

Irish Penal Reform Trust
Annual Review and
Financial Statement

2017
— 18



IPRT
Irish Penal Reform Trust

About IPRT

Who we are

The Irish Penal Reform Trust is Ireland’s leading independent charity campaigning for a penal system that is just and humane; protects and promotes human rights, equality and social justice; and uses prison as a last resort.

What we do

IPRT publishes a wide range of policy positions and research documents; we campaign vigorously across a wide range of penal policy issues; and we have established IPRT as the leading independent voice in public debate on the Irish penal system.

What we have achieved

IPRT’s 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.

In recent years, key reforms that IPRT’s work has contributed to include:

- Strategic Review of Penal Policy, which endorses the principle of imprisonment as a sanction of last resort (2014).
- Slopping out reduced to 53 in April 2018, down from 1,000 in 2011.
- Extension of the Inspector of Prisons’ remit to include investigations into deaths in prison custody (2012).
- Extension of the Ombudsman for Children’s remit to receive complaints from children detained in the adult prison system (2012).
- Legislation introduced to limit the use of imprisonment for failure to pay court-ordered fines (2014).
- Legislation introduced which allows certain minor convictions to become spent after 7 years (2016).
- End of the imprisoning of 16 and 17-year-old boys in the adult prison system (April 2017).
- Reduction in numbers held in solitary confinement from 211 in 2013 to 12 in 2018.

How you can support our work

IPRT relies on the support of a diverse group of friends and donors to underwrite our mission. Contributions from both committed individuals and organisations are essential to our impact on the lives of prisoners and their families, and ongoing efforts to reform Ireland’s penal system. We are deeply grateful to all our members and donors for their partnership in this work and are pleased to share this Annual Review detailing our achievements.

For more information on how you can support IPRT’s work, please visit our website www.IPRT.ie or call (01) 874 1400. IPRT is a registered charity (CHY 11091).

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Chairperson's Foreword

Since our last AGM, IPRT has maintained its quality and range of impactful advocacy work, comprising research, submissions, public and political engagement, alongside the everyday operations of running an organisation.

I am delighted to introduce another year of advancing progressive penal reform to our membership, stakeholders, supporters and Friends.

The publication of the first *Progress in the Penal System* (PIPS) report on 24 October 2017 saw IPRT set down a critical marker for the standards we expect of the Irish prison system, with the goal of Ireland becoming a model of best international best practice in penal policy and practice. We believe this is achievable. I would like to congratulate Senior Research & Policy Project Manager Michelle Martyn and the PIPS Advisory Group of Prof Aislinn O'Donnell, Niall Walsh, David Perry, and Prof Ian O'Donnell on this significant work.

An important aspect of the PIPS project is direct engagement with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the standards and recommendations are used to improve practice. We welcome in particular the engagement of the Irish Prison Service around a number of the recommendations. The second annual PIPS report will be launched on 26th October 2018. We hope you will be able to join us.

Other key activities during the 12-month period include a campaign for more far-reaching spent convictions legislation, the IHREC-funded research and advocacy project on abolishing solitary confinement, and the launch of research on the use of community service as an alternative sanction in Ireland. In the

first half of 2018 alone, IPRT made 11 submissions and presentations to Oireachtas committees and statutory bodies, in areas spanning mental health in prisons, education, parole board legislation, and law reform.

Key achievements include securing further cross-party penal reform commitments in the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice and Equality *Report on Penal Reform and Sentencing*, published in May 2018. This cross-party statement of principles will be used to hold political parties to account in the coming year. IPRT's work around Ireland's second periodic review under the UN Convention against Torture in 2017 secured strong recommendations to the Irish government on improving prison conditions, accountability and treatment of offenders. IPRT will continue to build on all of these achievements in 2019 and beyond.

All of this is made possible through the dedication of the IPRT staff team, ably led by Executive Director Deirdre Malone. The team consistently achieves far and above what one should reasonably expect for an organisation of its size, through their commitment, high standards and professionalism. Thank you to Deirdre, Fiona, Lorraine, Michelle, Pamela and Eoin, and all of the interns who support the work of IPRT throughout the year.

It continues to be a great privilege to work with my fellow Board members, whom I wish to thank

for their hard work, expertise and ongoing commitment to IPRT: Kevin Gregory, Aislinn O'Donnell, Kathleen Leader, Eddie D'Arcy, Suzi Lyons, Joan O'Flynn, David Perry, and Niall Walsh. In particular, I would like to thank Aislinn O'Donnell, who brings wisdom, expertise and energy both as Vice-Chair of IPRT and as Chair of the PIPS Advisory Group.

Ensuring IPRT will be sustained in the longer term remains a core issue for the organisation. We are very grateful to Pobal, the Department of Justice & Equality, The Community Foundation for Ireland, St Stephen's Green Trust, our event sponsors, our donors and Friends for their ongoing support.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for your engagement, commitment and support. We hope that you will continue to support the valuable work of IPRT and penal reform in Ireland in the coming year.



*Seamus Taylor,
Chairperson,
August 2017*

Introduction from the IPRT Executive Director

Welcome to our Annual Review of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

The last 12 months have been a period of growth in the organisation: our team has grown to the largest in our history with six staff members working in research and policy, communications, campaigns, advocacy, fundraising and administrative support. While now large by IPRT standards, we are still a very small organisation by national standards, but one which continues to strive to punch well above its weight.

Throughout 2017-18 we have continued to work hard towards the strategic goals we set in our 5 year Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Though our goals are ambitious, we believe that we are on track for their realization, which is reflected in the volume and standard of work detailed in this Annual Review.

IPRT's advocacy work over the 12-month period was underscored by our research and evidence-led policies. Major research projects launched over the period include: *Progress in the Penal System: A Framework for Penal Reform 2017*; *Community Service in Ireland*; and *'Behind the Door': Solitary Confinement in the Irish Penal System*, which was launched to a full house in February 2018. In conjunction with EPIC (Empowering People in Care), we have been working on a major research project to examine the extent of, and the reasons for the over-representation of children in care or with care experience in the criminal justice system in Ireland. We look forward to publishing this research in early 2019.

We have continued to work collaboratively with all key stakeholders, identifying and acting on opportunities for constructive and critical engagement as they arose. We made submissions to and appeared before both the *Joint Committee on Education and Skills* and the *Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care*, and provided a number of briefings to legislators outlining our concerns around provisions of proposed legislation. Notably, we made a submission on Fianna Fáil's *Bail (Amendment) Bill 2017*, which resulted in the Minister for Justice and Equality opposing the Bill.

In addition to these activities, the work of the IPRT team behind the scenes on funding, finance, sustainability and governance continued in tandem with our research and advocacy projects. This year has seen considerable work done towards achieving GDPR compliance, revision of human resources, risk register, safety statements and data protection policies and procedures, which are all essential to good governance.

Next year will be IPRT's 25th birthday, when we hope to celebrate a quarter of a century of penal reform in Ireland. Strengthening our fundraising is vital to our continued success and growth as well as evidencing wider public support for penal reform. This year, I again invite you to please consider inviting a family member, neighbour, colleague or acquaintance to think about investing

in penal reform and becoming a member or Friend of IPRT.

Every Board member of IPRT provides ongoing support, guidance and direction to me as Executive Director; in particular Seamus Taylor as Chair, Aislinn O'Donnell as Vice Chair and Kevin Gregory as Treasurer. My sincere thanks to the ever-dedicated, always hardworking and inspiring IPRT staff team: Fíona Ní Chinnéide, Eoin Delap, Pamela Drumgoole, Michelle Martyn and Lorraine Whitty along with interns Denise, Emily, Niamh, Anna D, Anna F, Erin and Aisling who supported our work over the last 12 months. A special word of thanks this year to Deputy Director Fíona Ní Chinnéide who took on the role of Acting Executive Director for October 2016-17. Many of IPRT's achievements are the result of her excellent leadership of the IPRT team over the relevant period.



*Deirdre Malone,
Executive Director,
August 2018*

Irish Prisons 2017: At a Glance

January

- The average number of prisoners in custody was 3,633. (January 2017)
- Both of Ireland's women's prisons were consistently overcrowded. As January came to a close, the Dóchas Centre was at 103% capacity and Limerick (female) reached 114% capacity. (31 January)

February

- The combined sixth and seventh periodic reviews of Ireland under UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) took place in Geneva. (15 February)
- Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald TD announced the publication of the Inspector of Prisons' report *Healthcare in Irish Prisons*. The principal recommendation of the report was that responsibility for the provision of healthcare be transferred from the IPS to the HSE. This was the final report of the late Judge Michael Reilly. (21 February)

March

- UN CEDAW published its Concluding Observations on Ireland, including recommendations to the State to tackle the problem of female prison overcrowding and address the root causes of the overrepresentation of Traveller women in places of detention. (9 March)

- Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD, signed a Ministerial Order that ended the sentencing of children to adult prison. This was a momentous step meaning that children would no longer be committed to Wheatfield Place of Detention. (30 March)

April

- St Patrick's Institution was officially closed by Tánaiste Frances Fitzgerald TD. This was the final step towards ending the damaging practice of placing children in adult prisons in Ireland, which was in breach of international human rights standards. (07 April)
- The April Census of Restricted Regime Prisoners showed that the number of prisoners on 22 and 23-hour restricted regimes stood at 44, down from 72 in January 2017. (April 2017)

May

- The *National Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020* was launched. The Strategy is aimed at addressing the institutionalised inequalities that exist between men and women in Ireland. It also commits to implementing recommendations made by the Strategic Review Group of Penal Policy in respect of women. (3 May)

- The Irish Prison Service announced the closure of the Training Unit, Ireland's only semi-open prison, resulting in the return of some prisoners to closed prisons. (4 May)
- The Irish Prison Service *Annual Report 2016* showed a significant decrease (12.2%) in committals. However, the overreliance on short-term sentences persisted, with 90% of sentenced committals in 2016 being for sentences of under 12 months. (15 May)
- The joint Department of Justice and Equality, Irish Prison Service and Probation Service Strategy on Social Enterprise 2017-19, which aims to create opportunities for sustainable employment for those with convictions, was launched. (15 May)

June

- The Office of the Inspector of Prisons published a number of reports into deaths in custody in 2016. Concerns raised by the late Inspector and Acting Inspector included poor levels of record keeping and non-compliance of staff with Standard Operating Procedures. (27 June)
- Minister for Justice and Equality, Charles Flanagan TD, introduced an amendment to Rule 27 (1) of the *Prison Rules 2007 to 2017*, entitling prisoners to a minimum of two hours out-of-cell time, with an opportunity for meaningful contact. (29 June)

July

- The Irish Prison Service issued the *Elimination of Solitary Confinement Policy*, incorporating Rules 44 and 45 of the revised *UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* (2015), commonly referred to as the 'Mandela Rules'. (11 July)
- The second periodic review of Ireland under the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) took place in Geneva. (27 July)

August

- The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) published an inspection report on Oberstown Children Detention Campus. While the report was largely positive, it found inadequacies in its complaints system, high incidents of single separation, and the use of restraints. (3 August)
- The UN Committee against Torture published its Concluding Observations on Ireland's second periodic hearing under the UN Convention against Torture, with a number of recommendations on prisoner issues and conditions. This included a priority recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. (11 August)

September

- In *Simpson v Governor of Mountjoy Prison & Ors*, the High Court found that being forced to double-up in a cell with no in-cell sanitation had breached the plaintiff's constitutional right to privacy and dignity. This was a landmark ruling regarding the practice of 'slopping out'. (13 September)

October

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) was signed by Ireland in October 2007. On the tenth anniversary, the Protocol had yet to be ratified. (02 October)
- Budget 2017 saw the allocation of funds to the Irish Prison Service to commence the construction of a new 110-cell wing and a female prison unit in Limerick Prison, as well as a new maximum-security block in Portlaoise Prison. (11 October)
- The October Census of Cell Occupancy and In-cell Sanitation showed that 61 prisoners were required to 'slop out', an increase from 42 at the same time in 2016. (October 2017)

November

- The Department of Justice published the *Fourth Report of the Implementation Oversight Group*. The Report showed the milestones that had been met, including the launch of a policy regarding solitary confinement by the IPS, tendering of step-down facilities for women, an Educational Programme review, and the completion of a sentence management for life-sentence prisoners report. (November 2017)
- In *S.F. (a minor) and Ors v Director of Oberstown Children Detention Campus and Ors* the High Court ruled that there was a 'limited' breach in the constitutional rights of four young men when they were deprived of exercise and communication with their families for a period of 3 weeks. The High Court awarded damages of €100 each, stating procedural safeguards should be in place in instances of separation and associated deprivation. (06 November)

December

- The average number of prisoners in custody was 3,657. (December 2017)
- 142 prisoners were granted varying periods of temporary release for Christmas 2017. This compares to 177 in 2016, 203 in 2015 and 242 in 2014.

Our Vision

IPRT's vision is of a penal system that:

- is just and humane;
- protects and promotes human rights, equality and social justice;
- uses prison as a last resort.

Our Mission

IPRT's mission is to work towards progressive reform of penal policy and practice to achieve a penal system in line with our vision.

Our Values

Our values guide us in how we achieve our mission.

Independent	Committed	Fair	Authoritative
we are fearless in our voice and in our actions	to holding the State to account	we are committed to tackling social injustice	we are guided by human rights frameworks and best international standards
Informed	Constructive	Engaged	Accountable
our advocacy is based on high quality research and evidence-informed policies	we are constructive in our work with others in the penal system	we are mindful of the importance of engaging directly with people in prison and their families	we are committed to the highest levels of good governance and financial integrity

Our People

Patron of IPRT



Michael D. Higgins
President
of Ireland

Advocates of IPRT



Paula Meehan
Poet



Peter Sheridan
Author and
Director



Ivana Bacik
Senator



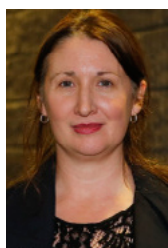
John Lonergan
Former Governor
of Mountjoy Prison

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. At least seven members of the Board are elected at the organisation's AGM and further members may be co-opted by the Board.



Seamus Taylor
Chairperson
Lecturer in Social
Policy, Maynooth
University



Aislinn O'Donnell
Vice Chairperson
Professor of
Education,
Maynooth
University



Kevin Gregory
Treasurer
Director of
Finance, IT and
Administration,
Focus Ireland



Kathleen Leader
Secretary
Barrister



Eddie D'Arcy
CEO
Solas Project



Joan O'Flynn
Independent
Consultant



David Perry
Barrister and
Lecturer at the
Honorable Society
of King's Inns



Niall Walsh
Manager,
Pathways Centre



Suzi Lyons
Senior
Researcher,
Health Research
Board

IPRT Staff

In 2017-2018, the day-to-day work of IPRT was carried out by a team of 4 – 6 staff.



Deirdre Malone
Executive Director
(returned from maternity leave Oct 2017)



Fiona Ní Chinnéide
Deputy Executive Director
(sabbatical from Nov 2017 to Jun 2018).
Acting Executive Director (from Oct 2016 to Oct 2017)



Lorraine Whitty
Membership & Administrative Officer.
Membership & Communications Officer (from Oct 2016 to Sept 2017)



Michelle Martyn
Senior Research & Policy Projects Manager



Pamela Drumgoole
Campaigns Officer



Eoin Delap
Development Manager (from June 2018)

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.

- **Leanne Digney** (Jun 2017 – Aug 2017)
- **Denise Roche** (Sep 2017 – Jan 2018)
- **Emily Ryan** (Oct 2017 – Jan 2018)
- **Niamh Wade** (Jan 2018 – May 2018)
- **Anna Devereux** (Feb 2018 – Jun 2018)
- **Anna Flynn** (Feb 2018 – Jun 2018)
- **Erin Ward** (Jun 2018 – full-time)

Our Strategic Priorities

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; alternatives to custody and diversion; and the treatment and rehabilitation of those in detention. All of our work is underscored by our commitment to promoting equality and to combating social injustice.

All of IPRT's actions over the period were guided by our new strategic priorities, as outlined in our *Strategic Plan 2017-2021*:

01

Progressive Penal Policy

IPRT advocates for a national penal policy that is:

- just and humane,
- promotes effective non-custodial responses to crime, and
- uses prison as a last resort.

02

Humane Penal System

IPRT promotes a national penal system that is:

- humane as experienced by people who are detained,
- protects and promotes human rights and equality, and
- strives to achieve international best practice in formal regimes, daily practices and overall culture.

03

Our Organisation

IPRT ensures that the organisation is a sustainable, well-resourced, respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland.

Priority 1: Progressive Penal Policy

IPRT advocates for a national penal policy that is: just and humane, promotes effective non-custodial responses to crime, and uses prison as a last resort.

Penal Policy

A key strategic goal of IPRT is to contribute to the development of an Irish penal policy that operates a long-term, system-wide and evidence-informed approach to the causes and contributing factors to offending.

In February 2017, IPRT was the first of a number of agencies and organisations invited to address the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality on the topic of "penal reform, prisons, and sentencing". IPRT addressed several wide-ranging issues and outlined recommendations for reform. In May 2018, the Joint Committee published its report, based on this series of meetings. The report makes 29 recommendations, many of which echo those raised by IPRT. These recommendations include: the establishment of a completely independent mechanism for the consideration of prisoner complaints; immediate ratification of OPCAT; improved visitation for children of prisoners; appropriate resources for mental health care for prisoners; phasing out of the use of solitary confinement; greater emphasis on community-based sanctions; an urgent review and revision of the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016*; and the creation of a statutory Parole Board. IPRT will continue to closely monitor the implementation of these recommendations and liaise with the relevant stakeholders to encourage their realisation.

Mandatory Sentencing

IPRT promotes the need for reform of Irish sentencing practice in a number of key areas, including the abolition of mandatory sentencing regimes.

In February 2018, IPRT made a submission to the Law Reform Commission on Sentencing Guidelines. Our submission pointed to the ineffectiveness of mandatory sentences as a deterrent and its impact on rates and cost of imprisonment.

In April 2018, IPRT took a further opportunity to advance our position on presumptive sentencing in another submission to the Law Reform Commission, this time on Suspended Sentences. In the submission, we echoed the *Strategic Review of Penal Policy* recommendations that presumptive minimum sentences in Ireland should be repealed, there should be no further presumptive minimum sentencing regimes introduced, and there should be a review of the current sentencing regime that applies to drug offences and firearm offences in Ireland.

IPRT will continue to campaign against the introduction of additional mandatory minimums whenever the issue returns to public debate, as well as calling for sentencing guidelines to help promote public confidence in sentencing.

Parole Reform

Engagement with the Oireachtas to work towards the establishment of an independent Parole Board on a statutory footing, which functions in a fair, transparent and accountable manner is another of IPRT's strategic goals. IPRT continued to engage with the *Parole Bill 2016*, a Private Member's Bill introduced by Deputy Jim O'Callaghan TD, as well as arranging meetings with relevant members of the Oireachtas about the Bill. In February 2018, IPRT made a detailed submission on the Parole Bill at Report stage, in conjunction with Dr Diarmuid Griffin. While acknowledging that the Bill represents a move towards reform, we underscored our concern in relation to a number of the provisions in the Bill. We believe the Bill should focus on bringing about a more consistent approach to parole outcomes and the provisions should enhance the quality and consistency in decision-making. It is envisaged that the submission will bolster discussion when the Bill is next considered by the Oireachtas, however, there has not been any movement on the Bill in recent months.

Legislation governing the parole process should help to achieve clarity in the law and support a proper balance between the protection of the public and the rights of sentenced persons to a fair and balanced system of release. IPRT will continue to campaign until this is a reality.

Alternatives to Custody

A key strategic objective of IPRT is to advocate for an Irish penal policy that is focused on non-custodial responses to crime, which has rehabilitation and social integration at its centre. In October 2017, IPRT launched *Community Service in Ireland: A qualitative exploration of one alternative to short-term imprisonment*. This Discussion Paper arises from a 3-year employment-based PhD research project, co-funded by the Irish Research Council and IPRT, in association with DIT. The Discussion Paper presents key findings which support the greater use of alternatives to short-term prison sentences in Ireland. The event was chaired by Judge David Riordan and was attended by judges, legal professionals, legislators, probation service practitioners, and civil society organisations. A wine reception followed the seminar, facilitating further discussion of the research findings.

Recognising the vital role the Probation Service plays in reducing the prison population, IPRT made a submission to the service in February 2018 to help inform the priorities for their Strategic Plan 2018-2020. IPRT highlighted the need for the Probation Service to focus on alternative options for offenders with substance misuse issues, increase focus towards prioritising integration in its work, and strengthen relationships with criminal justice and external bodies to build inter-agency co-operation.

We saw a welcome decrease in committal rates from 15,099 in 2016 to 9,287 in 2017, attributed largely to the decrease in committals for fines default due to the *Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014*. While welcoming the decrease in committal rates, IPRT is concerned that the number of prisoners participating on the highly successful Community Return and Community Support programmes has more than halved since 2014, and the numbers serving short custodial sentences continues to be higher than the numbers serving Community Service Orders. This runs counter to the recommendations of the Department of Justice and Equality *Strategic Review of Penal Policy*. IPRT will continue to monitor the use of these alternatives.

IPRT is grateful to the Bar of Ireland for their sponsorship of the reception.

Children of Prisoners

The rights and needs of children affected by imprisonment have been largely ignored within Irish policy and practice. In September 2017, IPRT held a joint event launching *Principles of Action for Children with a Parent in Prison*, in conjunction with University College Cork and the Children's Rights Alliance. The project aims to raise awareness of the issues affecting children with a parent in prison and to inspire progressive policy change relating to services and supports for these children.

IPRT is concerned at the lack of data gathered on children with a parent in prison in Ireland. To further the case for improvement of the visiting system, the Irish Prison Service linked with Data4Good (formerly Datakind) and IPRT to undertake the *Family Visits Survey* to collect survey data from prisoners about their experience of the current visiting systems. The surveys were completed in Limerick in 2015, Midlands in 2016, and Wheatfield in 2017, with a total of 722 prisoners taking part. Analysis of the data was completed by Data4Good during 2017/2018. IPRT strongly welcomes the current data-led approach taken by the Irish Prison service to improving prisoner family contact. IPRT hopes to publish the survey findings in late 2018.

Focus On: Improving opportunities for people with convictions

Securing employment or training, and the ability to rebuild a life after committing an offence, is crucial to breaking the cycle of offending.

The ability to rebuild a life after offending can be hindered by having to disclose a criminal history. IPRT has been campaigning for robust and extensive Spent Convictions legislation to be introduced in Ireland since 2007. In April 2016, the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016* was enacted. Now, certain convictions can become spent after a period of seven years, while others can continue to present barriers to work, education, training, insurance, and travel. Although the legislation was welcomed by IPRT, the current position does not consider the context of a person's offending behaviour at the time, such as youth, addiction, poverty or any other circumstances.

A key component of IPRT's work in 2017 was the development of an information campaign around the current schemes that exist for the expungement of convictions, with the goal of building support for a review of spent convictions legislation. IPRT commissioned youth information specialists SpunOut.ie to develop informative animations. This collaboration led to the development of clear, accessible and engaging materials. With service providers in mind, we also developed print materials (posters and information leaflets) using plain language and complementary graphics that simplified the otherwise complex legislation. Our materials were kindly reviewed for legal accuracy, pro bono, through PILA.

To launch the campaign, we held a 'Working with Conviction' seminar in September 2017. We were delighted to welcome James Timpson OBE, Chair of Prison Reform Trust UK, as our keynote speaker. James also is Chief Executive of Timpson, a family business of 1,400 shops across the UK and Ireland. 10% of his colleagues were recruited directly from prison, making Timpson the largest employer of ex-offenders in the UK. Other speakers at the seminar included: Paddy Richardson, Chief Executive, IASIO; Niall Walsh, Manager, Pathways Centre; Philip Richardson, Youth Cultivator, formerly of Solas Project; Mairéad Deevy, Barrister-at-Law; and Kieran Moylan, Principal Officer, Care & Rehabilitation Directorate, Irish Prison Service.

IPRT devised a social media advertising strategy, which enabled us to reach over 70,000 people with our materials online. In the month after the campaign launch, our 'Spent Convictions' web page was visited 700% more than the next best performing page on the site. These information materials were also distributed to all TD constituency offices, numerous post-release support services, and all Citizens Information Centres countrywide; 215 locations in total.

IPRT has continuously worked to keep the issue of effective spent convictions on the political agenda, campaigning for a review of the Bill which is more limited in its reach than the *Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions) Bill 2012*, as initially published. In May 2018, the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality published its *Report on Penal Reform and Sentencing*. In the report, the Committee echoed IPRT's view that the Act is "extremely limited in its application and fails to support rehabilitation of more serious offenders" and stated that the Act "must urgently be reviewed and revised."

IPRT continues to work to minimise barriers faced by former offenders, whose convictions (spent and unspent) impact their ability to progress with their lives. Throughout 2017/2018, IPRT has engaged with a working group on fair access to insurance for people with convictions. This working group is made up of 12 stakeholders, including civil society actors, two individuals with a convictions history, an employer, and a representative from the insurance industry. The activities of the working group, and IPRT's work on spent convictions more widely, will continue in 2018/2019.

All of the information materials related to this campaign are available at www.iprt.ie/spent-convictions

IPRT's 2017 campaign on spent convictions was supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Priority 2: Humane Penal System

IPRT promotes a national penal system that is: humane as experienced by people who are detained, protects and promotes human rights and equality, and strives to achieve international best practice in formal regimes, daily practices and overall culture.

Progress in the Penal System (PIPS) Project

The overall objective of the PIPS project is to provide a comprehensive report on human rights issues in Irish prisons. Informed by international and European human rights standards and best practice, IPRT has developed a set of 35 standards across a number of areas of the prison system which will be used to independently track, monitor and assess progress in the Irish penal system on an annual basis.

In October 2017, IPRT launched the first annual PIPS report. Representatives from Penal Reform International, the Irish Prison Service, the Department of Justice and Equality, and esteemed academics spoke at the launch. Following the launch, IPRT disseminated hundreds of copies of the report to inform the work of relevant NGOs, legal associations, relevant university departments, HIQA, courts, relevant actors in the Department of Justice and Equality, and IPS Senior Management. During 2017–2018, IPRT continued to engage constructively with stakeholders to encourage progress on the report's indicators. This included meetings with the Department of Justice and Equality, IPS Senior Management, IHREC, prison governors, and forensic mental health professionals.

Michelle Martyn, IPRT Senior Research and Policy Projects Manager, is leading the design, research and delivery of the

project, with the support and guidance of a Research Advisory Group: Prof Aislinn O'Donnell (Chair), David Perry, Niall Walsh and external expert Prof Ian O'Donnell. The first PIPS report has built a central bank of up-to-date knowledge on key areas in human rights and has informed IPRT submissions and consultations on a broad range of topics throughout the year.

The second annual PIPS report will be published on 26 October 2018 at the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

The PIPS Project is supported through the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Children in Detention

IPRT works towards progressive change in youth justice policies and practice, as well as engaging with wider policy and practice issues relating to youth justice, such as the provision of alternatives to detention, diversion and early intervention programmes.

In November 2016, IPRT sought an opportunity to submit to the Operational Review of Oberstown, undertaken by independent experts, Prof Nick Hardwick and Prof Barry Goldson. IPRT co-ordinated a joint civil society submission, with input from the Children's Rights Alliance, Barnardos, EPIC and the Jesuit Centre for Faith

and Justice in December 2016.

To date, the Review has not been published. IPRT wrote to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, the Ombudsman for Children, the Chief Commissioner of IHREC, and the CEO of HIQA in December 2017, calling for publication of the Operational Review. We will continue to call for publication of the Review, recognising that in the interests of transparency and accountability, the reports should be publicly available.

On 6 November 2017, in a case taken by four young males against Oberstown Children Detention Campus, it was ruled in the High Court that the young males had experienced a "limited" breach of their constitutional rights arising from the treatment at Oberstown following incidents at the detention centre in August 2016. Following this, IPRT called on the Minister for Justice and Equality and Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to introduce regulations governing the use of single separation. Strict safeguards should apply where single separation is imposed on children; IPRT will continue to advocate for their development and implementation.

Mental Health

The inappropriate use of prisons to hold people with mental illnesses is one of the most critical problems within the Irish prison system. In May 2018, IPRT accepted an invitation to appear before the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care, represented by Executive Director Deirdre Malone and Senior Research & Policy Projects Manager Michelle Martyn. Our submission recommended a range of proposals for progressive change, before, during, and after prison. It is IPRT's position that properly resourced mental health care provision in the community, especially for children, will reduce the numbers encountering the adult criminal justice system. We also urged action on the implementation of 35 recommendations specifically relating to mental health care in prison in the Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Death of Gary Douch. The Committee's report is expected for publication in late 2018.

At any given time, there are roughly 30 acutely mentally ill people in prison on the waiting list for a bed in the Central Mental Hospital (CMH). Although a new CMH campus is set to open in Portrane by 2020, IPRT is concerned about the limited capacity of the facility. Even accounting for the opening of the

new facility, the number of forensic beds per capita in Ireland will still fall well below the European average. Considering these issues, the work of IPRT in the area of mental health will expand in the coming years.

UNCAT

In July 2017, then Acting Executive Director Fíona Ní Chinnéide travelled to Geneva as part of a delegation of Irish NGOs to engage directly with the UN Committee against Torture for Ireland's second periodic review under the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. IPRT participated in both an informal and a formal session with the Committee members, with the goal of securing strong and realisable commitments on detention issues. The Concluding Observations from the review were published on 11 August 2017. A considerable number of recommendations from the Committee related directly to the overarching matters flagged by IPRT. In particular, IPRT welcomed the strong recommendations made by the UN Committee in the areas of solitary confinement and prison health.

We also welcomed the deserved recognition of real progress achieved since 2011 in addressing some of the most serious human rights issues, including

overcrowding, slopping out and imprisonment of children. The progress achieved since 2011 demonstrates the importance of international monitoring and oversight, as well as the importance of civil society engagement with international monitoring bodies. However, IPRT was disappointed that many of the Concluding Observations made in 2011 were repeated in 2017, such as the recommendation to expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and to establish a National Preventative mechanism. Ireland is due to provide a follow-up report on the Committee's recommendations on 11 August 2018. The publication of the report, outlining the State's progress, will be an opportunity for IPRT to leverage further reform. IPRT will engage with the Committee again during Ireland's third periodic review under the Convention, which is due to take place in 2021.

IPRT's UNCAT campaign work in 2017/2018 was supported through the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Solitary Confinement

Following on from an amendment to the Prison Rules on 29 June 2017 which entitles all prisoners to a minimum of 2 hours out-of-cell time, the Irish Prison Service have adopted this target in their policy on *Elimination of solitary confinement*, which came into effect on 11th July 2017. However, progress has stalled on the *Prisons (Solitary Confinement) Amendment Bill [PMB] 2016*, which, if passed, will create a definition of solitary confinement in Irish law, and would place statutory restrictions on holding prisoners in isolation for long periods.

On 2 February 2018, IPRT launched a major research study, the culmination of a year of research, on the use of solitary confinement and restricted regimes in Ireland. We were privileged to welcome former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Professor Juan Méndez to inaugurate our report *'Behind the Door': Solitary Confinement in the Irish Penal System*.

Chaired by Professor Mary Rogan, other contributors included: Dr Agnieszka Martynowicz and Dr Linda Moore, authors of the research; Professor Barry Goldson; University of Liverpool; Michael O'Neill, Head of Legal, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Martin Smyth, Director of Operations, Irish Prison Service; Deputy Clare Daly, T.D.; and Professor Ian O'Donnell, UCD.

We also launched an animation designed to inform the public of the extent and impact of the use of solitary confinement in Ireland. This animation is available to view at iprt.ie/solitary-confinement

Following the launch of the report, Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan TD released a statement on the report, welcoming its publication and indicating that he would be considering the recommendations. This underscores the regard in which the work of IPRT is held. In April 2018, the number in solitary confinement (22- and 23-hour restricted regimes) dropped to 12, down from 85 in January 2018. The campaign will continue until this figure reaches zero.

This project was funded by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

Prisoners' Rights

In 2012, IPRT, in association with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, created a booklet which aimed to help prisoners understand their rights while in prison. In early 2018, IPRT set out a broad consultation process to assist with updating the booklet for publication in 2019 to mark the 25-year anniversary of IPRT. On 17 May 2018, IPRT engaged in a roundtable consultation with NGOs and other stakeholders to generate ideas for changes to the information booklet. The event was chaired by Damien Coffey of

Sheehan & Partners. Further consultations on the booklet were held with specific groups, including: female prisoners; life-sentenced prisoners; the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; the Inspector of Prisons; and disability advocates.

In addition to this roundtable, we held an information seminar on 'Prisoners' Rights in Relation to the Media'. IPRT hosted Bernie Grogan from the Office of the Press Ombudsman, and Declan McLoughlin from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland as speakers at the event. A highly engaging Q&A with the Press Ombudsman, Peter Feeney, followed the seminar. This seminar built the capacity of individuals and organisations who work with prisoners and former prisoners by equipping them with the knowledge to assist their service users through the complaints procedures. Following the success of these events, IPRT assisted the Office of the Press Ombudsman in the development of an updated leaflet which explains how the Office can assist prisoners specifically – a new addition to the OPO website.

This event was supported through the Community Foundation for Ireland.

Focus On: Ratification of OPCAT

Any child or adult deprived of their liberty is vulnerable to potential human rights abuses. The aim of OPCAT is to strengthen the protection of persons deprived of their liberty.

IPRT advocates for the positive transformation of systems of accountability and governance of the penal system in the area of inspection, complaints and monitoring. OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture) provides for preventative oversight and inspection of all places of detention. IPRT supports this goal and believes that independent monitoring under OPCAT will serve to strengthen a culture of human rights within Irish detention facilities.

A series of discrete actions towards ratification of OPCAT were undertaken by IPRT over the period, including:

- In July 2017, during Ireland's second periodic hearing under UNCAT, IPRT participated in a joint NGO statement (alongside other civil society organisations) calling for the ratification of OPCAT. We believe that this statement played a key role in securing the strong recommendations on OPCAT from the Committee.
- To mark the ten-year anniversary of Ireland signing OPCAT in October 2017, IPRT joined forces with 9 other advocacy organisations to launch a public information campaign on OPCAT. The information campaign, spearheaded by IPRT, consists of: a micro-site, which provides a comprehensive outline of what OPCAT means in clear and accessible language; and an information video, which aims to demonstrate the need for independent oversight behind walls.
- On 2 October, the 10th anniversary of Ireland's signing of OPCAT, IPRT participated in a roundtable session hosted by the Irish Human rights and Equality Commission on the progress towards ratification.
- In December 2017, IPRT took part in an All Party Penal Reform Group Briefing Seminar of the 32nd Dáil and the 25th Seanad, hosted by Senator Ivana Bacik. The focus of the seminar was on Standard 24 of PIPS, which calls for structures to be put in place for regular inspection and monitoring. We were joined by Liam Herrick (ICCL) and Ruth Gallagher (Irish

Human Rights and Equality Commission). The event encouraged discussion among Oireachtas members.

- In March 2018, IPRT Executive Director Deirdre Malone spoke at the launch of NASC's report on *Immigration Detention and Border Control in Ireland: Revisiting Irish Law, Policy and Practice*, highlighting the inappropriate nature of prison for immigration detention, as well as the need for ratification of OPCAT.
- In February 2017, IPRT addressed the Joint Committee on Justice and Equality on a number of wide-ranging issues, including the delay in ratification of the Protocol. In May 2018, the Joint Committee published their report on this series of meetings, in which the Committee called for the "immediate ratification" of OPCAT.
- On the appointment of the new Inspector of Prisons, IPRT issued a press release underlining our view that the appointment should place a fresh impetus on the ratification of OPCAT.
- IPRT met with the new Inspector of Prisons, Patricia Gilheaney, to discuss complaints and accountability issues and the possible impact of legislation to ratify OPCAT on the role of Inspector of Prisons.

Executive Director Deirdre Malone also engaged in a series of meetings with Deputies and Senators with an interest in accountability to discuss building alliances in support of ratification. IPRT's work on pushing for the ratification of OPCAT is far from finished. Our upcoming work on OPCAT will include: media activity; a pre-budget submission; statement of principles; direct engagement with Oireachtas members; draft legislation; and engagement with the Joint Committee and Dáil Questions.

The campaign micro-site and animation are available at www.opcat-ireland.com

Priority 3: Our Organisation

Ensure IPRT is a sustainable, well-resourced, respected and collaborative stakeholder in penal policy in Ireland.

Strategy & Governance

IPRT is committed to transparency and accountability around how we work, achieving the highest standards of governance and compliance.

Strategy

2017 marked the first full year of implementing our *Strategic Plan 2017-2021*, with. In 2018, our annual organisational and team work-plans were developed to reflect the Strategic Plan, ensuring that our identified actions moved us closer to achieving our strategic priorities.

In early 2019, the IPRT Board will commission an external independent mid-term evaluation of the work of IPRT against our *Strategic Plan 2017-2021*.

Governance

IPRT achieved full compliance with the Governance Code - a Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland in 2014. IPRT is registered with the Companies Registration Office (CRO Number 21844) and with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CHY Number 11091) and meets all requirements to file returns to the Register of Lobbying. We are committed to complying with the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

General Data Protection Regulation

IPRT's work during 2017-2018 involved considerable preparation for implementation of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on 25 May 2018. The Regulation significantly increases the obligations and responsibilities for IPRT in how we collect, use and protect personal data.

The obligations imposed by the GDPR mean that IPRT, as a data controller, had to review and enhance our organisation's risk management processes, make an inventory of the personal data we hold, ensure our procedures cover the rights of individuals, ensure we have a legal basis for processing data and implement policies which outline how, why and by who data is processed on behalf of IPRT.

A sample of the discrete actions undertaken by IPRT in preparation for implementation of GDPR includes: carrying out an in-depth GDPR assessment; IPRT staff attendance at training courses; data cleansing; updating our privacy statement; requesting contact consents; updating our retention policy; recycling of legacy PCs; development of new research protocols; and encryption of all suitable devices. GDPR compliance will remain a priority for IPRT.

Board of Directors

Our Board members bring a broad range of skills and sector knowledge to the work of IPRT, such as: social policy, advocacy, research, strategic planning, legal expertise, finance, education, youth justice, community health, and drugs policy.

At the AGM in September 2017, Christine Littlefield and Brigid Pike stepped down from the Board. Both Christine and Brigid were thanked for their enormous contribution to IPRT, and both received honorary lifetime membership of IPRT. Prof Aislinn O'Donnell succeeded Christine as Vice Chairperson of the Board. Suzi Lyons was co-opted to the Board on 12 December 2017.

Patrons

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

Staff and Internships

IPRT Executive Director Deirdre Malone returned from maternity leave in October 2017. Fíona Ní Chinnéide, who had filled the role of Acting Executive Director since October 2016 returned to her role as Deputy Executive Director, and Lorraine Whitty moved back to her role as Membership and Administration Officer. Fíona took a sabbatical from IPRT from November 2017 to June 2018. Michelle Martyn continued in her role as Senior Research & Policy Projects Manager and Pamela Drumgoole continued in her role as Campaigns Officer. IPRT welcomed Eoin Delap to the team in June 2018 as Development Manager.

As always, IPRT's work was greatly supported by interns. Denise Roche joined us from September 2017 to January 2018, with Emily Ryan joining IPRT from October 2017 to January 2018. Niamh Wade worked with us as part of a Maynooth University placement from January 2018 to May 2018. Anna Flynn and Anna Devereux joined the team from February 2018 to June 2018. Erin Ward joined IPRT on a UCD legal placement for the month of June 2018. IPRT is grateful to all of our interns for their assistance and dedication. Our work would not be possible without them.

IPRT Office

IPRT ensures that robust levels of organisational systems, structures and practices are in operation to ensure a sustainable organisation and a high quality place of work for staff. In 2018, the system of performance reviews was restructured, with performance objectives continuing to be agreed collaboratively. Identifying relevant training and professional development opportunities continues to be central to staff performance objectives. The IPRT Staff Handbook was reviewed and updated by Arthur Cox to reflect current best practice and legislation, with thanks to PILA for the referral.

In 2018, improvements to the office environment included new hardware, re-organisation of the office layout and the addition of plants to brighten up the office space. In 2018, IPRT's membership and administrative capacity was further modernised through the implementation of a new database management system.

Finance

IPRT is committed to ensuring that the organisation's finances are managed to the highest standard, and in line with established accounting practices.

Since 2015, IPRT has produced FRS 102 SORP compliant accounts. The FRS 102 requirements relating to the trustees' annual report, fund accounting, the format of the statement of financial activities and additional disclosures are aimed at providing a high level of accountability and transparency to donors, funders, financial supporters and other stakeholders. The 2017 accounts, prepared by Best Practice Accountant - Chartered Accountants (Mary-Louise O'Loughlin ACA) were approved at the IPRT AGM in September 2017 and submitted to the Companies Registration Office. The 2017 accounts are for approval at the IPRT AGM in September 2018.

An independent audit is conducted each year by the auditors who bring to the attention of the Board any matters of concern. The auditors found the 2017 financial statements to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of IPRT and of its resources, and have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014. IPRT's registered auditors are Anne Brady McQuillans DFK. DFK is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and with the Irish Taxation

Institute and PCAOB (Public Company Accounting Oversight Board). The auditors are also invited each year to the AGM of the IPRT.

IPRT has a full written finance policy with protocols (available on request) in place in relation to the respective roles of Finance Committee, Executive Director, and Treasurer; the handling and management of petty cash, donations and membership, and grants; and retention of financial documentation. In line with the IPRT expenses policy, all expenditure must be vouched for and approved by the Executive Director, or in the case of the Executive Director's expenses must be approved by the Chairperson. The Finance Committee of the IPRT Board consults in advance of each Board meeting, approximately six times per annum.

Fundraising and Sustainability

IPRT's funding base now comprises two separate sources of State funding, two significant donor-advised funding streams, along with project grants, membership and donations.

State Funding

In July 2016, IPRT secured multiannual grant funding from the Department of Justice and Equality for three years. IPRT was also awarded Pobal funding under the Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector 2016-2019. This combined funding represents an annual core grant of approximately €190,000 per annum and covers the core costs of the organisation, including core staff and office costs.

IPRT's continuing independence is recognised by all funders as essential to the integrity of our work.

Philanthropic Funding

In 2016, IPRT secured two anonymous donor-advised fund commitments of €150,000 and €180,000 over the next 3 years, matched with two Impact Grant commitments of €36,000 and €33,000, through the Community Foundation for Ireland. One of these grants covers a 3-year role in IPRT of Senior Research & Policy Manager. Grant funding from the St. Stephen's Green Trust contributed towards sustainability planning costs.

IPRT received a generous donation of €1,000 from the Saint Patrick's Cathedral Community Giving & Charitable Fund in March 2018. This donation will be used to assist in the development of our *Know Your Rights as a Prisoner* information booklet. IPRT also received sponsorship from the Bar of Ireland.

www.communityfoundation.ie

www.ssgt.ie

www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

www.lawlibrary.ie

Project Funding

In November 2017, IPRT was awarded €13,300 from The Horizon Fund by the Community Foundation for Ireland for a multi-level project which will examine the reasons for the over-representation of children in care in the criminal justice system in Ireland. We look forward to publishing the report in early 2019.

Membership & Friends of IPRT

IPRT is grateful to our members for their important contribution to the organisation's mission and programmes last year. Our members are IPRT's lifeblood and represent a broad coalition of people from many background brought together by a common vision for penal reform.

We are also deeply thankful to the Friends of IPRT, a network of dedicated supporters who pledge to give €250 over multiple years. Last year, we celebrated their commitment at special events and briefed them on our progress through our frequent updates. We aim to continue growing this network with the goal to reach 100 friends by 2021.

Sustainability

The Funding & Sustainability Subcommittee continue to meet 2 weeks in advance of every IPRT Board meeting and work toward achieving sustainability beyond 2019.

As part of the Fundraising & Sustainability Strategy for 2017-2018, a Development Manager was recruited to lead our income generation and sustainability work. Eoin Delap joined the IPRT team in June 2018. We look forward to reporting on progress made in this area in our 2018-2019 Annual Review.

Financial Statement

Supplementary information relating to the financial statements.

Schedule 2: charitable activities and other expenses.

		2017(€)	2016(€)
For the year ended 31 December 2017.	Expenses		
	Wages and salaries	177,329	164,144
	Social security costs	18,830	17,389
	Staff pension costs	3,991	—
	Staff training	1,604	536
	Human resources	—	180
	Rent and utilities	7,907	7,908
	Insurance	1,224	1,178
	Office equipment	972	28
	Cleaning	368	282
	Repairs and maintenance	—	63
	Stationery	1,295	2,261
	Postage	988	763
	Courier	200	140
	Marketing and advertising	—	404
	Website and social media	2,588	3,026
	Prisoner engagement and building alliances	986	1,324
	Commissioned research	750	1,250
	Events	—	2,243
	Sponsorship and awards	100	225
	Telephone and broadband	2,010	2,340
	Computer hardware and software	1,105	342
	IT support	1,951	475
	Rights and needs of LGBT prisoners (CFI) expenses	—	2,118

	2017(€)	2016(€)
Expenses		
Human rights in prisons (CFI)	11,932	277
Turnaround Youth: Youth in the criminal justice system (The Ireland Funds)	—	4,986
Rights and needs of older prisoners (SSGT)	—	6,948
Children Behind Bars (EC)	—	470
Prison Litigation Network (EC)	936	5,981
Infectious Diseases (EC)	—	1,092
Solitary confinement (IHREC)	18,927	91
Spent convictions (CFI)	8,550	—
Care and Criminalisation (CFI)	90	—
Impact (CFI)	27,995	—
Publications and reports	—	9,780
Evaluation and sustainability	—	6,000
Staff travel	1,924	3,399
Other staff expenses	441	247
Meetings	252	988
Volunteer and intern expenses	405	619
Board expenses	—	1,012
Legal and professional	800	669
Accountancy	4,056	3,752
Audit fees	3,764	3,700
Bank charges	262	304
General expenses	363	508
Membership and subscriptions	708	553
Depreciation	595	—
Total	€306,198	€259,995

Communications

We use our professional media and communications expertise in the pursuance of each and every one of our strategic goals.

We have continued to improve and raise the level of public discourse on crime and punishment through our use of evidence-informed analyses and by retaining and developing IPRT's distinct and constructive voice as a penal reform organisation. Through the use of a variety of strong communications methods, we disseminate the facts and dispel the myths about the penal system, prisons and prisoners.

Media

IPRT sustained its strong media profile during 2017 and 2018. Traditional media engagement included interviews on RTÉ's Drivetime, Radio 1 News, and Morning Ireland; Newstalk FM's Pat Kenny Show, The Hard Shoulder, and Newstalk News; along with various regional radio stations. IPRT comment appeared in *The Irish Times*, *Irish Examiner*, *Irish Independent*, and *The Times (Ireland edition)*, along with regular inclusion in online news outlets TheJournal.ie and Irish Legal News. IPRT also appeared on TV3's The Tonight Show.

Our commentary and debate included:

- Online articles: 80+
- Radio interviews: 40+
- Print publications: 30+
- Press releases: 16
- TV appearances: 4

Website and Online Presence

Online channels have become a key tool for achieving progressive social change in Ireland. With this in mind, IPRT proactively uses social media tools to extend our audiences, foster wider debate, and nurture international relationships with prison reform movements around the world. The IPRT website is maintained as a central source of information and updates on penal reform for media, policy-makers, researchers and other key stakeholders.

IPRT launched a social media campaign in September 2017 that garnered a positive response from not only the followers and subscribers of IPRT, but from the public. This resulted in a notable jump in our social media following and a 100% increase in visits to our website.

Excluding retweets, IPRT tweeted 683 times this year.

- www.twitter.com/iprt
- www.facebook.com/irishpenalreformtrust

E-bulletins

5 editions of the IPRT E-bulletin were issued during the period, keeping our subscribers, members and Friends up-to-date with our work and developments in penal policy.

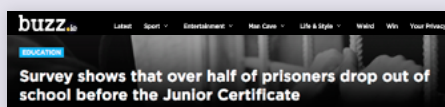
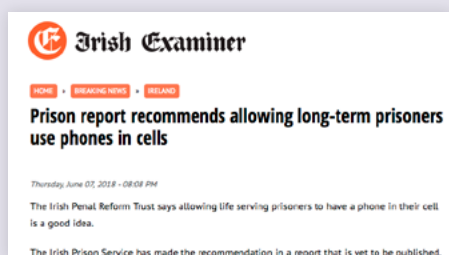
Media Releases

Traditional media work amplified and extended direct campaigns communications during the period, particularly in relation to breaking issues. Key releases include:

- *IPRT highlights lack of mental health services in Irish prisons ahead of UN Committee hearing (25 July 2018)*
- *More regular inspections needed during "turbulent" transition at Oberstown (3 August 2017)*
- *UN Committee urges Government to fundamentally review prison health care system and solitary confinement (12 August 2017)*
- *IPRT event highlights employer experience of hiring ex-offenders (25 September 2017)*
- *IPRT calls on Government to introduce legal framework regarding single separation for children (7 November 2017)*
- *Findings of Mountjoy Visiting Committee Report of serious concern (17 January 2018)*
- *More training in conflict resolution needed to tackle violence in Irish prisons (19 April 2018)*
- *Increasing numbers in Irish prisons undermines safety and rehabilitation (26 June 2018)*

IPRT Media Coverage

The impact of IPRT's work is demonstrated not only by the number of engagements, but by the reach, quality and salience of the content. A small sample of headlines of articles is included below.



Research and Policy

IPRT's advocacy work is informed by our comprehensive research and evidence-led policies. The quality of IPRT research and the importance of its contribution to the body of knowledge of the criminal justice system has earned us a credible reputation. Our published research and policy papers are available at: www.iprt.ie/research-centre

Policy Submissions

- *Feedback on Irish Youth Justice Service Updated Standards and Criteria for Children Detention Schools (July 2017)*
- *IPRT Joint Submission to the Consultative Panel on Governance of Charitable Organisations (December 2017)*
- *IPRT Submission to the Probation Service's Strategic Plan 2018-2020 (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission on Review of Sentencing/Potential Sentencing Guidelines to the Law Reform Commission's Fifth Programme of Law Reform (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission on Prison Law Review to the Law Reform Commission's Fifth Programme of Law Reform (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs on Amendments to the Child Care Act (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission to the Law Reform Commission on Suspended Sentences (April 2018)*

Oireachtas Submissions

- *IPRT Submission on Parole Bill 2016 [Report Stage] (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission to the Joint Committee on Education and Skills on Education Inequality and Disadvantage (February 2018)*
- *IPRT Submission to the Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care (June 2018)*
- *IPRT Preliminary Submission on the Bail (Amendment) Bill 2017 [Second stage] (June 2018)*

Submissions to International Monitoring Bodies

- *IPRT Shadow Report to the State's Third Follow-Up Report to Ireland's 2014 examination under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (11 September 2017)*

Research Reports and Briefings

- *Community Service in Ireland: A qualitative exploration of one alternative to short-term imprisonment (October 2017)*
- *Progress in the Penal System: A framework for penal reform (October 2017)*
- *'Behind the Door': Solitary Confinement in the Irish Penal System (February 2018)*

Alliances and Engagement

We recognise that IPRT cannot achieve our vision for the penal system on our own. We continue to build strategic links and alliances with others in order to strengthen overall capacity for creating change.

We also increase our impact through working in partnership and in alliance with other organisations to achieve common policy goals. To demonstrate our support for common human rights issues, IPRT is an organisational member of Mental Health Reform, Children's Rights alliance, the Association of Criminal Justice Research and Development, and the National Women's Council of Ireland.

Constructive Engagement

Over this period IPRT has maintained longstanding relationships with stakeholders, as well as developing new alliances in order to support specific shared goals. IPRT engaged directly with the following stakeholders (among many others) on IPRT positions and consultations:

Civil Society

Children's Rights Alliance; Prevention and Early Intervention Network; Mental Health Reform; EPIC (Empowering People in Care); National Women's Council of Ireland; The Saol Project; Cork Life Centre; Travellers in Prison Initiative; Irish Association for the Social Integration of Offenders; Pathways Centre; Jobcare; Irish Council for Civil Liberties; Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice; Care After Prison; Early Childhood Ireland; Midwives for Choice; Reclaiming Self; Sage Advocacy; Irish Deaf Society; Disabled People of Ireland; and NASC, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre.

Statutory

Office of Inspector of Prisons; Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Office of the Ombudsman; Ombudsman for Children; Press Ombudsman; Broadcasting Authority of Ireland; and the Charities Regulator.

State

Irish Prison Service; The Probation Service; Irish Youth Justice Service; Department of Justice and Equality; Department of Children and Youth Affairs; and Oberstown Children Detention Campus Management.

Legislature

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; Minister for Justice and Equality; Joint Committee on Justice and Equality; Joint Committee on the Future of Mental Health Care; Joint Committee on Education and Skills; TDs and Senators.

Academia

University College Cork; Dublin Institute of Technology; Trinity College Dublin; Maynooth University; UCD and University of Warwick 'History of Prison Health'; and the Irish Research Council.

International

UN Committee against Torture; European Committee for the Prevention of Torture; Penal Reform International; Prison Reform Trust (UK); and The Howard League for Penal Reform.

Presentations

During the period, IPRT delivered numerous presentations to key groups and diverse audiences, ranging from policy stakeholders to students. Highlights included: 5 presentations to Prison Officer recruits on our work, key current issues and the importance of penal reform for the prison system; presentation to a 'Living with Life' life-sentenced prisoner group; The Law Society of Ireland Annual Human Rights Conference 2017; presentation on the work of IPRT to the Centre for Talented Youth, DCU; presentation to Cork Life Centre on Educational Disadvantage and the Prison Population; Parnell Summer School 2017, 'Crime, Punishment and Justice'; address on OPCAT at the launch of NASC Immigration Detention Report; and a presentation to the University of Sheffield on the Penal Reform Movement in the Republic of Ireland.

Consultations

IPRT was invited to participate in a range of consultation processes, including the PEIU (Prevention and Early Intervention Unit) Dialogue Event (March 2018). IPRT also participated in a roundtable consultation hosted by the Law Reform Commission on 'Suspended Sentences and Juvenile Justice', with our input focusing on the need for publication of data by the Courts Service and the Irish Youth Justice Service in order to identify if sanctions provided for under the *Children Act 2001* are being utilised. Additionally, IPRT participated in a number of Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI) steering meetings during the course of 2017/2018.

IPRT also spearheaded a range of consultations, focusing on the development of our *Know Your Rights as a Prisoner* information booklet. These consultations involved NGOs, service providers, former prisoners, current prisoners and disability representative groups.

Prisoners and Prisoners' Families

Although IPRT does not follow a service provision model, we regularly receive queries from prisoners and prisoners' families regarding legal or administrative concerns about the prison system.

Although we provide a range of information materials outlining the applicability of spent convictions legislation, IPRT continued to receive a vast number of queries received by phone related to people who had previous convictions. This highlights both the lack of official information available, and also the number of people affected. Those in contact with us have expressed concern about the limitations of the current spent convictions legislation, including its impact on accessing certain college courses, insurance, as well as concerns at the potential impact of disclosure of convictions to employers.

Further queries raised by prisoners and their families in 2017 and 2018 include: the complaints system for prisoners in Irish prisons; access to temporary release and open prisons; access to healthcare; access to education and services; supports (both financial and psychological) for children and families of prisoners; prison visiting conditions; parole; access to rehabilitation/drug treatment; and access to supports and accommodation on release.

Second only to queries related to spent convictions was the number of queries about the complaints system, with people often concerned about the impact that making a complaint will have on the treatment they or their loved one receives in prison. IPRT continues to advocate for a fully independent prisoner complaints mechanism.

A Year in Images



1 (Back) Peter Feeney, Press Ombudsman; (front L - R) Declan McLoughlin, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland; Deirdre Malone, IPRT; and Bernie Grogan, Office of the Press Ombudsman, 17 May 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs



4 Chair of Prison Reform Trust UK, James Timpson, at 'Working with Conviction', 26 September 2017. Photo: Mark Steadman



5 Judge David Riordan and Professor Mary Rogan at the launch of *Community Service in Ireland Discussion Paper*, 11 October 2017. Photo: Derek Speirs



7 Launch of '*Behind the Door: Solitary Confinement in the Irish Penal System*', 2 February 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs



8 Clare Daly T.D. at the launch of '*Behind the Door: Solitary Confinement in the Irish Penal System*', 2 February 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs



2 Deirdre Malone, Lorraine Whitty, Emily Ryan, Denise Roche and Michelle Martyn. 24 January 2018. Photo: Pamela Drumgoole



3 Fíona Ní Chinnéide discussing UNCAT Concluding Observations, 11 August 2017. Photo: RTÉ Six One News



6 Launch of *Unseen, Unheard: Principles of Action for Children with a Parent in Prison*, 6 September 2017. Photo: courtesy of Fiona Donson



9 Professor Barry Goldson, Deirdre Malone, Professor Juan Méndez, Professor Mary Rogan and Professor Ian O'Donnell, 2 February 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs



10 Dr Kate O'Hara, Eoin Lawlor BL and Fíona Ní Chinnéide, 11 October 2017. Photo: Derek Speirs



12 Senator Ivana Bacik, Ursula Quill and Méabh O'Rourke at the launch of *Progress in the Penal System*, 24 October 2017. Photo: Derek Speirs



13 Deirdre Malone, Senator Ivana Bacik, Liam Herrick and Ruth Gallagher, 13 December 2017. Photo: Sebastian Enke



16 'Know Your Rights as a Prisoner' roundtable consultation, 17 May 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs



11 Michelle Martyn, IPRT Senior Research and Policy Projects Manager, and Noel Dowling, Principal, Department of Justice and Equality, at the launch of *Progress in the Penal System*, 24 October 2017. Photo: Derek Speirs



14 Ms Helen Casey, Acting Inspector of Prisons, at IPRT private members' event, 21 September 2017. Photo: Derek Speirs



15 Deirdre Malone speaking on Tv3's 'The Tonight Show'. 6 June 2018. Photo: TV3



17 Deputy Executive Director, Fíona Ní Chinnéide at 'Working with Conviction', 26 September 2017. Photo: Mark Steadman



18 (Back L – R) Anna Flynn, IPRT intern, with IPRT staff Lorraine Whitty, (front L – R) Michelle Martyn, Deirdre Malone and Pamela Drumgoole. 17 May 2018. Photo: Derek Speirs

Irish Penal Reform Trust

MACRO Building,
1 Green Street,
Dublin 7, Ireland

+353 1 874 1400

info@iprt.ie

www.iprt.ie

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