



Irish Council for  
**Civil Liberties**

ICCL: Monitoring rights during the pandemic  
30 May-5 June

## **Covid19-related advocacy work**

### **Meeting with Health Minister Harris confirmed**

We received confirmation that we will have a virtual meeting with the Minister of Health. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have sent numerous letters to Minister Harris outlining the need for a human rights-based approach to guide all decisions taken regarding the introduction and review of Regulations.

### **Call for an end to extraordinary policing powers in phase 2**

We believe that the current policing powers of enforcement are now inappropriate and unworkable. We [have called for their cessation](#). The call comes as the Government must decide if it is necessary to extend the Regulations providing for additional garda powers and the criminalisation of movement beyond 8 June.

We emphasise our continued strong support for the public health advice and government efforts to curb the spread of COVID19 but insist that **public health advice should not be enforced by criminal law, but rather by consent and cooperation**.

### **Published: our principled framework for the contact-tracing & symptom-tracking app**

We, together with other civil societies, scientists and academics, wrote to the Minister of Health and to the special Oireachtas Covid-19 response Committee setting out 9 Principles for the Government. This Principles should be adhered to by the Government to ensure they fulfil their legal human rights obligations towards the development of a privacy-protecting app. Press Release can be found [here](#).

### **Letter to the Oireachtas covid-19 response Committee on travel restrictions**

We [wrote to the Oireachtas covid-19 response Committee](#) ahead of their travel restrictions session this week. We highlighted our concerns regarding the Regulations which came into effect on 29 May, criminalising incoming passengers' refusal to complete the passenger locator form. We also drew the Committee's attention to our 20 May letter to the Health Minister.

## **REFERENCE TO OUR WORK IN THE DÁIL**

Social Democrats co-leader Catherine Murphy TD referred to our call for the cessation of the extraordinary Garda powers.

## **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT & COVERAGE**

Our stance on the right to protest during the pandemic is the subject of these articles  
[:https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/council-for-civil-liberties-says-protesting-a-reasonable-excuse-under-covid-19-rules-1.4270099](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/council-for-civil-liberties-says-protesting-a-reasonable-excuse-under-covid-19-rules-1.4270099)

[:https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/president-expresses-greatest-heartbreak-at-clashes-with-protesters-in-us-1.4270135](https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/president-expresses-greatest-heartbreak-at-clashes-with-protesters-in-us-1.4270135)

Our call for a cessation of extraordinary powers of policing in phase 2:

[:https://www.dublinlive.ie/news/dublin-news/garda-lockdown-powers-inappropriate-say-18366720](https://www.dublinlive.ie/news/dublin-news/garda-lockdown-powers-inappropriate-say-18366720)

Policy Officer, Deirdre Ní Cheallacháin, wrote an article on the Special Oireachtas Committee sessions on congregated settings from a human rights perspective

[:https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/views/analysis/state-has-responsibilities-to-human-rights-of-at-risk-people-1002821.html](https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/views/analysis/state-has-responsibilities-to-human-rights-of-at-risk-people-1002821.html)

Senior Research and Policy Officer, Doireann Ansbro, spoke on the Last Word radio programme on the right to protest during the pandemic

<https://www.todayfm.com/shows/last-word-matt-cooper-234816>

References to our advocacy work on the contact-tracing app

[:https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/data-protection-experts-publish-principles-for-contact-tracing-app-1.4269702](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/data-protection-experts-publish-principles-for-contact-tracing-app-1.4269702)

[:https://www.irishlegal.com/article/data-protection-experts-publish-framework-for-contact-tracing-apps](https://www.irishlegal.com/article/data-protection-experts-publish-framework-for-contact-tracing-apps)

[:https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/data-protection-experts-publish-principles-for-contact-tracing-app-1.4269702](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/data-protection-experts-publish-principles-for-contact-tracing-app-1.4269702)

[:https://www.lawsociety.ie/gazette/top-stories/eu-body-warns-on-pandemic-human-rights-infringements/](https://www.lawsociety.ie/gazette/top-stories/eu-body-warns-on-pandemic-human-rights-infringements/)

[:https://www.irishlegal.com/article/data-protection-experts-publish-framework-for-contact-tracing-apps](https://www.irishlegal.com/article/data-protection-experts-publish-framework-for-contact-tracing-apps)

[:https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0603/1145200-covid-app-contact-tracing-hse/](https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0603/1145200-covid-app-contact-tracing-hse/)

Surveillance & Human Rights Director, Elizabeth Farries spoke on the RTE radio 1 News at One on the contact-tracing app and our principled framework

[:https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21781216](https://www.rte.ie/radio/radioplayer/html5/#/radio1/21781216)

Executive Director, Liam Herrick, spoke to Virgin Media News on the contact-tracing app

[:https://twitter.com/virginmedianews/status/1268176862360096769?s=12](https://twitter.com/virginmedianews/status/1268176862360096769?s=12)

Policy Officer, Olga Cronin, spoke on CRC FM and Dundalk FM on the our principled framework published to inform government decisions in relation to the development of the contact-tracing app

Policy Officer, Deirdre Ní Cheallacháin, spoke on Raidio na Gaeltachta on our work during the pandemic

[: https://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast\\_ansaolodheas.xml](https://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast_ansaolodheas.xml)

## **Webinar on Surveillance & Covid-19**

We took part in a webinar co-organised with other INCLO members:

[: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKoGM9Z0s4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKoGM9Z0s4M)

## **Podcasts**

References to our work on the HSE contact-tracing app (around 30 minute mark):

[https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/una-and-andreas-united-ireland/id1464983578?  
i=1000476080759](https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/una-and-andreas-united-ireland/id1464983578?i=1000476080759)