



## Irish Penal Reform Trust – Launch of *Progress in the Penal System 2020*

26 January 2021, 4.30pm – 6pm

**INDICATIVE AGENDA, ALL TIMES APPROXIMATE**

TIME	SPEAKER
4.30	Event Chair –  Prof. Aislinn O’Donnell (Chair of PIPS Advisory Group, IPRT Vice Chairperson)
4.40	Fíona Ní Chinnéide (IPRT Executive Director) (2 mins)  Michelle Martyn (IPRT Policy and Research Manager, lead author of <i>PIPS 2020</i> ) (10 mins)
4.52	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Ms Oonagh McPhillips, Secretary General of the Department of Justice,
5.05	<b>Dr. Brie Williams (Director, Amend at UCSF)</b>
5.17	<b>Responses to PIPS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ms Caron McCaffrey, Director General, Irish Prison Service (approx. 5 minutes)</li><li>- Ms Fiona Coyle, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Reform (approx. 5 minutes)</li></ul>
5.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
5.45	<b>CLOSE &amp; THANKS</b>  Dr. Seamus Taylor (IPRT Chairperson) (approx. 5 minutes)

*External speaker biographies available overleaf*



## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

*Speakers:*

### **Oonagh McPhillips: Secretary General of the [Department of Justice](#)**

Oonagh McPhillips was appointed Secretary General of the Department of Justice in September 2020. Having started her career as a school leaver temp in the Department of the Environment, Oonagh has also worked in Áras an Uachtaráin and as a civilian manager in An Garda Síochána. She has many years of policy experience across most areas of the Dept of Justice - of most relevance to this discussion today she was a member of the Penal Policy Review Group from 2012 to 2014. Oonagh holds a Masters in Communications from DCU and she was Ireland's Eisenhower Fellow in 2016.

### **Dr. Brie Williams: Professor of Medicine at the University of California San Francisco in the UCSF Division of Geriatrics and Director of [AMEND at UCSF](#)**

Dr. Williams' work focuses on integrating a public health and human rights perspective into criminal justice reform, including the consideration of physical health outcomes in the reform of solitary confinement policies; improving compassionate release policies for incarcerated patients with serious illness so that they are more aligned with the science of prognostication; and optimizing systems for recognizing and responding to disability, dementia, and serious illness in correctional facilities. Dr. Williams directs AMEND, a partnership with the Norwegian Correctional Service that draws on public health and Norwegian correctional principles to transform culture in US prisons so that the health, dignity and humanity of staff and residents is at the center of all programs and policies.

*Respondents:*

### **Caron McCaffrey: Director General, [Irish Prison Service](#)**

Caron was appointed Director General of the Irish Prison Service in December 2018. She started her career in the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform in 2000 before transferring to the Irish Prison Service in 2006. She was promoted to Director of Corporate Services in 2008 and has held responsibility for several portfolios in the intervening period including Human Resources, Finance and Estates.

Caron holds a Diploma in Corporate Governance, an Advanced Diploma in Applied Employment Law, an MA in International Relations and a BA in English and History.

### **Fiona Coyle: Chief Executive Officer, [Mental Health Reform](#)**

Fiona Coyle joined Mental Health Reform in 2020 as Chief Executive Officer. Before this, Fiona spent 2 years as Director of END FGM Europe. Fiona has extensive experience working in national and international civil society organisations, specialising in strategic and political planning and implementing multi stakeholder advocacy. Fiona was International Advocacy Manager at IPPF European Network where she led the federations engagement with the European institutions. She has previously been the network coordinator for EuroNGOs and Programme Manager at Dóchas, the Irish national platform of Development NGOs where she managed policy and programme co-ordination across the network of 65 NGOs and other civil society stakeholders.