

Re-imagining Imprisonment in Europe

Common Challenges, Diverse Policies and Practice

European Scribani Conference 5th to 7th September 2012
Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

Call for Papers/Workshops
Abstract submission deadline: 13 April 2012

1. Theme and format of 2012 Scribani Conference

The number of people being committed to prison across Europe continues to increase (disproportionately to the growth in overall population) year by year. It appears too that an increasingly punitive approach to penal policy is being adopted throughout Europe by parties coming from both the left and right of the political spectrum. While there has been an increase in domestic, European and UN prison oversight structures and corresponding pressures to reform prison policy and practice, conditions of imprisonment and the incidence of breaches in standards continue to be a matter of serious concern in many European countries.

The aim of this conference is to analyse some of the key features of imprisonment throughout Europe today, including the political, social and economic forces shaping prison policy and practice, and to imagine what future imprisonment might look like – in terms of prison policy, prison population size and prison conditions – by generating a new narrative of how imprisonment might be framed within a new vision and set of values.

The full conference concept note is available on request.

Format of Conference:

This is an international conference which brings together practitioners, academics and researchers from a wide range of disciplines including sociology, criminology, philosophy, law, cultural studies and theology. The organiser, the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, is an Irish based NGO which engages in social analysis and reflection with the objective of being an actor for positive social change (www.jcfj.ie).

The conference will feature lectures, presentations and debates by international speakers. A key aim is for the conference to be accessible to the academic community, practitioners and policy makers, as well as an evening lecture open to the broader public.

A key aim is to provide an environment for new thinking, where selected speakers can present their research as well as there being space for exchange between practitioners, researchers, academics and policy makers.

Target audience:

- Experts on the topic from Europe and internationally.
- Policy makers and practitioners.
- Scholars conducting research on the topic matter from Europe and internationally.
- Campaigning and advocacy groups.
- Public Servants.
- Members of Community and Voluntary Organisations.
- Other interested parties and the broader public.

2. Call for Papers/Workshops

There will be a number of parallel sessions held in the afternoon on day 2 and 3 day of the conference. Paper and workshop proposals are invited for these sessions. The selected participants will present their paper in a panel session (20 minutes in English) or participants have the opportunity to run and facilitate a workshop (90 minutes in English.)

Abstracts should address a topic of relevance to the conference theme, for example:

- What are the economic and societal costs of imprisonment?
- How does prison affect women, children, migrants, families and communities?
- How can we improve rehabilitation and re-integration of prisoners? For example the role of Restorative Justice.
- How can prison services and aftercare be improved? (Also, the role of NGOs/civil society organisations/charities).
- The role of prison personnel e.g. Prison Chaplains, Prison Officers.
- The purpose of imprisonment (philosophical, sociological, theological etc.)

The Conference Organiser requests that all presented material is up-to-date with preference given to papers/workshops that present innovative policy and practice.

Selection Criteria:

The Conference Organiser wishes to have broad European representation of speakers from various disciplines and perspectives. Furthermore, preference will be given to the following:

- Papers/workshops relevant to the conference theme.
- Originality of proposed paper or workshop.
- Papers/workshops that explore innovative policy and practice.
- Comparative studies or workshops of interest to a wide European audience.
- Studies that highlight the diversity of prison systems throughout Europe.
- Studies that highlight the commonalities in prison systems throughout Europe.

Application Procedure:

The deadline for receipt of applications is 12 April 2012. Applicants should:

- Complete the attached Application Form in English.
- Submit an abstract (in English) of your proposed paper/workshop of 300 words with references.
- Applications to be submitted: *by email to:* scribaniconference@jcfj.ie or *by post to:* Call for Papers, Scribani Conference, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, 26 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.

Announcement:

Applicants will be informed by the **end of April 2012** if their proposal has been successful. The deadline for submission of **full** papers/workshops is **10 August 2012**.

Funding:

The conference organiser will provide accommodation in Dublin on September 5th and 6th and meals on September 6th and 7th for presenters but is not in a position to cover any travel costs. Accommodation for presenters working and living in Ireland will be assessed on a case by case basis.

3. Current (Draft) Programme Outline *(updates will be available soon, online at: www.jcfj.ie)*

| | Day I - Wednesday 5 September | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 17h30 to 19h30 | Introduction and address by Keynote speakers | |
| | Day II - Thursday 6 September | Day III – Friday 7 September |
| Morning Sessions | The role and function of Prisons. | What should Prisons look like? |
| 9h30– 13h00 | Incarceration of Women and Juvenile Offenders. | Reducing Prison Population. |
| Afternoon Sessions | Paper presentations /workshops (Parallel sessions.) | Paper presentations /workshops (Parallel sessions.) |
| 14h00-18h00 | Why our Criminal Justice Systems have failed us? And how do we shape a more effective penal system? | Practical Solutions to Prison Reform. |
| | Plenary Discussion. | Plenary Discussion. |

4. Some of the Invited Keynote Speakers *(in alphabetical order)*

(Domestic speakers and chairs will be announced at a later date with updates available soon, online at: www.jcfj.ie)

- Baroness Jean Corston, member of the House of Lords, UK.
- Professor Andrew Coyle, Director, International Centre for Prison Studies, University of Essex, UK.
- Professor Alison Liebling, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Cambridge, UK.
- Professor Shadd Maruna, School of Law, Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- Professor Michael Tonry, University of North Carolina, A.B., Yale University, LL.B. US.
- Dr Mary Robinson, Chancellor of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice.
- Professor Tapio Lappi-Seppälä, Director of the National Research Institute of Legal Policy, Finland.
- Emeritus Professor Richard Wilkinson, Social Epidemiology; University of Nottingham Medical School and Co Director of the Equality Trust, UK.

5. Conference Organiser and Network

The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (www.jcfj.ie)

The conference organiser, the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice Ireland is an Irish NGO which engages in social analysis and reflection with the objective of being an actor for positive social change. At the heart of the work of the Centre lies the belief that every human being deserves dignity and respect. The Centre is currently working to highlight and challenge justice issues within the Irish prison system, the Catholic Church, the economy, access to housing and access to health care [charitable trust. CHY 6965]

The Scribani Network (www.scribani.net)

The Scribani Network, created in 2003, is composed of 11 European Jesuit centres from 9 countries. The aim is to strengthen cooperation between these centres which all work, starting from their own field of expertise, on the theme 'Europe' and 'European integration' in a social context. As academic institutions or organisations for education and/or social action, these centers nourish the policy debate on social matters such as migration, are involved in professional education or pursue concrete social action, such as taking care of the poor or giving support to refugees.