

## Submission to Commission on the Future of Policing in Ireland.

### PREAMBLE:

*'Cognito omium rerum per ultimas causas' .... 'I understand everything through their ultimate causes'* Descartes 1595-1650

### ENDEMIC VIOLENCE - CAUSES:

- Failure of moral education to define, identify and address the negative impact of violence.
- Failure of Political System to invite/promote/ endorse/give credit to a sustainable 'Community Culture'
- A rising non reflective Secularism with all the accompanying dissociations.
- Overstatement of individualism in social and business culture
- Overstatement of 'profit' and 'moneymaking' in corporate and business culture vs understatement of the importance of investment and reinvestment In sustainable social health and wellbeing.
- Overstatement of the Patriarchal and understatement of the Matriarchal in society.
- Media—TV, Films...Glamourising, glorifying and normalising violence through graphic portrayal.
- Food Industry: Refusal to acknowledge the normalising of violence against sentient animals

There is a clear need for all State and Socio Cultural Agencies and Religious Groupings to '**acknowledge**' their deficiencies in the above causes and re assess their roles and awareness in mitigating such violence.

RURAL CRIME : as a category emanating from the above is invariably perpetrated via the **use of motor vehicles** to and from the Crime Scene

This category of crime now endemic and currently on an alarming surge with widespread negative effects facilitated by motor mobility and include:

- **Theft:** of money, household valuables, motor vehicles (cars, tractors, lorries), oil, animals, DIY and professional tools and machinery of all kinds. Much is sold locally and the higher value material is exported and sold.
- **Distribution of illegal drugs.**
- **Perpetrators of Crime operating under the influence of Drugs:** This is particularly insidious as the perpetrators often are completely dissociated from all trauma inflicted on the victim. These perpetrators, in hyped up irrational states of mind, invariably and brutally demand money to feed their addiction and or to pay off drug debts.
- **Physical assault and injury to victims**
- **Psychological Assault and injury:** The fear and consequences of uninvited intrusion into homes and workplaces is extensive on individuals and families.

- **Sense of Security and Trust within Communities is severely damaged through erosion of Trust as this criminality becomes endemic.**

## PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS TO MITIGATE THIS CATEGORY OF CRIME

1. **Mandatory suspension of Driving licence** for anybody driving or a passenger, to or from such crime. Loss of licence has proven **very effective** against 'drink driving' for a wide variety of well understood reasons. This penalty also enables Gardaí to repeatedly seize vehicles of those violating this sanction, without further recourse to or 'time wasting' of the courts time and resources. This could be a '**super-efficient penalty**' measure in itself if used judiciously and with discretion by the Gardaí.
2. **Mandatory suspension of Passport** for the more serious property and drug offences. Many of these criminals freely travel to expand their trade overseas in drugs and stolen property. Instant suspension of passport would be a deterrent. The aberrant wealth and power of the current 'drugs gangs' would never have arisen had such deterrents been in place and applied in the past. The United States uses 'any conviction' to deny entry to would be visitors very effectively. Withholding of 'Free travel' for criminals should be more widely used here as a 'tool' to reduce the scourge of crime whether of the 'import' or 'export' kind. ID filtering at ports would 'fish out' those in 'passport suspension'. Apart from the benefits in crime reduction 'at home,' 'respect for the neighbours' should induce Ireland to ensure 'other countries' should not suffer from our 'exported criminality'.
3. **"Electronic Tagging"** The electronic tagging of all repeat offenders on bail. If the accused interferes with the monitoring system or breaches the parameters laid down by the court, they should be arrested and returned to custody until the hearing of the case against them. In the same event the money lodged for bail would be automatically forfeited.
4. **Collection of Fines:** All fines imposed by the district court should be collected at source by Revenue and not in the present manner where a member of the Gardaí must call to the home of every defendant not once but several times in order to attempt to collect a fine. The amount of unclaimed fines available to the department of Justice is estimated to be in the millions. The collection of fines at source should be capable of being taken from social welfare, pay roll, banks and post office accounts.
5. **Media description of Illegal Drugs:** When illegal drugs are seized by the Gardaí the invariable description is the "value" or "street value", which is wholly misleading as they have no value, rather are a negative or destructive factor both in human health and HSE cost. This cost would clearly be a **multiple** of the street price. When drugs seizures are being reported the report should carry a two point description:

a) A health damage description indicator (eg. Premature morbidity and death for x no of people in the Community) and

b) An economic cost figure in euros e.g. Cost to Community and the HSE.

The current system implies "legitimate value" and sends a seriously erroneous message to the public, the criminals and the "young vulnerables".

These tools of sanction and description would be simple to administer. The licence options are already available to be requested by the Gardaí and to the courts but clearly in the main lie largely unused. The proposal here is that these *licence* penalties become **MANDATORY** as in the very successful 'Drink Driving' Campaign.

These proposals were endorsed and submitted to the Dept. of Justice two years ago following two large scale public meetings in Thurles (Oct '15) and Trim (Nov '15)

This Submission is being made by 'North East Save Our Local Community' (representing Community Alert Groups of Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan) and North Meath Communities Development Association (NMCD)

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