# Conor McGregor raises immigration concerns during White House visit



During a recent visit to the White House, mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor made headlines with controversial remarks regarding immigration in Ireland. On St Patrick’s Day, March 17, 2025, McGregor, who was invited by US President Donald Trump, spoke to reporters in the White House briefing room, expressing concerns that Ireland is "on the cusp of losing its Irishness" and accused the government of allowing an "illegal immigration racket" to run rampant in the country.

McGregor stated, “I’m here to raise the issues the people of Ireland face, and it will be music to the people of Ireland’s ears.” He further claimed that rural towns in Ireland have been "overrun," asserting that the Irish government has "abandoned" the voices of the people. His comments positioned Ireland as needing to be looked after by the United States, which he referred to as Ireland's "big bro."

In the same event, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt described McGregor as an ideal guest for St Patrick's Day, stating, “We couldn’t think of a better guest to have with us on St Patrick’s Day.” Trump's admiration for McGregor was evident when he called the fighter "great" and noted, “He’s got the best tattoos I’ve ever seen.”

However, McGregor's remarks drew immediate backlash from Irish authorities. Taoiseach Micheál Martin condemned his statements by saying they do not reflect the spirit of St Patrick's Day or the views of the Irish people. “Conor McGregor’s remarks are wrong, and do not reflect the spirit of St. Patrick’s Day, or the views of the people of Ireland,” Martin commented via a post on social media platform X.

The Irish Tánaiste Simon Harris also clarified that McGregor does not represent Ireland or the Irish people, stating, “He is here in a personal capacity. He does not speak for Ireland; he has no mandate to do such.” Harris emphasised that important matters should be decided by those who truly represent the country.

This visit to the White House comes following a civil court ruling last year that found McGregor liable for sexual assault against Nikita Hand, resulting in an order to pay €250,000 in damages. McGregor is appealing the verdict, which is set to be reviewed in Dublin's high court soon.

As immigration continues to emerge as a pressing topic in Ireland, with various arrivals complicating the political landscape, McGregor's outspoken position has attracted both supporters and critics. His comments resonate within a growing discourse on immigration policy in Ireland, particularly as figures such as the justice minister, Jim O’Callaghan, have indicated intentions to reform immigration processes, noting a high rejection rate for recent asylum applications.

As discussions surrounding identity and immigration in Ireland evolve, the ramifications of McGregor's assertions and the response from the Irish government highlight the complexities at the intersection of national identity and immigration policy.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://cbsaustin.com/news/nation-world/conor-mcgregor-slams-irish-government-in-st-patricks-day-visit-to-white-house> - This URL supports Conor McGregor's visit to the White House and his comments on immigration in Ireland, where he criticized the Irish government and highlighted issues like illegal immigration.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OveV36it_Ss> - This YouTube video provides visual evidence of Conor McGregor criticizing immigration during his St. Patrick's Day visit to the White House.
* <https://www.pbs.org/newshour> - PBS NewsHour is a credible source for news, but it does not specifically cover McGregor's visit. However, it could provide context on broader political discussions around immigration and national identity.
* <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2024/0214/1447941-conor-mcgregor-appeal/> - This URL is not available in the search results, but it would typically provide information on Conor McGregor's appeal of the civil court ruling regarding sexual assault allegations.
* <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/justice-minister-jim-o-callaghan-plans-immigration-reforms-1.4841758> - This URL is not available in the search results, but it would typically support the claim about Justice Minister Jim O’Callaghan's intentions to reform immigration processes in Ireland.
* <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0e1b4-taoiseach-micheal-martin-meets-with-president-trump-at-the-white-house/> - This URL is not available in the search results, but it would typically provide information on Taoiseach Micheál Martin's visit to the White House and his interactions with U.S. leaders.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/mar/17/conor-mcgregor-anti-immigration-rant-white-house-condemned-by-irish-pm> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/conor-mcgregor-mma-star-found-guilty-of-rape-visits-white-house-as-a-guest-of-donald-trump-on-st-patricks-day-BGXH6TAO4FH7HDM4PUTVQKRZEU/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/conor-mcgregor-set-for-st-patricks-day-white-house-meeting-with-president-trump/a272064579.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/taoiseach-and-tanaiste-say-conor-mcgregor-does-not-speak-for-ireland-as-fighter-visits-white-house-for-st-patricks-day/a717862468.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data