

New Publication - Police Custody in Ireland

A new book, edited by our Action Vice-Chair Prof Yvonne Daly (Dublin City University, Ireland) was officially launched on Thursday June 20th. [Police Custody in Ireland](#) is the first book to focus exclusively on detention in Garda Síochána (Irish police) stations, critically examining it from human rights and best practice perspectives. It is available now for purchase or can be [freely accessed online](#).

The book brings together experts from policing studies, law, criminology, and psychology, to explore contemporary police custody in Ireland, what is known about it, how it operates, how it is experienced, and how it might be improved. It examines the physical environment of custody, police interview techniques, existing protections, rights, and entitlements, and the experiences of specific communities in custody, such as children, ethnic minorities, non-English speakers, the Mincéir/Traveller community, and those with intellectual disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Of course there is a chapter on investigative interviewing, including discussion of the [Mendez Principles](#), and this is co-authored by our Action Chair Prof Dave Walsh (De Montfort University, Leicester, UK) and ImpleMendez member Prof Ray Bull (University of Leicester, UK). Other ImpleMendez members also contributed their expertise to this book, including Dr Alan Cusack (University of Limerick, Ireland) on people with intellectual disabilities as accused persons; Dr Roxanna Dehaghani (Cardiff University, UK) on the concept of “vulnerability” in police custody; and Prof Layla Skinns (University of Sheffield, UK) on the ideal of “good” police custody.

Guest speakers at the book launch included:

- Pauline Shields, Deputy Chief Inspector, Garda Síochána Inspectorate;
- Margaret Tumelty, Director of Policing Strategy and Performance, Policing Authority of Ireland;
- Assistant Commissioner Paul Cleary, An Garda Síochána; and,
- Catherine Pierse, the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Prof Daire Keogh, President of Dublin City University, and Prof Yvonne Daly also addressed the attendees.

Speaking at the launch Prof Daly noted that it is easy to “other” police station detainees, but important to remember that it could be any one of us, our relatives or our friends. In considering what is needed in terms of best practice and human rights protections, she said, it can be useful to think about how you would feel if you were detained for police questioning. Or how you would feel if your child, or your parent, or your sibling was detained in police custody. How would you want them to experience it? What specific supports would you expect to be in place? What training would you expect police officers to have had? How would the physical conditions of custody impact on you? How would the police approach to questioning affect you?

All of this is very relevant to the focus of our work in the ImpleMendez Action, as we strive to raise awareness, understanding and operational implementation of the Mendez Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information-Gathering. Congratulations to Yvonne, and to all of the contributors, on this very welcome new publication!

