



IPRT

Irish Penal Reform Trust

Annual Report 2014–2015 Implementing Reform



We need YOU

Be part of something effective

IPRT relies on individual donations, membership subscriptions and charitable trusts to cover its operational costs. This contributes to guaranteeing the independence of the organisation, which is essential to the integrity of our work.

Our effectiveness over recent years is demonstrated by real achievement in terms of progressive policy change, alongside a deepening of wider public debate around prisons and prisoners, and provision of a key central resource of research and information on prisons and penal reform.

Significantly, we have managed to achieve real change with a staff of just four, supported by a team of dedicated interns and a voluntary expert board. We believe we punch well above our weight.

However, the generous support of our two main grant funders – Atlantic Philanthropies and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – is coming to an end in 2016.

Unless IPRT accesses new sources of support, we will be unable to ensure that recent policy commitments and developments become reality.

If you value the contribution IPRT has made over recent years, and believe our work should continue into the future, **please consider showing your support by becoming a member or making a donation.**

By supporting IPRT, you are making a real contribution to the campaign for progressive reform – and thereby making a statement that you believe penal reform is necessary, and that there is a better, fairer, and more effective way of responding to offending.

For more information about how you can support the work of IPRT, please visit: www.iprt.ie/what-you-can-do or call us on 01-8741400

Transparency

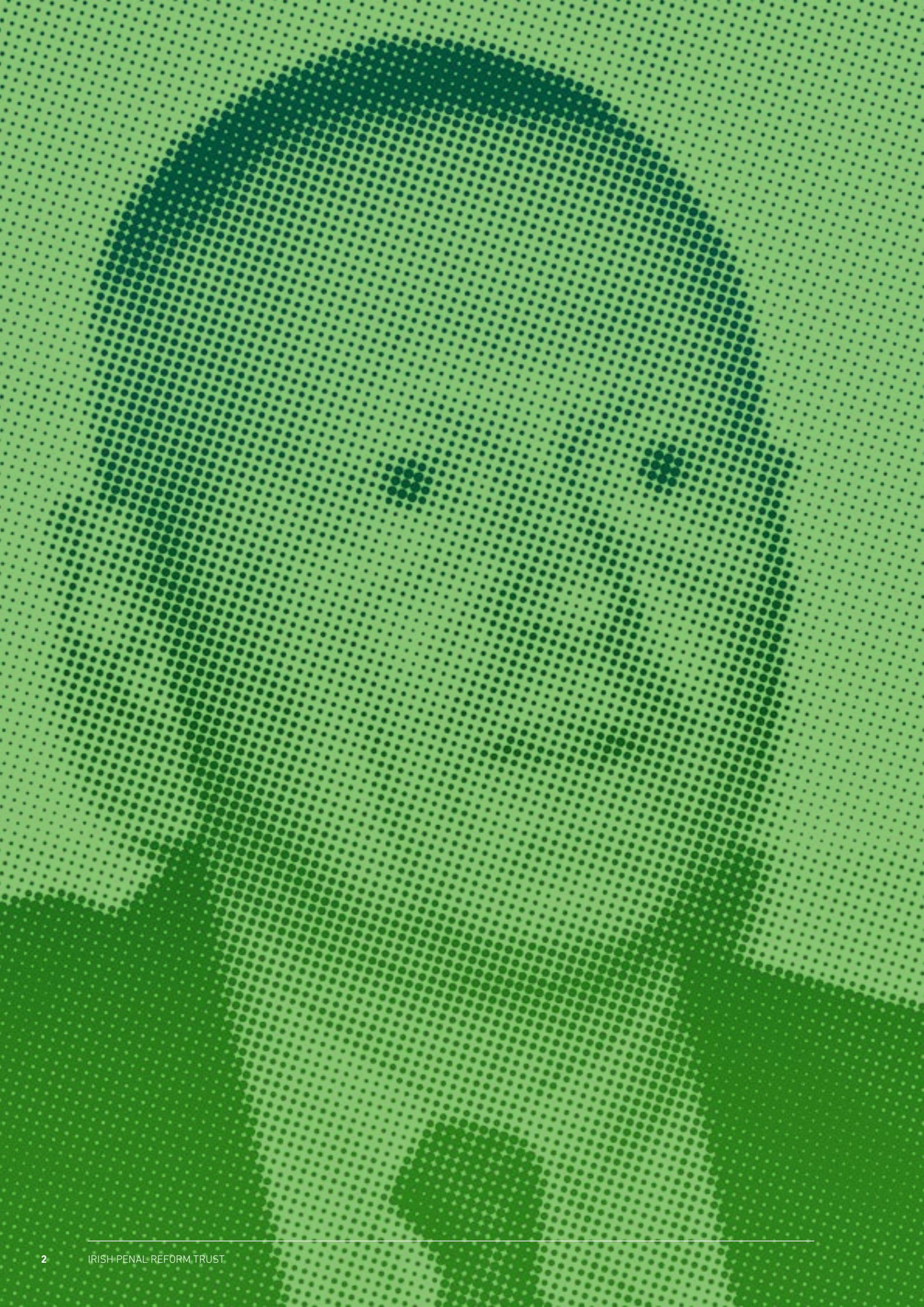
IPRT believes in total transparency and accountability around how we use funding and donations to achieve our vision of progressive penal reform, with imprisonment as a last resort.

If you would like to know more about how we spend donations, please contact Deirdre Malone, IPRT Executive Director at dmalone@iprt.ie

There are many other ways that you can become involved in the movement for penal reform in Ireland. Find out more at: www.iprt.ie/get-involved or by calling us at: 01-8741400

Contents

We need YOU	II
Contents	1
Message from IPRT Chairperson	3
Message from IPRT Executive Director	4
Irish prisons 2014 at a glance	6
Who we are	8
Our Vision	11
Areas of work	12
Human rights in prison	12
<i>Accountability</i>	12
<i>Report on the Death of Gary Douch</i>	12
<i>Prison conditions</i>	13
<i>Restricted regimes</i>	13
<i>Minorities in prison</i>	13
Imprisonment as a last resort	14
<i>Shift in policy towards imprisonment as last resort</i>	14
<i>Use of community sanctions</i>	14
<i>Ending Imprisonment for Fines Default</i>	15
Penal policy and social policy	16
<i>Shift toward evidence-based policy</i>	16
<i>Breaking the cycle</i>	16
<i>Spent convictions</i>	17
Youth Justice	18
<i>Detention facilities for children</i>	18
<i>Diversion of children</i>	18
<i>Turnaround Youth</i>	19
Seminars & Events	20
Activities	22
Communications	22
Research & Policy	24
Alliances	26
Engagement with prisoners and their families	28
Strategy & Governance	29
Finance	30
Friends of IPRT	32



Message from IPRT Chairperson

We must avoid any temptation to be complacent about the state of the Irish penal system. Serious and pervasive problems include overcrowding, lack of in-cell sanitation facilities in some locations, lack of segregation of remand and convicted prisoners and between detained immigrants and sentenced prisoners and high levels of inter-prisoner violence. The Irish Penal Reform Trust has been steadfast in the past year in engaging across the issues. Always, its advocacy has been on the basis of solid research and incorporated constructive evidence-based recommendations.

IPRT highlights in 2015 have included the roll out of a major report, *Turnaround Youth: Young Adults in the Criminal Justice System* and the delivery of submissions to a new review of the culture and operation of the Irish Prison Service. Submissions were also made to meetings and hearings of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality and the All Party Oireachtas Penal Reform Group. IPRT organised a number of high profile and very well attended seminars for policy makers and stakeholders, including on the topic of Children's Rights Behind Bars. We have engaged repeatedly with the Minister for Justice and officials, for instance to advise on how the Spent Convictions Bill might be amended to be compliant with Ireland's human rights obligations.

Our Executive Director, Deirdre Malone and her small and dedicated team have delivered excellent results in the past year. It is thanks to them that IPRT is recognised as the pre-eminent independent watchdog on human rights in the Irish penal system. On behalf of the IPRT Board I wholeheartedly thank Deirdre and the IPRT team.

In 2015, IPRT marked its 21st year of existence. It is timely to consider if IPRT will be here in 21 years' time. While it is certainly the case that there will continue to be a compelling need for its work, the answer to that question is not clear at present. Our current core funding will not last past 2016 and, as is the case for many Irish organisations, we have as yet to identify alternative sources of core funding. The IPRT Board however is committed to pursuing every avenue so that the work of the Trust will carry on.

I write these words coming up to the end of just one year as Chair of the Board. I greatly regret that I must now step down since I will soon take up a post outside Ireland. As I depart I express deep appreciation to my wonderful colleagues and I wish the Irish Penal Reform Trust every best wish in its vital work.

Prof Michael O'Flaherty
Chairperson,
Irish Penal Reform Trust
November 2015

Message from IPRT Executive Director

With a smaller staff team, IPRT achieved a great deal in 2014–15. There are many highlights over this period but the publication of the cross-agency *Report of the Strategic Review on Penal Policy*, in September 2014 (a process in which IPRT played a key role) marked a crucial moment. The Report constitutes the formal expression of a measure of consensus achieved across all stakeholders as to how together we might achieve the common goal of developing and sustaining a just, proportionate and humane penal system which will contribute to an overall goal of reducing offending. Work on implementation of the recommendations continues, and we remain proud of our contribution to the process and positive about its potential impact.

As an organisation we are particularly pleased with the significant impact our reports have had over the period. Just a few months post-publication of *Travellers in the Prison System*, a new Traveller in Prison Initiative was established to implement the Report's recommendations, generously jointly funded by the St. Stephen's Green Trust and the Irish Prison Service, 2014–17. Our work with international monitoring bodies during the visit of the *European Committee for the Prevention of Torture* and particularly our work around the UN Human Rights Committee hearings in July 2014 also yielded great results. Not only did we strongly advocate in person at this latter hearing, we secured vital recommendations for change and widespread media coverage of the issues raised.

In December 2014 and May 2015 we hosted two fantastic events, the former event – *Children's Rights Behind Bars* – focussed on improving accountability for children behind bars and the latter – *Turnaround Youth* – advocated a distinct approach for 18–24 year olds. We are encouraged that our work in this area is beginning to yield tangible results for that vulnerable age group. Throughout the whole period we maintained our extremely strong media engagement and presence and we are proud that we remain the go-to organisation for comment on penal reform issues. All the while, quietly in the background, ground-breaking empirical research on pre-trial detention, prison litigation, infectious diseases in prison and the position of the older prisoner and LGBT prisoner continued apace.

We are extremely grateful to our members and funders for their ongoing support over the last year. It was and continues to be imperative to balance our advocacy work with vital development work towards securing our sustainability as an organisation. The growing investment of time and resources in our fundraising work is vital if we are to stabilise IPRT's position in the long term. While IPRT will always work towards respect for rights in the prison system, our true effectiveness is necessarily contingent on replacing our current core funding which will run out at the end of 2016. **We invite our membership to consider a special donation this year to safeguard the vital work of the organisation into the future and to ensure that our expert and experienced voice for reform is not lost.**

Finally, I want to thank my small but mighty team, Deputy Executive Director Fíona Ní Chinnéide, Employment-based PhD Student Kate O'Hara and Development Executive Marie Therese Power and the Chair and all members of the IPRT Board for their unflagging determination, energy and enthusiasm over the last 18 months in delivering our common mission: to reform Ireland's penal system and to make imprisonment a last resort.

Deirdre Malone
Executive Director,
Irish Penal Reform Trust
November 2015



Irish Prisons 2014

At a glance

JANUARY

The average number of prisoners in custody was 3,661. (January 2014)

In the case of *SB v Director of Oberstown School* [2013] IEHC 562, Horgan J finds in favour of the 17-year-old applicant and rules that there was an entitlement to remission of detention for children in detention schools on the same basis as it applies in the adult prison system. (1 January 2014)

FEBRUARY

The Irish Youth Justice Service publishes its action plan *Tackling Youth Crime – Youth Justice Action Plan, 2014-2018*. The report details statistics on rates of offending among young people, and identifies the responsibilities of the Ministers for Children and for Justice respectively. (3 February 2014)

MARCH

The Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service publish a Joint Strategy on *An Effective Response to Women Who Offend*. The report emphasises the complex needs of women who offend, and the need to develop more effective gender-informed and community-based responses to offending by women. (6th March 2014)

APRIL

The Taoiseach reveals to the Dáil that conversations between 84 prisoners and their solicitors were “inadvertently recorded”; notwithstanding that according to the Prison Rules 2007, the Constitution of Ireland and the European Convention of Human Rights, such communications should be regarded as privileged and confidential. (1 April 2014)

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol (NACDA) publishes a new study on drug use in Irish prisons. The report indicates that some improvements have taken place in drug treatment provision and access to rehabilitative support services; however, one finding shows that 43% of inmates who had used heroin first started taking it in prison. (10 April 2014)

MAY

The Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Death of Gary Douch (which occurred in 2006) is published. System failures, severe overcrowding, inadequate oversight, and inaccurate recording and sharing of critical information are among the litany of failures identified by the Commission. (1 May 2014)

JUNE

The Dóchas Centre and Limerick’s female Prison are operating at 110% capacity and 114% capacity respectively. In the Dóchas Centre there are 116 women in custody in a space designed for 105 and in Limerick’s female prison there are 32 women in custody in a space designed for 28. (24 June 2014)

JULY

In a report on an Inspection of Loughan House Open Centre, the Inspector of Prisons identifies the lack of equal provision for women prisoners in Ireland as a key issue noting that “[t]here are many women serving long sentences (...) who would satisfy the criteria for transfer to an Open Centre”.
(3 July 2014)

The UN Human Rights Committee’s Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Ireland are published. Critically, it is noted that “[t]he State party should step up its efforts to improve the living conditions and treatment of detainees and address overcrowding and the practice of ‘slopping out’ as a matter of urgency”.
(24 July 2014)

AUGUST

The average number of prisoners in custody for this month is 3,874.
(August 2014)

Five Prison Visiting Committee Annual Reports for 2013 are published by the Minister for Justice.
(18 August 2014)

SEPTEMBER

Two reports by the Inspector of Prisons (namely, *Report of investigations into the deaths of prisoners in custody* and *Overview of Mountjoy Prison Campus with particular emphasis on the Separation Unit*) suggest a two-tier system is in operation in the Irish prison system, where real progress is being achieved in some areas of the prison system, while conditions and practices in other areas are of grave concern.
(12 September 2014)

The final report of the Strategic Review on Penal Policy is published.
(17 September 2014)

OCTOBER

The Inspector of Prisons’ *Annual Report for 2013-2014* identifies serious matters of concern, including the ongoing detention of under-18s in St Patrick’s Institution, and issues around “incomplete, inaccurate, and at times misleading” prison records, which present obstacles in the Inspector’s investigations of prison deaths.
(9 October 2014)

On average during this month, 305 prisoners (8%) are required to slop out and 1,404 prisoners (37%) are required to use the toilet in the presence of another prisoner.
(October 2014)

NOVEMBER

Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald TD, states that she has obtained the agreement, in principle, of Government to proceed immediately with the implementation of some key recommendations arising from the Strategic Review of Penal Policy.
(18 November 2014)

DECEMBER

A Report by the Inspector of Prisons (*Report into the circumstances surrounding the death of Prisoner C in the Midlands Prison*) reveals that an elderly prisoner suffering from multiple severe medical conditions was refused temporary release where there were clear and unambiguous recommendations to the contrary from both medical and operational staff.
(17 December 2014)

Who we are



Patron of IPRT President Michael D Higgins

Advocates of IPRT



Paula Meehan
Ireland Professor of Poetry



Peter Sheridan
Author and director



Senator Ivana Bacik



John Loneragan
Former Governor of
Mountjoy Prison

IPRT Board of Directors

IPRT is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors, made up of a minimum of seven members with expertise in a range of areas relevant to penal reform. The Board focuses on the broader strategic goals of the organisation. The majority of members of the Board are elected at the organisation's AGM and further members may be co-opted by the Board.



Dr Mary Rogan
(Chair, until Oct 2014)
Head of Law, DIT
Barrister



Prof Michael O'Flaherty
(Chair, from Nov 2014)
Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish
Centre for Human Rights at NUIG



Eddie D'Arcy
(Vice-Chair, until March 2014)
Former Youth Work Services
Manager for Catholic Youth Care



Seamus Taylor
(Vice-Chair, from March 2014)
Lecturer in Social Policy Studies



Paul Mackay
(Treasurer, until Jan 2015)
Chartered Accountant, and Chair
of Care After Prison



Kevin Gregory
(Treasurer, from Feb 2015)
Finance & ICT Manager with Business
in the Community Ireland



Kathleen Leader
(Secretary)
Barrister



Prof Joe Barry
Professor of Public Health, TCD



Johnny Connolly
Criminologist



Joan O'Flynn
(from Oct 2014)
CEO of the Camogie Association
and board member of the Ana Liffey
Drug Project



Christine Littlefield
Director of Fundraising &
Communications with Depaul Ireland



Paddy Richardson
(until Oct 2014)
Chief Executive of IASIO
(Irish Association for the Social
Integration of Offenders)



Niall Walsh
Prison education worker, engaged in
education and support of prisoners
post-release



Dr Kevin Warner
Adjunct Lecturer, and former
Co-ordinator of Education in the
Irish prison system

IPRT Staff

In 2014-15, the day-to-day work of IPRT was carried out by a team of three staff and one employment-based PhD candidate, who is working on a discrete research project.



Deirdre Malone
Executive Director



Fíona Ní Chinnéide
Deputy Executive Director



Marie Therese Power
Development and
Administrative Executive



Kate O'Hara
Employment-based PhD candidate,
jointly funded by the IRC and IPRT

IPRT Interns

Our work is supported by a team of dedicated interns, who bring their skills and passion for social justice and penal reform to their work with IPRT.

Ronan Hickey
(Oct 2013 – Feb 2014)

Elizabeth Martin
(March – June 2014)

Keith Adams
(March – June 2014)

Yvonne Kennedy
(June 2014)

Harriet Burgess
(July – August 2014)

Amy Deane
(Sept 2014)

Iseult Ni Choitir
(Sept 2014 – Jan 2015)

David McGuinness
(Feb – May 2015)


Róisín O'Sullivan
(June 2015)

Ellen Whelan
(Feb – July 2015)

Louise Rohan
(July – August 2015)

Katie Stevens
(Sept 2015 – present)

Sean Duggan
(Sept 2015 – present)



IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, ensuring access to human rights in prisons, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies.

The focus of our activities is on: the use of imprisonment, including sentencing policy; youth justice, with particular emphasis on prevention and early intervention; alternatives to custody and diversion; and the treatment and rehabilitation of those in detention.

Everything we do is underscored by our commitment to combating social injustice.

We work across four broad areas:

- **Human Rights in Prison**
- **Imprisonment as a Last Resort**
- **Penal Policy and Social Policy**
- **Youth Justice**

Areas of Work

Human Rights in Prison

IPRT advocates for the human rights of everyone in the penal system. We work towards this through engagement with the political process, with the legal system, with national and international human rights monitoring processes, and through influencing public discourse.

Accountability

Strengthening accountability in the Irish prison system has been a cornerstone of IPRT's campaigning work since its establishment. Monitoring and inspection of places of detention, along with an effective independent complaints mechanism for prisoners, are central to the protection of human rights of prisoners and form part of Ireland's obligations under international law. Robust accountability mechanisms also play a crucial preventative role in any prison system. Key elements include:

- **Regular inspection reports**, which are made public, to identify the issues that need to be addressed before conditions become such that tensions arise;
- **Robust independent investigations** into serious incidents that do occur (with reports made public), to ensure accountability, consequences, and the prevention of future incidents;
- An **independent complaints mechanism** in which prisoners and prison staff alike have confidence is also crucial to defusing tensions in prison.

Although there has been significant progress since 2012, including improvements to the internal prisons complaints system and the introduction of a system for independent investigation into deaths occurring in prison custody, acute issues remain:

- prisoners in Ireland do not have access to a fully independent complaints mechanism;
- the Parole Board is not independent of political control, and should be established on a statutory basis;
- Ireland has not ratified the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture).

In the Programme for Government 2011-16, the Government committed to strengthening the Office of the Inspector of Prisons and reform the Prisons Visiting Committee system. This has not happened, and the *Inspection of Places of Detention Bill* was not progressed during 2014.

During 2014 and 2015, reports on investigations conducted by the Inspector of Prisons into deaths occurring in prison custody were published regularly, with clear recommendations for immediate action. IPRT welcomes the improved transparency and rigorous approach taken to the investigations, but echoes the Inspector's concern that recommendations – in particular the observation of Standard Operation Procedures and that accurate records are maintained by prison staff – are not widely implemented across the prison estate.

At the same time, just one report on a prison inspection was published over the 18-month period: *An overview of Mountjoy Prison Campus with particular emphasis on the Separation Unit* in Sept 2014, a damning report following which the Separation Unit was closed. The report was published alongside an Omnibus Report into the *Deaths of Prisoners in Custody or on Temporary Release* between January 2012 and June 2014. The Inspector's *Annual Report for 2014* was published in October 2014, and no further inspection reports have been published since then.

Report on the Death of Gary Douch

The *Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Death of Gary Douch* (McMorrow Report) was published on 1st May 2014, exactly 7 years and 9 months after the young man's brutal death in Mountjoy Prison on 1st August 2006. 21-year-old Gary Douch was unlawfully killed in a holding cell he shared with six others, one of whom had been diagnosed with serious mental health issues.

System failures, severe overcrowding, inadequate oversight, and inaccurate recording and sharing of critical information were among the litany of failures identified in the McMorrow Report. The Commission found "reckless disregard for the health and safety" of prisoners and staff alike in the decision taken by Cloverhill Prison to transfer a prisoner who had been assessed by a Central Mental Hospital treatment psychiatrist as "acutely psychotic" to Mountjoy Prison. The State failed in its duty to provide safe custody to 21-year old prisoner Gary Douch.

Investigations into deaths in custody must be prompt so that any systemic failures that led to the death of a prisoner can be addressed, and potential future deaths can be avoided. In this case, the family of Gary Douch waited almost 8 years for this report: by any standards such a delay is completely unacceptable, and it completely undermines the protective purpose of such investigations.

On publication of the report, an inter-departmental group was tasked with reviewing the implementation of the McMorrow recommendations. To date, the group's report has not been made public.

Prison Conditions

Highlighting the urgent need to act on acute prison conditions has remained central to IPRT's activities. Since 2011, there has been a significant reduction in overcrowding across the system, with the average daily prison population of 3,915 in 2014 compared with an average of 4,390 in 2011. Prison numbers are regularly below 3,750 in 2015, having reached a peak of 4,600 in 2011. Nevertheless, the overall positive figures mask crowding issues in individual prisons: during 2014, Ireland's two female prisons held the dubious honour of being the most crowded prisons. IPRT continues to ensure the downward trend is maintained.

Significant progress was achieved towards abolishing the inhumane and degrading practice of slopping out in the Irish prison estate during 2014-15. The closure of the D Wing at Mountjoy Prison for renovation, including the installation of in-cell sanitation, has effectively ended slopping out in that prison. Building commenced on a new prison to replace Cork Prison in 2014, with an expected completion date of end 2015. Renovations at Limerick Prison have gone out to tender, with building expected to commence early 2016. The numbers 'slopping out' reduced from over 1,000 at end 2010 to around 300, and will fall below 100 when the new Cork Prison opens beginning 2016. IPRT continues to sustain pressure so that the commitments to end slopping out in Ireland are met.

Despite progress in these areas, the number of prisoners with 24-hour access to private toilet facilities remains at just over 50% of the prison population – and plans to double up at Cork Prison are regrettable when single occupancy is both recommended by the European Prison Rules, and demonstrated to contribute to safe and good order in prison systems.

Restricted Regimes

IPRT's continuing advocacy work around the use of restricted regimes as a response to prisoner safety concerns has seen a significant reduction in the numbers of people locked up for 22+ hours per day. According to the most recent quarterly Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners in July 2015, the number of prisoners on 22/23 hour lock-up has decreased by 69% since July 2013, from 211 to 65; however, this marks an increase of 22 people since the April 2015 census. IPRT welcomes the improved transparency on the figures, but is very concerned that 399 prisoners remain on restricted regimes, locked up for 19 or more hours per day. Additionally, this figure represents an increase of a third on April 2015 numbers. Furthermore, there is no information available on the *lengths of time* that individual prisoners are being held on restricted regimes. Coupled with the lack of a fully independent complaints mechanism for prisoners in Ireland, the over-use of restricted regimes in Irish prisons remains a critical area that needs to be addressed.

Minorities in Prison

In 2013 and 2014, IPRT conducted qualitative research on the experiences of Travellers in the Irish prison system. In response to the comprehensive report published by IPRT in May 2014, funding was made available by the St Stephen's Green Trust for a 3-year project 'Travellers in Prison Initiative' towards the implementation of the recommendations, and a project office and co-ordinators were recruited. Additionally, the development of a specific strategy on Travellers in prison is in progress within the Irish Prison Service itself, as well as a broader policy on equality.

At the end of 2014, IPRT commissioned a report on the rights and needs of LGBT prisoners, due for publication at the end of 2015. Also in 2015, IPRT commissioned a report into the specific health and other needs of older prisoners, a timely initiative in response to what is the fastest growing age group in Irish prisons.

Areas of Work

Imprisonment as a Last Resort

Due to the inherently damaging nature of imprisonment on individuals, their families and communities, IPRT campaigns for the principle of imprisonment as a last resort to be established at the centre of Irish penal policy.

Shift in policy towards imprisonment as last resort

Throughout 2014, IPRT continued to participate on the Department of Justice Strategic Review Group on Penal Policy, with cross-agency consensus achieved on a number of our key goals, including a core policy recommendation to enshrine the principle of imprisonment as a last resort in legislation. Important recommendations secured related to sentencing reform include:

- Imprisonment to be regarded as a sanction of last resort enshrined in statute;
- Development and expansion of the use of community sanctions;
- Introduction of integrated community service model;
- Weekend sentencing;
- Extension of restorative justice;
- Judicial reasons in writing for custodial sentences;
- No further mandatory or presumptive minimum sentences;
- Custodial sentences to incorporate incentives towards rehabilitation;
- Information and precedents on sentencing to be improved;
- Principles and purposes of sentencing to be set out in statute.

Of course, securing the recommendations was the first step and the proof will be in the full implementation of Strategic Review of Penal Policy recommendations. Ensuing the momentum is not lost, and that the recommendations become a reality, will be a key focus of IPRT's work in 2016.

Use of Community Sanctions

Community Courts shift emphasis away from punishment and convictions to community payback and towards addressing the causes of less serious offending behaviour. In January 2014, IPRT made a submission to the Oireachtas Justice Committee supporting proposals to establish such courts. In late February 2014, the Cabinet and the Seanad gave approval to the Department of Justice and Equality to explore the options in creating a pilot Community Court in Dublin, and in July 2014 the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality published their report on Community Courts recommending that a pilot scheme be carried out in one of the policing districts in central Dublin, under the supervision of a single judge, supported by an Implementation Group and with the support of local community groups and services. Planning continues, and proposals for the establishment of a pilot Community Court in Dublin are expected before end 2015.

The pilot Community Return early release programme for prisoners serving longer sentences has continued to see great success with almost 1,000 prisoners released back into the community to complete their sentences under supervision and performing community service; compliance rates of over 90% have been reported by the Irish Prison Service. IPRT had put forward such incentivised early release initiatives in our submission to the Thornton Hall Review Group in 2011.

However, the number of community service orders handed down continued to fall in 2014, despite legislation enacted in 2011 that obliges judges to consider community service in lieu of custodial sentences of less than 12 months. As we noted in our previous Annual Report, the success of a sanction cannot be measured by its frequency of use. Nevertheless, we continue to monitor closely the implementation of the legislation. Our Irish Research Council-supported research study "Community service orders versus short custodial sentences: Examining risk, recidivism and need," conducted by IPRT employment-based PhD candidate, Kate O'Hara, due for publication in 2016 will contribute greatly to future policy development in this area.

Ending Imprisonment for Fines Default

Committals to prison for failure to pay court-ordered fines continued to rise in 2014, accounting for almost 70% of sentenced committals to prison. Out of a total 8,979 fines committals, just under 26% (2,334) were female – a practice which is damaging to families, children and dependent relatives, and wasteful of prison, Garda and Courts Service resources. IPRT engaged directly with the Oireachtas in early 2014 on proposed amendments in advance of the passing of the *Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014* to strengthen the legislation and finally bring to an end imprisonment for fines default. However, the Courts Service has still not introduced a facility whereby fines can be paid by instalment. Until the Fines Act 2014 is implemented in full, the wasteful and damaging practice of unnecessarily imprisoning people for an inability pay fines will continue.

Areas of Work

Penal Policy and Social Policy

IPRT believes that crime cannot be viewed as a problem in isolation from deeper social and economic issues. All of our work is underscored by a strong commitment to combating social injustice, with particular emphasis on the social and economic benefits of prevention and early intervention strategies.

Shift toward evidence-based policy

IPRT employs its own research and solid policy base to influence crucial policy change, and embed much needed reform. Following on from the significant *cross-party consensus* for penal reform achieved in the 2013 Report of the Oireachtas Sub-Committee on Penal Reform, in 2014 IPRT built on that cross-party consensus with the achievement of *cross-agency consensus* with the publication of the *Strategic Review of Penal Policy Final Report*. On its publication, IPRT welcomed the vast majority of recommendations included in the report. The challenge in 2015 and 2016 is achieving the implementation of the key recommendations and the translation of such progressive policy vision into practice with tangible improvements.

In March 2014, three months after IPRT published our position paper on *Women in the Criminal Justice System - Towards a non-custodial approach*, the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service launched the *Joint Probation Service Irish Prison Service Strategy 2014-16: An effective response to women who offend*. Crucially, the strategy document acknowledges clearly that the vast majority of women offenders do not need to be in prison, and their offending would be much more effectively dealt with in the community. The report reflects many of IPRT's recommendations, but we await a detailed implementation plan and timeline.

Breaking the Cycle

During 2014 and 2015, the Families and Imprisonment Group, set up by the Irish Prison Service in response to a report published by IPRT- *"Picking Up the Pieces": The Rights and Needs of Children and Families Affected by Imprisonment* – continued to progress positive changes. New enhanced visiting arrangements were introduced in Midlands Prison and in Limerick Prison, including improved roundtable visiting facilities with activities for children. Limerick Prison has also facilitated video conferencing for prisoners whose families live abroad, and a pilot parenting project run jointly by the Childhood Development Initiative, Bedford Row and the Irish Prison Service, was launched in Limerick Prison, including training of prison officers as family liaison officers. IPRT very much welcomes the great strides the Irish Prison Service is making in the area of better supporting prisoner family relationships – a concrete outcome from IPRT's 2012 report.

Spent Convictions

The majority of queries from the general public received by IPRT relate not to conditions of imprisonment but convictions and criminal records. Having a convictions history can present barriers to work, training, education, travel – the very things that support people in desisting from offending behaviour.

Throughout 2014 and 2015, IPRT continued its long-standing campaign for spent convictions legislation whereby certain convictions become spent following a set rehabilitative period. Currently Ireland is the only country in the EU where no such scheme exists.

There was no movement during 2014 on the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012*, which had stalled at Report Stages in March 2013. However, an Administrative Filter was introduced in March 2014, whereby convictions for certain minor offences more than 7 years old are no longer disclosed as part of the vetting process. While IPRT warmly welcomed the introduction of this filter, suggestions by the Minister that the Spent Convictions Bill will be amended to the same effect are disappointing. IPRT maintains that a stronger threshold should apply where the protection of children and vulnerable adults is involved, and is disappointed that positive moves around Garda vetting may have the negative effect of limiting the wider applicability of the proposed spent convictions scheme.

In February 2014, IPRT issued a revised position paper on the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012*; conducted a survey among those affected; and co-hosted a well-attended Oireachtas seminar on the urgent need for robust legislation. In 2015 IPRT continues to campaign for the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012* to be prioritised, returned to the Oireachtas, passed and enacted – and continues to engage with and support scores of people affected by the lack of the legislation.

Areas of Work

Youth Justice

IPRT has campaigned vigorously since 1994 for an end to the practice of detaining children in the adult prison estate. We also engage in wider policy and practice issues relating to youth justice, such as provision of alternatives to detention, diversion and early intervention programmes, and the implementation of a best practice model of children detention at Oberstown.

Detention Facilities for Children

The practice of detaining children in St Patrick's Institution has been subject to intense criticism from national and international bodies since 1985. At the end of 2013, all 17-year-old boys under sentence had been transferred out of St. Patrick's Institution to a dedicated unit in Wheatfield Prison, and building work at the Oberstown campus was completed at the end of 2014. However, a small number of 17-year-olds are still detained on remand in St. Patrick's Institution; the Inspector for Prisons finds the continued detention of a small number of boys in St Patrick's Institution is "at times, tantamount to holding them in isolation and it is certainly inhumane." Given the serious criticisms of conditions in St. Patrick's Institution, IPRT continues to advocate for an alternative solution to be put in place until the new facility is fully operational.

Ensuring that robust monitoring and complaints mechanisms are in place where children are detained is crucial to the protection of their rights. In 2014, IPRT conducted a research report on the mechanisms available in Ireland as part of an EU project, *Children's Rights Behind Bars*. The project aims to improve the implementation of international juvenile justice standards to protect the rights and needs of children deprived of their liberty. The national report on Ireland was launched at a seminar in December 2014.

Diversion of Children

IPRT remains highly concerned at indications of the over-use of detention on remand for children, suggested by the percentages (around 35-45%) who go on to receive a detention order. Detention of children should be a measure of last resort, and indications that detention is being used for welfare reasons have been criticised by the Ombudsman for Children and the Children's Rights Alliance, alongside IPRT.

In February 2014, the Irish Youth Justice Service published the *Tackling Youth Crime – Youth Justice Action Plan, 2014-2018*, which contains positive commitments to: direct resources towards early intervention and prevention; to strengthen and develop the evidence base towards more effective policies; and to increase the use of community measures, including restorative justice, for young people who offend. In September 2014 the *Strategic Review of Penal Policy Final Report* included a specific recommendation to extend the Garda Youth Diversion Programme to 18-21 year olds.

During 2014, IPRT also participated in a second EU project, *Juvenile Alternatives to Detention*, which seeks to identify best practices related to detention alternatives targeted at juvenile offenders and to promote the mainstreaming and dissemination of identified good practices.

Turnaround Youth

Despite significant progress in reforming the youth justice system over the past 15 years, the particular needs of young offenders aged 18–24 are not being adequately met by the Irish criminal justice system. This group, which is at the highest risk of reoffending, is also the group that has the greatest capacity for change. However, research shows that the wrong interventions with this age group is likely to extend the length of time they are involved in the criminal justice system. To this end, the IPRT research project *Turnaround Youth* makes the clear and evidence-informed case for the differential treatment of young adults in the criminal justice system. In May 2015, IPRT launched *Turnaround Youth: Young Adults (18–24) in the Criminal Justice System ~ the case for a distinct approach*, and has commissioned the next phase of the research which is focusing on the particular mental health needs and issues of young people aged up to 24 in the criminal justice system.

Positive developments include official acknowledgement of the need to support young people in the transition to adulthood included in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs' national framework report, *Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures* (2014) which includes a commitment to 'support[ing] effective transitions', including from childhood to adulthood, and specifies that the criminal justice system has a role to play here. The *Youth Justice Action Plan 2014–2018* (2013) similarly recognises the need to address challenges arising from transition to adulthood, and acknowledges the need for appropriate interventions for young people with a late onset of offending in early adulthood 'in line with international evidence on desistance'.

The *Strategic Review of Penal Policy Final Report* (2014) recommended that a programme similar to the Youth Diversion Programme be introduced for young people above the age of 18 with an initial focus on 18–21 year olds, and the Probation Service has in recent years extended the remit of Young Persons Probation to include those over the age of 18 who are already engaged with YPP.

IPRT is excited about these seeds of reform, and looks forward to campaigning vigorously for wide-scale reform in how Ireland responds to and addresses offending by young people aged 18–24 in the future.

2014 Seminars & Events



IPRT REPORT LAUNCH: 'TRAVELLERS IN THE IRISH PRISON SYSTEM: A QUALITATIVE STUDY'

IPRT launched a report on the experiences of Travellers in the Irish prison system on 19th May 2014 in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle. *Travellers in the Irish Prison System: A qualitative study* is the culmination of a qualitative research project, carried out by Liza Costello, including interviews with former prisoners. The comprehensive 76-page report details: issues facing Travellers in the Irish prison system; issues facing Travellers leaving prison; supports and coping strategies in prison; examples of good practice; conclusions and recommendations.

Speakers at the extremely well-attended event were:

- Liza Costello, author of the report
- Martin Collins, co-Director of Pavee Point
- Deirdre Malone, Executive Director of IPRT.

DOCUMENTING THE INSIDE

Following the AGM on 22nd October 2014, IPRT hosted a conversation for members and supporters with Traolach Ó Buachalla and Martha Moloney, the director and producer respectively of two prison documentaries, *Women on the Inside* (Sept 2014), filmed over a year in the Dóchas Centre, and the award-winning *Life on the Inside* (Feb 2013), filmed in Wheatfield Prison and Shelton Abbey Open Prison.

Martha and Traolach spoke to IPRT members about the process and their experiences in creating these hard-hitting prison documentaries, which have played a crucial role in showing the realities of prison to Irish audiences. The conversation was led by Lynsey Black, PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin, lecturer, and all round penal-reform buff (not to mention former IPRT intern in 2010).



IPRT thanked all the voluntary organisations that kindly supported the interview process, and to Pavee Point for facilitating contact with the groups, and the members of the research group who supported the study: Seamus Taylor of NUI Maynooth, Katayoun Bahramian and John Paul Collins of Pavee Point, Susan Fay of the Irish Traveller Movement, and Maria Joyce of the National Traveller Women's Forum.

IPRT thanks the St Stephen's Green Trust for kindly supporting this research project.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS BEHIND BARS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

On 11th December 2014, IPRT held a seminar exploring whether Ireland's children detention system is meeting its goal as model, particularly in the area of monitoring and complaints. A national report on monitoring and complaints mechanisms in places where children are detained was launched at the event. Speakers were:

- Prof. Ursula Kilkelly, Dept. of Law and Director of Child Law Clinic, University College Cork
- Páraic Walsh, Investigator, Office of the Ombudsman for Children



- Jennifer Gargan, Director, EPIC (Empowering People in Care)
- Fíona Ní Chinnéide, Deputy Executive Director of IPRT

This seminar formed part of a European research project, Children's Rights Behind Bars, led by Defence of Children International, of which IPRT is the Irish partner. See: www.childrensrighsbehindbars.eu

A mulled wine reception followed the event, kindly sponsored by The Bar Council.

OIREACHTAS SEMINAR ON SPENT CONVICTIONS

On 5th February 2015, the eighth seminar for the All Party Oireachtas Penal Reform Group of TDs and Senators focused on the need to pass the Spent Convictions Bill without further delay. The event, chaired by Senator Ivana Bacik, heard from:

- Deirdre Malone, Executive Director of IPRT
- Christopher Stacey, CEO of Unlock in the UK
- former prisoner who now works in education of prisoners and former prisoners.

Survey responses of people who have been in contact with IPRT on the issue underscored the disproportionate barriers that having a minor conviction presents, bringing to light the negative impacts on accessing employment, training, education, insurance and travel.

IPRT REPORT LAUNCH: TURNAROUND YOUTH

The IPRT Turnaround Youth Project and Report was launched on 12th May 2015 in the Irish Film Institute, Dublin 2. *Turnaround Youth: Young adults (18-24) in the Criminal Justice System – the case for a distinct approach* presents the case for the differential treatment of young adults aged 18–24 who come in contact with the criminal justice system. Speakers were:

- Ian Power, Director of Spunout.ie
- Ciara Egan, Future Voices Ireland
- Jen Garcin, Research Associate with ROCA Inc. (USA)
- Deirdre Malone, Executive Director, IPRT
- A video interview with two young men with experience of the issues was facilitated by Solas Project

Following the presentations, Ursula Fernée, Regional Manager, Young Persons Probation; Assistant Commissioner John Twomey, An Garda Síochána; and Jane O'Neill, solicitor, Michael J Staines & Company, responded.

Key stakeholders attended the launch, including representatives from: Irish Prison Service; Probation Service; An Garda Síochána; Irish Youth Justice Service; the Department of Justice and Equality; and the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

Alongside SpunOut, Future Voices Ireland, Solas Project, and ROCA Inc, we were delighted to welcome representatives from EPIC, Youth Work Ireland, Swan Youth Services, IASIO, Pavee Point, Le Chéile, PILA, JCFJ, and many more services, members and supporters.

IPRT is very grateful to The Ireland Funds for kindly supporting this research project.



Activities Communications

IPRT's communications strategy aims to keep prison conditions and penal reform issues in the spotlight, while nurturing more informed public debate around both the causes of crime and responses to crime, and challenging the demonization of offenders and marginalised groups. Through the combined use of social and traditional media, IPRT extends the reach of our core messages, to engage more widely with the issues at stake and those affected.

Media

IPRT comment and analysis is regularly included across local and national press, radio and television. In 2014 and 2015 IPRT made regular media appearances in:

Press: *The Irish Times*, *Irish Independent*, *Irish Examiner*, *The Sunday Business Post*, *Irish Daily Star*, *Irish Mirror*, and *Cork News*.

Radio: Newstalk (Breakfast, Pat Kenny Show, Moncrieff, Talking Points), RTÉ Radio 1 (Morning Ireland, Today with Sean O'Rourke, Drivetime, This Week), Raidió na Gaeltachta (Nuacht ar a hAon) and Today FM (News, The Last Word). Local radio included: 4FM, 98FM, Spin 103, along with CRC FM (Castlebar), Clare FM, Galway Bay FM, KFM Radio (Kildare), Radio Kerry, Limerick Love 98FM, Midlands FM, Red FM (Cork), Highland Radio (Donegal), WLR FM (Waterford).

TV: RTÉ Six One, Nine News, and Prime Time; and Tv3's Tonight with Vincent Browne.

IPRT also contributes to *Village Magazine*, *Emergency Services Ireland*, *Irish Medical News* and the *Medical Independent*, along with online news publications such as www.thejournal.ie and Vice Magazine.

During 2014 and 2015, media attention focused in particular on: alternatives to imprisonment, children in detention, prison conditions, parole reform, the use of restricted regimes, mandatory sentencing, responses to offending by women, health in prison (incl. tuberculosis), older prisoners, treatment of sex offenders, deaths in prison custody, families of prisoners, the lack of spent convictions legislation, and imprisonment for fines default.

Website & Online Presence

www.iprt.ie

The IPRT website is an established information resource for media, researchers, political representatives, organisations and others.

www.twitter.com/iprt

IPRT uses Twitter to alert followers of latest news, publications, and broadcast appearances, and also as an information resource for new international reports and initiatives.

www.facebook.com/irishpenalreformtrust

The debate happens on IPRT's Facebook page, where those interested in the area of criminal justice share and comment on developments, both positive and negative, from Ireland and around the world.

www.flickr.com/photos/irishpenalreformtrust

All the photos from IPRT events can be viewed on Flickr.

E-bulletins

The IPRT ebulletin is issued four times a year.





HEADLINE MEDIA RELEASES IN 2014

- **21 Jan 2014:**
IPRT thanks Liam Herrick for his service to IPRT and wishes him well on his new appointment
- **6 March 2014:**
Accelerating rates of female imprisonment must be addressed with urgency in order to minimise harm to families and communities – IPRT
- **2 April 2014:**
IPRT calls for full investigation into prison tapes
- **10 April 2014:**
Fines legislation will have no impact on prison committals unless fully commenced – IPRT
- **1 May 2014:**
Never again: Irish Prison Service must set and implement safe custody limits now to avoid potential future tragedies – IPRT
- **8 May 2014:**
Significant progress in reform of Ireland's penal system must continue – IPRT
- **19 May 2014:**
Dedicated strategy for Travellers in the criminal justice system needed to address discrimination and break cycle of exclusion and offending behaviour – IPRT
- **15 July 2014:**
Irish Penal Reform Trust Welcomes the Robust Engagement of the UN Human Rights Committee with the State on the Most Pressing Human Rights Concerns in Our Prisons
- **24 July 2015:**
IPRT welcomes emphasis on urgency in UN recommendations to Ireland on prison conditions
- **10 Sept 2014:**
Parole decision-making should be removed from political control – IPRT
- **12 Sept 2014:**
Two-tier prison system demands immediate action by Minister for Justice on accountability – IPRT
- **17 Sept 2014:**
IPRT welcomes Penal Policy Review Report as a "blueprint" for a fairer and more effective penal system
- **9 Oct 2014:**
Failures in accountability structures in Irish prisons "extremely disturbing" – IPRT
- **18 Dec 2014:**
Refusal of TR may have amounted to a failure to prevent torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – IPRT

Activities

Research & Policy

Policy submissions

- Participation on the Department of Justice and Equality **Strategic Review Group on Penal Policy** during 2012-2014, including submissions on (i) Evidence-led Penal Policy and (ii) Use of Data in Penal Policy (January 2014)
- Submission to Oireachtas members in advance of parliamentary debates on the ***Fines (Payment and Recovery) Bill 2013*** (January 2014)
- Policy submission to Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality on **Community Courts** (Jan 2014)
- Submission to the Seanad Hearing on Ireland's appearance before the **United Nations Human Rights Committee**, in relation to implementation of Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (May 2014)
- Submission to **Probation Service Strategy 2015-17**, with particular emphasis on expanded use of community sanctions for 18-21 year olds and women offenders (October 2014)
- Briefing on the **Strategic Review on Penal Policy** and Oireachtas **Sub-committee Report on Penal Reform** issued to Senators in advance of Seanad debate (November 2014)
- Submission to the Office of the Inspector of Prisons' **Assessment of the current culture within the Irish Prison Service** review (April 2015)
- IPRT Submission on ***Children (Amendment) Bill 2015*** circulated in advance of parliamentary debates (May 2015)

Submissions to International Monitoring Bodies

- Submission to the Human Rights Committee for the **4th Periodic Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** (July 2014)
- Submission to the **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)** in advance of their visit to Ireland to inspect places of detention (June 2014, with update in Sept 2014)
- Submission to the ***Parallel Report to Ireland's Third and Fourth Combined Report under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*** coordinated by the Children's Rights Alliance (February 2015)

Research Reports and Briefings

- **Travellers in the Irish Prison System: A qualitative study** (May 2014)
- **Children's Rights Behind Bars: National Report – Ireland** (Dec 2014)
- IPRT Briefing on **Detention of Children in Ireland** (Dec 2014)
- **Turnaround Youth: Young Adults (18-24) in the Criminal Justice System** (May 2015)



Turnaround Youth:

Young Adults (18-24)
in the Criminal Justice System
The time for a different approach
May 2015

Activities

Alliances

IPRT's relationships with key agencies and actors in the penal system are fundamental to our ability to influence change. We also increase our impact through working in partnership and in alliance with other organisations to achieve common policy goals.

Oireachtas

IPRT continues to engage with all political parties and independents on an ongoing basis, with particular emphasis on parliamentary questions and submissions on legislation and policy to opposition parties.

IPRT engaged directly with Oireachtas members on three specific pieces of legislation over the period of this report, namely the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012*, the *Fines (Payment and Recovery) Bill 2013*, and the *Children (Amendment) Bill 2015*. In each case, we provided briefing material, contextual information, raised potential issues, and proposed solutions by way of amendments. IPRT also engaged directly with Senators in advance of Seanad debates. In May 2014 we addressed the Seanad on the ICCPR List of Issues, and provided a briefing on the Strategic Review on Penal Policy and Oireachtas and the Sub-committee Report on Penal Reform in advance of Seanad debates. Penal reform issues continue to enjoy strong support and interest among TDs and Senators, and IPRT prepares supplementary materials and information for individual members of the Oireachtas on an ongoing basis as requests arise.

Government

IPRT engaged closely with the Departments of Justice and of Children and Youth Affairs throughout 2014, including meetings and direct advocacy with the Department of Justice around implementation of the Strategic Review on Penal Policy and with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs around introducing a distinct approach to working with young people aged 18–24 who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Statutory

During 2014, our working relationship with the Irish Prison Service under Director General Michael Donnellan continued to be positive, and IPRT staff visited a number of prisons including Limerick, Midlands, Portlaoise, Mountjoy and the Dóchas Centre. In 2014, IPRT provided a training session for Assistant Governors at Portlaoise Training College on the importance of an independent complaints mechanism, as well as two seminars to life-sentenced prisoners in spring 2015.

IPRT maintained our positive working relationships with the Ombudsman for Children and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission throughout 2014 and provided both written and oral briefings to the Office of the Inspector of Prisons on his *Assessment of the current culture within the Irish Prison Service*, due to be published in late 2015. IPRT also engaged with the Probation Service on their Strategy 2015–17 advocating for particular emphasis on expanded use of community sanctions for 18–21 year olds and women offenders.

Academic Sector

Our ongoing partnership with the Dublin Institute of Technology saw Kate O'Hara continue her doctoral research entitled *"Community Service Orders versus short custodial sentences: Examining profiles, experiences, and outcomes"* due to be published in 2016. This is co-funded by IPRT and the Irish Research Council, as part of their employment-based postgraduate scholarship scheme. This collaborative study utilises a mixed methodology to examine whether Community Service Orders and short prison sentences are operating as true alternatives in Ireland. At the end of 2014, Kate was awarded a place on the COST Action IS1106 on Offender Supervision Training School in Barcelona. Kate was also one of five finalists in the Higher Education Authority 'Making an Impact' competition held in April 2015.

In 2014, as part of the Students Learning with Communities initiative, DIT students conducted research on behalf of IPRT in the areas of deaths in custody and restorative justice. IPRT staff presented guest lectures and conference papers to the Law Society, UCC, UCD and DIT during 2014, along with presentation of papers at the ACJRD Penal Reform Conference in Wheatfield Prison.

NGO Cooperation

During 2014–15, IPRT worked closely with Fair Trials International (UK), Défense Des Enfants (Belgium) and the International Juvenile Justice Observatory as partners on our EU projects. At home IPRT worked with the Association for Criminal Justice Research and Development, the Public Interest Law Alliance, the Children's Mental Health Coalition, the Prevention and Early Intervention Network (PEIN), and the Children's Rights Alliance. We linked with EPIC for our event on *Children's Rights Behind Bars* and we also worked closely with GLEN, BelongTo and TENI on our initial research on the position of LGBT prisoners, and actively participated in NGO research fora including the *Traveller in Prison Initiative Steering Group* and the *NASC Research Advisory Committee on Immigration Related Detention in Ireland*.

International

IPRT engages with international monitoring bodies, both directly and through collaboration with the NGO community. In 2014, Deirdre Malone addressed the United Nations Human Rights Committee and secured strong recommendations for continuing reform of the penal system. IPRT also provided a detailed submission to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in advance of their visit to Ireland to inspect places of detention and briefed the Committee directly in Sept 2014. In late 2014/early 2015 IPRT contributed to the chapter on children in detention to the *Parallel Report to Ireland's Third and Fourth Combined Report under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* coordinated by the Children's Rights Alliance. During 2014, Kate O'Hara also presented preliminary findings from her research at a number of international conferences: the European Society of Criminology conference, the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology conference and the American Society of Criminology conference.

Activities

Engagement with Prisoners and their Families

IPRT does not follow a service provision model, instead maximising our resources by campaigning for systemic reform that will benefit all prisoners – and wider society. However, we share our policy and legal expertise to build capacity in agencies working directly with prisoners, and we create opportunities for former prisoners, family members and service providers to inform IPRT’s work.

Prisoners and Prisoners’ Families

IPRT receives queries from prisoners and prisoners’ families regarding legal or administrative concerns about the prison system.

Key issues identified in 2014 and 2015 through such contacts reflected other years, including: the ongoing detention of children in St Patrick’s Institution; delays in accessing mental health assessments and treatment; procedures within IPS for transfer between prisons; provision of meaningful activities for prisoners on protection; access to families and special visits; lack of clarity around temporary release decision-making; queries around accessing one-third remission; and information on how to access the community return scheme.

It is clear that there is significant unmet demand for a fully independent complaints mechanism and advocacy services for prisoners, and for their families.

Prison Information Sessions

In 2014 and early 2015, IPRT had a number of opportunities to speak directly with prisoners as part of information sessions facilitated by both the Irish Prison Service and the Probation Service. The seminars also provided an opportunity to consult directly with prisoners on key issues affecting them.

In July 2014, IPRT was invited to speak about penal reform advocacy to a group in the Dóchas Centre. The lack of open prison facilities for women was a key issue raised by the group, who also expressed great interest in the Community Return Programme.

In spring 2015, IPRT was invited by the Probation Service to visit Midlands Prison and Portlaoise Prison to speak with three different Lifer Groups (including prisoners serving long sentences) about our work in the area of parole reform and in the area of families and children of prisoners. A key issue communicated by all three groups was the lack of sentence planning and management in the first 7 years of a long sentence, before the date of the prisoner’s first parole hearing is set. The lack of an independent Parole Board, free from political control, was another critical issue raised, along with the ‘statutory bar’ from accessing temporary release for those sentenced to 10 years or more under s.15a of drugs and firearms legislation.

IPRT thanked the Probation Service for the invitation, and the Irish Prison Service for facilitating these visits.

Activities

Strategy & Governance

IPRT is committed to transparency and accountability around how we work. As an organisation that campaigns for full accountability in the penal system, we couldn't have it any other way.

Governance Code

In November 2014, IPRT completed the processes required to achieve full compliance with the *Governance Code – a Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland*. We are also committed to complying with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

Board of Directors

At the AGM in October 2014, Dr Mary Rogan stood down after four years as Chairperson, and Paddy Richardson also stepped down from the Board. Both Mary and Paddy were given honorary membership of IPRT, and thanked for their immense contribution to IPRT.

New board members Prof Michael O'Flaherty and Joan O'Flynn were elected unanimously to the Board. Prof O'Flaherty was subsequently elected as Chairperson of the Board in November 2014.

Board member Niall Walsh had to resign from the Board following the enactment on 16th October 2014 of the *Charities Act 2009*, under which people with convictions on indictment must secure a High Court Order in order to serve as board members of a charity. Kathleen Leader BL and Michael Cush SC provided pro bono legal services on the case, and Niall was reinstated on the Board in May 2015.

At the beginning of January 2015, Treasurer Paul Mackay stood down from the Board; his contribution to IPRT during a period of transition was second to none, and everyone wishes him well. Kevin Gregory joined the Board in February, and was elected Treasurer in March 2015.

Patrons

President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, is Patron of IPRT. Our work is also supported by IPRT Advocates Paula Meehan (Ireland Professor of Poetry), author and director Peter Sheridan, Senator Ivana Bacik, and former Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan.

Staff and Internships

In February 2014, Liam Herrick left IPRT after 7 years as Executive Director. Fíona Ní Chinnéide acted up as Interim Director for February and March 2014, before Deirdre Malone took up the role of Executive Director at the end of March 2014. Fíona was appointed Deputy Executive Director in June 2014, and Marie Therese Power joined the office team as Development & Administrative Executive in July 2014.

Our work in 2014 was greatly supported by interns Ronan Hickey who completed his internship in Feb 2014; Elizabeth Martin and Keith Adams who worked with IPRT from March to June 2014. Harriet Burgess joined IPRT for summer 2014, Amy Deane for September 2014, and Iseult Ní Choitir held the internship reins from Sept to end January 2015.

IPRT welcomed our first UCD Legal Placement intern in 2014: Yvonne Kennedy worked with us for the month of June 2014, a role filled by Róisín O'Sullivan in June 2015.

Activities

Finance

Finance

The Finance Committee of the IPRT Board meets in advance of each Board meeting, approximately six times per annum. In 2014, the Finance Committee met in January, March, May, July, September and November.

The audited accounts are prepared by Garland McDonald & Sons. The 2013 accounts were approved by the Board and laid before members at the IPRT AGM in October 2014, and submitted to the Companies Registration Office. The 2014 accounts have been approved by the Board and will be laid before members at the IPRT AGM in November 2015.

Fundraising/Sustainability

IPRT was fortunate to retain financial and other support from our core funders throughout the year. Our funding application to Atlantic Philanthropies in 2013 for the period 2014–16 set out a sustainability plan whereby our funding with Atlantic will taper off towards their exit from funding internationally in 2016. On foot of this application we also secured Atlantic Philanthropies funding for the period 2014–2016.

We continue to be grateful to Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for their longstanding support of the organisation. In light of the departure of our two core funders by the end of 2016, in 2014 we increased our focus on broadening and diversifying our existing core funding base.

A comprehensive fundraising strategy was developed for 2014–2016, and in July 2014 we hired Marie Therese Power in the role of Development and Administrative Officer.

In 2014, the organisation built up our fundraising infrastructure, making improvements to the website to better facilitate membership & donations; updating the organisation's database; adopting new payment processing functions including text donate and standing order functions; and renewing the organisation's eligibility to reclaim tax paid on donations.

There was a strong focus on engaging existing supporters of the organisation, increasing membership renewals from both individuals and organisations. In December 2014 we trialled a direct mail with a request for support. We were happy to see an increase in membership numbers and considerable attendance by members at the AGM 2014 as well as other events throughout the year.

We successfully secured project funding for a number of research projects from funders in Ireland and internationally including The Ireland Funds, St Stephen's Green Trust, Community Foundation of Ireland and AW60. We are most grateful to each of these organisations for their generosity in supporting our work. Further research was carried out thanks to project funding received from the European Commission for IPRT's role as a co-beneficiary partner on a number of international projects.

We are most grateful to the Bar Council of Ireland who sponsored a reception following the launch of the *Children's Rights Behind Bars* national report in the Morrison Hotel in December 2014. Other opportunities for corporate engagement continue to be explored.

We continue to seek funding from alternative sources, through applications for research and core funding, donations and membership, all of which require the input of resources both in terms of staff time and financial investment.

Irish Penal Reform Trust Limited

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

Detailed income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2014

	2014 €	2013 €	
Income			
Atlantic Philanthropies	200,000	250,000	
Membership & Donations	5,303	5,787	
Additional Grants	125	3,825	
IRC PHD	16,000	13,333	
Income received for legal case	-	-	
EU-Grant – Children behind bars	9,800	-	
EU-Grant – Remand and pre-trial detention project	25,656	-	
The American Ireland Fund	5,000	5,000	
The Community Foundation of Ireland	7,320	-	
EU-Grant – Prison litigation network	54,479	-	
SSGT Project Grant	6,000	-	
Grantee Activities	-	1,756	
Maternity Benefit	-	6,969	
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	48,000	48,000	
Miscellaneous Corporate / Project Funding	80	409	
	<u>377,764</u>	<u>367,059</u>	
Expenditure			
Wages and salaries	163,645	249,837	
Staff defined contribution pension costs	709	4,162	
Staff training	635	1,150	
Rent payable	7,908	21,734	
EU grants – Children behind bars expenses	7,618	-	
EU grants – Remand and pre-trial detention expenses	21,713	-	
EU grants – Prison litigation network expenses	39,170	-	
Light and heat	-	2,706	
Printing post and stationery	1,784	2,873	
Fundraising	1,644	1,202	
Telephone	2,304	4,286	
Courier costs	1,383	279	
General expenses	1,937	1,951	
Insurance	531	1,128	
Computer costs	2,238	1,599	
Office move	-	1,560	
Website/Awareness cost	2,456	3,331	
Advertising and Sponsorship	923	100	
Building Alliances	603	352	
Public Events	1,926	3,931	
Evaluation/Sustainability	-	8,849	
Travelling and Conferences	2,324	1,657	
Publication and Reports	-	687	
Research costs	5,822	5,367	
Legal and Professional	-	39,150	
Irish Research Council PHD expenses	440	-	
Accountancy	2,706	676	
Bank charges	245	345	
Profit/Loss on exchange	(157)	-	
Governance	1,093	-	
Auditor's remuneration	3,114	3,075	
Depreciation	718	988	
	<u>275,427</u>	<u>362,975</u>	
Net surplus	<u>102,337</u>	<u>4,084</u>	

The supplementary information does not form
part of the audited financial statements

Friends of IPRT

Friends of IPRT is a growing network of people who believe in a better, more fair and more humane penal system in Ireland – one which contributes to less crime and safer communities for everyone.

Friends of IPRT believe that real, meaningful change is both necessary and achievable.

By becoming a Friend of IPRT and making an annual contribution of €250 or more, you will be investing in the work that we do. You will be helping to secure the future of this unique and important organisation, and working with us to deliver necessary and progressive change across the Irish criminal justice system.

A constant challenge

IPRT has been a voice of reason, promoting effective and appropriate criminal justice policies since 1994. From challenging plans for the expansion of the prison estate, to advocating for prevention and early intervention strategies, promoting effective sentencing and appropriate re-integration services, IPRT's informed voice speaks to the protection of human rights and to making ours a more fair, progressive and ultimately more effective criminal justice system.

Friends of IPRT understand that the campaign for adequate and effective penal reform is far from over. Reactive policies and short-sighted responses to crime continue to mar our criminal justice system. Legislative failure and foot-dragging mean that Ireland continues to detain people for the non-payment of fines; remains the only country in the EU without a spent convictions scheme; and still detains children in adult prison facilities.

With your support IPRT can continue to advocate for and inform progressive penal policies; conduct robust research on the most effective responses to criminal justice issues, and provide reasoned, expert and evidence-informed recommendations for the improvement of penal policies in Ireland.

Invest in IPRT – secure our future

At present IPRT relies on the support of a small number of foundations, grant-making bodies and individual donations to fund the work that we do. In 2016 funding commitments from two of our core funders will end, which will have a significant impact on the capacity of the organisation going forward.

IPRT already operates on an extremely lean model, and we know that most significant policy successes we have achieved to date have been directly correlated to the resources, skills and capacity available to us.

For this reason we are asking supporters such as you, people who understand the issues facing the Irish criminal justice system and who value the work that IPRT does, to become a Friend of IPRT. **Your pledge of annual support of €250 or more per year over a 3-year period, will help to secure our core work, advocating for positive penal policy reform.**

We aim to grow the Friends of IPRT network to 200 members by the end of 2016. If we succeed, Friends of IPRT will collectively represent a vital funding stream, which will drive IPRT's work, allowing us to continue the research, policy and advocacy work which we do.

A unified voice for reform

With your support IPRT can continue to address the most critical and important issues:

- Reform of sentencing law and practice; promoting the increased use of diversion and alternatives to imprisonment
- Investment in effective rehabilitation and re-integration; improving access to education and other supports which actively promote rehabilitation; removing barriers to reintegration for ex-prisoners
- Protection of human rights in the prison system; securing effective accountability structures in law and practice; improving mental and physical health provision within prisons.

What you get in return

As a valuable contributor to the network you will receive:

- Two complimentary tickets to our Annual Conference
- Invitation to IPRT events including report launches, legal seminars and social events
- A copy of our Annual Report
- Our quarterly newsletter

Become a Friend of IPRT today

To become a Friend of IPRT please contact:

Executive Director,
Irish Penal Reform Trust,
Macro Building,
1 Green Street,
Dublin 7.

If you would like more information on Friends of IPRT, please contact Marie Therese Power 01-8741400 or mtpower@iprt.ie



IPRT
Irish Penal Reform Trust

Irish Penal Reform Trust
MACRO,
1 Green Street,
Dublin 7, Ireland

T: +353 (0) 1 874 1400

E: info@iprt.ie

W: www.iprt.ie

