

Dublin Transport takes united stand against racism
'Dublin's Transport Links. Racism Divides'

March 21st, 2013

Dublin's main transport providers are using the 'European Week Against Racism' to take a united stand and drive home the message that there is no acceptable level of racism across any of their services.

A high profile publicity campaign across busses, trams, trains and taxis is being supported with staff training, improved monitoring and reporting of incidents.

The campaign is being supported by the National Transport Authority, Dublin Bus, Dublin City Council, Iarnród Éireann, Immigrant Council of Ireland and Veolia Transport.

Welcoming the initiative, Minister of State for Commuter Transport Alan Kelly said: "There's no room for racism on board public transport. The message *"Dublin's Transport Links - Racism Divides"* will be carried in advertising on buses, trams and trains. The transport companies are also bringing in internal measures which will benefit both the travelling public and staff.

"This united stand by the public transport companies sends out a strong message that racism is unacceptable, in any form, on the public transport network. I want to congratulate all the parties involved for raising awareness of this issue and protecting the safety of customers and staff."

Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive of the National Transport Authority said: "Neither transport users nor transport employees should ever be subject to racist comment or attack. We have taken this initiative, with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, to ensure that all transport staff are trained, and that high profile messaging is immediately visible across Dublin's transport modes – buses, trains and trams – stating clearly that we will not tolerate any racism".

Denise Charlton, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland said: "While we are currently responding to one serious racist incident a week, it is clear a lot more goes unreported. Complacency is one of the greatest barriers we must overcome in terms of racism and this united front will assure people that this is a problem which the operators are determined to confront.

"Research we have undertaken shows victims and witnesses have been reluctant to come forward fearing their complaint will not be taken serious or will not be acted upon. This campaign as well as the training and monitoring measures which the companies are implementing will help overcome these obstacles."

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