPRT is the Irish partner of the Brussels-based International Watch on Education in Prisons. In 2004, the IPRT was appointed chair of the European Working Group on Health Education in Prisons, which comprises members from Eastern and Western Europe, and is tasked with surveying current provision of health education in prisons across the region. In February, the IPRT Executive Director travelled to Hamburg to participate in an international meeting of the partner organisations of International Watch.

UNICEF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MISSION TO ROMANIA

In March, the IPRT acted as a Technical Assistance Advisor to the Romanian Ministry of Justice. This mission was organised by UNICEF Romania and the Canadian Public Health Association. IPRT Executive Director Rick Lines travelled to Bucharest for one week where he worked with officials from the Ministry of Justice in the development of a multi-year strategic work plan on HIV/AIDS in prisons and an implementation plan for the Ministry's projects supported by the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS. At the conclusion of the visit, the IPRT

prepared a mission report with recommendations for the Romanian prison service.



March 2004: IPRT participates in UNICEF Technical Assistance Mission in Bucharest, Romania. L to R - Mr. Bill Ryan (Canadian Public Health Association), Mr. Pierre Poupard (UNICEF Representative in Romania), Dr. Tania Goldner (Project Officer, UNICEF Romania) and Rick Lines (IPRT).

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

In August, the IPRT welcomed the arrival of our new Executive Director, Mr. Rick Lines. Rick has brought to the organisation 10 years experience working professionally in prisoners' rights advocacy and policy, with a specific expertise on HIV/AIDS and drug use issues. Originally from Canada, he has been involved with the IPRT since moving to Ireland in 2000.

Rick has published and spoken extensively on prison health reform, including authoring the IPRT's 2002 report *A Call for Action: HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in Irish Prisons*. He brings to the organisation significant international experience in prisoners' rights advocacy, having worked on prison health initiatives with NGOs and prison officials in North America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

IPRT IN THE NEWS

Over the past 12 months the IPRT has seen an exponential increase in its media presence. During 2003/2004, the IPRT was quoted or interviewed in over 150 media reports, covering all the major television, radio and print outlets. Following a concerted campaign targeting regional radio, the organisation has also realised an 800% increase in our regional media coverage. This has been a

significant achievement as it has enabled the organisation to provide regular commentary on prison issues, and in many cases set the agenda of discussion.

NEW WEBSITE

The IPRT website has been redesigned by Orbis Media and will be launched in the coming weeks. The IPRT will provide a world-class site designed as a research tool for policy makers, legislators, students, journalists, academics and anyone else interested in prisoners' rights and penal reform in Ireland. The site will be completely searchable, and will become the premier Irish website on the issues of importance to the IPRT's mandate. The new IPRT website will be found at www.iprt.ie

NEW SUBCOMMITTEES

The Board of Directors approved a formalised subcommittee structure. Subcommittees are empanelled to advise the Board and Executive Director on key identified issues, and provide an opportunity for individuals with specific interests or expertise to contribute to our work. In 2003/04, the Board struck subcommittees on incarcerated women and on HIV/drug use in prisons.

INTERNSHIPS

Over the last year, the IPRT benefited from the work of three student interns from Canada and the United States. Aaron Hunter from the University of Toronto Law School conducted a piece of original research on sentencing. Shannon Choy of Northeastern University Law School conducted legal research and analysis on Irish and International law relating to juvenile justice, prison health and incarcerated women. Courtney Biggins of Villanova University compiled the research and documentation archive that forms the basis of our new website. Thanks Aaron, Shannon and Courtney for all your work!

FUNDING

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Allen Lane Foundation and the St. Stephen's Green Foundation for their generous financial support in 2003/04. We have also initiated a 10th Anniversary fundraising campaign.