



Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation

Cumann Altraí agus Ban Cabhrach na hÉireann
Working Together

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General Secretary
Phil Ni Sheaghdha

PNS/CC

4th September 2025

Mr Jim O'Callaghan TD
Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
51 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 1

Via email: info@justice.ie; jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

RE: Increasing Violence and Aggression towards Migrant Communities in Ireland

Dear Minister,

The National Executive Council of the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation met earlier this week, and concern was expressed regarding the increasing level of hostility and anti-social behaviour being experienced by Internationally Educated Nurses in public spaces. Several examples of this behaviour were given, illustrating the experiences of our members, particularly when leaving their places of employment and using public transport to get home.

Our members have expressed a real concern at this unwelcome development. In particular, a number of our members who have worked in Ireland for over 20 years, noted that these experiences were not a feature of their lives in Ireland prior to 2024/2025.

I have written directly to the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Health (attached) in respect of this matter. However, I am writing to you in relation to our members' safety on public transport and safety in public spaces. The nature of our members' work requires many to travel to and from their workplaces late in the evening, with many nurses finishing shifts between between 8pm and 9pm. This unquestionably increases the vulnerability of migrant nurses to the effects of hostility and anti-social behaviour.

The INMO supports the SIPTU campaign "Respect Transport Workers" for increased security on public transport and we ask that you consider the asks of this campaign as a matter of priority, and specifically its main aims identified as follows:

1. Establish a Public Transport Charter – A set of guidelines was planned as part of this campaign, outlining what behaviours are considered unacceptable on public transport. Displaying these guidelines widely on public transport would serve to educate people and make clear the penalties for anti-social behaviour.

2. Establish a Transport Forum – Under the 2008/9 Acts which set up the National Transport Authority (NTA) a body known as the National Transport Advisory Council was also to be established which was to involve key stakeholders (including the Trade Union movement). Its remit was to advise the NTA on matters appropriate to Public Transport.
3. Establish a dedicated Transport Policing Service – Such Policing Services exist across Europe and beyond. They invariably have powers of detention and arrest and operate across all modes of transport. This does not occur in Ireland, where security is limited to private operators on individual networks, who have no power of detention or arrest.

We are happy to discuss this further with you and set out examples. Our overriding concern is to keep our members safe and ensure they are not intimidated or subject to any anti-social behaviour either attending or departing from work.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and we look forward to your response.

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PHIL NÍ SHEAGHDHA

General Secretary

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