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## ICPRA President's Welcome

Tom Stamatakis

Dear colleagues,

I can't imagine many of us will be particularly upset to see the end of 2021, which has been a particularly tumultuous year for law enforcement personnel around the world, and our home communities in general. That being said, I am pleased to share with you this latest edition of our ICPRA newsletter, which highlights some of the issues that our member associations have been working on over the past few months, and once again thank you for taking the time to read thru, and hopefully share with your own members.

While the conditions brought on by the ongoing global pandemic have continued to prevent us from meeting formally, I do appreciate that in various ways we have been able to stay connected. Whether via social media, email, or these newsletters, I know it is something I've remarked on in the past, but it is worth reiterating that while all of our individual circumstances might vary, it is quite amazing to see how similar the issues facing our organizations can be.

I know many of you, including my own members here in Canada, are currently working with your local governments and employers on the issue of vaccine mandates for law enforcement personnel in our respective jurisdictions. For many of us, this has been a frustrating debate; particularly given how hard our associations worked to ensure access for police personnel as vaccines were first being deployed. Generally speaking, most of our services in Canada have taken a hybrid approach to the proposed mandates, with a strong emphasis on encouraging all members to get fully vaccinated, while maintaining an option to regularly test members who have chosen not to receive the vaccine, or disclose their vaccination status to their employer. I would imagine this discussion will continue into the new year, particularly as evolving conditions seem to suggest booster doses will be eventually be required, but I would encourage anyone who would like more information on our approach (from a labour perspective) to reach out to Michael Gendron ([mgendron@cpa-acp.ca](mailto:mgendron@cpa-acp.ca)) at the Canadian Police Association offices and he would be happy to share some of the policies that have been put forward.

Another common issue I've seen many of us facing is the police response to protests and demonstrations. I know many of you (and Canada included) have been grappling with the challenge of upholding fundamental rights to expression and assembly, while also being called on to enforce public health directives in response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. This has been, for many organizations, the ultimate 'no-win' situation, where elected officials have tasked police with the responsibility to enforce new laws designed to limit gatherings, or "lock down" areas, while many of those same officials are quick to place blame on our members when that enforcement puts them at odds with the public they are trying to protect.

All that being said, this past year has seen some positive developments. Just this week, for example, I was following along (via Twitter) as the Police Federation of England and Wales presented their annual Police Bravery Awards. I was amazed at some of the stories highlighted during the ceremony, and want to offer my sincere congratulations to the nominees, and to John Apter and his team for their successful event. I was also able to follow the recent Autumn Meeting of EuroCOP, from Edinburgh, and look forward to being able to hear more regarding their push for a debate by the European Parliament on the dramatic increase of incidents of violence against police officers. This topic is of particular concern to my own association, as we've recently undertaken an academic study of the issue with our own members across Canada.

Before going on too long, I want to finish with a sincere thank you to Ms. Kathleen Potts and Scott Weber with the Police Federation of Australia for their continued work in putting together this excellent newsletter, and all their efforts on behalf of ICPRA this past year. As I stated, maintaining this connection and communication has been particularly important for us, collectively, over the past 2 years, and none of this would be possible without their hard work.

I'd also like to thank all of you for your continued engagement with our international association, and I hope that the coming year will eventually provide us with an opportunity to finally meet again, in person, and enjoy a bit of international fellowship while exchanging information and best practices in the very best spirit of cooperation among our associations.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, the Happiest of Holidays, and extend my best wishes to you all, your families, your members, and your staff for a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Regards,

Tom Stamatakis  
President, ICPRA

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## **SAPU Press Statement: Lack of Political Will is the Cause of High Alarming Crime Rate**

Lesiba Thobakgale, National Spokesperson, The South African Policing Union

SAPU is deeply concerned by the high levels of crime which were shown in the second quarter July to September 2021 crime statistics released by the Minister of Police. The high levels of crime like murder recording 6163, inclusive of 23 police officials were murdered, rape with 9556 victims violated which has a serious indictment on the state of policing in this country.

[Click here](#) to read full article

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## **Qualified Immunity in the United States**

Larry H. James, General Counsel, and Christopher R. Green, Associate General Counsel, National Fraternal Order of Police

Qualified immunity only applies in cases for civil damages; it does not apply to suits for injunctive relief or criminal matters. The doctrine also does not protect a police officer or government official from an internal investigation, discipline, or termination. Moreover, it is not just a defense for police officers—it applies to all local and state government officials including teachers, firefighters, city attorneys, and social workers....

[Click here](#) to read full article

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## **Twenty Years of PSNI**

Mark Lindsay, Chair, Police Federation for Northern Ireland

Following on from the Good Friday Agreement a new chapter in policing commenced 20 years ago. This was to signal a new chapter in policing in Northern Ireland, with the creation of the PSNI, incorporating, not replacing, the RUC GC

There was a broad spectrum of views within policing around this but many viewed this change as an evolution of policing, helping to take forward the optimism within Northern Ireland that we had a changed society and they embraced change to help advance the Peace Process.

[Click here](#) to read full article

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## **Epidemic of Violence’ against Police Officers Condemned by EuroCOP President**

Calum Steele, President, EuroCOP

The president of the European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) has condemned the increased “frequency and severity” of violence against police officers across Europe as they enforce escalating Covid-19 restrictions.

[Click here](#) to read Nov 25 Police Professional Article by Paul Jacques.

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## **EuroCOP Statement on the Situation on the Lithuanian and Belarusian Border**

Calum Steele, President, EuroCOP

At the meeting of the members of the European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) in Edinburgh between the 22 and 24 November, the deteriorating situation on the border between Lithuania and Belarus was presented for discussion by the National Association of Officers’ Trade Unions (NPPSS) from Lithuania.

[Click here](#) to read 24<sup>th</sup> November statement

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## **Use of Data and Artificial Intelligence in Policing – Revised EuroPol Mandate**

Calum Steele, President, EuroCOP

The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) has long welcomed that the EuroPol mandate has been considered for revision. We recognise that the proposed revisions, particularly in respect of the above issues, have led to much debate. We appreciate these debates have raised a number of important considerations and this correspondence is intended to help inform the considerations of the Parliament as it enters the triologue process with the council on the revised mandate.

[Click here](#) to read correspondence sent to the European Parliament Rapporteur and Shadows Rapporteur’s on the 27<sup>th</sup> October

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## **EuroCOP News Roundup September, October and November 2021**

Calum Steele, President, EuroCOP

[Click here](#) to read September news

[Click here](#) to read October news

[Click here](#) to read November news

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## **EuroCOP Policy Grid November and October 2021**

Calum Steele, President, EuroCOP

[Click here](#) to read November Policy Grid

[Click here](#) to read October Policy Grid

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## **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

Ian Leavers, President, Police Federation of Australia

The Police Federation of Australia (PFA) has made numerous parliamentary and other submissions covering mental health and wellbeing of police officers over the years. The most recent being for the Inquiry into Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

[Click here](#) to read the March 2021 submission

[Click here](#) to read the October 2021 The House of Representatives Select Committee on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Final Report

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**The End**