



Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

Monitoring rights during the pandemic  
15-21 March

## COVID-19-RELATED ADVOCACY WORK

To start the week, ICCL co-signed a letter on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women. As the week went on, ICCL wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling for a ban on the use of covid-19 vaccine passports within Ireland, and highlighting the effects a covid-19 vaccine passport system would have on human rights. We spoke to Last Word and Newstalk breakfast on the use of vaccine passports. ICCL called for an end to the blanket ban on protest, and we urged people to research the organisers of protests they attend. We reiterated our call for pandemic-safe guidelines on protest with the Journal.ie, The Irish Times, RTE News at One and Six One News.

- **Women and the Silent pandemic**

ICCL co-signed a letter published in the Irish Times detailing the impact the pandemic has had on women's lives, physical and mental health, and livelihoods. The inclusion of women's voices in decision making in relation to Covid 19 services and recovery is important.

[Women and the 'silent pandemic' \(irishtimes.com\)](https://www.irishtimes.com)

- **Call to end ban on protest**

Ahead of a number of planned, disparate, protests on St Patrick's Day, ICCL released a [statement calling for an end to the blanket ban](#) on protest.

ICCL's Liam Herrick spoke to RTE's Six One News, urging people to look into who is organising the protests they are attending.

[RTÉ News: Six One - RTÉ Player \(rte.ie\)](https://www.rte.ie)

ICCL's Head of Legal and Policy, Doireann Ansbro spoke to the Journal.ie and pointed out that the protests planned for St Patrick's day highlighted yet again, the need for guidelines for people to protest in a peaceful and pandemic safe manner. The right to protest can be restricted but not banned entirely. She encouraged

protestors to research on the organisers of the event as they may have a different agenda to theirs.

['People lack hope': Labour calls for more nuanced approach towards anti-lockdown protests \(thejournal.ie\)](#)

The Irish Times reported on how ICCL wrote to the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee asking for protest to be added to the list of essential reasons to travel and guidelines for protests. ICCL pointed out that Germany and France have since relaxed their initial ban on protests.

['Safe' protesting during Covid-19: Lifeblood of democracy? \(irishtimes.com\)](#)

- **Vaccine passports**

ICCL wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney to seek Ireland's position on the proposal from the European Union for a vaccine passport for travel within and/or into the European Union. We called on the Irish Government to oppose any use of the vaccine passports in the area of goods and services especially within Ireland, and also to take note of the human rights challenges a covid-19 vaccine passport system would bring, including equality; non-discrimination; freedom of movement; privacy; and bodily integrity.

<https://www.iccl.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ICCL-letter-to-Foreign-Affairs-re-vaccine-passports.pdf>

ICCL's Liam Herrick provided a comment to Newstalk Breakfast on the letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to pay attention to issues of privacy and discrimination and the use of such a certificate within the state as it would create a two tier system. Details of the proposal will be pertinent when considering it.

[Digital Green Certificates & EU-Wide Travel | Newstalk](#)