



Press Release

Launch of 2015 Calendar: Diversity & Equality in the Work place

A unique collaboration between the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service was marked, today, in the Irish Prison Service College in Portlaoise. The three uniformed Services joined together to launch a new **Diversity & Equality Calendar and Wall-planner** designed to enhance awareness of cultural diversity within the three operational front line services.

To emphasise the collaborative approach taken, the launch was addressed by senior personnel from all three Services at the Irish Prison Service College.

Michael Donnellan Director General of the Irish Prison Service commended all involved in the development of this specific initiative which resulted from a desire at senior management level across An Garda Síochána, the Defence Force and the Irish Prison Service to raise awareness of diversity in their respective organisations.

Speaking at the launch the Director General said **“The key aim of this initiative is to enhance awareness and acceptance of diversity in the workplace, respecting dignity of staff, supporting and showing respect for all who come into contact with our Services. The Irish Prison Service Three Year Strategic Plan published in 2012 contains the Principles of Dignity and Respect and these principles are reflected in our Mission Statement and Values. Our organisation is stronger not by the fact that our staff are all the same, but because we are all different and we each bring our own uniqueness to the roles that we perform.”**

Representing an An Garda Síochána was Mr John Barrett, Executive Director, Human Resources and People Development who said **“ An Garda Síochána recognises diversity in our workplace as a source of strength that helps us to effectively serve Ireland’s diverse communities. This joint initiative illustrates our commitment to ensuring our work places are respectful of all our employees.”**

The Defence Forces were represented by Rear Admiral Mark Mellett who said **“The Defence Forces is committed to Diversity and Inclusion where all personnel irrespective of culture, gender, creed, sexual orientation or generation are valued and enabled to realise their full potential “**

The calendar will be made available to all staff and the Representatives of all three Organisations.

For more information contact:

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