



# TIME TO GIVE?

Volunteering Opportunities in the Criminal Justice Area

First published in 2010 by



The material in this publication is protected by copyright law. Except as may be permitted by law, no part of the material may be reproduced (including by storage in a retrieval system) or transmitted in any form or by any means, adapted, rented or lent without the written permission of the copyright owners.

Applications for permissions should be addressed to the publisher.

Copyright © Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, 2010



Design: Messenger Publications Design Department

Printed in Ireland

Typeset in 10/16 Century Gothic

Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (JCFJ), 26 Upper Sherrard Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8556814

Messenger Publications, 37 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6767491

**The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice** is an agency of the Irish Jesuit Province. The Centre aims to promote justice for all by fostering understanding of public issues through theological reflection, social analysis, and advocacy. Issues of concern to the Centre include crime and penal policy, housing and homelessness, healthcare, and the need for a more just model of economic and social development.

The publications of the Jesuit Centre include: *Windows on Social Spirituality* (2003); *Catholic Social Teaching in Action* (2005); *The Irish Health Service – Vision, Values and Reality* (2007); *Towards a Directory of Criminological Research* (2007); *The Irish Housing System – Vision, Values, Reality* (2009). The Centre publishes *Working Notes*, a journal of analysis and commentary on social issues.

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
 <b>Crime Diversion</b> .....	<b>5</b>
■ Foróige .....	6
– LEAF Garda Youth Diversion Project .....	8
– Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project and Youghal Youth Café .....	10
– Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project .....	12
■ Le Chéile Mentoring Project .....	13
 <b>Victim Support</b> .....	<b>15</b>
■ AMEN .....	16
■ Crime Victims Helpline .....	17
■ Domestic Violence Advocacy Service – Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan .....	18
■ Federation for Victim Assistance .....	19
■ Ruhama .....	21
■ Women’s Aid .....	22
 <b>Policing</b> .....	<b>24</b>
■ The Garda Reserve .....	25

	<b>Reintegration</b> .....	<b>27</b>
■	Business in the Community Ireland – The Linkage Service .....	28
■	Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme .....	30
■	Depaul Ireland – Tus Nua .....	32
■	Jobcare – Trasna Programme .....	33
■	KDPPG (Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group) and WRENS (Women Reviewing Equality Networking Standards) .....	35
■	The Matt Talbot Community Trust .....	36
	<b>Family Support</b> .....	<b>39</b>
■	Bedford Row Family Project .....	40
■	Prisoners' Families Infoline Ireland .....	41
■	Society of St. Vincent de Paul and The Society of Friends – Cloverhill Prison Visitors' Centre ...	43
	<b>Information, Research and Policy</b> .....	<b>45</b>
■	ACJRD Ltd .....	46
■	FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres) .....	47
■	Irish Penal Reform Trust .....	49
■	Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice .....	51

# Acknowledgements

**The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice** would like to thank all those who responded to the request for information for this publication; it greatly appreciates their assistance. It wishes to thank also those who provided advice and guidance regarding the development of the project.

The Jesuit Centre expresses its gratitude to Louise Gallagher and Róisín O'Grady, Interns at the Centre, for their invaluable work in assembling, processing and writing up the information contained in this guide. It would also like to thank Niamh Cleary, Dan Gilligan and Jean O'Reilly, participants in the Service Learning Module, UCD Quinn School of Business, who carried out initial work on the project and designed the online questionnaire used to obtain information from the organisations included in the guide.

Finally, the Centre thanks Eoin Carroll, Acting Director, for initiating and guiding the project; Margaret Burns, Social Policy Officer, for editing and proof-reading the text, and the staff of Messenger Publications for their work on design and publication.

# Introduction

**The voluntary** giving of one's time and talents for the good of the community is a long-established and important feature of Irish society. A significant proportion of the population is involved in volunteering, thereby contributing to a diverse range of organisations, including sporting, cultural, and educational bodies, as well as the vast number of groups responding to social need in areas such as disability, care of older people, family support, homelessness, addiction, suicide prevention.

Through this publication, *Time to Give? Volunteering Opportunities in the Criminal Justice Area*, the Jesuit Centre for Faith

and Justice aims to publicise the wealth of volunteering opportunities offered by organisations which are working to prevent involvement in crime or to address the needs of those affected by crime. As a result of its engagement with policy issues in the criminal justice area, the Centre is conscious of the lack of public awareness of many of the organisations in the area and thus of the volunteering opportunities they offer.

It is clear from the outline of the organisations included in *Time to Give?* that volunteers can play a distinctive and vital role in supporting those whose lives have been damaged by crime, in helping those



who have been involved in crime to find a way of life that is free from offending, and in contributing to the policy debate about the appropriate response to crime.

In turn, individuals can benefit in numerous ways from their involvement in a voluntary capacity with an organisation concerned with criminal justice issues. Volunteering in this area can be a means of becoming actively engaged in one's local community or in a 'community' of people with common concerns. It can offer the chance to broaden horizons and to work with people from a variety of backgrounds and with different life experiences in order to accomplish something worthwhile. It can provide the opportunity

to develop new skills or revive old ones, to explore career options, to gain practical experience in the workplace, and to try out an area of work that might not otherwise be a feasible option. It can present interesting and worthwhile challenges, requiring volunteers to draw on their inner resources and skills and leading to a questioning of preconceived ideas about crime, offenders and the operation of the justice system.

As *Time to Give?* shows, organisations working in the criminal justice area range from those involved in diverting young people from embarking or continuing on a pathway of criminal behaviour to those focused on the rehabilitation and reintegration of former



prisoners; they range also from those which offer information and support to victims of crime and their families, to those whose focus is on reform of the prison system.

This guidebook reveals the vital importance to these organisations of the contribution of volunteers: their time, expertise and commitment are crucial in enabling organisations to continue to make available, or to expand, their services. In the case of some organisations, volunteers play a key role by supplementing the work of paid employees; in the case of others, volunteers are responsible for delivering most, if not all, the services provided.

The guidebook shows also that organisations

in the criminal justice area offer volunteering opportunities to people with different interests, talents and skills.

The organisations included in this guidebook have been clustered under the following six headings:

- **Crime Diversion**  
Engaging young people at risk of offending
- **Victim Support**  
Supporting victims and their families
- **Policing**  
Preventing and detecting crime
- **Reintegration**  
Providing support for ex-offenders and their families



- **Family Support**

Supporting family members of offenders

- **Information, Research and Policy**

Providing information and engaging in policy debate

Entries under the different headings provide information about organisations working in that specific area of concern – including the volunteering roles they offer, the skills and attributes needed for these roles, and the contact details of the organisations.

*Time to Give? Volunteering Opportunities in the Criminal Justice Area* does not aim to provide a comprehensive guide to all the volunteering opportunities available in

the criminal justice area in Ireland. Instead, it is intended to serve as a starting point to discovering the possibilities for becoming involved in a voluntary capacity in an area of social concern which is of enormous importance. Such involvement can lead to new experiences and new friendships and above all can provide the opportunity to make a real and lasting contribution to the well-being of individuals, families and society as a whole.

# Crime Diversion

Early intervention is a vital component of an effective response to destructive, aggressive, or criminal behaviour. Crime diversion initiatives are targeted youth projects which encourage desistance among young offenders and facilitate early intervention with those at risk of offending. These services focus on personal development: they seek to empower young people to make positive life choices, to take responsibility, to acquire skills, and to progress into adulthood free from anti-social or criminal behaviour.

Organisations working in this area take a proactive approach to crime diversion by providing a range of services – for example, education; skills based training; mentoring; advice; structured recreational activities in areas such as sport and music. The volunteering roles within these projects include mentoring, tutoring, and supervision of educational, recreational and sporting activities.





## Foróige

**Area of activity:** Operating and managing Garda Youth Diversion Projects; these are community-based initiatives which aim to divert young people from involvement in anti-social or criminal behaviour.

**Description of organisation:** Foróige is a national youth organisation engaged in youth development and education. It aims to enable young people involve themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society. The organisation employs over 280 staff and involves 4,000 volunteers in the creation and delivery of high-quality services to 50,000 young people through the operation of over 420 Foróige Clubs, 130 General Youth Services and Special Projects. These community-based and

community-supported initiatives are run throughout the country, in rural and urban environments, generally in partnership with various voluntary and statutory agencies. Foróige is an independent, non-profit organisation and a registered charity.

Foróige operates and manages a number of Garda Youth Diversion Projects, which are funded by the Department of Justice and Law Reform and administered through the Community Relations Section of An Garda Síochána. These Projects seek to divert young people from becoming involved (or further involved) in anti-social or criminal behaviour by providing activities to facilitate personal development and to promote civic responsibility. The Foróige-managed projects are located throughout the country, and the wide range of activities they provide include, for example, education, training, employment preparation, life skills, sports, Driver Safety groups, 'Copping On' programmes,

computers, and Dragon's Den programmes. Services such as family support, mentoring, peer education, and group work are also provided. Each project is managed by a multi-agency and community-based committee which is responsible for determining the strategic direction and range of activities of the project.

**This guide provides information on three of the Youth Diversion Projects managed by Foróige – the LEAF Garda Youth Diversion Project, Raphoe; Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project and Youghal Youth Café, and Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project. For information on the other projects, contact: Foróige Headquarters, Block 12 D, Joyce Way, Parkwest, Dublin 12; telephone: 01 630 1560; website: [www.foroige.ie](http://www.foroige.ie)**





## LEAF Garda Youth Diversion Project

**Area of activity:** Educating young people, referred by a Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO), on the consequences of anti-social and criminal behaviour.

**Description of project:** The LEAF Project in Raphoe is a community-based initiative which aims to enable young people who are involved, or at risk of becoming involved, in criminal activity to engage themselves consciously and actively in their own development and in the development of society.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers can decide which group they wish to work with, how

many hours to devote to the Project, and times and dates. Volunteers are supported and mentored at all times by the Project's full-time staff members. Training is provided.

**Time commitment:** Most volunteers commit to involvement with one group per week; usually this amounts to a commitment of two hours. Groups run from Tuesday to Friday, between the hours of 4.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.

**Skills or attributes needed:** An interest in the type of work undertaken by the Project and the needs of the young people with whom it works.

**Essential requirements:** Any person with any kind of criminal record relating to child protection issues is not considered suitable. Volunteers are required to fill out a declaration form which states that they will not work alone with young people until

Garda Vetting has been completed. If an applicant has a record for a conviction such as a driving offence, the decision on their application will be made in Foróige Headquarters in Dublin.

**How to apply:** The process of volunteer recruitment generally involves an initial meeting, usually in the Project's premises, in order to give potential volunteers an idea of the Project, the programmes it offers and the needs of the young people with whom it works.

Applicants are then asked to complete a volunteer application form (including providing the names of two appropriate referees), a declaration form and a Garda Vetting Application Form. A date and time for the applicant to return to meet some of the young people in a group setting is then arranged.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing, but the summer is a good time for volunteers to get involved as the Project runs summer programmes including, for example, outings to the cinema; visits to outdoor adventure centres; bowling; water sports.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Jane McClean (Project Coordinator)

**Email:** jane.mcclean@foroige.ie

**Telephone:** 086 048 1957

### Address:

LEAF Garda Youth Diversion Project

Meeting House Street

The Diamond

Raphoe

Co. Donegal





## Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project and Youghal Youth Café

**Area of activity:** Diversion of young people from involvement in criminal or anti-social behaviour and promotion of personal development and personal and civic responsibility.

**Description of organisation:** The Youghal Garda Youth Diversion Project is a community-based, multi-agency crime prevention initiative which seeks to divert young people in the age group twelve to seventeen from becoming involved, or further involved, in

criminal and/or anti-social behaviour. The Project aims to provide suitable activities to facilitate personal development, promote civic and personal responsibility and work towards improving the long-term employability prospects of participants.

**Volunteering role:** The Project offers a valuable volunteering opportunity for those who wish to become involved in helping young people develop their skills and talents. Training is offered. Volunteers are needed to supervise the young people who use the Youth Café in Youghal, which aims to provide a safe place in which young people can socialise. Facilities include pool tables, darts, television, internet access and Ninetendo wii. The café is open three nights per week: Tuesdays (7.30 – 9.30); Thursdays (7.30 – 9.30); Fridays (7.30 – 10.00).

**Time commitment:** It would be desirable

that volunteers be able to give three hours of their time every fortnight to helping out in the youth café and supervising activities. Volunteers are also needed for fundraising (three times a year – through bag-packing or street collections).

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- Good communication skills;
- Ability to work as part of a team;
- Significant experience in the voluntary sector;
- Capacity to be a positive role model;
- Motivation and a willingness to be engaged;
- A genuine understanding of the needs and best interests of young people.

**Essential requirement:** Each applicant is required to fill in an application form and to provide the names and contact details of two referees. Applicants are required to

undergo Garda Vetting. A criminal record may influence whether or not an applicant is accepted as a volunteer with the project.

**How to apply:** By telephone or email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

**Contact Details:**

**Contact:** Catherine Ryan (in Youghal) or Foróige Headquarters in Dublin

**Email:** catherine.ryan@foroige.ie

**Telephone:** 024 90793 or 086 048 1956

**Address:**

Foríoge Youth Centre and Café  
Nagle House  
South Abbey  
Youghal  
Co. Cork





## Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project

**Area of activity:** Provision of a programme of activities which aim to divert young people in the age group twelve to seventeen from anti-social or criminal behaviour, to promote their personal development and enhance their career prospects.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteering opportunities vary, and include acting as a second person in attendance at groups, and chatting with young people in informal situations, for instance, while playing Playstation. Opportunities also exist for people with specific skills – for example, woodwork, fishing, sport, music – who are able to pass these on to young people.

**Time commitment:** There are no specified

hours or days. Any time which a volunteer can give is appreciated.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Good communication skills, patience and empathy with young people.

**Essential requirement:** Applicants are required to undergo Garda Vetting.

**How to apply:** By telephone or email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Catriona Boyle

**Email:** [catriona.boyle@foroige.ie](mailto:catriona.boyle@foroige.ie)

**Telephone:** 074 918 0877

### Address:

Falcarragh Garda Youth Diversion Project  
An tSeán Bheairic  
Falcarragh  
Co. Donegal

# Le Chéile Mentoring Project

**Area of activity:** Provision of mentoring services to children and young people between the ages of twelve and eighteen years who are engaged in Young Persons' Probation; provision of a mentoring service to parents of young people engaged in Young Persons' Probation.

**Description of organisation:** Established in 2005, Le Chéile has mentoring projects in Dublin North, Dublin South, Portlaoise and the Midlands, Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Clonmel.

It recruits and trains volunteers from local communities to act as mentors and it provides a child-centered, non-judgemental service.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers can apply for Young Person Mentoring or for Parent Mentoring. Mentors provide support, guidance and encouragement to young people who are at risk of offending or re-offending, or to parents of these young people.

**Time commitment:** Volunteers give a commitment of two years to the project. Volunteers must be able to meet the person they are mentoring for three hours each week.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

Mentors must:

- Have time, enthusiasm and willingness to fulfil the volunteer commitment;
- Be able to relate to young people and develop positive relationships with them;
- Be able to communicate with a wide range of people;
- Be able to accept others as they are;





- Be open to learning and show a commitment to self-development;
- Have an ability to be non-judgemental and have a commitment to this principle.

**Essential requirements:** For Young Person Mentoring, a volunteer must be over twenty years of age; for Parent Mentoring, a volunteer must be over the age of twenty-five.

All volunteers must be able to supply two references and are required to undergo Garda Vetting.

**How to apply:** By completing the application form available on the website ([www.lecheile.ie](http://www.lecheile.ie)) or by email ([info@lecheile.ie](mailto:info@lecheile.ie)).

**Application deadline:** Le Chéile runs periodic recruitment depending on the needs of each region. Recruitment is usually advertised through the website; however, potential

volunteers are welcome to send a C.V. via email and this will be kept on file until recruitment is taking place.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** The Coordinator in the region where a volunteering opportunity is being sought. Contact details can be found on the website ([www.lecheile.ie](http://www.lecheile.ie)).

**Email:** [info@lecheile.ie](mailto:info@lecheile.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 214 4334

### Address:

Le Chéile Mentoring Project  
24 Tivoli Terrace South  
Dún Laoghaire  
Co. Dublin

**Website:** [www.lecheile.ie](http://www.lecheile.ie)

# Victim Support

The quality of a person's life can be seriously affected by the immediate and long-term consequences of a crime committed against them. Often, targeted help is needed to enable victims to recover and to come to terms with the impact which the crime has had on their life. Appropriate assistance can range from emotional supports to practical assistance.

Advice; counselling; one-to-one sessions; education; facilitation and advocacy work are among the services provided by victim support organisations. The volunteering opportunities within these organisations include helpline support; management roles; fundraising; outreach work; provision of counselling and legal work.





## Amen

**Area of activity:** Provision of information and support service to male victims of domestic abuse.

**Description of organisation:** Amen is a non-profit organisation set up in 1997. Each year it supports thousands of men who are victims of domestic abuse.

The following services are available to men:

- Telephone helpline support (Mon–Fri: 9 a.m. –5 p.m. 046 902 3718; out-of -hours until 9 p.m. 086 794 1880);
- One-to-one support meetings with a support worker;
- Weekly group support meetings;
- Counselling.

Training is provided to schools, colleges

and An Garda Síochána. Amen is available to deliver talks and presentations to any organisation.

**Volunteering role:** Amen is always seeking volunteers to fundraise on its behalf as well as distribute posters, leaflets etc nationwide.

**How to apply:** By email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Niamh McGrath

**Email:** [info@amen.ie](mailto:info@amen.ie)

**Telephone:** 046 907 6864

**Address:**

Amen

St. Anne's Resource Centre, Railway Street

Navan, Co. Meath

**Website:** [www.amen.ie](http://www.amen.ie)

# Crime Victims Helpline

**Area of activity:** National helpline providing support and information to victims of crime.

**Description of organisation:** Crime Victims Helpline provides a confidential listening service to people affected by crime. Volunteers working with the helpline listen with empathy and understanding, in a non-judgemental way, and with respect for the uniqueness of each individual caller.

Volunteers support callers in making decisions about how to deal with the situation, and seek to empower them by providing information on organisations and services relevant to their needs.

If requested by the caller, they liaise with and facilitate communication with An Garda Síochána.

They answer any questions callers may

have on aspects of the criminal justice system. Calls to the helpline are confidential.

**Volunteering role:** Answering calls to the helpline.

**Time commitment:** Two to three hours per week.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Volunteers are required to be good listeners, to be non-directive and non-judgemental, and to be compassionate and understanding. Full training is provided: this includes equipping volunteers with the information needed to respond to callers to the helpline – for example, information about the criminal justice system, in particular about An Garda Síochána, and about organisations which aim to assist victims of crime.

**Essential requirements:** Applicants are interviewed prior to selection, references are





checked and monitoring is carried out during training. Applicants are required to undergo Garda Vetting.

**How to apply:** By telephone or email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Maeve Ryan (Coordinator)

**Email:** [info@crimevictimshelpline.ie](mailto:info@crimevictimshelpline.ie)

**Telephone:** 1850 211407

**Address:**

Crime Victims Helpline  
Harcourt Centre, Block 2  
50–53 Harcourt Street  
Dublin 2

**Website:** [www.crimevictimshelpline.ie](http://www.crimevictimshelpline.ie)

## Domestic Violence Advocacy Service

Sligo, Leitrim and West Cavan

**Area of activity:** Provision of support and advocacy for women experiencing domestic violence.

**Volunteering role:**

- Human resources management advisor and member of DVAS management committee;
- Financial advisor and management committee member;
- Fundraising organiser.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- Expertise in human resources management;
- Understanding and knowledge of good governance as this applies to a voluntary organisation;
- Expertise in best practice as this relates to

- financial management and governance;
- Excellent communication skills;
  - Good organisational skills;
  - Experience in chairing a committee;
  - Events management experience;
  - PR experience;
  - Accounting skills;
  - A commitment to work within DVAS ethos, principles and practice;
  - A commitment to attend management committee meetings and to carry through on agreed tasks.

**How to apply:** By telephone or email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Niamh Wilson

**Email:** infodvas@eircom.net

**Telephone:** 071 914 1515

### Address:

Domestic Violence Advocacy Service  
4 Chapel Street, Sligo

## Federation for Victim Assistance

**Area of activity:** Providing assistance to victims of crime and victims of traumatic incidents.

**Description of organisation:** The Federation for Victim Assistance is a voluntary organisation which offers emotional and practical assistance to victims of crime and victims of traumatic incidents. The service also provides assistance to victims' families. The service includes home visits by pairs of volunteers, court accompaniment, liaising with the Gardaí, solicitors and other relevant agencies. The Federation is funded by the Commission for the Support of Victims of Crime. It has branches around the country and its services are free and confidential.





**Volunteering role:** The primary function of volunteers is to assist victims in the aftermath of a crime or traumatic incident. Chairpersons, coordinators, treasurers, public relations officers and secretaries are also required for the running of the Federation's branches throughout the country, so there are many ways in which people with different skills can contribute.

**Time commitment:** Approximately twelve hours per month.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Good listening skills and an ability to empathise are the core skills required. Full training is provided.

**Essential requirement:** All volunteers are required to undergo Garda Vetting. A criminal conviction is not necessarily a bar to becoming a volunteer with the Federation: assessment of an application will take into

account the nature of any conviction and length of time since it was incurred.

**How to apply:** By telephone, email or post.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Ray Walsh

**Email:** [fedva@eircom.net](mailto:fedva@eircom.net)

**Telephone:** 066 711 9830

**Address:**

Federation for Victim Assistance

C.D.P.

Rock Street

Tralee

Co. Kerry

**Website:** [www.victimassistanceireland.com](http://www.victimassistanceireland.com)



## Ruhama

**Area of activity:** Provision of services for women affected by prostitution, including women who are currently involved in on-street and off-street prostitution, women who are exiting prostitution, women who are victims of sex trafficking and women who have a history of prostitution.

**Description of organisation:** Ruhama is a Dublin-based NGO which works on a national level with women affected by prostitution.

It provides a comprehensive set of services in order to meet the diverse range of needs encountered, including outreach; one-to-one support; advocacy; accompaniment; befriending; counselling; education and development programmes; resettlement; legal services.

**Volunteering role:** Ruhama offers a wide range of opportunities for volunteering; volunteers include outreach workers; literacy and maths tutors; befrienders; fundraisers; complementary therapists; counsellors; people with experience in raising awareness; administrators; art and drama tutors; researchers; legal professionals; translators.

**Time commitment:** Volunteers usually commit to one year; however, the commitment can vary according to the volunteer role.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- Commitment to the mission and ethos of Ruhama;
- Flexibility, understanding and good listening skills;
- Experience of working with vulnerable adults;
- Ability to work well as part of a team.



**Essential requirements:** A full driving licence is required for outreach van volunteers. Volunteers are required to undergo Garda Vetting.

**How to apply:** By telephone, email or post.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing. Volunteer training takes place in spring and autumn.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** The Volunteer Coordinator

**Email:** [volunteer@ruhama.ie](mailto:volunteer@ruhama.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 836 0292

**Address:**

Ruhama  
Senior House  
All Hallows College  
Drumcondra  
Dublin 9

**Website:** [www.ruhama.ie](http://www.ruhama.ie)

## Women's Aid

**Project:** Women's Aid Freephone Helpline

**Area of activity:** Provision of support for women experiencing domestic violence.

**Description of organisation:** Women's Aid is a leading national organisation which has been working to address the issue of domestic violence in Ireland for more than thirty-five years. It operates direct services to women experiencing domestic violence, including the National Freephone Helpline, a Court Accompaniment Service and a Support Services Team, which offers one-to-one support and information.

Women's Aid also trains students at the Garda Training College and provides specialised training for people involved in the provision of services to victims of domestic

violence – for example, nurses, social workers, mental health workers and other professionals.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers are required to provide support and information to women who telephone the Women's Aid Freephone Helpline.

**Time commitment:** Each volunteer does one four-hour shift per week. Volunteers are asked to give a commitment of at least two years. Volunteers must complete training with Women's Aid before they begin to work on the helpline.

**Skills or attributes needed:** A volunteer will need to have a warm personality, to be a good listener and to be interested in women's issues.

**Essential requirement:** All volunteers must be fluent in English.

**How to apply:** A volunteer application form, which can be requested by email (helpline@womensaid.ie.), must be completed.

**Application deadline:** Women's Aid trains three groups of volunteers every two years. Information as to when training is scheduled to take place can be obtained by email enquiry (helpline@womensaid.ie).

### Contact Details:

**Email:** helpline@womensaid.ie

**Telephone:** 01 868 4721

**Address:**

Women's Aid  
Everton House  
47 Old Cabra Road  
Dublin 7

**Website:** www.womensaid.ie





# Policing

Reserve Gardaí are volunteer members within An Garda Síochána. Their role is to supplement the work of full-time members and help to strengthen links between the force and local communities throughout the country.

Recruitment for the Garda Reserve began in August 2006. The first Garda Reserves completed their training to become formal members of An Garda Síochána in December of that year. Since then, groups of Reserve trainees have continued to train on a monthly basis.



# The Garda Reserve

**Area of activity:** Contributing to the work of An Garda Síochána, the national police service of the Republic of Ireland.

**Description of organisation:** The Garda Reserve is a voluntary unpaid body drawn from the community to assist the service at times when extra personnel are required.

Reserve Gardaí have certain Garda powers while on duty and perform their policing duties, as determined by the Commissioner, under the supervision of, and supported by, regular Garda members.

**Volunteering role:** The principal role of the Reserve consists of local patrols and crime reduction initiatives, targeted at specific local urban or rural problem areas. Members of the Garda Reserve are also involved in policing

major incidents and events, and in providing other operational support to regular Garda members on the basis of an individual Garda Reserve member's skills or local knowledge.

**Time commitment:** A Garda Reserve is expected to work 208 hours per year. Each tour of duty is a minimum of four hours.

## Essential requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be a national of a European Union Member State, or
- Be a national of an EEA State or the Swiss Confederation, or
- Be a refugee under the Refugee Act, 1996, or
- Have a period of one year's continuous residence in the State immediately before 1 September 2005 and, during the eight years immediately preceding that period,



have had a total residence in the State amounting to four years. (Periods of illegal residence or residence as an asylum seeker do not count in the qualifying five-year period.)

A person may not be recruited as a Reserve trainee if that person:

- Holds a designated certificate, licence or permit, i.e., Taxi/PSV Licence, licence to sell intoxicating liquor
- Is a member of the Defence Forces
- Is an officer of the court
- Is an officer of the Probation Service
- Is a bailiff
- Is a prison officer
- Is a practicing barrister or a practicing solicitor
- For reward or personal gain, manages or conducts, or assists in the management or conducting of, a concern or premises which is required by law to be operated

under a licence, permit or certificate, the grant of which may be opposed by An Garda Síochána

- Provides a security service within the meaning of the Private Security Services Act 2004
- Serves summonses as a spare time activity or
- Is employed in any occupation or holds any appointment or position which, in the opinion of the Garda Commissioner, may cause a conflict of interest with the proper discharge of the duties of a Reserve member.

**How to apply:** Those wishing to apply to join the Garda Reserve must first register with the Public Appointments Service ([www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie)). The application process is outlined on the website of the Service and also on the website of An Garda Síochána ([www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)).

# Reintegration

Reintegration into the community after serving time in prison can be an extremely difficult process for former prisoners. A range of complex issues may confront the individual who has completed a prison sentence, as he or she attempts to establish positive relationships with the wider community. Often, the personal or social difficulties that were contributing factors in their criminal behaviour – such as poor education, lack of training or work experience, drug addiction, homelessness – will still exist and may have been compounded by the experience of imprisonment. Families too may face a difficult process of adjustment following the release of a family member who has been in prison.

Reintegration is critical to reducing the likelihood that an individual will reoffend. Organisations working with ex-prisoners offer support services in key areas to enable the individual to integrate as wholly as possible back into the community. Projects in the area of reintegration vary in focus and content – they include the provision of residential services, education, training and employment initiatives, as well as personal development work – and they provide the opportunity for a range of volunteering experiences.





## Business in the Community Ireland

**Project:** The Linkage Service

**Area of activity:** Provision of education, training and employment programmes for former offenders.

**Description of organisation:** The Linkage Service is a joint initiative of Business in the Community Ireland and the Probation Service and is supported by IBEC (Irish Business and Employers Confederation); SFA (Small Firms Association); CIF (Construction Industry Federation) and Chambers of Commerce Ireland. It was set up in 2000 to offer assistance to former offenders and prisoners in finding placements in education, training or employment, with the ultimate objective of placing people in worthwhile and sustainable

employment, thereby reducing recidivism. Critical to the success of the Linkage Service is matching suitable clients to appropriate jobs.

The Linkage Service consists of sixteen Training & Employment Officers (TEOs) located within various Probation Service offices throughout the country, with inreach into all Irish prisons. The appointment of TEOs was initiated as a means of supporting and complementing the Probation Service. TEOs offer a desistance focused approach to guidance and placement, with a particular emphasis on the identification, planning and implementation of training leading to employment for offenders referred by the Probation Service. This approach is implemented through placement in one or more of the following:

- Full-time employment;
- Part-time employment;
- An accredited training programme;
- Further education;

- Third level education;
- A Community Employment scheme;
- An apprenticeship;
- Self-employment;
- Work experience placement;
- Volunteer work.

People referred to the TEO take control of, and are actively engaged in, the process of returning to full-time employment or training. The TEO provides ongoing guidance and support before, during, and after placement to both the client and the employer, should this be required.

**Volunteering role:** Mainly administrative work, but client work is always a possibility, depending on the volunteer's qualifications and experience.

**Time commitment:** At least one day per week, but flexible.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- Very good communication skills;
- Enthusiasm;
- Initiative;
- Some experience in the area.

**How to apply:** By telephone, email or post.

**Application deadline:** None currently.

**Contact Details:**

**Contact:** Emma Bradley (Human Resources)

**Email:** [linkage@bitc.ie](mailto:linkage@bitc.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 874 7232

**Address:**

The Linkage Service

BITCI

30/31 Lower O'Connell Street

Dublin 1

**Website:** [www.bitc.ie/linkage](http://www.bitc.ie/linkage)





## Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme

**Area of activity:** Provision of a community-based addiction service in the North Clondalkin area.

**Description of organisation:** Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme (CASP) is dedicated to providing a holistic, integrated, ethically-based, community-focused drug addiction treatment service. The focus is on the physical, psychological, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of drug users and their families, who are living with the impact of addiction. CASP provides a range of services along the continuum of care, from services for active homeless drug or alcohol users to services for those who have become drug or alcohol free. It provides medical, psychological, holistic treatments

and interventions. A prison links worker works with prisoners prior to release; community care plans are drafted and post-release supports or referrals are arranged as required. CASP also supports both families affected by addiction and the broader community.

**Volunteering role:** CASP welcomes volunteers; volunteering opportunities range from providing administrative support to working in outreach and drop-in. CASP tries to assess applicants' strengths and interests in order to identify whether these can be integrated as resources for the service, and whether they dovetail with the needs of the service users and the overall service. If an appropriate position is unavailable at the time an application is received, CASP will offer to retain the applicant's contact details in case a suitable opportunity arises at a later date.

**Time commitment:** As roles vary, the time commitment can range from a couple of

hours per month to fifteen hours per week. CASP seeks to match the volunteering possibilities with the roles and functions required, depending on the needs of clients.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are needed, as well as a highly developed sense of appropriate boundaries. Staff and volunteers at CASP are expected to be mindful that the individuals they work with may be vulnerable. Volunteers should have a clear sense of their role in their interactions and their work. The ability to be patient and accepting of individuals in their current circumstances is important, alongside the ability to continue to expect that all can reach their full potential. A good sense of humour and positive mindset are also valued.

**Essential requirement:** All volunteers must undergo Garda Vetting. In cases where an

applicant has a criminal record, individual circumstances will be considered, taking into account the nature of the record and the current status of the applicant.

**How to apply:** By email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Senior on duty

**Email:** [info@casp.ie](mailto:info@casp.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 616 6750

### Address:

Clondalkin Addiction Support Programme

Muriel Boothman Centre

Fonthill Road

Clondalkin

Dublin 22

**Website:** [www.casp.ie](http://www.casp.ie)





## Depaul Ireland

**Project:** Tus Nua

**Area of activity:** Provision of a specialist residential service – Tus Nua Apartments – for women leaving prison and women who have been involved with the criminal justice system.

**Description of organisation:** Depaul Ireland is a cross-border charity which offers homeless and disadvantaged people the opportunity to fulfil their potential and move forward towards an independent and positive future. It manages twelve specialised services located in Dublin, Belfast and Dungannon, providing 303 bed spaces per night for homeless people.

Depaul Ireland is part of Depaul International, a group of charities working to tackle homelessness around the world.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteering opportunities in the Tus Nua Apartments, as well as other volunteering roles, are advertised as they arise.

**Time commitment:** This depends on the volunteer's availability.

**Skills or attributes needed:** As outlined in advertised volunteering role descriptions.

**Essential requirement:** All applicants are required to undergo Garda Vetting and an interview and induction process.

**How to apply:** This can be arranged with the Volunteer Coordinator.

**Application deadline:** As advertised when positions are available.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** The Volunteer Coordinator

**Email:** volunteer.coordinator@  
depaulireland.org

**Telephone:** (01) 453 7111 (Central office);  
then ask for the contact details of the  
Volunteer Coordinator.

### Address:

Depaul Ireland  
18 Nicholas Street  
Dublin 8

**Website:** [www.depaulireland.org](http://www.depaulireland.org)

## Jobcare

**Project:** Trasna Programme

**Area of activity:** Provision of a prisoner re-entry  
work programme.

**Description of organisation:** Jobcare is committed to working with long-term unemployed people, assisting them gain the confidence, skills and knowledge necessary to seek, find and keep meaningful employment. It has developed a range of courses for people who, for one reason or another, have difficulty getting or sustaining a job. In addition, Jobcare runs a large Community Employment scheme where seventy-two individuals are given the opportunity to work twenty hours a week to gain work experience and on-the-job training, along with funding and support to





pursue certified vocational training. Jobcare's Trasná Programme is a FÁS-sponsored work programme designed to help ex-offenders break the cycle of re-offending through employment and training; it employs twenty-six participants through the Community Employment project.

**Volunteering role:** The volunteering roles include:

- Providing work experience to participants;
- Conducting mock interviews;
- Career guidance;
- Vocational skills training;
- Life skills training.

**Time commitment:** Varies according to the role selected and the demand for that service at a particular time.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Volunteers need to have good communication skills and a commitment to enabling people to develop

to their potential. Other skills required depend on the role being undertaken.

**Essential requirements:** Each application is considered against the criteria for the volunteering role to be filled and whether the applicant will be able to fit into the organisation and meet the needs of the people it serves.

**How to apply:** By email or post.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** Jonny Pardoe (HR Manager)

**Email:** [info@jobcare.ie](mailto:info@jobcare.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 677 3897

### Address:

Jobcare  
28a Pearse Street, Dublin 2

## KDPPG

(Killinarden Drug Primary  
Prevention Group)

## WRENS

(Women Reviewing Equality  
Networking Standards)

**Area of activity:** Victim support and work with clients on probation or those who may be imprisoned.

**Description of organisation:** KDPPG (established 1992) and WRENS (established 2000) aim to provide a warm, safe environment in which clients can examine their offending behaviour or that of a member of their family. They offer a range of personal development, educational, and training supports and seek to encourage change by working with the client to make the necessary changes in their life. Following an initial meeting, a tailor-made plan to suit

the client is developed with the objective of fostering self-belief and hope for a better tomorrow. KDPPG and WRENS work with relevant agencies and provide appropriate information and referrals.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers have the opportunity to become involved in different aspects of the work of KDPPG and WRENS, from management to facilitation. Volunteers would experience how community organisations gel with statutory bodies to make a better working relationship for the clients with whom they work.

**Time commitment:** This can be discussed with the volunteer in order to create a plan to suit the needs of both the volunteer and the organisation.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Computer knowledge; administrative skills; facilitation





skills; good communication skills; ability to work with databases; programme design; key working; one-to-one support.

**Essential requirements:** Volunteers are expected to have an understanding of the organisation's work, understand and respect the need to have clear boundaries, and respect the need for confidentiality.

**How to apply:** Email followed by a telephone call to the Manager.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Alice Murray (Manager)

**Email:** [alice@kdppg.ie](mailto:alice@kdppg.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 466 4275

**Address:**

KDPPG

Killinarden Enterprise Park, Killinarden

Tallaght, Dublin 24

## The Matt Talbot Community Trust

**Area of activity:** Provision of support to former prisoners and their families through an educational and support programme; provision of support to families of community members; outreach; prison visitation.

**Description of organisation:** The Matt Talbot Community provides a supportive, drug-free environment for those seeking assistance in relation to issues pertaining to substance use and those in the criminal justice system. Established in 1976, the Trust works actively towards the reintegration of people in these situations into the community. Central to this is the creation of an environment which recognises the value of an individual's spirituality within the context of trust, belonging and learning. This in turn enables



the development of positive relationships and the ability to make informed choices which will benefit not only the person themselves but their family and the wider community.

The specific aims of the programme are:

- To deliver education and training programmes specific to the needs of the individual;
- To offer work and voluntary placements within the wider community;
- To offer FETAC accredited courses at levels 3 and 4;
- To explore areas of interest with a view to the individual realising their full potential through the process of goal-setting.

A key worker system is in place, designed to encourage specific progression paths to be identified and developed in a person-centred manner.

The Matt Talbot Community Trust actively

engages with and encourages the formation of an appropriate support system to encourage more effective reintegration into the community: it works with significant others in the lives of community members, and provides support to the families of community members through the Family Summer Programme and outreach work.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteering opportunities (open to both males and females) include: support work with tutors in communications, maths, woodwork, food and cookery, computers.

Volunteers are also needed to support the work of the Family Summer Programme which is residential and runs through the month of July each year.

**Time commitment:** Nine hours per week to support class-based activities. Volunteering for the Family Summer Programme may entail



overnight stays or full working days with some evening work as required from Monday to Thursday.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- Understanding of models of adult education;
- Good communication skills;
- Understanding of the impact of generational poverty on communities;
- Knowledge of addiction and recovery issues;
- Understanding of a person-centred approach;
- Practical skills (for example, cookery, woodworking);
- Ability to work in a team;
- Ability to take instruction;
- Flexibility.

**Essential requirements:** Volunteers must be over twenty-one years of age and must be

drug-free. It is desirable that volunteers with the Family Support Programme should have a driving licence.

**How to apply:** By telephone, email or post.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** The Director

**Email:** mtcommtrust1@gmail.com

**Telephone:** (01) 626 4899

**Address:**

The Matt Talbot Community Trust  
Rear of the Assumption Church  
P.O. Box 8372  
Kylemore Road  
Dublin 10

# Family Support

Imprisonment can have devastating repercussions for the families of prisoners. During the time a family member spends in prison, and even after their release, families may struggle to cope. Family members may feel isolated, having perhaps little emotional or practical supports surrounding them. Organisations which provide advice and services for the families of prisoners can play an invaluable role, helping family members cope with immediate practical and emotional issues and supporting them as they look to the future. The work which volunteers undertake in these organisations includes information provision; facilitation of prison visits; one-to-one support; referral to other services, and fundraising.





## Bedford Row Family Project

**Area of activity:** Provision of support to families of prisoners and ex-prisoners, including hospitality at the visiting area of Limerick Prison.

**Description of organisation:** The primary aims of Bedford Row Family Project are:

- The alleviation of the distress that is caused to family members by the imprisonment of one or more members of the family.
- The reintegration of ex-prisoners into their families, their communities, and society in general.

The Bedford Row Family Project is committed to working in a manner which is real and tangible for the people who access its services. The programmes focus on issues which reflect people's fears, doubts,

and anxieties as well as their joys, hopes and aspirations. Programmes are led by participants' needs and the management and leadership group works actively with people to determine those needs.

The findings of the research report, *Voices of Families Affected by Imprisonment*, which was commissioned by Bedford Row and published in 2007, are of particular importance in determining the tasks undertaken by the organisation.

**Volunteering roles:** There are various opportunities for volunteers; these include mentoring; hospitality; drop-in; prison visiting; assistance with groups; reception work; fundraising; cleaning and/or maintenance.

**Time commitment:** The tasks for each volunteer are tailored to the suit the time and the day of the week the volunteer wishes to give to the Project.



**Skills or attributes needed:** Good communication skills; knowledge of, or deep interest in, imprisonment and its effects; patience; tenacity; enthusiasm; capacity for reflection; good work ethic.

**How to apply:** Contact Larry de Cleir, Project Leader.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Larry de Cleir

**Email:** [larry@bedfordrow.ie](mailto:larry@bedfordrow.ie)

**Telephone:** 086 893 9766

**Address:**

Bedford Row Family Project

Lower Bedford Row

Limerick

**Email:** [info@bedfordrow.ie](mailto:info@bedfordrow.ie)

**Telephone:** (061) 315 332

**Website:** [www.bedfordrow.ie](http://www.bedfordrow.ie)

## Prisoners' Families Infoline Ireland

**Area of activity:** Provision of information and support to families and friends of people in prison.

**Description of organisation:** Prisoners' Families Infoline Ireland is a confidential service for anyone affected by the imprisonment of a family member or friend. It aims to provide a high-quality service by offering non-judgemental telephone support, advice and up-to-date information. It has plans to open a support group in the Tallaght area.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers are needed to respond to requests to the helpline for information, advice and support. Volunteers are also required for fundraising; imaginative fundraising is needed to generate resources to run the service – preferably, such



fundraising should publicly highlight issues relating to prisons, prisoners and their families.

**Time commitment:** Four hours per week.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

- A knowledge of the prison system in Ireland and the way prison works;
- Knowledge of the way in which having a member of a family in prison can impact on the family, especially on children;
- An ability to listen positively and to empathise with those affected directly or indirectly by imprisonment.

**Essential requirement:** Volunteers must be over eighteen. A driving licence is an advantage.

**How to apply:** By email.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** The Office Manager

**Email:** [helpline@pfi.ie](mailto:helpline@pfi.ie)

**Telephone:** 1890 252578

**Address:**

Prisoners' Families Infoline Ireland

TWS House

1-2 Main Street

Tallaght

Dublin 24

**Website:** [www.pfi.ie](http://www.pfi.ie)

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul and The Society of Friends

**Project:** Cloverhill Prison Visitors' Centre

**Area of activity:** Working with and supporting the families of prisoners in Cloverhill Prison, Clondalkin, Dublin.

**Description of project:** Cloverhill Prison Visitors' Centre is run jointly by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and The Society of Friends (Quakers) and is financed by the Irish Prison Service. It is open six days a week. The Centre operates on the principle that families should not be judged or discriminated against because they have someone in prison and it aims to be a place where people will find a

listening ear and receive the compassionate support they need to help them cope.

The Centre has eight staff members and a number of volunteers. Staff and volunteers deal with, on average, over 72,000 visits a year.

The following services are provided:

- Free tea/coffee/snack bar service;
- Fully equipped childcare/play area;
- Parenting advice and support;
- Support for families;
- Information service.

Recognising that visiting a prison for the first time can be a terrifying experience, staff and volunteers in the Visitors' Centre identify those who are new to the system and provide information and support – for example, they explain what to expect during a visit, the security measures in place and when and how to book visits; they outline the rights of prisoners and the support groups and services available to prisoners' families.





Ongoing support is then available to visitors on a one-to-one basis. Support mainly involves providing a listening ear and referring people to other services and agencies, where appropriate. The Visitors' Centre also provides a childcare/play area for children going in on visits. The childcare area is fully equipped for children of all ages and is supervised by two full-time childcare workers. An advice and support service is available to the parents and carers of children using the area; topics such as the behavioural problems associated with the imprisonment of a family member are explored. Information about external supports and services for children is also provided.

**Volunteering role:** Volunteers work in three different areas: tea bar, childcare or out on the floor directly interacting with visitors.

**Essential requirements:** All staff and volunteers are required to undergo Garda Vetting. No

volunteer can begin work in the Centre until the vetting process has been completed.

**How to apply:** By telephone, email or post.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Teresa Clarke (Manager)

**Email:** [cloverhillcentre@eircom.net](mailto:cloverhillcentre@eircom.net)

**Telephone:** (01) 630 4646

#### Address:

Cloverhill Visitors' Centre

c/o Cloverhill Prison

Cloverhill Road

Clondalkin

Dublin 22

# Information, Research and Policy



This section outlines volunteering opportunities in organisations whose primary concerns are with the provision or exchange of information and/or with research and policy in relation to criminal justice issues.

Organisations whose focus is on reform of the penal justice system are concerned with the protection of prisoners' rights, the reduction of the use of imprisonment (with a corresponding development of alternative, non-custodial, sentences), and the creation of a humane prison system with an emphasis on rehabilitation. Volunteering opportunities are available in these organisations for legal professionals, social researchers, and those interested in penal or social policy issues or in advocacy.



## ACJRD Ltd

Association for Criminal Justice  
Research and Development Ltd

**Area of activity:** Promoting discussion, study and research on issues in the criminal justice system.

**Description of organisation:** ACJRD seeks to promote the reform, development and effective operation of the criminal justice system. It does so mainly by providing a forum where experienced personnel can, in an informal setting, discuss ways of working; by promoting study and research in the field of criminal justice, and by promoting the highest standards of practice by professionals associated with criminal justice.

**Volunteering role:** Members of ACJRD may participate in a voluntary capacity in its working groups (membership numbers limited). Other volunteering opportunities, which are open to members and non-

members, include research, office administration, and involvement in the organisation of ACJRD events. There are also internship opportunities.

**Time commitment:** Timeframe is dependent on the particular volunteering opportunity.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Good communication skills; interest in and knowledge of the criminal justice system.

**How to apply:** A volunteer application form can be requested by emailing Danelle. Hannan@acjrd.ie

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Danelle Hannan (Manager)

**Email:** Danelle.Hannan@acjrd.ie

**Telephone:** (01) 617 4864

**Address:**

ACJRD Ltd, Spade Enterprise Centre,  
St Paul's, North King Street, Dublin 7

**Website:** [www.acjrd.ie](http://www.acjrd.ie)



## FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centres)

**Area of activity:** Provision of legal advice to individuals who cannot afford to pay for such advice.

**Description of organisation:** FLAC is an independent human rights organisation dedicated to the realisation of equal access to justice for all. To this end, it campaigns on a range of legal issues but also offers some basic free legal services to the public through centres located around the country.

The work of FLAC is concentrated on four main areas: legal aid; social welfare; credit and debt; public interest law.

**Volunteering role:** FLAC depends heavily on the contribution of volunteers. The majority of volunteers working with FLAC are qualified

barristers and solicitors who provide services through the network of legal advice centres. These volunteers provide private consultations to members of the public who cannot afford to engage a private solicitor. Their role is to assist clients in discovering whether their problem may have a legal solution. They also explain the options open to the client and where they may obtain further assistance. Other volunteers involved in FLAC provide assistance with administrative and campaign work, which does not demand legal qualifications but which provides invaluable support to the work of the organisation.

**Time commitment:** The time commitment depends on each volunteer. Generally, a volunteer would commit to two hours once a month, but some volunteers may commit more time than this.

**Skills or attributes needed:** FLAC requires



volunteers who are qualified to practise law in Ireland. It also considers practitioners qualified in other jurisdictions but who have up-to-date relevant experience in Ireland.

Volunteers should have a commitment to social justice and the principle of access to justice. They should also have an understanding of the community sector.

Other important attributes include:

- A commitment to professionalism and the principles and obligations of volunteering;
- An understanding of, or willingness to learn about, the legal issues in relation to which the legal centre provides advice and assistance to the community;
- An ability to work as part of a team;
- Reliability and the ability to attend the centre on scheduled dates;
- Tolerance and patience in different or challenging situations;
- A willingness to empathise with clients

who have disabilities, comprehension, communication or literacy difficulties, or substance abuse issues.

**Essential requirement:** FLAC volunteers who attend at the legal advice centres and give advice must be qualified solicitors or barristers.

**How to apply:** The preferred application method is through email, but postal applications are also accepted.

**Application deadline:** Recruitment is ongoing.

## Contact Details:

**Contact:** Volunteers and Centres Manager

**Email:** [volunteers@flac.ie](mailto:volunteers@flac.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 874 5690

### Address:

FLAC

13 Lower Dorset Street, Dublin 1

**Website:** [www.flac.ie](http://www.flac.ie)



## Irish Penal Reform Trust

**Area of activity:** Research, policy and campaigning in relation to reform of the prison system in Ireland and the rights of people in prison.

**Description of organisation:** The Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning on prison issues. IPRT is committed to the reduction of the use of imprisonment, with prison considered as a last resort; to promoting respect for the rights of everyone in the penal system, and to the progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies. IPRT works to achieve its goals through research, raising awareness, and building alliances.

Through its work, IPRT seeks to stimulate public debate on issues relating to the use of imprisonment, including sentencing law

and practice in Ireland. To this end, IPRT publishes research reports and policy papers, engages with members of the Oireachtas and the Government to lobby for legislative and practice changes in the area of criminal policy and the use of imprisonment, and engages with prisoners and their families whose experiences inform its work.

**Volunteering role:** IPRT offers two types of internships (unpaid): 'Research and Policy Internship' and 'Campaigns and Communications Internship'. These run for five months (average twenty hours per week), usually from September to the end of January, and from February to the end of June. Interns generally work, with IPRT staff, on a specific project for the duration of the internship.

IPRT also offers shorter summer placements (again in 'Research and Policy' and 'Campaigns and Communications') – one each for the months of July and August. These



placements are designed mainly for students who are unable to commit to a full internship but who would like to gain initial experience of working in the area of prison reform.

**Time commitment:**

- Full internships – five months (September to January or February to June); generally, twenty hours per week;
- Summer placements – one month (July or August); generally, twenty hours per week.

**Skills or attributes needed:** Since IPRT is a small organisation, interns are often required to work independently (under the direction of a member of staff) and manage their own projects/workload. Substantial experience of working in an office environment is therefore required and candidates who have some prior experience of working in the areas of research and policy or communications and campaigns are preferred.

It is also desirable that candidates should have:

- Obtained a third-level qualification and/or have substantial experience (voluntary or paid) in an area relevant to the work of IPRT work and/or the aims of the internship;
- A demonstrated interest in penal policy or other areas relevant to IPRT work (for instance, in campaigning with human rights organisations);
- A demonstrated ability to work as part of a team, as well as on own initiative;
- Good communication skills;
- Good grounding in essential office IT skills;
- Respect for the values and mission of IPRT.

**Essential requirement:** Interns (irrespective of the type of internship or placement) are required to maintain at all times absolute confidentiality in respect of matters which come to their knowledge in the course of their work with IPRT.



**How to apply:** Application forms and a description of IPRT internship policy are available on the website ([www.iprt.ie](http://www.iprt.ie)).

**Application deadline:** Calls for applications are issued two times a year: April (for summer placements and for the internship programme starting in September) and November (for the internship programme starting in February). Applications received outside the specified calls for application are not accepted.

### Contact Details:

**Contact:** Research and Policy Officer

**Email:** [research@iprt.ie](mailto:research@iprt.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 874 1400

**Address:**

Irish Penal Reform Trust  
4th Floor, Equity House  
16–17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin 1

**Website:** [www.iprt.ie](http://www.iprt.ie)

## Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice

**Area of activity:** Analysing policy and contributing to policy debate in the criminal justice area.

**Description of organisation:** The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice is an agency of the Irish Jesuit Province. The Centre works to promote justice for all by fostering understanding of public issues through theological reflection, social analysis, and advocacy. Issues of concern to the Centre include crime and penal policy, housing and homelessness, healthcare, and the need for a more just model of economic development.

**Volunteering role:** The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice offers two internship positions (unpaid) to individuals with a commitment to



social justice: 'Research and Policy Internship' and 'Campaigns, Communications and Information Internship'.

**Time commitment:** Internships are of four to six months duration (by mutual agreement) and vary in terms of policy focus. Interns are asked to work for twenty-eight hours per week over four or five days of the working week.

**Skills or attributes needed:**

It is essential that applicants for internships have:

- A third-level qualification (or considerable involvement in a relevant area);
- Respect for the Jesuit ethos and a commitment to social justice;
- Proficiency in IT;
- The ability to work as part of a team and on own initiative;
- Knowledge of and interest in at least one of the core policy areas of the Centre.

It would be desirable that applicants have:

- Previous experience of report writing and research in a core policy area of the Centre;
- Experience of working directly with people who are discriminated against or marginalised;
- Experience of working in a professional environment.

**How to apply:** Calls for applications are advertised.

**Application deadline:** As specified in calls for applications. Applications received outside the times specified are not accepted.

**Contact Details:**

**Contact:** Eoin Carroll (Acting Director)

**Email:** [info@jcfj.ie](mailto:info@jcfj.ie)

**Telephone:** (01) 855 6814

**Address:**

Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice

26 Upper Sherrard Street

Dublin 1

**Website:** [www.jcfj.ie](http://www.jcfj.ie)



***Time to Give? Volunteering Opportunities in the Criminal Justice Area*** is a guide to possibilities for becoming a volunteer in organisations whose aim is to prevent involvement in crime or to respond to the needs of those affected by crime.

This guide shows the diversity of organisations in Ireland involved in addressing these social issues, and the variety of volunteering opportunities they offer. Those interested in contributing their time and talents to volunteering in this area will find here essential information, presented in an easily accessible form, about opportunities in more than twenty organisations – including a description of the work undertaken, the volunteering roles available, application requirements and contact details.

With opportunities to match many different skills and interests, the organisations listed offer potential volunteers of all ages and life experiences a variety of challenging and rewarding ways to contribute to society.

**JCFJ** **jesuit centre**  
**for faith & justice**

**The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice** is an agency of the Irish Jesuit Province. The Centre aims to foster understanding of public issues through theological reflection, social analysis, and advocacy. Issues of concern to the Centre include crime and penal policy, housing and homelessness, healthcare, and the need for a more just model of economic and social development.