



Monitoring rights during the pandemic
5-11 April

COVID-19-RELATED ADVOCACY WORK

As the issue of vaccine passports continued to grow legs, ICCL increased pressure on government not to introduce them. ICCL supports the vaccine rollout by consent – not by coercion.

[We spoke to RTE](#) to oppose the use of vaccine passports by employers and schools. We also spoke to Newstalk Breakfast, Primetime, The Examiner, Pat Kenny, and the Irish Times. We said principles of trust, solidarity, and consent – all essential to the vaccine rollout - would be utterly undermined by mandatory vaccination. There would also be serious issues under equality and data protection laws.

ICCL's Doireann Ansbro spoke to Matt Cooper on Today FM about the lack of democratic procedures and human rights principles in the roll-out of emergency legislation to deal with Covid-19. This was also something we highlighted in our wide-ranging report to the UN's Universal Periodic Review process.

- **Mandatory vaccine**

ICCL's Liam Herrick spoke to [RTE](#) on the Six One on the mandatory vaccination policy on employment, highlighting that the public health strategy in Ireland is based on principles of consent trust and solidarity. Employers trying to discriminate between employees would undermine that.

[Mandatory vaccination - a thorny issue for employers \(rte.ie\)](#)

ICCL also spoke to [Newstalk Breakfast](#) on mandatory vaccination in schools, ICCL stated that making the vaccine mandatory could undermine the vaccine rollout and play into the sceptics.

[Listen Back | Newstalk](#)

- **Vaccine passports**

ICCL spoke to RTE Radio and [stated](#) that vaccine passports would perpetuate discrimination and raise issues with bodily integrity and the principle of consent.

[Drivetime \(rte.ie\)](#)

ICCL also spoke to Cormac McQuinn of the Irish Times, where it stated that a vaccine certificate system at a national level would lead to a two-tier society, [marginalising](#) those who cannot access a vaccine. ICCL emphasized that the use of such certificates would be problematic to equality and data protection laws. The Irish Examiner also [covered](#) the statement by ICCL.

[Vaccine Certificate Q&A: What is the status of Government plans? \(irishtimes.com\)](#)

[HSE says vaccines protecting 'most vulnerable' in nursing homes as country closes in on 1m dose target \(irishtimes.com\)](#)

- **Universal Periodic Review**

ICCL's Doireann Ansbro spoke to Matt Cooper on Today FM on 8 April on the need for a human rights approach to emergency legislation and regulations in the Covid response, as per ICCL's UPR submission.

