

WORKER'S BULLETIN

Updates from IWU Workers Across Ireland

Northside Homecare Action Still Underway despite Suspension of Shop Steward by Management



Sonya Borwick - Northside Homecare IWU Shop Steward

THIS month, our members in Northside Homecare Services Ltd. continued into their 5th month of dispute over the issue of pay parity.

The strike began following the suspension of Northside Homecare IWU shop steward, Sonya Borwick.

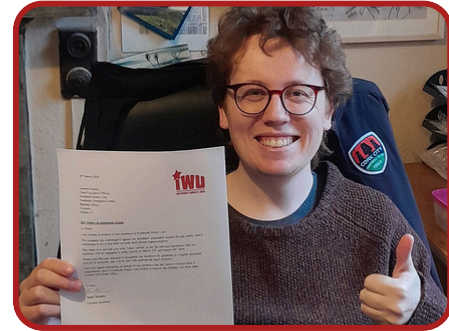
Our members took strike action on the 15th and 16th of April outside of Leinster House on the first day, where Micheál Martin was questioned about the lack of urgency which has been demonstrated in the response of the HSE to the crisis facing Health Care Assistants (HCAs). The second day of strike action took place in Coolock where members picketed the premises of their workplace.

The demand of pay parity made by our members arises out of a declassification of HCAs on tender contracts which occurred and led to our members being left out of a 9.25% pay rise despite performing the exact same work as other HCAs.

During a rapidly escalating cost of living crisis, Northside Homecare and the HSE are leaving our members out to dry.

Despite the suspension of Sonya, our members remain resolute, and have been outspoken in the fact that they will not give up on achieving pay parity for Section 39 HCAs.

DISPUTE UPDATE



Jamie Murphy - IWU General Secretary

IWU members currently have disputes in:

- Northside Homecare
- Stella Cinema
- Abtran
- Elephant & Castle
- Horizons/Cope Foundation
- Bidvest Noonan
- Brothers of Charity
- Krispy Kreme
- Tesco
- ISS
- Rentokill-Initial
- Marriott
- Rehab Group
- An Post
- Depaul

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Mayday 2026

This May 1st, IWU members will be joining May Day demonstrations across Ireland. May Day, or International Workers Day, is a day of militant working class struggle that has been celebrated around the world for 140 years.

As working conditions grow worse in Ireland, as employers ramp up their attacks against workers trying to unionise for basic demands, it becomes clear that the only way out for workers in Ireland

is joining the organised struggle against the employers for fair work and a dignified life.

The IWU encourages all members to attend their local May Day demonstration under the slogan: **Our lives and our needs or their profits!**



Abtran - The Start of New Action



The Abtran campaign restarted in 2026 but the fight at Abtran goes back to 2024. Workers launched pay claims. Management sacked campaign leader Stephen Foster. He fought back and won €60,000 for unfair dismissal but the campaign stalled.

Now it's back. and there's a plan to win higher salaries and better working conditions. First Abtran workers are working toward 100 survey responses. They're at 50% and climbing! Next, the 90% rule: A picture petition with workers' demands won't go to management until over 90% of the Cork site signs. Finally, the petition with worker's demands will be delivered to management and if demands aren't met, the workers will be in an ironclad position to take action.

The recent reintroduction of the 15 minute break didn't come from management's good will, it came from workers applying pressure and the next win will too. Nothing changes unless you and your coworkers take action. The door to a chance at a better life is open, the only question is: are you ready to fight your boss?

A Whirlwind at Tesco Express, Douglas Road, Cork

Whirlwind is the only word to describe what's been happening at Tesco Express on Douglas Road over the past few weeks.

For the last year, an IWU union rep has been organising inside this shop. They rallied their coworkers many of whom had never joined a union before, to submit a collective grievance about the sexual harassment and racism they said they were experiencing from their shift leaders.

According to the workers, the shop manager, just one rung above shift leaders ignored the workers' concerns. When the collective grievance finally forced his hand, he tried to isolate them by holding individual meetings instead of addressing the group.

An investigation was scheduled. But soon after, workers overheard the same shift leaders joking and laughing about the grievance and mocking the workers for standing up for themselves. There was no sign of any reprimand for the shift leaders' gross misconduct.

So the workers took a vote: should they take industrial action?

The answer was yes.

IWU union reps walked into that Tesco Express, asked for the manager, and served him the notice. The whole interaction was recorded and went viral on Instagram and Facebook.

The weeks since have been filled with tension and determination as workers and Tesco prepare for the confrontation ahead.

Meanwhile, our union rep on Douglas Road has been sacked by Tesco. Their offence? Talking to workers in the Dennehy's Cross shop. Tesco has sacked a worker for speaking with colleagues in another shop but still hasn't disciplined a single shift leader regarding the collective grievance submitted by staff.

This is why you and your coworkers need to organise. There is power in the union.

