



## **INVITATION TO TENDER**

### ***Access to Rights & Justice for Migrants and Ethnic Minority People in the Penal System in Ireland***

#### **ABOUT IPRT AND OUR WORK**

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. Our work is underscored by the recognition that prison is inherently damaging in itself, and impacts disproportionately on marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Our goal, therefore, is to shift the focus of Ireland's penal system away from its current emphasis on punishment towards approaches based on prevention, early intervention, diversion, and the integration of criminal justice policy with wider social policy.

#### **CONTEXT**

The disproportionate representation of migrants and ethnic minorities in criminal justice systems across the globe is well documented. In Ireland, there has been some research on the rights and experience of migrants and ethnic minorities at policing and sentencing stages, and the over-representation of minority ethnic groups in the prison system has been highlighted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ([IHREC, 2020](#)). However, broader issues of racial and ethnic equality in the penal system remain under-explored in an Irish context, particularly in terms of accessing rights and accessing justice.

#### **PROJECT OUTLINE**

IPRT has been awarded funding from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) to pursue a research and awareness-raising campaign focused on the rights and experiences of migrants and ethnic minorities in the penal system in Ireland. The project aims to cast a spotlight on any differential outcomes in key parts of the penal system, including sentencing, probation and prisons; examine potential discrimination within custodial and non-custodial sanctions; and identify any discriminatory practices experienced by migrants, foreign nationals and ethnic minorities within the penal system. The overall objective is to empower rights-holders in the penal system to access their rights and justice, and encourage a culture of respect for racial and cultural equality and human rights among relevant public bodies.

#### **TENDER OUTLINE**

IPRT wishes to commission an expert researcher(s) to provide quantitative and qualitative research on access to rights and justice for migrants and ethnic minorities in the penal system in Ireland. Our project proposal envisages the basic model set out below. We are open to considering adapted models of delivery (with the agreement of the project funders) within the budget and time constraints of the project.

The research should include the following:

- Description of the **rights and experiences** of ethnic minorities and migrants in the penal system (comprising probation and prison services) in Ireland, including identification of barriers to accessing rights and access to justice.
- A **literature review** that provides a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of race and penal systems, including reference to applicable human rights standards and relevant jurisprudence.
- **Analysis of sentencing, probation and prisons data** that examines disparities in pre-trial, sentencing and prison outcomes, and examine any differential outcomes for ethnic minorities, foreign nationals and/or migrants (e.g. over-representation in solitary confinement).
- **Interviews and fieldwork** with key stakeholders, including people with direct experience of the issues.
- Proposals for **evidence-informed policy recommendations**, developed in consultation with rights-holders.
- Analysis of how the **Public Sector Duty** can be fully implemented by relevant criminal justice bodies.

A Project Steering Committee will be established by IPRT to steer and advise the researcher(s) at the project's outset.

## PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The successful tender will be expected to produce the following outputs:

1. Literature review (April 2021)
2. Delivery of research report (circa 15-20k words) (August 2021)
3. Training brief, which will be shared with the Probation Service and the Irish Prison Service. (The purpose of the training brief is to build capacity and understanding.) (circa 2,000 words) (September 2021)
4. Rights-related materials for foreign nationals, migrants and ethnic minorities as part of IPRT's wider '*Know Your Rights: Your Rights as a Prisoner*' project (October 2021)

The launch of the report will be in November 2021. The successful tenderer is expected to attend the launch and present the findings of the research.

## REQUIREMENTS

- Primary or postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the Irish criminal justice system and/or critical human rights in Ireland;
- Experience in a range of research methods, both quantitative and qualitative (incl. conducting interviews, data analysis, undertaking desk-based research); commitment to the highest standard of research ethics
- Ability to liaise with relevant key stakeholders involved in the Irish criminal justice system;
- Experience in producing high-quality documents to agreed deadlines, within strict word-counts to publication standard;
- First-rate drafting abilities, exceptional writing skills, attention to detail, and ability to adhere to budgetary requirements.

## TENDER PROCESS

Tendering individuals or organisations must submit a tender document of no more than four pages. Each tender should include:

- A profile or CV of the individual(s) making the proposal;
- Details of previous relevant work in this area;
- Two samples of written work (these may be URLs to work published online);
- The methodology you propose to adopt in order to achieve the key deliverables;
- Costing and timeline with respect to the proposed work expressed within the overall budget for research of €10,000 (incl. VAT if applicable).
- Estimated number of days for completing the work.

### Assessment of Tender:

Each tender received will be assessed on the basis of:

CRITERIA	SCORE
Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the brief;	30
Track record in relevant work;	20
Approach/methodology	20
Value for money	20
Availability to carry out the project within the stated timeframe	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Note:

- Valid tax clearance certificates will be sought from the successful tender.
- Additional information may be sought at the assessment phase.
- Before the final decision, a number of the most competitive tenders may be invited for further discussions on their proposals for elaboration, clarification, and/or aiding mutual understanding.
- IPRT shall not be liable for any costs and/or expenses incurred in respect of the preparation or the submission of any tender documents or associated material.

**Lowest price tender is not a guarantee of success.**

**Tenders should be submitted by e-mail to [tenders@iprt.ie](mailto:tenders@iprt.ie) by noon on 21st December 2020 at the latest.**

**Queries should be directed to Policy & Research Manager Michelle Martyn at [mmartyn@iprt.ie](mailto:mmartyn@iprt.ie)**



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta  
an Duine agus Comhionannas  
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission