

# IRISH ?

IN A UK PRISON ?

THE IRISH COUNCIL FOR PRISONERS OVERSEAS  
is here to support you



## Contact us at:

**Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas**  
52 Camden Square, LONDON. NW1 9XB  
Tel: 020 7482 4148  
Email: prisoners@irishchaplancy.org.uk  
Website: www.irishchaplancy.org.uk

&

**Traveller Equality Project**  
52 Camden Square  
LONDON NW1 9XB  
Tel: 020 7482 5525  
Email: travellers@irishchaplancy.org.uk



Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas  
Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference  
Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Ireland  
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ICPO is a project of

IRISH CHAPLAINCY  
Social Justice for Irish Emigrants  
Reg. Charity No. 1160365

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## What is the ICPO?

The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) is a project of the charity, the Irish Chaplaincy, serving Irish prisoners and their families.

We work with any Irish person in prison in England and Wales and make no distinction about a prisoner's background, religion, conviction or prison status.

### OUR AIMS:

- Justice and human rights for Irish prisoners and their families
- Focus public attention on issues affecting Irish prisoners
- Provide advice and information on issues such as repatriation and prison transfers
- Work closely with other organisations caring for the welfare of prisoners and their families
- Conduct research on issues affecting Irish prisoners

## What do you do for Irish prisoners?

If you are an Irish prisoner we can help you by providing:

- Prison visits
  - Advice and information
  - Phone helpline / message service
- If you cannot get through, please leave a short message with your name, number, prison and we will write back to you as soon as possible.***
- Contact with your family
  - Family visit support
  - Casework advocacy
  - Representation of your concerns to the authorities
  - Letters of support to court
  - Signposting to other services
  - Pen friend scheme (two years minimum remaining to serve)
  - Pastoral support

**WE DO NOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE**

" I DON'T HAVE FAMILY, SO THE VISIT YOU MADE GAVE ME A SENSE OF BELONGING AND, ALTHOUGH I MAY BE ALONE, I KNOW THERE ARE PEOPLE ON THE OUTSIDE WHO CARE ABOUT ME. HONEST TO GOD, THAT IS MAKING ME LOOK AT MY LIFE A LOT DIFFERENTLY. " SEAN

## You are not alone.

There are about one thousand Irish people in 136 prisons across England and Wales. We estimate that nearly half of these are from an Irish Traveller background.

According to the UK Government, Irish people are the second largest foreign national group in the prison system (Aug. 2014). We are aware that 235 **new** Irish prisoners contacted us in the past 12 months (Oct 2015) We supported 1,000 people over the same period. ICPO is here to help.

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER— I SINCERELY THANK YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AS I FOUND YOUR LETTER FULL OF CONCERN. WOW! I MUST HAVE READ IT 50 TIMES AND COUNTING.

IT CHEERS ME UP AND GIVES ME A LIFT. IT'S CRAZY TO FEEL THAT A GREAT WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS THANKS TO A LETTER FROM A COMPLETE STRANGER WHO NOW SEEMS LIKE A FRIEND."

TOM