

Criminalising Addiction - Is There Another Way?

May 21st 2013 the Royal College of Physicians, No. 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2

This Citywide conference is an opportunity to explore the implications of current drug policies both nationally and internationally through focused discussions and presentations by:

❖ Niamh Eastwood: Release

Niamh is Executive Director of Release, the national centre of expertise on drugs and drugs law in the UK. Release provide free and confidential specialist advice to the public and professionals and campaign for changes to UK drug policy to bring about a fairer, more compassionate legal framework to manage drug use. Niamh is a non-practicing barrister who started at Release in 2002. She regularly contributes to drug policy journals and publications including *Drugs and Alcohol Today* and *Drink and Drug News*, as well as authoring and editing a number of Release's publications including 'Drugs and the Law,' 'Sex Workers and the Law' and 'A Quiet Revolution: Drug Decriminalisation Policies in Practice Across the Globe,' which she will be discussing at the conference.

❖ Liam Herrick: Irish Penal Reform Trust

Liam has been Executive Director of the Irish Penal Reform Trust (IPRT) since November 2007. IPRT is Ireland's leading non-governmental organisation campaigning for the rights of people in prison and the progressive reform of Irish penal policy. IPRT is committed to reducing imprisonment, respecting the rights of everyone in the penal system, and progressive reform of the penal system based on evidence-led policies.

❖ Brigid Pike: Health Research Board

Brigid is a Researcher for the Alcohol and Drug Research Unit of the Health Research Board (HRB) who provide objective, reliable and comparable information on the alcohol and drug situation, its consequences and responses in Ireland. Brigid has written a number of publications including, 'A Collection of Papers on Drug Use in Ireland' and 'Development of Ireland's Drug Strategy 2000–2007,' and is a regular contributor to *Drugnet Ireland*.

❖ Johnny Connolly: Health Research Board

Johnny is a criminologist in the Alcohol and Drugs Research Unit of the Health Research Board. He has researched and written extensively on community policing, drugs, crime and alternatives to imprisonment. His recent publications include: 'The Illicit Drug Market in Ireland HRB Overview 2,' 'Drugs and Crime in Ireland HRB Overview 3,' 'Crack Cocaine in the Dublin region - An Evidence Base for a Crack Cocaine Strategy (with Foran et al).'