

Launch of U.S. ↔ Irish Driver's License Exchange Campaign

Safe Home Ireland in collaboration with a broad range of [individuals and organisations from both the U.S. and Ireland](#) has launched a dedicated campaign to advance the reciprocal exchange of U.S./Irish drivers licences. This campaign is inspired by [real stories of people](#) who have returned home and faced significant barriers in their return. The campaign aims to eliminate such barriers by establishing reciprocity agreements between Ireland and U.S. states.

Many members, including [Safe Home Ireland](#), have advocated individually for driver's license reciprocity, but this marks the first time a collective, coordinated effort has been launched. Together, the committee is working to secure reciprocity agreements with Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, California, and New Jersey, aiming to streamline mobility and reduce barriers for Irish citizens and U.S. residents alike. This aligns with the recently published *Irish Programme for Government 2025* which has 'committed to work to *facilitate the easier return to Ireland for emigrants, including reciprocal driving licence arrangements with the USA, Australia and Canada and the creation of a one-stop-support to assist with obtaining PPS numbers and other administrative issues*'

In Ireland, drivers can exchange a licence from an [EU/EEA country](#) for an Irish one. Additionally, Ireland has established reciprocal licence exchange agreements with several non-European countries, known as '[recognised states](#)'. These agreements allow licence holders from certain countries to exchange their licences for an Irish one without the need for additional testing.

However, despite Ireland's longstanding relationship with the United States, no such agreement exists for U.S. licence holders. This means that returning Irish and American drivers face a complex, costly, and time-consuming process to obtain an Irish licence—a challenge that drivers from other recognised states do not encounter. The lack of a U.S.-Ireland licence exchange agreement is an outdated gap in our otherwise strong bilateral ties.

Many countries in Europe have successfully implemented reciprocal licence agreements with several U.S. States, ensuring safety while reducing administrative burdens. Ireland has an opportunity to do the same - benefiting both returning Irish and Americans moving here to work, study, or reconnect with family.

For more information and to join our mailing list to keep informed about the latest updates and progress on the *Irish-U.S. Driver's License Exchange Campaign* see website [HERE](#)

Take action today – sign up now and be part of this crucial step toward improving international mobility and community support. Together, we can make a difference!

Committee Chairs:

Karen Mc Hugh, CEO, [Safe Home Ireland](#); **Emily Ashinurst**, Executive Director, [Irish Diaspora Center](#), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; **Ciaran Staunton**, Recipient, [Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, 2022](#)

Hashtags for Social Media

#USIrelandLicenseExchange #DrivingReciprocity #USIrelandLicenseExchange