



Shifting Focus: From Criminal Justice to Social Justice

Building Better and Safer Communities

Thursday, 23 September 2010

Gresham Hotel, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1



IPRT

Irish Penal Reform Trust

Respect for rights in the penal system with prison as a last resort.



At a time of a deepening economic and social crisis, we want to propose a simple yet proven idea – that a shift in resources from criminal justice to social justice makes social and economic sense.

Currently, our system of justice is spending increasing and wasteful amounts of scarce resources with poor results in reducing crime. However, we believe that modest investments in under-resourced communities – with particular emphasis on prevention and early intervention strategies – would have greater positive effects in reducing offending, as well as producing wider social benefits.

Informed by a common commitment to human rights and social justice, **IPRT** has come together with **Barnardos** and **IAYPIC** (Irish Association of Young People in Care) to analyse how this idea can be put in practice.

This 1-day conference will bring together leading Irish and international speakers to consider how Ireland might begin to refocus our approach to crime and social policy.

The three key questions which the conference will address are:

- How can justice policy be more integrated in wider social policy?
- What do service providers need to do to persuade policy-makers to invest in long-term prevention and intervention strategies?
- Can political commitment to long-term prevention strategies be achieved? If so, how?

Speakers include Prof Lesley McAra of Edinburgh University, Prof Pat Dolan of NUI Galway, Prof Nick Frost of Leeds Metropolitan University, and Dr Paul O'Mahony of Trinity College, Dublin.

Organisations currently designing and delivering effective interventions in the community will also present at the Conference, and a panel of politicians will explore how academic knowledge about what works in building stronger communities can be translated into meaningful political action.



Registration

Spaces are limited so early registration is advised.

There is no attendance fee. A light lunch will be served.

Register online at:
www.iprt.ie/events-signup
or email: info@iprt.ie

*This Conference is supported by
The Atlantic Philanthropies.*

Irish Penal Reform Trust

The Irish Penal Reform Trust is Ireland's leading NGO campaigning for the rights of everyone in the penal system. We campaign for the use of detention as a last resort and for the progressive reform of penal policy in Ireland. IPRT has long argued that prisoners cannot be treated in isolation from the communities from which they come and to which they return, and that penal policy must be connected up to relevant policies in the health and social spheres.

Barnardos

Barnardos' vision is an Ireland where childhood is valued and all children and young people are cherished equally. Barnardos' mission is to challenge and support families, communities, society and government to make Ireland the best place in the world to be a child, focusing specifically on children and young people whose well-being is under threat. Barnardos has over 42 projects working directly with children and families throughout the country.

Irish Association of Young People in Care

IAYPIC is an independent association that works with children and young people who are currently in care or have experience of living in care. IAYPIC's mission is to: advocate at a national and local level for the rights of young people with care experience; organise and amplify the voices of young people with care experience; and to base our advocacy on meaningful engagement with young people, documented data and commissioned research.

Conference Programme

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9.15-9.45 Registration and tea/coffee

9.45 Introduction: Dr. Ursula Kilkelly, Irish Penal Reform Trust

9.50-10.15 Keynote address:
Youth in and out of Risk – Time for Pragmatic Policy!
Prof. Pat Dolan, Director of the Child and Family Research Centre in NUI, Galway

10.15-11.00 **Session 1: Criminal Justice and Social Justice**
The Social Context for Crime and Crime Reduction
Chair: Dr. Liam Delaney, Centre for Behaviour and Health, UCD Geary Institute

Criminal Justice versus Social Justice
Dr. Paul O'Mahony, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin

Early Intervention and Juvenile Justice: Key Messages from Research
Prof. Lesley McAra, Chair of Penology in the School of Law, University of Edinburgh

11.00-11.15 Q&A

11.15-11.30 Tea & Coffee

11.30-12.45 **Session 2: Minding the Gaps**
Opportunities for effective interventions outside the criminal justice system
Chair: Jillian van Turnhout, Chief Executive, Children's Rights Alliance

Early Intervention with Children and Families
Prof. Nick Frost, Professor of Social Work (Childhood, children and families), Leeds Metropolitan University

Educational Disadvantage and Prison: Reimagining the Pathways
Dr. Dermot Stokes, National Co-ordinator, Youthreach

Working with Young People who have serious Drugs and Alcohol Problems
Geraldine Ring, Director, Matt Talbot Adolescent Services

12.45-13.00 **Joining Up the Dots: a Community-based strategy to improve inter-agency collaboration**
Marian Quinn, CEO of the Childhood Development Initiative, Tallaght West

13.00-14.00 Lunch
Screening of 'The Fear Factory'

14.00-15.10 **Session 3: Interventions that Work**
Breakout groups; indicate your preference at registration on the 23rd Sept.

A – Prevention (Chair: Ciairín de Buis, Director, Start Strong)

- **Tús Maith – early years programme**
Mary Corrigan, Tús Maith Coach, Barnardos
- **Families First**
Paul Johnston, Coordinator, Functional Family Therapy
- **Incredible Years**
Sean McDonnell, Research & Training Manager, Archways

B – Intervention (Chair: TBC)

- **Friendship Programme**
Sabrina Harvey, Project Leader – Friendship Programme, Barnardos
- **Jigsaw**
Lorna Powell, Jigsaw youngballymun Programme Co-ordinator
- **Aftercare, Advocacy and Support Programme**
Brenda Kneafsey, Aftercare Co-ordinator, IAYPIC

C – Diversion (Chair: Eleanor McClorey, CEO, youngballymun)

- **Youth Projects**
Eddie Darcy, Manager of Youth Work Services, Catholic Youth Care
- **Youth Crime Case Management System**
Rose Sweeney, Adviser to the Garda Office for Children and Youth Affairs with responsibility for Youth Crime Case Management

15.15-16.00 **Session 4: Making the Shift**
Open forum with leading politicians on how to bring about a shift from criminal justice to social justice
Chair: Norah Gibbons, Director of Advocacy, Barnardos

- Sen. Dan Boyle (Green Party)
- Mary O'Rourke TD (Fianna Fáil)
- Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD (Sinn Féin)
- Pat Rabbitte TD (Labour)
- Alan Shatter TD (Fine Gael)

16.00-16.15 **Conference Conclusions**
Liam Herrick, Executive Director, Irish Penal Reform Trust

(16.15 Close)

Biographies of Speakers

Professor Pat Dolan is joint founder and Director of the Child and Family Research Centre in NUJ, Galway, and in October 2008 he became the first person from the Republic of Ireland to be appointed UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civil Engagement; the core objective of this programme is to highlight the best practice for civic engagement for children and youth. In addition, his research includes a longitudinal study of adolescents and their perceived mental health and social support networks.

Nick Frost is Professor of Social Work (Children, childhood and families), at the Faculty of Health, Leeds Metropolitan University. He has researched widely in the fields of family support and integrated working. Nick has published in the fields of child welfare and professional learning, including most recently *Understanding Children's Social Care* (with Nigel Parton, Sage, 2009) and as co-editor of *Beyond Reflective Practice* (with Bradbury et al, 2010). Nick worked in local authority social work for 15 years before commencing his academic career.

Professor Lesley McAra holds the Chair of Penology in the School of Law, University of Edinburgh. Her teaching and research focuses on youth crime and justice; the sociology of punishment; and gender, crime and criminal justice. She is Co-Director of the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime, a longitudinal study of pathways into and out of offending for a cohort of around 4,300 young people. She is also a member of the Editorial Boards of the British Journals of Criminology and Youth Justice.

Dr. Paul O'Mahony is currently a Senior Lecturer in Psychology in the School of Medicine, Trinity College, Dublin. He was formerly a research psychologist in the Department of Justice and was a member of the National Crime Forum and a founder member of both the Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Drug Policy Action Group. He is the author of *Crime and Punishment in Ireland* (1993), *Criminal Chaos: Seven Crises in Irish Criminal Justice* (1996), *Mountjoy Prisoners: A Sociological and Criminological Profile* (1997), *Prison Policy in Ireland: Criminal Justice versus Social Justice* (2000), and *The Irish War on Drugs: The seductive folly of prohibition* (2008) and he is the editor of *Criminal Justice in Ireland* (2002).

Marian Quinn has been Chief Executive Officer of the Childhood Development Initiative in Tallaght West since May 2007. A former Youth and Community Worker, she was Co-ordinator in a Youthreach Centre for early school leavers and author of a crime prevention programme which became the Copping On National Youth Crime Prevention Initiative, which she then coordinated for five years. She was Director of Child and Family Services with the HSE, and played a central role in the establishment of Breaking Through, the All-Ireland Network for Youth Practitioners. Marian was seconded from the HSE to the Department of Justice, where she was responsible for developing services and policies for children and families in the asylum process. Marian has published a number of academic articles and contributions in relation to youth crime.

Geraldine Ring is Director for the Matt Talbot Adolescent Services, which provides drug and alcohol treatment programmes including a specialised residential programme to young people with serious drug problems. Geraldine trained, licensed and worked in the USA in a variety of different models of treatment for young people. She was invited by Manchester University to become part of a European reduction forum. Geraldine has worked with young people for 20 years most of whom were involved with Juvenile Justice.

Dr. Dermot Stokes is the National Co-ordinator of Youthreach, which is the principle national response aimed at early school leavers with poor qualifications. Throughout his career, the principal focus of his work has been young people and especially their transition from childhood to adulthood. He has a particular interest in educational disadvantage and social exclusion, on which he has taught and written extensively at both Irish and European levels. His doctoral research investigated the matrix of influences involved in early school leaving.

