STATEMENT FROM AKIDWA — The Network of Migrant Women in Ireland

Condemning the Unnecessary Death of Yves Sakila and Calling for Justice, Protection, and Support for People of African Descent in Ireland

19 May 2026

AkiDwA expresses deep sadness and solidarity following the death of Yves Sakila, a Congolese man who had lived in Ireland since his teenage years. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, loved ones, and the Congolese and wider African community in Ireland.

The footage circulating online has caused significant distress and raised serious concerns within Black, African, and migrant communities. No person should lose their life in circumstances that create such fear, trauma, and public concern.

While investigations by An Garda Síochána and Fiosrú are ongoing, it is essential that they are conducted independently, transparently, and thoroughly.

This tragic incident highlights the continued impact of racism, harmful narratives, and discrimination experienced by many minority ethnic communities in Ireland. As recognised in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), people of African descent continue to face racism, exclusion, and structural inequalities that require urgent action and sustained support.

AkiDwA believes African communities and people of African descent in Ireland need stronger protection, investment, and support to ensure safety, dignity, participation, and equal treatment in all areas of society. We also call on Ireland to formally launch and support the Second International Decade for People of African Descent as part of a renewed commitment to anti-racism, justice, recognition, and equality.

AkiDwA calls for a full and impartial investigation, responsible public discourse free from racial stereotyping and misinformation, and stronger action to promote equality, dignity, and protection for all people living in Ireland.

AkiDwA remains committed to challenging racism and supporting inclusive, safe communities for everyone.

Dr. Salome Mbugua
CEO- AkiDwA