



Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

Monitoring rights during the pandemic  
1-7 March

## COVID-19-RELATED ADVOCACY WORK

*This week we wrote to the Minister for Justice, calling on the Minister to issue guidelines for protesting safely during the lockdown. We provided statements to the media elaborating on the letter and how the right to protest must be protected not curtailed.*

*We highlighted that a mandatory Covid-19 vaccine passport could lead to discrimination and data protection issues.*

*The Covid-19 pandemic has showcased the need for human rights inspections in residential institutions and care homes. We launched a campaign for such inspections this week.*

*We wrote to the Minister for Health to endorse the recommendation in the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Report on Ireland's emergency powers during the Covid-19 pandemic.*

- **Making Covid-19 Vaccine passports mandatory is a serious human rights issue**

ICCL's Liam Herrick provided a comment to the Times on vaccine passports. Essentially, stating that covid passports could lead to discrimination and data protection issues.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/making-covid-vaccine-passports-mandatory-is-a-serious-human-rights-issue-gshstf6xf>

- **Nursing homes must be subject to human rights inspections 02/03/2021**

ICCL's Liam Herrick spoke to Newstalk Breakfast Briefing stating that independent human rights inspections in residential institutions and care homes are needed, especially looking at their autonomy and control over their own lives. This need has been highlighted even further by the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.newstalk.com/shows/breakfast-briefing-234884>

- **Is peaceful protest possible during a pandemic?**

Yes, it is. We wrote to the Minister for Justice saying that guidelines for protesting safely during lockdown are now urgently needed.

[ICCL-letter-to-Justice-re-far-right-protests.pdf](#)

ICCL's Liam Herrick spoke to RTE Radio stating that the Government needs to urgently issue guidelines for peaceful protests during the pandemic.

<https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21917895>

ICCL's Doireann Ansbro provided a comment to the Times stating that protests last weekend showed that Government needs to introduce guidelines to allow safe protests during lockdown.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-lockdown-protesters-insist-they-are-not-conspiracy-theorists-hz2f9zvz6>

ICCL's Doireann Ansbro spoke to Newstalk stating that the right to protest must be protected through guidelines. That said, ICCL would not encourage people to attend protests which do not respect public health guidelines.

[Cork lockdown protest should not go ahead as planned - ICCL | Newstalk](#)

The Irish Examiner reported on ICCL's call to the Minister for Justice to issue guidelines which should protect the public and An Garda Síochána. The right to protest does not include the right to violence. However, the right to safe protest must be considered a legitimate excuse to leave home during lockdown.

[ICCL urges Government to devise safe protest guidelines \(irishexaminer.com\)](#)

- **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Report- Ireland's Emergency Powers during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

ICCL wrote to the Minister for health to endorse the recommendations in the report.

[ICCL writes to Health Minister about human rights report - Irish Council for Civil Liberties](#)