

IN THIS EDITION OF PROBATION WORKS:

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## Newsletter of the Probation Service (Ireland) 2019

March



### Message from Director

Earlier this month, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated World Social Work Day, which focused on the theme of the *Importance of Human Relationships in Social Work*. In the Probation Service, we have been developing and strengthening our relationship and connection with social work itself, over a number of years, as a major underpinning of our professional standards and our value base, and as our foundational professional education and training. Social work also forms the basis for our ongoing daily practice with all our service users. It is now a requirement that new probation officers joining our service must be registered social workers. While many of our probation officers have been so registered already, this new requirement will, over time, ensure that the Probation Service becomes a fully accredited and registered social work agency.



Next month, the Council of Europe's Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) will consider a draft recommendation on the education, recruitment, training and professional development of probation and prison staff. This draft document has been prepared by the Council for Penological Co-operation (PC-CP), working with two scientific experts – Dr. Nicola Carr and Mr. Torben Adams – leading the research and drafting process. The guidelines, when approved by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, will represent an important step in the ongoing development of professional standards for those working in probation and prison services across the Council of Europe's Member States. This will in turn be a further move in a positive evolution that will serve our service users and all our stakeholders well, and a step which is warmly welcomed and supported by the Irish Probation Service.

The next edition of *Probation works* will be published in May 2019.

**Vivian Geiran**  
Director

Twitter: @VGeiran



## Probation in Numbers



This month (March 2019) there are:

**8,670** Persons under Probation Service Supervision in the community;

**1,504** Prisoners receiving probation assistance in custody;

**2,125** People on Community Service

**1,249** Persons on various types of post-release probation supervision

**1,349** Women on probation Supervision in the community, and

**199** Persons under eighteen years of age under probation supervision in the community

The monthly Probation Service 'snapshot' statistical table for March 2019 is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Probation Service: Monthly Offender Population Report

| Caseload  | Community Regions (Point in Time March 1 2019)*          |                         |            |                     | In Custody   | Total (Persons) |
|---|--|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
|   | Eastern  | Midlands and South East | South West | West and North West |              |                 |
| <b>Total</b>  | 3,778  | 1,838                   | 1,499      | 1,555               | 1,504        | 10,174          |
| Of Whom:  |  |                         |            |                     |              |                 |
| Female  | 519  | 292                     | 298        | 240                 | 73           | 1,422           |
| Male  | 3,259  | 1,546                   | 1,201      | 1,315               | 1,431        | 8,752           |
| Under 18  | 109  | 34                      | 25         | 31                  | 1            | 200             |
| 18 and over   | 3,669  | 1,804                   | 1,474      | 1,524               | 1,503        | 9,974           |
| <b>Totals:</b>  | <b>Total Caseload, in community:</b>                     |                         |            |                     |              | <b>8,670</b>    |
|   | <b>Total Caseload, in custody:</b>                       |                         |            |                     |              | <b>1,504</b>    |
|   | <b>Grand Total, national Probation Service caseload:</b> |                         |            |                     |              | <b>10,174</b>   |
| The following are the major community supervision categories.       |  |                         |            |                     |              |                 |
| <b>Probation Type Supervision**:</b>                                |  |                         |            |                     | <b>3,217</b> |                 |
| <b>Community Service:</b>   |  |                         |            |                     | <b>2,125</b> |                 |
| <b>Supervision in the Community Post Release from Custody***:</b>   |  |                         |            |                     | <b>1,249</b> |                 |
| <b>Community Return****:</b>  |  |                         |            |                     | <b>46</b>    |                 |
| <b>Life sentence prisoners on supervision in the community****:</b> |  |                         |            |                     | <b>90</b>    |                 |
| <b>Sex offenders on supervision post release from custody****:</b>  |  |                         |            |                     | <b>178</b>   |                 |

\*Regions

Eastern: Dublin, Meath, Louth, Wicklow

Midlands and South East: Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford

South West: Cork, Clare, Limerick, Kerry

West and North West: Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Westmeath

\*\*Probation Type Supervision includes Probation Orders, Fully Suspended Sentence Supervision Orders, and Supervision During Deferment of Penalty.

\*\*\* Supervision in the community post release from custody includes Part Suspended Sentences, Temporary Release Supervision, Community Returns, Life Sentence Prisoners on supervision in the community and Sex offenders on supervision in the community post release from custody.

\*\*\*\* Already included in the total of supervision in community post release from custody.

## Probation in the Media



An article on the work of the Probation Service has been published in the January 2019 edition of 'eolas' magazine. The magazine is distributed to senior executives in Government Departments and organisations in the civil and public services, including criminal justice, local authorities, health and educational institutions, bodies and agencies.

The article is available at the following link: <http://www.eolasmagazine.ie/unlocking-the-capacity-to-change/>

## Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture



Pictured: Professor Claire Hamilton at Delivering at the Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture

The 12th Annual Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture was delivered by [Professor Claire Hamilton](#), Maynooth University. The lecture, entitled "*Criminal Justice Culture(s) in Ireland: Quo Vadis?*" took place in the Criminal Courts of Justice on **Wednesday, 6th March**,

## International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF) Colloquium 2019

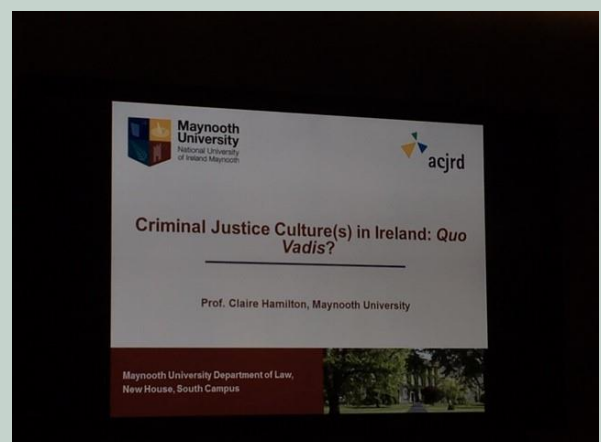
Dr. Mary Rogan, of Trinity College Dublin School of Law, and Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran, travelled to Chile for the 2019 colloquium of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF), earlier this month. The theme of this colloquium, held in Santiago and Valparaiso, was: *Legality, Non-Arbitrariness and Administrative and Judicial Discretion in Sentencing and Enforcement of Sentences*. A wide range of presentations were delivered, in relation to discretion in decision making at all stages of the criminal justice process, from investigation, through prosecution, court and sentencing stage, to management of sanctions, and the subsequent reintegration of offenders. Vivian Geiran made a presentation, on *Administrative Discretion in the Execution of Custodial and Community-Based Sanctions in Ireland*, at the gathering, which included member country representatives from all five continents. There was vigorous discussion and debate at the meeting, reflecting the multitude of jurisdictions and systems represented. Nevertheless, there was also considerable agreement on what constitutes good practice and reflects appropriate standards, such as human rights considerations, in decision making. A key theme to emerge from the discussions was the importance of good data and research on the sentencing process. It is the intention of the IPPF to publish a book on the subject of administrative and judicial discretion in sentencing, as it has done on a range of the topics discussed at previous colloquia. Ireland's representatives will draft and agree a 'country chapter' in respect of Ireland, for inclusion in the publication.

The IPPF General Assembly, which was held during the Colloquium, ratified the nomination, by Minister Charles Flanagan TD, of Ireland's two new representatives on the IPPF – the Hon. Ms. Justice Úna Ní Raifeartaigh of the High Court, and Probation Service Director, Vivian Geiran. The two new representatives join Dr. Mary Rogan as Ireland's full complement of three representatives on the IPPF.

2019 before a large and appreciative audience. Professor Hamilton explained that in examining and understanding the Irish criminal justice system and its practices no serious scholar can afford to ignore institutional culture as a significant determining factor and the influence it can wield over the exercise of discretion, itself integral to the practice of law.

In her wide-ranging and stimulating paper Professor Hamilton highlighted the particular level of scrutiny that has been brought to bear on criminal justice agencies and institutions in Ireland in recent years. She acknowledged the increasing level of self-awareness and understanding of institutional culture in practice that the examination has brought, as well as the possible changes that may follow. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion and energetic dialogue that will continue long after the event.

[Professor Claire Hamilton's](https://www.acjrd.ie/contents/388) full Martin Tansey Memorial Lecture and Powerpoint presentation are available on the ACJRD website at <https://www.acjrd.ie/contents/388>



A detailed paper based on the lecture will be published later this year in the Irish Probation Journal 2019 and will be available at [www.probation.ie](http://www.probation.ie) in due course.

## CEP Mental Health Expert Group



Pictured: Mary Rogan and Vivian Geiran in attendance at the IPPF General Assembly

In addition, the IPPF Colloquium agreed to honour the late Judge Michael Reilly (Inspector of Prisons), by dedicating one of its upcoming publications to Michael's memory. Judge Reilly was one of Ireland's representatives on the IPPF, up to his sudden and untimely death in November 2016. It was clear from the many tributes paid to him, at the IPPF meeting in Chile, that Michael was highly respected and his contribution to the work of the IPPF was greatly valued and appreciated. IPPF members who had worked with Michael over the years described him as an excellent and committed colleague and a wonderful friend.

The history of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation dates back to 1872, when the International Prison Commission (IPC) was set up to collect national prison statistics and make recommendations for prison reform in Europe. Later, the IPC became affiliated with the League of Nations and became the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (IPPC) in 1935. When the new United Nations was created in 1945, it incorporated crime prevention and standards of criminal justice into its policy-setting role. The IPPC was dissolved to be replaced by the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, created on the 5th of July 1951. The Foundation has as its aim to promote studies in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, especially by scientific research, publications and teaching.

Each member country can have a maximum of three representatives on the Principal Committee. The Members of the Principal Committee are required to actively contribute to achieving the goals and activities of the Foundation. The three members of each country represent the judiciary, the criminal justice and probation-prison administrations, and academia.



The first meeting of the CEP 'Mental Health in Probation' Expert Group was held in Malta on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. The Group consists of members from Germany, Latvia, Finland, Lithuania, Slovenia, Catalonia – Spain, the Netherlands, Malta, Ireland and the CEP. The group is elected for two years, conducting two meetings during that period. Brian Santry is the member of the Group representing Ireland.

Day 1 consisted of an overview of the work of the CEP, and this was followed by a presentation on 'Mental Health Issues in Probation Practice and Policy' by Willem van der Brugge of the CEP.

On Day 2 members presented on the various systems in their respective jurisdictions on the following topics:

- Mental Health & Probation – General Information
- Policy & Research
- Training & Expertise
- Screening for Mental Illness
- Treatment for Mental Illness
- Main Challenges & Plans for the Future



Pictured: Members of the Mental Health Expert Group including APPO Brian Santry



More information on the IPPF is available on the organisation's website: <https://www.ru.nl/ippf/>

## Council of Europe

Next month, Director Vivian Geiran will make a presentation at a high-level conference, to address prison overcrowding across the Council of Europe (CoE) Member States. The conference, which is jointly organised and hosted by the European Union (EU) and the CoE, will address an invited audience of senior officials, including Judges and Prosecutors from across Europe, exploring ways in which national systems can manage and reduce, where appropriate, the numbers in prison.

Prison overcrowding has been a persistent challenge across various parts of Europe, as well as more widely. The aim of the Conference is to consider the problem of prison overcrowding from different angles, by prosecutors, judges and CDPC delegates and to discuss possible practical steps that could be taken by these professionals at the different stages of the criminal justice process which could result in managing prison numbers better and in overcoming the problem of overcrowding. A further stated aim is to identify what support the Council of Europe can offer in this respect, including the possibility of holding a meeting at political level (Ministers of Justice) in order to present the outcome of the Conference and to assist Member States in dealing with prison overcrowding effectively.

The Council of Europe White Paper on Prison Overcrowding is available at the following link:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/-/white-paper-on-prison-overcrowding-approved-by-the-committee-of-ministers>

More information on the conference is available at the following webpage:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cdpc/-/high-level-conference-on-prison-overcrowdi-1>

## Judicial Studies Board Northern Ireland Cross Border-Conference

The Judicial Studies Board Northern Ireland hosted a cross-border conference in Belfast on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019.

This prestigious event was attended by the Judiciary from both jurisdictions .

Both the Probation Board Northern Ireland and the Irish Probation Service were invited to co-present on Probation issues dealing with cross-border collaboration and co-operation .

Dr Geraldine O'Hare, Director of Rehabilitation, PBNI and Ailish Glennon, Regional Manager PS, jointly delivered a presentation entitled "Probation Services working collaboratively, the North / South experience" which was well received and covered a variety of topics including; Probation on the island of Ireland, sharing knowledge and best practice, joint initiatives, the Public Protection Advisory Group and the Irish Probation Journal.



*Pictured: From left to right, Presiding District (MC) Judge Fiona Bagnall, NI, Ailish Glennon, Probation Service, Ireland, Sir Declan Morgan, Lord Chief Justice, Northern Ireland, Her Hon. Judge Rosemary Horgan, President DC and Dr. Geraldine O'Hare, Probation Board Northern Ireland.*

## European day for Victims of Crime

Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February marked the 2019 European Victims of Crime Day. The Probation Service saw this as an important opportunity to reflect on the experiences of victims and held an event to increase understanding of a range of



## Domestic Violence Experts Meeting



Pictured: Attendees at the Domestic Violence Experts Meeting

Domestic Violence Experts gathered in Vilnius, Lithuania on the 7th and 8th of March 2019 for the CEP and EuroPris Expert Meeting on Domestic Violence in Prison and Probation. During this first meeting of the expert group on domestic violence the group were given national presentations designed to provide a picture of whats going on in the field across Europe.

The meeting highlighted the fact that domestic violence stands for at least 1/5 of all crimes in many countries and there is a common belief that domestic violence still is underreported. The group also stress the need for more work with perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as victims, and the importance of close co-operation with different services in domestic violence cases.

Regional Manager Carmel Donnelly delivered a presentation on behalf of the Probation Service covering the Probation Service response to Domestic Violence. Her presentation along with the others given at the meeting are available [here](#).

advocacy services that are available in the community. Probation Service Director Vivian Geiran welcomed the group highlighting the importance of this event in supporting the Service commitment to the integration of the victims perspective across our work.

Representatives from five organisations each made short presentations to an audience. National Advocacy Service, Victim Support at Court, Crime Victims Helpline, CARI and Irish Tourist Assistance Service all delivered brief but enlightening presentations. This coherent and skilled delivery of a wide range of information, in a relatively short time frame, by all of the speakers was greatly appreciated.



Pictured: Probation Service Staff at European Victims of Crime Day event

## Visit from Czech Probation and Mediation Visit

In 2018 the Probation Service facilitated two groups from the Czech Republic Probation and Mediation Service on exchanges to look at practice in relation to conditional releases and also working with young people. In 2019 we have committed to facilitating three further visits as the Czech Republic seeks to introduce a system of conditional releases and parole.

On Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> a group of staff from the Czech Prison Service, who will work jointly with their Probation colleagues in the Czech Republic were facilitated, The group had presentations from Una Costelloe from the Parole Board secretariat and Dr Emma Black, head of

## Restorative Justice Symposium



On Friday March 1st, around 100 people gathered at Maynooth University to participate in a vibrant one-day symposium on the development of restorative justice in the Irish criminal justice system. Attendees included senior and frontline representatives of the Probation Service, An Garda Síochána, and the Irish Prison Service, policymakers from the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, judges and solicitors, academic researchers, and managers and practitioners from victim support and restorative justice services, among others. Northern Irish criminal justice agencies were also well represented.

The event launched the Irish arm of a new cross-European project, entitled Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change. This four-year project seeks to stimulate the implementation of the new [Council of Europe Recommendation](#) concerning restorative justice in criminal matters. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together a broad stakeholder group to co-create a strategy to achieve this goal. Similar activities will take place in nine other participating jurisdictions – Albania, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Scotland – in the coming months.

The symposium was co-organised by the project's four Core Members for Ireland: Ursula Fernée ([Probation Service](#)), Dr Ian Marder ([Maynooth University Department of Law](#)), Tim Chapman ([Ulster University](#)) and Dr Kieran O'Dwyer, ([Edward Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention](#)). It began with inputs from each co-organiser, touching on the details of the Recommendation, the role of the [European Forum for Restorative Justice](#) in developing values and standards for practice across Europe, the responsibility of the Irish Probation Service for the development of restorative

Psychology in the IPS. They then met Probation staff and service users in Mountjoy, Shelton Abbey and in the Bridge Project, allowing them to have some insights into the journey that offenders may take when parole and conditional release systems are in place. The visit was rounded off with a tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Courthouse.

Feedback from the Czech Service was extremely positive about both the welcome they received and the professionalism of the service and the staff they met from both Probation and IPS. Thanks are owed to the Tower Programme in Clondalkin who loaned out their minibus to enable the group to be transported to the various venues over the two days. Probation staff in the prisons and community, IPS staff in Mountjoy and Shelton were all extremely helpful and most of all the contribution of service users really helped inform the experience for the visiting group. A further group of Czech staff looking at conditional release will be here in March and a group looking at Young Persons Probation in September.



Pictured: Delegates from Czech Probation and Mediation Service

## World Social Work Day

March 19<sup>th</sup> was World Social Work Day and the theme of the day was 'Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships'. The Probation Service took time out to celebrate the day by inviting staff to come together for coffee and cake, chat and an opportunity for connecting with each other.

The group was addressed by the Director, Vivian



justice, and the status and use of restorative justice in the Irish criminal justice system.

Participants spent the rest of the day engaged in structured discussions. In the morning, attendees were invited to write their answers to several questions relating to the enablers and barriers to restorative justice in Ireland. For example, they were asked to identify the existing strengths of the Irish field, the easiest changes which could be made and the support they would need to develop restorative justice in their own work. These answers were analysed to determine themes for the afternoon's discussions, which included political, public and judicial engagement, victim participation, the use of restorative justice with serious crime, its application as a diversion from court, and the resourcing of its wider implementation.

In the afternoon, attendees were divided into seven groups, comprised of people from a variety of backgrounds. They were asked what they believed the project's priorities should be, what they thought in relation to the theme which their group was assigned, and what they could each do to support this work going forward. The discussions were facilitated using [Circle Processes](#), a type of restorative practice which enables all participants to have an equal say in a structured discussion. Throughout the day, attendees' inputs were collated by the co-organisers and volunteers. These materials will be used to inform the writing of an Action Plan to guide the project's activities in the coming years.

The day finished with a closing panel, chaired by Prof. Claire Hamilton from Maynooth University's Department of Law. This began with Dr Susan Leahy from the University of Limerick giving her views on the role of restorative justice with sexual violence, before the Director of the Probation Service, Vivian Geiran, closed the day by giving his reflections on the event and the project more broadly.

The symposium was made possible with support from the Maynooth University Conference and Workshop Fund, Vanessa Gallagher and Prof. Michael Doherty from the Department of Law, and several volunteers. On April 25th and 26th, the Core Members from all ten jurisdictions participating in Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change will gather at Maynooth University for their first project meeting, a two-day event which will also be funded by the Department of Law.

Geiran, who reflected on the theme of the day and spoke about the centrality of human relationships in our work with clients, with each other, with our partners and with the communities we serve. Vivian reminded the gathering that newly recruited Probation Officers need to be registered social workers and he also linked the work of the Probation Service to the wider global social work family.

Claire McNamara from the Probation Service Special Interest Group of the Irish Association of Social Work also addressed the group. Claire launched the Peer Discussion and Journal Club which will provide an opportunity for staff to come together on a monthly basis to discuss a journal article or to talk about significant issues pertaining to our work. For further details, or to express an interest in participating in this group please contact Claire McNamara, Probation Officer on the Circuit Court Assessment Team.



Pictured: Vivian Geiran. Claire McNamara and Saragh McGarrigle at World Social Work Day event

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## International Women's Day



[Website](#)



Several events took place in the Probation Service, both in headquarters and local offices to mark this very important day of celebration for women. These included the Women's strategy working group "kick off" meeting for 2019. This group will develop further implementation plans to build on the existing knowledge and skills of staff working with females.

Retired Justice Catherine McGuinness visited the Blanchardstown Probation office to give a talk about her experience as a woman working in the Criminal Justice Sector, which was insightful for everyone in attendance.

In addition to events such as these several Probation Officers and clerical staff came together to organise a clothing drive supporting Dress for Success Dublin a charity that promotes the economic independence of women by providing career development tools and a support network. The clothing drive aimed to collect clothing for the office environment for donation.

## A Date for your Diaries

This year's Irish Association of Social Work Conference: **Social Work: Putting Relationships First**, takes place in the Aisling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8 on Friday 10th of May.

Confirmed Speakers include Dr Hilda Loughran, Saol Project Participants, Allan Weaver and Dr Niamh Flanagan

Further information can be found [here](#).





Safer communities and fewer victims through offender rehabilitation

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