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Claire Mahon, President
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The Irish Nurses & Midwives Organisation
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Dear Irish Colleagues,

The Icelandic Nurses Association (INA) represents all nurses in Iceland. Its members enjoy the right of civilised negotiation between employer and employee on their rights and salaries.

The INA has received news that Irish nurses and the Irish healthcare system has been hit by its own government. The Irish Department of Health's program offering only 80% starting salaries to newly graduated nurses, without any collective salary agreement is called "New Graduate Jobs Initiative"

According to the Oxford English dictionary an initiative is "an act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something". Surely the "New Graduate Jobs Initiative" is intended to solve the problems the Department of Health is facing, but the INA finds that it is by far an improvement. It contradicts the stated mission of the Irish Government Health Department which can be found on the departments own website.

"To improve the health and well-being of people in Ireland in a manner that promotes better health for everyone, fair access, responsive and appropriate care delivery, and high performance"

The INA finds that nurses participating in the program are set aside and their well being not improved; rather they have their right to civilised ways of negotiation of salaries and rights taken away from them. Improving the health and well-being of people in Ireland works both ways and therefore must include nurses as well as their clients.

The INA calls up on all nurses in Ireland to boycott the Initiative as it is a threat to their working environment, their professional existence and personal economical welfare.

With regards

Elsa B. Friðfinnsdóttir

President

Jón Aðalbjörn Jónsson

International Secretary