

Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas



Annual Report

2018



icpo



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Introduction

Irish prisoners overseas are one of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of Irish emigrants. They face significant difficulties, including discrimination, language barriers, and dealing with an unfamiliar legal system. In some countries prison conditions are a major cause of concern and prisoners may experience extreme hardship, with limited access to food, water and medical treatment.

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) works to help reduce the burden faced by these prisoners and their families. Established by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference in 1985, the ICPO continues to operate under the auspices of the Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants.

Our Objectives

- To identify and respond to the needs of Irish prisoners abroad and their families;
- To research and provide relevant information to prisoners on issues such as deportation, repatriation and transfer;
- To focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners;
- To engage in practical work in aid of justice and human rights for Irish migrants, refugees and prisoners at an international level;
- To visit Irish prisoners abroad when possible both in the UK and elsewhere.

Guiding Principles

The work of the ICPO offers an important form of institutional witness to the gospel message. Its vision is rooted in Biblical teaching '*He has sent me to announce good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to let the broken victims go free*' (Lk4: 18-19) and mindful of Christ's words '*when I was in prison you visited me*' (Mt.25:35).



Coordinator's Review

In the past year the ICPO has continued to focus on providing a high level of supports and services to clients and their families. We received a steady stream of referrals and are currently providing support to over 1,200 Irish citizens detained in twenty six different countries.

The majority of ICPO clients are imprisoned in England and Wales and both the Maynooth and London offices continue to work closely to support this group and their families. We also provide assistance to a significant number of prisoners throughout Europe, the United States and Australia. Over the past year we also provided support to a small number of immigrant detainees in the United States and Australia; both before and following their deportation to Ireland. Some detainees have not lived in Ireland for many years and have no contacts or family support here. They require significant support in order to access appropriate services upon their return to Ireland.

The ICPO is currently supporting a number of prisoners detained in South and Central America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Prison conditions are a major source of concern in these areas and many of our clients have difficulty accessing basic necessities. The ICPO Hardship Fund allows us to provide essential supports to these prisoners.

Prison visits are especially important for ICPO clients who are suffering extreme hardship and for those in countries where English is not the spoken language. We are very grateful to all those who visit Irish prisoners abroad, particularly to the religious orders who are the main source of prison visitors for the ICPO. This year ICPO Maynooth staff undertook visits to the UK, US, Spain, Portugal and Australia.

In addition to the ongoing casework and family support, 2018 saw the introduction of a new database and record management system for use by both the London and Maynooth offices. It is expected that the new database will enhance the interaction of the two offices in working on many shared cases and develop the organisation's reporting output, thus enabling us to better identify and monitor particular issues and trends impacting our client group.

2018 saw the development of new language and resettlement resources for clients and we also welcomed a new volunteer (Betty Wilson) to the ICPO Maynooth team.

Each prisoner received at least five items of correspondence in 2018 - two editions of our newsletter, ICPO News, a "Christmas Supplement" as well as Christmas and St. Patrick's Day cards. The ICPO operates a popular penfriend scheme, which involves 60 volunteers throughout Ireland. In the past year we forwarded 139 letters from clients to penfriend volunteers.

The ICPO coordinates the entries and sponsors the Prisoners Overseas Award in the 'Writing in Prisons' section of Listowel Writers' Week. We are very grateful to the festival committee for assisting Irish prisoners overseas in participating in this wonderful competition.

An essential part of our work is providing information, support and advice to the families of prisoners overseas. We hold Family Information Days twice a year to provide families with useful information and support and to give them the opportunity to meet other people who have a relative in prison overseas.

Repatriation remains the key advocacy issue for ICPO. There have been some positive developments over the past year although the difficulty for prisoners being transferred into the State is far from resolved. In May 2018 the ICPO was informed that applications for repatriation from prisoners in countries other than the UK were being processed again. Although the number affected was small, it was welcome news



Coordinator's Review

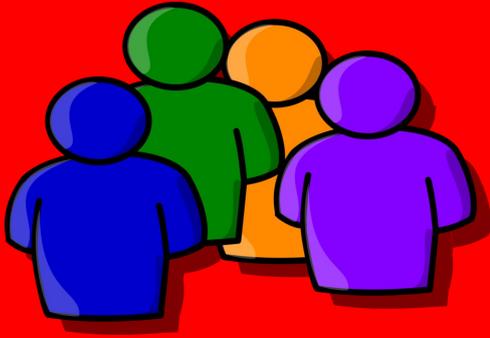
for prisoners and their families in countries such as Australia, where the distance and costs of visiting a relative can be prohibitive. In October the Minister for Justice stated all applications were being 'reactivated'. This includes UK prisoners, however in practice some prisoners in the UK - those serving a determinate sentence - are still dependent on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act being amended before they can be transferred. Progress on existing applications has been slow and the ICPO met with the Irish Prison Service in November to discuss this. We continue to engage with them in relation to individual applications but to our knowledge no prisoner has yet been repatriated.

It is important to acknowledge the essential support provided to Irish prisoners by Irish embassies and consulates throughout the world. Moreover the collegiality and cooperation of the Dublin based Consular Assistance Unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade greatly enhances our ability to support Irish prisoners overseas.

ICPO is especially grateful to its ongoing funders – the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Sisters of Mercy, without whom we could not provide this service.

The ongoing commitment and professionalism demonstrated by staff and volunteers alike, remains the bedrock upon which we continue to provide this challenging but invaluable outreach.

Brian Hanley
ICPO Coordinator



**Providing support to 1,141
prisoners overseas**



**416 New cases were
opened in 2018**



**31 families were
assisted with visiting
their relatives overseas**

**8,456 contacts have been
made and received by
ICPO in 2018**

**167 letters have been
forwarded from prisoners
to penfriend volunteers**



**ICPO has 60
active
volunteer
penfriends**

**ICPO is supporting Irish
prisoners in 26 countries**





Casework

ICPO clients require support in relation to a range of issues, including repatriation, deportation, health and legal matters, discrimination, ill-treatment and access to post-release support and accommodation. We advise clients on these issues and work closely with Government Departments, statutory agencies, solicitors, probation officers, prison officials, local authorities and welfare agencies to meet their specific needs. ICPO caseworkers are assigned to particular countries or regions. This enables them to build up experience and expertise in the legal and penal systems in the area they manage as well as developing a network of contacts who can assist and support the prisoner as needed.

An important part of our work involves making representations on behalf of clients to prison authorities and other relevant parties. In the past year ICPO interventions resulted in a number of clients receiving essential medical treatment.

In addition to providing advice and support, we provide practical assistance to prisoners by allocating funds to help them buy phone credit, stamps, clothing, books and writing materials. The ICPO makes a special effort to write regularly to clients, especially those who have little or no family contact. Prisoners serving long sentences are a particular concern and we maintain regular correspondence with these clients as they move through the prison system. The use of pre-addressed, post-paid envelopes allows clients who have limited funds to maintain contact with the ICPO.

Another key component of the ICPO's work is the provision of family support. Those with a loved one imprisoned overseas endure significant upset and trauma. ICPO devotes considerable resources to facilitating communication between the prisoner and his/her loved one; to assisting some families in organising visits to see their family member and to providing a listening ear when required. It is often necessary to explain the different prison rules and regimes which can be very difficult to understand.

ICPO has developed an extensive network of prison visitors over many years. These prison visitors may for some, be their only contact with the outside world. Some prison visitors bring food and medicines to Irish citizens incarcerated in the more deprived regions of the world. There is no substitute for a prison visit. It provides the best way of ascertaining the physical and mental welfare of a prisoner. In addition to these prison visitors, ICPO staff undertake a considerable number of prison visits in the UK, US, Europe, Australia and more recently parts of Asia, the Middle East and South America.

"You people in ICPO are amazing people! You do so much for those who have so little. Before the ICPO I had so little; little hope, little happiness, no companionship and a deep feeling of loneliness and sadness. Having you in my life has given me hope, happiness, a feeling of being closer to home and a companionship that reminds me of where I come from. Words can not express just how much I appreciate everything the people of the ICPO have done for me."



Casework Examples

South America

Rob* is on remand in a South American prison for robbery. The conditions in the prison are harsh; he has to pay for his cell, his food and even the equipment he uses for his cleaning job. Rob has addiction issues and struggles to manage the money he receives from family. Although he had been living in the country for some time and speaks the local language, Rob is very isolated and had no local support until his family contacted the ICPO. Through the Irish Embassy the ICPO requested the honorary consul visit Rob and he now receives regular visits from that person which has made a significant difference to Rob. The ICPO provides quarterly grants from its Hardship Fund which the Honorary Consul uses to purchase clothing and other basic essentials for Rob.

When Rob's mother first contacted the ICPO she was struggling to cope. She felt unable to speak to any of her friends or family about the fact Rob is in prison as she is so ashamed and this has taken its toll on her physical and mental health. Since contacting the ICPO she said she feels *"a weight has been lifted off her shoulders"*. Following an initial meeting in her home, the ICPO caseworker keeps in regular phone contact with her, providing a non-judgmental space for her to discuss her concerns about her son and about her own wellbeing. She thanked the ICPO:

"for being so kind to me, I really appreciate all your help regarding Rob and helping me to cope with this situation."



Eastern Europe

In December 2018, ICPO was contacted by Helen* whose partner Tony* had been arrested and remanded in custody. Helen told us that Tony did not speak the language and was very isolated as external communication for people on remand was quite restricted. She was also concerned that Tony did not have any money for calls and stamps and she was not in a position to send him any. The ICPO wrote to Tony, sending him our language resources and on hearing from him, sent him a hardship grant also.

Helen told us that she was anxious to speak to Tony as it had been over a month since his arrest. We liaised with the Irish Embassy who have been working to ensure that Tony would be allowed to call his family. ICPO continues to support Helen by phone and email and Tony by regular letters.



"Thank you so much for the grant, your letters, language booklet and for everything you are doing for me... you're helping a lot when I need help the most."



Casework Examples

United States

John* is in his mid-thirties and was incarcerated in the United States for aggravated assault. John has been a client of the ICPO since 2017. His parents died when he was young and he was raised by his grandparents. John's grandmother is deceased and his grandfather will "have nothing to do with" him since his incarceration. John has no contact with his child or the child's mother who live in the United States. The lack of contact with family or friends causes John profound emotional distress and loneliness.

The ICPO is John's only source of support. The ICPO caseworker maintains regular contact with John. The caseworker secured him a quarterly payment from the ICPO Hardship Fund which is John's only source of income. John is on the list for work but he has been unsuccessful thus far as there are only 280 jobs for 2,500 inmates in the prison. The hardship fund grant helps John to purchase stamps, stationery, winter clothes, hygiene products and assist with some of his medical needs. John intends to use his most recent hardship grant from the ICPO to upskill and enrol in a forklift training class. John is encouraged to send in articles for the ICPO newsletter and he won a writing competition recently. The ICPO also provided John with a penfriend and connected him with a colleague in the Aisling Centre in New York who also writes to him regularly. John wrote about the impact of our correspondence in a recent letter to his caseworker:

"I got your letter. I know that they are only letters but they really matter to me. It's that contact with another person and in those few short moments I am no longer in prison, I'm no longer in America, I'm there with you talking. That's what letters do for me."

UK

David* is serving a lengthy sentence in England and this is his first time in prison. He was only a short time in England before he was charged and convicted. Initially he adapted to prison life but he soon developed feelings of depression and anxiety resulting in an inability to cope. He lost his prison job and became very withdrawn.

ICPO contacted the prison chaplaincy who met with David and in conjunction with the prison staff he is now receiving counselling and has just secured a new job. ICPO write to David on a regular basis and sometimes he rings ICPO. ICPO has twice visited him over a period of eighteen months and these visits have proven to be very beneficial to him. During one of these visits he told ICPO about his family circumstances and asked if we could contact his mother which we did. We maintain contact with her and after some time she wrote to him as have some other family members. She attended an ICPO Family Information Day where she met other parents or loved ones in similar circumstances. She recently told us that her family are now supporting David and two of them will visit him soon. David is also a member of our Penfriend Scheme and since engaging with ICPO he is coping much better with his imprisonment.

"What you and the ICPO do for myself and all the Irish prisoners is truly marvellous and much appreciated as we often feel so isolated being stuck behind bars."



Family Support Work

The experience of having a loved one in prison can be frightening, confusing and destabilising.

Families are thrust into navigating and understanding a foreign system, possibly a non-English speaking one. They often struggle to find out if their loved one is okay or which prison they are being detained in.

The pain of separation is hard to bear and often feelings of shame make it hard to discuss it with friends. The prisoner may have children who have now lost contact with their parent and are confused about why.

The experience can make families feel vulnerable and isolated and afraid of what others will say. The ICPO aims to counter this by providing direct, personal assistance in a non-judgmental way that gives families the information and confidence to survive what is a most difficult journey.

ICPO supports families in the following ways:

1. **Advising families** on processes around arrest, detention, release, deportation and specific country information;
2. Assisting with the logistics and planning aspects of **visiting** a loved one in prison;
3. Setting up **lines of communication** between family members and their loved one;
4. **Liaising** with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and local embassies on behalf of families;
5. Organising a bi-annual **Family Information Day**;
6. **Providing financial assistance** with the costs of family prison visits;
7. Working with prison chaplains, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and the ICPO London office to **locate prisoners** who have been moved;
8. Building relationships with **Irish welfare associations** abroad that may be able to provide localised support to prisoners and to families when they go to visit;
9. Dealing with **lawyers** on behalf of the family where there is a need for clarification of costs or other issues;
10. **Meeting with families** in person around the country;
11. **Linking families** with UK based resources - for example, Story Book Dads, Email a Prisoner and local family support groups;
12. A designated **Family Page** in the ICPO Newsletter provides interesting and practical advice for families in relation to a number of issues including finance, prison visits and communication with prisoners;
13. Maintaining a series of up-to-date resources on the **ICPO website** for families to access when needed.



Family Support Work

Direct Family Support

Many families find it helpful to discuss their worries and fears with someone outside of the situation so one of the most important things ICPO does is listen to families and provide reassurance. Whenever necessary or helpful ICPO staff meet families in person to provide them with information and support. These meetings are especially important in the immediate aftermath of a person's arrest and detention overseas; as family members will have many questions and are often very fearful for their loved one's safety.

Over the course of the year the ICPO Family Support Officer as well as all the ICPO caseworkers met many families who have loved ones in prison overseas. They comprised mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, husbands and wives and brothers and sisters who had family members in prison in the UK, the US, Australia, Europe, the United Arab Emirates and elsewhere.

Whilst the circumstances of the prisoners varied considerably in terms of prison conditions and length of sentence etc., the emotions experienced by the families were strikingly similar. The loss of control, of not being able to fix things or make things better, the sense of helplessness that comes with being in a situation not of their own making, were all common threads in their discussions. Some were worried that they won't live long enough to see their son or daughter released. Others were angry at what they perceived to be unfairness around the trial and sentence. Most spoke of their shame at what had happened.

Such support is important for a number of reasons. It affords families an opportunity (maybe their first) to talk at length about what has happened. They don't have to defend or justify themselves or their loved one and can say how they feel without thinking they are being judged. A lot of the stress and anxiety they experience comes from not knowing anything about what their family member is experiencing. Any questions they have about repatriation, deportation, communication, financial support and post release issues can be talked through in detail.



Bright space for children at HMP Wormwood Scrubs visitors centre



Family Support Work



Australia

Kevin* is a first time offender who is in prison in Australia. ICPO were contacted by his family at the time of sentencing. Kevin was under the impression that he was not going to get a custodial sentence so did not inform his parents. Kevin's elderly parents learned about his offence when he was sentenced to four years in prison. Kevin's parents and his siblings were distraught about this news. They had no experience of the prison system and were greatly worried about Kevin's wellbeing. Both parents reported physical complaints related to stress as well as emotional distress.

The ICPO Casework and Family Support Officer travelled to rural Ireland to visit Kevin's parents. She offered them practical information about the Australian prison system. Emotional support was provided regarding the shock the family were experiencing. ICPO made contact with Kevin, the Consulate and an Irish Support Agency in Australia to ensure that Kevin received visitors and well-being checks. With Kevin's consent ICPO shared information regarding his wellbeing with his family. When Kevin was being transferred to another prison, his family contacted ICPO to inform them that he was placed in an unsuitable wing where he was physically at risk. ICPO made contact with the prison and was able to inform them that Kevin had been moved to a suitable wing as requested. The family advised that this gave them great comfort.

Kevin's family went to great expense to pay for legal support for him. When they advised they planned to visit him, ICPO gave them a grant to assist with this travel. Later in the year ICPO were able to visit Kevin when undertaking visits in Australia. They reported back to the family regarding his physical and mental wellbeing. They expressed to ICPO how much comfort this brought to them.

Asia

Mark* is in prison in Asia. He has lived there for a number of years and was homeless at the time of his arrest. On learning of his imprisonment his mother Susan* called ICPO for support.

Mark is in his early forties and his father and brother have both passed away. Susan is understandably very concerned about Mark's welfare and has been sending him what little money she has. Mark phones every few days looking for more money and Susan has only her pension to give him.

ICPO has been providing ongoing emotional support to Susan and recently visited with her in her home. They discussed her support structure and the importance of self-care. The caseworker also provided the contact information for the HSE National Counselling Service as well as some other low-cost counselling services in her area. Ongoing phone support will continue between Susan and the ICPO caseworker.

ICPO will provide Mark with a quarterly grant from its Hardship Fund to alleviate some of the financial pressure Susan is experiencing.



Family Support Work

Family Information Day

The feedback ICPO receives (both verbally and by means of feedback forms) to its Family Information Days is invariably positive. It is very common for most people with a loved one in prison overseas to feel that they are the only ones going through this and so it is of tremendous benefit to them to meet with others in similar situations. They feel supported and better able to cope. The Day is also of great benefit to their loved one in prison overseas – knowing that their family is being supported and helped, relieves some of the guilt they feel about their circumstances and the upset caused to their family.

The Family Information Day in June 2018 was attended by 21 family members. Talks were given on Preparing for Release, on Addiction, Prison and Family. Here is just a small selection of the feedback from the Family Information Day held in June 2018. The final talk of the day was from two men who spoke of their experience of having a loved one in prison abroad.

Here are just a small selection of the feedback from the Family Information Day held in June 2018.



In conclusion, Family Information Days serve a multiplicity of purposes:

1. They provide tangible support to families from ICPO staff and volunteers;
2. They provide useful information to families to assist them and their loved one in prison abroad;
3. Families gain tools to help cope with the grief, trauma and, or, upset they are experiencing;
4. They meet other families in a similar situation – sharing experiences and reassuring themselves they are not the only ones in this difficult situation.



Prison Visits

An important element of the work of the ICPO is the provision of visits to prisoners overseas. The ICPO London office engages in an extensive prison visiting programme in the UK, while caseworkers in the Maynooth office visit a number of clients in the north of England, the United States, Europe and Australia annually.

These visits serve a number of important functions. They provide ICPO clients with a rare opportunity to speak to someone from home. Difficult and complicated issues such as repatriation, deportation and post-release supports are easier to explain face-to-face rather than via letter; especially as some ICPO clients have literacy issues. Personal issues such as a client's estrangement from their family or medical worries are also easier to discuss in person. These visits better enable the ICPO caseworker to assess a client's needs in order to help the prisoner prepare for his or her release.

Between January and December 2018 ICPO Maynooth caseworkers visited 7 clients in the United States, 8 in Spain and Portugal, 13 in Australia and 4 in Scotland. While it can be challenging to find regular prison visitors outside the UK, through links with various lay and religious organisations we are able to provide many ICPO clients with visitors. We are extremely grateful to all those who visit Irish prisoners on our behalf.

A significant development for the organisation occurred in 2017 was the provision of two years' funding by the Sisters of Mercy (Eastern Province) for a dedicated caseworker assigned to the north of England. This generous grant - from a long time supporter of ICPO's work - allows a part time caseworker to support approximately 120 Irish prisoners in some 12 different prisons - including 3 Cat-A (high security) prisons. Over the course of 2018 the caseworker visited 87 prisoners in the region.

United States

ICPO has approximately 50-60 clients in the US, of which 30 are in regular contact. Particular features associated with this client group include; the absence of family contact and other external social supports, the length of the prison sentences being served, the relatively harsh prison conditions and the lack of adequate medical treatment in many instances.

ICPO undertake an annual visit to US prisons and has been in contact with many clients for over a decade. It was a striking feature of these visits to hear how so many of the clients had no other visitors save for ICPO staff and an ICPO volunteer. The distances involved in getting to the prisons can make it difficult for ICPO to organise regular volunteer visitors for clients. In many cases, ICPO is greatly indebted to Sr. Christine Hennessy in New York and to the Irish Pastoral Centre in Boston for undertaking prison visits to many of these individuals.

Most of those visited that will eventually be released are to be deported to Ireland shortly thereafter. As most will have served long sentences and lived in the US for many years prior to their detention, they will be without the family and social supports other prisoners can expect on their release. Additional work is therefore necessary in terms of the planning and provision of ICPO resettlement services.

Over the course of fourteen days, seven prisoners were visited in six different States including Florida, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Prison Visits

Many prisons only permit visits at weekends so the assistance of the New York and Atlanta Consulates in organising a number of the visits was greatly appreciated.

Clients were chosen for a visit based on a number of criteria relating to their level of vulnerability, how often, if at all, they receive visits, if there are particular issues that require more detailed conversation (e.g. health) and whether they are preparing for release.

Visits were made to remand facilities/jails, as well as prisons – both State and Federal – and lasted between 2-3 hours.



Client John*

John is currently in a federal remand facility in a large city in Pennsylvania. He is in his late forties, suffers from depression and receives no visits or support from family or friends. John is facing serious charges and advises that his trial will likely take place in the first half of 2019. Of particular concern to John is where he will be transferred should he be convicted.

ICPO spent two and a half hours visiting with John. Conversation was broad ranging and sufficient time was afforded him to share his worries and concerns and receive some support. He asked for a Consular visit and ICPO followed up with the Consulate on this matter after the visit. He is also quite isolated and lonely. ICPO has since worked with a local Irish welfare agency to arrange a regular prison visitor for John. John also has a number of particular concerns regarding his imprisonment. These matters were followed up with by his caseworker and the Consulate as appropriate.

John greatly appreciates the regular contact from his ICPO Caseworker in helping to reduce his feelings of isolation.



Prison Visits

Scotland

Four clients were visited in HMP Edinburgh, HMP Glenochil, HMP Shotts and HMP Greenock. On all occasions Agent's (legal) visits lasting for two hours were secured except for HMP Greenock where a special family visit for two hours was arranged. In all cases the ICPO caseworker contacted the prison authorities who were helpful in organising the visits. Two clients didn't reply to several letters asking if they would like a visit. Three of the clients were visited by ICPO in 2016. Issues discussed included treatment in prison, healthcare management, maintaining innocence and preparing for release in a few years. The visits with clients were productive as two hours gave ample time for clients to raise any issues they wanted and to develop actions if required. It also encouraged them to talk about their own and family situations, their concerns and plans for release.

Europe

ICPO has consistently about 30 clients in Europe, most of whom are in regular contact. Clients in Europe are a very diverse group; several are serving lengthy sentences, some are on remand, others are serving short sentences and 1-2 annually are awaiting extradition. The issues facing prisoners in Europe are diverse but many encounter language difficulties and ICPO have responded to this need (not exclusive to Europe) by developing language resources which have been translated into 6 languages to assist new prisoners.

In addition some prisoners experience confusion regarding the legal and prison system in the country of imprisonment – this can be particularly the case in relation to entitlement to legal aid, right to appeal and parole/early release. Although the majority of prisoners have contact with their families, some families are unable to visit and a minority have no contact at all with family. A minority also have mental health issues, in some cases severe and another prisoner has a developmental disorder.

Six of the prisoners visited by ICPO were in their twenties and thirties with none older than early fifties. All said they were in good physical health. Most prisoners in European prisons are allocated a social worker and they can be particularly helpful with practical issues.

The majority of those visited will return to Ireland after release (in most cases they will either be expelled or deported). As foreign national prisoners, very few have the opportunity to undertake any preparation for release programmes, courses or training (other than the language of the country of imprisonment).

The length of visits varied. In Spanish prisons, visits are usually 45 minutes makes it challenging to have a meaningful conversation, especially if the prisoner has issues s/he wants to raise with the caseworker. Where the Embassy has been involved in organising the visits they can be up to 2-3 hours.





Prison Visits

Australia

ICPO have approximately 20 clients in Australia in WA, NSW, SA and NT. WA and NSW were visited as the majority of clients are imprisoned there. Thirteen prisoners were visited with one that was planned being refused last minute. The prisoners were majority male with only one female. Ten were in their twenties and nine were serving time for drug offences. Seven were in NSW and six in WA.

A number of clients had irregular visits from friends with the majority having one or two visits annually. Diet was a major issue in NSW with six out of seven advising they did not eat the prison food and bought their food. This was due to the quality of prison food. Prisoners informed they preferred to exist on a diet consisting mainly of canned tuna and rice/noodles. This had major cost implications with two prisoners informing they spent up to \$80 on tuna alone. Food appeared to be of better quality in WA with a number of prisoners being able to cook for themselves.

Adjournments of court dates were consistent issues across both states with two prisoners reporting five adjournments to sentencing. As well as this prisoners reported harsher sentencing for drug offences in comparison to Ireland.

Chaplains in a number of prisons assisted with arranging visits outside of regular visiting hours.

Clients were chosen for visits due to the accessibility of their location, their level of vulnerability and whether they had other visitors.

Visits were made to maximum, medium and minimum facilities. They lasted between one and three hours.

Client James*

James is in prison in Australia. He is in his twenties and is in prison for drug offences. James is a first time offender. James' parents are elderly and have no knowledge of the prison system. They have health issues and have never been to Australia to visit. James receives one or two visits a year from a relative of a friend.

Just before ICPO's visit, James received a sentence of over ten years. This was a shock to him and his family who were expecting a much lesser sentence. ICPO encouraged James to share his thoughts and feelings on his sentence. He advised that he did not share his true feelings in the prison environment or with his family. ICPO gave him a chance to talk about his true feelings on his sentence.

On return ICPO were able to report to James' family that he appeared healthy and well. His family were extremely worried about him due to his sentence and isolation. James reported that they felt much better after speaking to ICPO and that the visit alleviated their worry somewhat.

From a family member:

"James rang me after your visit he was delighted to meet you and said he felt great after chat with you. He is very calm now mixing well with other guys in similar situation. I really am very humbled with the support you have given us."



ICPO Penfriend Scheme

The ICPO operates a popular Penfriend Scheme which involves volunteers in Ireland corresponding on a regular basis with ICPO clients. The scheme is especially beneficial for those who have little family contact and many prisoners have commented that it has helped to alleviate their sense of loneliness. ICPO provides post-paid envelopes to prisoners and the guidelines for both prisoners and volunteers are regularly revised and updated.

The penfriend scheme involves 60 volunteers throughout Ireland writing to 57 clients. In the past twelve months ICPO forwarded

139 letters from prisoners to penfriend volunteers. ICPO does not monitor the number of letters from volunteers to prisoners but we know it is considerably higher. A number of volunteers retired during the year and we wish to thank them for their selfless support of our work. ICPO knows the value of corresponding with someone and reassuring them they are not alone. We appreciate the dedicated service of these volunteers and know that they make an important contribution to the work of the ICPO.



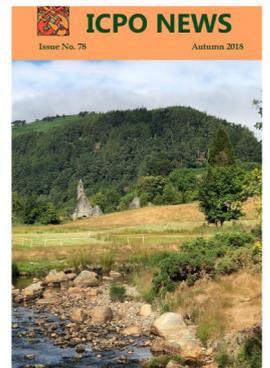
“Elizabeth has been so supportive over the years with her letters and cards I am so grateful to her. Thank you for making it easy for me to write to her and receive her letters.”



Ancillary Supports

We published two editions of our Newsletter, ICPO News, in 2018. The newsletter allows us to communicate directly and effectively with prisoners about issues that are of interest to them. It also allows prisoners to share their stories with each other. Every ICPO client also received a Christmas newsletter, Christmas card and St. Patrick’s Day card.

We sends CDs, language dictionaries and phrase books to prisoners who wish to learn the language of the country they are in and provide books, particularly those by Irish authors and of Irish interest, to clients who have limited or no access to a prison library. This is especially beneficial for prisoners who are detained in a country where English is not the most spoken language and for prisoners who have limited access to education or work.



Listowel
Writers' Week

The ICPO coordinates the entries and sponsors the Prisoners Overseas Award in the ‘Writing in Prisons’ section of the Listowel Writers’ Week. In 2018, 17 of our clients entered the competition, submitting a total of 38 entries. We are very grateful to the festival committee for assisting Irish prisoners overseas to participate in this wonderful competition.

“I was going to go on hunger strike this week but decided not to after getting the ICPO St. Patrick’s Day card. I have been on two forty day hunger strikes and hung myself twice. I have been depressed since my father died. Knowing someone out there helps me through the isolation and sadness of prison life.”



Resettlement Support

On release from prison, ex-prisoners may require a range of supports in order to successfully resettle back into the community and avoid re-offending. Most immediately, they will require access to accommodation and money, for example through the social welfare system. Some ex-prisoners may also have physical and mental health issues, including addiction issues, and may need to access relevant services, as well as registering with a GP and obtaining a medical card. In the longer term ex-prisoners may have re-training and educational needs to address in order to re-enter the workplace. Whilst these resettlement needs may be common to all ex-prisoners, the ICPO have observed that the particular circumstances of Irish people in prison overseas and the peculiar difficulties they face, can put them in greater need of post-release support and place them at a particular disadvantage when it comes to preparing for their release in comparison to those released from an Irish prison.

Whilst it is not possible to state precisely the number of Irish overseas prisoners seeking to resettle in Ireland on an annual basis, ICPO estimates it to be between 50 and 100. This may seem a relatively small number given that ICPO assists approximately 1,100 prisoners overseas. However, most will have been imprisoned in the UK, and with family and other social structures in place there, they do not necessarily wish to return to Ireland. Others may have been imprisoned elsewhere overseas but may be returning to a country other than Ireland on their release, for example, in the case of dual nationals. Of those returning to Ireland, around 20-30 per year need considerable post-release assistance.

Irish prisoners overseas are at a disadvantage as they do not have the same opportunities to prepare for release as people imprisoned in Ireland. Many of our clients have lived and been imprisoned abroad for many years. We provide them with advice and support in advance of their release and assist them in accessing the supports they will require upon their return to Ireland. As inward prisoner transfers (repatriation) were on hold until May 2018, and with no prisoners transferred during the remainder of the year – prisoners who might ordinarily have been able to serve the remainder of their sentence in Ireland, thus availing of the supports and supervision of the Irish Probation Service in the lead-up to and following release, are as yet unable to do so.

The biggest issues that prisoners initially face in returning to Ireland are accessing benefits and finding suitable accommodation. We advise clients to gather and keep any documentation they have in relation to their detention and to keep a copy of their passport or temporary travel document.

There are a number of residential programmes available to help people who have recently been released from prison and we refer clients to these programmes if suitable to their needs. Unfortunately, spaces in such programmes are limited and for those returning without family support – the only other option is homeless services. We also refer clients to organisations that assist former prisoners in accessing employment and training. ICPO's ground-breaking research in 2015 on the resettlement needs of foreign national (Irish) prisoners returning to Ireland, continues to provide a sound basis from which to move forward and develop our resettlement services.

In the last 12 months we provided post-release grants to 9 clients who returned to Ireland and had limited or no support here. Such post-release grants are essential in bridging the gap between a prisoner's return to Ireland and accessing benefits.



Resettlement Support

Considerable time is spent by ICPO caseworkers liaising with clients in the UK who are subject to licence but wish to return to Ireland under the voluntary supervision of the Irish Probation Service. The ICPO enjoys a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with the Irish Probation Service and is involved in supporting clients in returning to Ireland under Probation supervision each year.

We are very grateful to the **Irish Probation Service** for facilitating ICPO clients and also wish to acknowledge the assistance provided by the following agencies:

Crosscare Migrant Project	Assists many ex-prisoners in accessing emergency accommodation and obtaining their statutory entitlements which is essential as they make the transition to life outside the prison.
The Linkage Service	Supports ex-prisoners with employment and training issues.
PACE Priorswood House	Provides post-release accommodation and key-worker support to newly returned ex-prisoners.
Trail	Provides post release accommodation and key worker support to returned clients convicted of a sexual offence.
Safehome	Advises ex-prisoners on housing and statutory entitlements.

Resettlement Handbook

Please refer to the Policy and Information Work section of this report for information about the comprehensive ICPO Resettlement Handbook published in 2018.



David* is in his fifties and spent almost 4 years in prison in Asia. He has significant health problems and ICPO's quarterly hardship grant helped him to buy food that didn't aggravate his stomach condition. He wrote:

"The money you sent me is for sure almost keeping me alive. What you sent last July is finished and I think I've even put on a few pounds!"

He received visits from a local religious congregation, which the ICPO organised. During his time in prison he experienced extreme hardship and violence, but he faced equally challenging circumstances upon his release.

David was released from prison but was not allowed to leave the country. He spent 3 months living hand to mouth, staying in the most affordable accommodation he could find and sometimes sleeping rough. He has a very significant physical disability which made moving from hostel to hostel very difficult.



Resettlement Support

With no income - paying for transport, and even food, was often a challenge. ICPO provided a grant to David during this time, and kept in contact with him every couple of days for support. He told us:

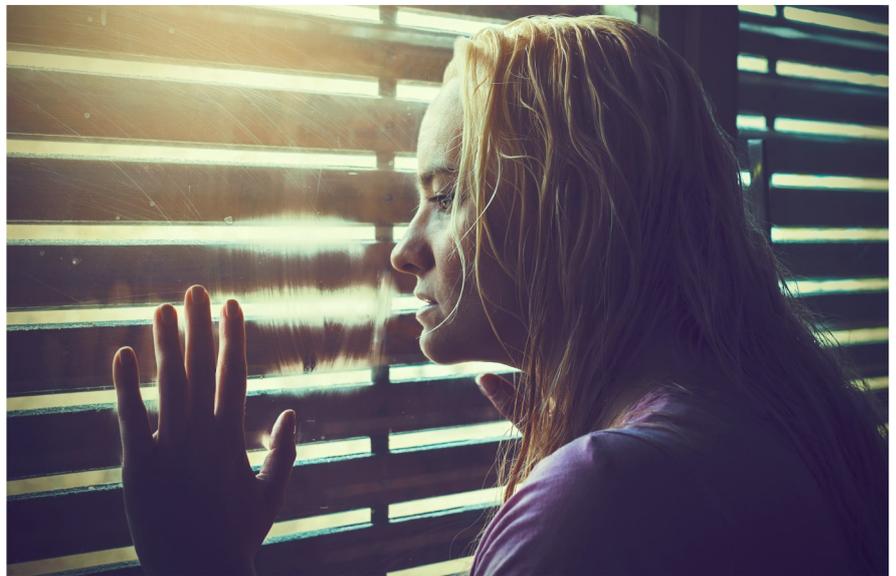
“You know you guys are amazing... I feel so lucky to have your support.”

ICPO supported David throughout his resettlement, working closely with the Irish Embassy to ensure his safe return.

←—————→

Anne* completed a short sentence in the U.K. and is currently on license back in Ireland. Anne was diagnosed with a mild to moderate learning disability, emotionally unstable personality disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. Anne has a history of self-harm and suicidal ideation.

While in prison, Anne disclosed a history of sexual abuse when she was younger. Anne was referred to the ICPO by her mother Mary. Mary advised that she has a physical disability and lives with her son who also has a learning disability. She advised that she has no other family support. Mary was very concerned about her daughter being in prison abroad, given her complex needs and her inability to contact Anne directly.



The ICPO caseworker provided ongoing emotional support and information in relation to the prison system in the U.K. The ICPO caseworker in London referred Anne to the prison chaplain and also provided phone credit so that Anne could call Mary. Given the safeguarding issues raised by Anne, the social care team wanted to ensure that Anne returning home was in her best interest. The ICPO caseworker contacted and introduced the social worker who worked with Anne previously (in Ireland) with the team in the U.K. so that the safeguarding issue could be investigated. Having learned more about Anne’s history and behaviour and her complex needs, the social care professionals in the prison, the probation service and the ICPO developed a more comprehensive plan for Anne’s release. The ICPO caseworker maintained daily contact with Mary providing necessary updates and emotional support. The ICPO team in London organised Anne’s transportation and booked the tickets for her. The caseworker liaised with the HSE social worker who was willing to provide support to Anne upon her return. She also explained the referral pathways to the professionals in the U.K. so that they could make the appropriate referral. Anne returned home to Mary’s house safely. The ICPO caseworker facilitated contact between Anne and the Irish Probation Service to satisfy her license requirements and has maintained regular contact with Mary to ensure Anne’s safe resettlement.

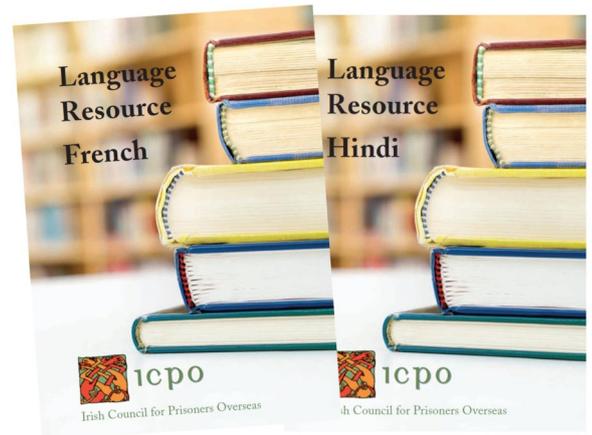


Policy and Information Work

Key components of ICPO's work each year involve the development of information resources to better support prisoners and their families as well as highlighting and seeking to process particular policy issues with relevant authorities. ICPO also engages in an amount of media work and awareness raising around our services. What follows is a selection of some of the more substantial developments that occurred throughout the year.

Language Resources

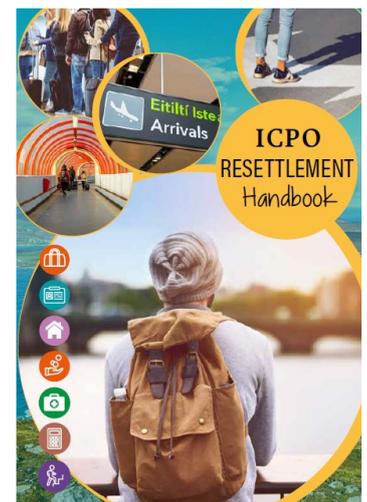
Some of the prisoners ICPO supports experience language barriers, which can add to the sense of isolation as well as impacting on their wellbeing in a practical way. With funding from the Irish Abroad Unit's, Emigrant Support Programme, ICPO now provides language packs to prisoners who are having difficulty communicating in the local language. We developed phrasebooks in six foreign languages (Arabic, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese and Spanish) with common words and phrases relating to food, health care, prison, legal terms. For those with literacy difficulties we purchased the 'Picture it in Prison' picture dictionary (developed by Prison Watch 2016). These packs are intended to help prisoners negotiate day-to-day interactions with other prisoners and prison authorities.



Resettlement Handbook

Building on previous work done in collaboration with Crosscare Migrant Project on providing information to prisoners about returning and resettling in Ireland, and again with Emigrant Support Programme funding, ICPO developed a Resettlement Handbook. This comprehensive, 55 page booklet provides practical information on preparing for release, as well as where to get support when you return to Ireland. It covers topics such as preparing for release, accessing medical care, social welfare and housing, as well as getting help with mental health issues and addiction. It also provides useful tips on money management as well as information on gaining access to employment, education and training.

The booklet explains the processes involved in accessing available supports and provides contact information on relevant support agencies. ICPO caseworkers provide the Resettlement Handbook to prisoners well in advance of their release so that plans can be put in place for their return to Ireland and prisoners can be as well prepared as possible for the release and resettlement.



Repatriation

Repatriation has been, and continues to be, the key advocacy issue for ICPO. There have been some positive developments over the past year although the difficulty for prisoners being transferred into the State is far from resolved. In May 2018 the ICPO was informed that applications for repatriation from prisoners in countries other than the UK were being processed again. Although the number affected was



Policy and Information Work

small, it was welcome news for prisoners and their families in countries such as Australia, where the distance and costs of visiting a relative can be prohibitive.

In October the Minister for Justice stated all applications were being 'reactivated'. This includes UK prisoners, however in practice some prisoners in the UK - those serving a determinate sentence - are still dependent on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Act being amended before they can be transferred. Progress on existing applications has been slow and the ICPO met with the Irish Prison Service in November to discuss this. We continue to engage with them in relation to individual applications but to our knowledge no prisoner has yet been repatriated.



The ICPO has been engaging on a political level in an effort to move the legislation forward. We conducted several meetings with TDs over the past year and spoke on the issue during a presentation to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade in November. We have also sought to raise the issue in more public forums. Comments from the ICPO were included in an article in the Irish Times in May and ICPO Coordinator and ICPO London Manager featured on the Sean O'Rourke Show on RTE Radio One in July. Prisoners were also kept updated by their caseworkers as well as through the ICPO newsletter, ICPO News.

Detention Rights Working Group

The ICPO is a member of the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centres (CIIC) Detention Rights Working Group. This group explores detention and immigration issues in the United States. Staff members from a number of Irish immigration centres, including Irish chaplains attached to the Irish Apostolate USA, generously donate their time to visit ICPO clients who might otherwise not receive any visitors.

CEP Special Interest Group

The ICPO is a full member of the CEP (Confederation of European Probation) Special Interest Group on Foreign National Prisoners. This is a network of independent organisations that support European citizens imprisoned outside their country of residence and their families. The aim of the CEP Special Interest Group on Foreign Nationals is to promote the welfare and interests of this group in order to facilitate their social reintegration. A conference was held in Brussels in March affording ICPO and other members an opportunity to share best practise and discuss foreign prisoner incarceration issues and trends.

Media Work and Awareness Raising

ICPO works to ensure that as many Irish citizens imprisoned abroad and their families know about our services. To that end, we undertake a variety of different awareness raising projects annually.

In 2018, ICPO made a presentation to the Link Conference in Australia. The Link Conference involves the coming together of Irish consular staff with representatives of the many Irish welfare centres throughout Australia and New Zealand. This Conference (which ICPO attended in the course of prison visits to Australia in June) afforded ICPO a welcome opportunity to raise the profile of Irish citizens in prison in the region as well as enhancing existing relationships with Centre staff who provide visits to Irish prisoners already. The ICPO caseworker was also interviewed for the Irish newspaper in Australia, The Irish Echo.

The ICPO wrote to all Irish embassies and consulates offering our support to any Irish prisoners in their jurisdiction not in receipt of our support already. The Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice's newsletter featured an article by ICPO in November.



Finances

The Finance and General Purposes Council of the Irish Episcopal Conference (IEC) oversees the budget of the ICPO Maynooth office. The day-to-day management of the budget is undertaken by the ICPO Coordinator and the IEC Finance Manager. The Irish Chaplaincy (formerly the Irish Chaplaincy in Britain) has this responsibility for the ICPO London office.

The IEC provided funding in the amount of €182,505 towards the running of the Maynooth office. This included a number of small budget overruns as well as additional costs incurred owing to a staff member's extended sick leave and the need to remunerate this individual and their cover. ICPO is indebted to the IEC for their compassion and generosity in this regard.

Grant funding from outside agencies also forms a significant part of the organisation's overall funding. In 2018 the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFA) awarded ICPO €141,081. This included €88,581 towards 1.5 caseworker posts, €500 towards the cost of the ICPO Family Information Days, €10,000 towards the cost of overseas prison visits and information work, €7,000 towards the development of a strategic plan and importantly, €35,000 for the ICPO Hardship Fund.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to provide essential grant funding in the amount of €50,000 annually. The funding is used to provide casework and family support services to some of ICPO's most vulnerable and isolated clients. This core funder generously committed to a further two years funding at the time of their last grant, thus enabling ICPO to grow and develop its supports (particularly to families) more strategically. ICPO sees this as an important endorsement and recognition of our work by a much respected organisation and will continue to ensure its grant is spent prudently in support of some of the most vulnerable within our community. This is true of all the organisation's funders.

With thanks to a generous grant of €30,000 by the Sisters of Mercy (Eastern Province), ICPO has been able to maintain a dedicated caseworker assigned to the north east of England. This most welcome grant - from a long time supporter of ICPO's work - allows a part time caseworker to support approximately 120 Irish prisoners in some 12 different prisons - including 3 Cat-A (high security) prisons - a great many of whom are without any other outside supports. This post was an important development in terms of alleviating the considerable workload placed upon the ICPO London office, as well as bringing additional knowledge and competencies into the ICPO Maynooth office. The response from Irish prisoners there has been overwhelmingly positive and their level of engagement, in addition to the obvious support they require, vindicated the development of this post.

The ICPO greatly appreciates the generosity of all its funders without whom we could not continue to do this important work.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



CONGREGATION OF THE
SISTERS OF MERCY



Hardship Fund

The ICPO administers a Hardship Fund which provides direct, effective and tangible support to vulnerable Irish prisoners. This fund allows us to assist clients who are unable to access basic necessities, such as food, water, clothes and medical treatment. The Hardship Fund also allows families to maintain contact with their loved one, either through the provision of phone credit or a grant to help with travel and accommodation costs for prison visits.

Requests for financial assistance come directly from prisoners or their families, from Irish embassies and consulates and sometimes from an Irish missionary visiting a prisoner. In relation to UK based clients, requests often come from ICPO prison visitors, prison chaplains or social workers. Owing to the significant number of Irish people imprisoned in the UK it is only possible to give small, once-off payments.

There was a noticeable increase in the level of demand for financial support from this fund in 2018.

Breakdown of ICPO Maynooth Hardship Fund

01 Jan 2018 – 31 Dec 2018

Prisoner Support	€26,148.57
213 grants were provided to clients in 23 countries.	
41 prisoners received quarterly payments. 36 particularly vulnerable UK prisoners with no outside support received a grant of £10 GBP at Christmas . 16 UK prisoners received grants totalling £680.00GBP. 33 clients received one off grants (including help with buying clothes, toiletries and medical expenses totaling €4,937.30).	
Family Support	€12,816.70
29 families were assisted with visiting their relatives in prison overseas. 19 families made 29 prison visits to the UK. 10 families were assisted in visiting family members in Australia, USA, Spain, France, Czech Republic and Turkey.	
Post-Release Support	€1,023.15
9 clients were given a post release grant to purchase clothes, toiletries etc.	
Books/Language Dictionaries	€527.91
As well as other material, books, language dictionaries and special interest magazines were sent to 15 prisoners. 3 prisoners received grants for education and art resources.	
Bank Fees	€71.68
Total	€40,588.01



Report from London

Prison visiting has long been the most important part of ICPO's outreach to prisoners and their families. Prisoners are always pleased when someone from the London office takes the trouble to visit them – especially in far-flung parts of the country. Their families, too, greatly value this service and take comfort from the fact that there is an organisation here that is prepared to look out for their sons and daughters.

However, with the new configuration of prisons throughout the estate, the ever-changing chaplaincy personnel, plus the tightening of security regulations, prison-visiting is becoming ever more difficult.

What is often forgotten is that the prison itself has now become a potentially dangerous environment in which to work. Increasing numbers, fewer staff, and the presence of drugs like spice, all make for a potentially volatile work environment. However, notwithstanding these problems, the London office managed throughout the year to maintain a good visiting schedule and offer help and support to the prisoners and their families.

All the London male prisons are visited (at least one a week) by Breda Power who also takes care of the follow-up casework. **Sr Agnes Miller** regularly visits the female prisons of Downview and Bronzefield, while Kathleen Walsh looks after Send, the other female prison just outside London. **Sally Murphy** of Irish Community Care Merseyside, our volunteer visitor for ICPO, visits six prisons in the northwest on a regular basis. **Fr Gerry McFlynn** visits prisons throughout the rest of the estate.

The follow-up casework resulting from these visits continues to be processed by **Liz Power** with help from volunteer, **Sr Moira Keane** who also keeps records and files up to date as well as taking office phonecalls. We said farewell in 2018 to **Noeleen Curran**, First Secretary at the Irish Embassy. Her replacement, **John Freir** has shown himself keen to continue her prison-visiting programme and to work alongside the ICPO.

With prisoners from a **Traveller** background comprising more than 40% of the Irish prisoner population, we work very closely with the Irish Chaplaincy's Traveller Project. This is ably led by **Ellena Costello** who also visits some of the London prisons with Breda as well as some outside London with Fr Gerry. **Declan Ganly** as office administrator is adept at providing the IT backup required for all three Chaplaincy projects and is always on hand to assist with statistics for reports and funding applications, etc.

Irish prisoners now vie with Polish prisoners for the unenviable title of the largest ethnic group within the prison system. However, if those from the North of Ireland (whom the prison authorities routinely classify as "British") are included, they are the largest with a total of between 950 and 1000. While the biggest concentration of prisoners is to be found in the London area, there are also significant numbers in the West Midlands, Merseyside and Greater Manchester, as well as the North-East.

The majority of visits continue to be made via the prison Chaplaincy which helps to maintain the vital link to prison chaplains throughout the prison estate. Increasingly, the prison departments of Diversity and Equality who are responsible for the welfare of foreign nationals, are taking an interest in our work.

Administrative Support: The London office deals with an average of 12 letters a day, requesting everything from money for phone credit and toiletries, to help with family visits as well as information about repatriation and transfers, etc. Then there is the daily count of phonecalls, emails, articles and reports for papers, newsletters, etc.



Report from London

Much of our **advocacy work** in 2018 focused on the need for the Irish authorities to re-open the repatriation process which had been stalled following critical court decisions. Happily, there are now signs that this process is being reactivated. We also provide prisoners with information and advice on their IPP (Indeterminate Public Protection sentences) status and the transfer of licences to Ireland.

Transfer to Northern Ireland continues to be a problem for some prisoners serving their sentences in England and Wales. The problem is that there are only three prisons in Northern Ireland – Maghaberry, Magilligan and Hydebank Wood (Female and YOI). Apart from the fact that they are almost always full, consideration for transfer is only given to those applicants with current addresses in Northern Ireland.

Deportation and TERS

At present the policy is that **Irish nationals cannot be deported** (except in exceptional circumstances; for example, terrorist offences). And few, if any, Irish prisoners have been deported since the agreement between the British and Irish governments in February 2007. As a consequence of that agreement, Irish prisoners cannot benefit from TERS (Tariff Expiry and Early Release Scheme). It remains to be seen how Britain's decision to leave the EU will affect this.

PPMI (Prisoners Maintaining Innocence)

Fr Gerry represents the ICPO on this campaigning group which seeks to highlight the problems prisoners maintaining innocence face in progressing through the prison system. This is done mostly by lobbying and holding public meetings. Main achievements in 2018 were the updating of the website and the production of a new leaflet. Also, an article we wrote for the prison magazine, Inside Time, inviting prisoners maintaining innocence to write to us about their issues, elicited more than a hundred responses!





Report from London

Fr Gerry also provides pastoral and liturgical support to all three Chaplaincy projects – The Travellers, the Prisoners and Older Irish Persons. He regularly says Mass in prisons throughout the country and occasionally at the large Traveller site in west London.

General Reflections

The Prison Service in England and Wales now has the largest prisoner population in Europe – almost 86,000 - while HMP Berwyn in north Wales, is on course to become the largest prison in Europe with a population reaching 2,000! Moreover, with around 16 prisons now in the private sector, the Prison Service has become a very profitable business for private companies such as Sodexo, G4S, SERCO and others.

The same is true of the **Probation Service** with almost 70% in the private sector and companies queuing up for tendering. The new changes in this service introduced as far back as 2013, have not bedded down as anticipated and this is having an adverse effect on the quality of the service for prisoners.

The cumulative effect of all these changes is transforming the entire prison landscape and making life even more difficult for prisoners.

Fr Gerry McFlynn

Manager, ICPO London

ICPO London Prison Visits from 31/03/2018 to 31/03/2019			
	Prison	Prison Visits	Prisoners Visited
1	HMP Ashfield	1	4
2	HMP Brixton	8	52
3	HMP Bure	1	6
4	HMP Cardiff	1	2
5	HMP Chelmsford	5	79
6	HMP Coldingley	1	1
7	HMP Deerbolt	1	1
8	HMP Doncaster	1	4
9	HMP Downview	2	24
10	HMP Durham	1	6
11	HMP Elmley	2	5
12	HMP Ford	1	5
13	HMP Full Sutton	1	7
14	HMP Hewell	2	6
15	HMP High Down	1	9
16	HMP Holme House	1	7
17	HMP ISIS	3	9
18	HMP Leeds	1	6
19	HMP Lewes	1	9
20	HMP Manchester	1	8
21	HMP Moorland	1	2
22	HMP Northumberland	2	5
23	HMP Norwich	1	6
24	HMP Pentonville	6	50
25	HMP Prescoed	1	2
26	HMP Ranby	2	10
27	HMP Spring Hill	2	2
28	HMP Stafford	1	2
29	HMP Stocken	1	4
30	HMP Sudbury	1	4
31	HMP Swaleside	1	6
32	HMP Swansea	1	4
33	HMP Thameside	2	24
34	HMP The Mount	1	11
35	HMP Usk	1	2
36	HMP Wakefield	1	10
37	HMP Wandsworth	12	119
38	HMP Wetherby	1	3
39	HMP Wormwood Scrubs	17	146
TOTAL		91	662



Appendix

A Snapshot of ICPO's Work September – December 2018

Detention Country	Number
Awaiting Prison Details	26
Australia	26
Belgium	2
Bolivia	1
Brazil	1
Canada	1
Channel Islands	1
Cyprus	1
Czech Republic	1
England & Wales	1,082*
France	3
Germany	4
India	2
Ireland	1
Japan	1
New Zealand	1
Northern Ireland	9
Panama	1
Poland	1
Portugal	2
Scotland	8
Spain	14
Switzerland	2
Tanzania	1
UAE	1
United States of America	46
Total	1,239

Nationality	Number
Dual Nationality	12
Irish	555
Irish Citizen	4
Irish Grandparents	107
Irish Parents	114
Northern Ireland	53
Other	3
Nationality blank**	391
Total	1239

Age	Number
17-24	57
25-34	233
35-44	253
45-60	289
Over 60	80
Unknown	327

Gender	Number
Female	59
Male	1124
Unknown	56

Cases Opened and Closed between 1 st September 2018 and 31 st December 2018		
Opened 147	United Kingdom 125	Rest of the World 22
Closed 283	United Kingdom 268	Rest of the World 16

*The England and Wales prison number is expected to reduce by 50 upon completion of follow up with the UK Prison Location Service.

** All are Irish but we do not have information necessary to allocate them to one of the other categories.



Appendix

Breakdown of Contacts								
Maynooth: 1st September 2018 - 31st December 2018								
	September		October		November		December	
Issue	UK	Non UK	UK	Non UK	UK	Non UK	UK	Non UK
Books						1		
Communication								1
Conditional Release								2
Deportation/Immigrant Detention		2						
Discrimination/Harassment								
Documentation			3			1		2
Early Removal Scheme								
Family Support	12	66	42	57	60	35	23	35
Financial	2	20	12	73	19	10	1	9
Health		6			1	11	1	7
Legal				3	1	8		3
Licence Transfer		4	1	1		3		4
Lifer Support	1		1					
Parole								
Penfriend	7	5	8	9	37	22	44	6
POB				1		2		
Prisoner Support	16	124	46	261	67	167	53	142
Prison Transfer	4	5	4	16	16	4	14	2
Prison Visit	2	5	7	14	22	4	9	8
Repatriation		28	1	23	5	4	1	18
Resettlement		12		20	7	51	1	63
Safeguarding								
Other	1			4		1		5
Total	45	277	125	482	235	324	147	307
Total Number of Contacts	322		607		559		454	

1. Please note ICPO introduced a new Salesforce database in September 2018. Accordingly the above figures relate to the period September to December 2018.
2. Contacts refer to all meetings, letters, emails or phone calls to or from ICPO caseworkers in respect of Irish citizens imprisoned overseas. It does not include the ICPO newsletter which was posted to all 1,200 clients in September and December 2018.
3. ICPO Maynooth has four caseworkers with one working a three day week.

What Our Clients Say

“Having someone to correspond with means a great deal to me and having someone from home makes it even better.”

“Thank you for coming to visit both of us and sending us information on back home and for being in contact with our families. It has been a great help. We really appreciate it. Thanks again for everything.” Letter from two clients.

“Our family are so incredibly thankful for all the support we have been given since last September. We want to say thanks to you for the support you have given us it is very much appreciated.”

“Thanks very much for your letter. It never ceases to amaze me; the things Irish people do for each other”

“Thank you so much for the support you have given me. You have helped me to rebuild confidence in myself and be proud that I am an Irishman and a true gypsy.”

“I read the information you sent me and it helped me greatly. So thank you. It cleared a lot of questions I needed to know.”

“You guys are incredible; your timing is perfect... I’m so hungry!! I’m so happy to be back in touch with you.”

“On behalf of my family I wish to thank you for your help and all you have done for John and us. We wouldn’t know where John was in prison if it wasn’t for the ICPO.”