

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

In the hands of the people

A Letter From Ireland

a Chairde,

I once became friends with a novice Buddhist monk in Australia. We would meet at a meditation class and afterward would grab a cup of tea. His family had emigrated from Ireland. He wanted to know about Ireland and I wanted to know about his journey. I was giving off one day about the slowness of progress and Mick said, "You should always thank those who keep you waiting as they teach you patience."

I was reminded of those words this week. The DUP again blocked government formation in the North. We have been two years without a government or operating North-South Institutions.

Today is Thursday, January 18th. Ireland is freezing, and snow is expected. In the North, the largest 24-hour public-sector strike in the history of the state is underway leaving schools closed and roads ungritted. They are protesting that their promised pay increase has not been paid.

The British government has committed to fund the pay rise, but claims that it cannot be administered because there is no government in the North.

The same British government is legally obligated to call an election if the institutions are not re-established by midnight on January 18th.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

continue to enable the DUP blockade unless it is matched by a change in policy. The exclusive process of talks between the British and the DUP has not delivered.

The British appear to have learned nothing over the past two years. A new approach is required.

All of this is frustrating for the majority of parties who want to be in a functioning government. It erodes public confidence in the political process which can give way to cynicism.

The DUP have been given time and space to resolve their internal difficulties. Patience has been afforded to the party. Patience does not mean just sitting back and accepting delay. It means not getting annoyed at those who keep you waiting. It also means to continue to work despite the challenges.

The DUP can stay outside the process, and the British and Irish governments can bring forward a contingency plan to safeguard the agreements and progress.

Previously the two governments reconvened the North-South Ministerial Council and progressed all Ireland working. The same can also happen with British-Irish bodies.

The alternative to the Government is the North is not direct rule from London, but a new partnership between the British and Irish Governments. This is provided for in the Agreements. These are good, common sense, temporary arrangements in the absence of a government in the North.

Ultimately the long-term future of the institutions is in the hands of the people, because the Agreement also provides for unity referendums. While we deal with the immediate issues and look at temporary contingencies, it is the people who will decide on the issue of continued division or Irish Unity. We will continue to patiently work to that end.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Full remarks by Michelle O'Neill to Assembly sitting

Mr. Acting Speaker,

We meet in a last-ditch attempt to elect a Speaker, and to form an Executive.

We do so as the DUP continue their boycott, refusing to do their jobs.

For two years now we have been told that the basis of their boycott is in opposition to the Brexit Protocol.

The British Prime Minister revisited those arrangements and after more negotiations with the European Union, the Windsor Framework was agreed.

Yet, the DUP turned their nose up at it.

This has caused damaging economic uncertainty alongside political instability here.

To placate the DUP further the British Government entered direct two-way negotiations with Jeffrey Donaldson.

In taking what we knew was a misguided and flawed approach; to the exclusion of the other parties and the Irish Government as co-guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement they have got nowhere.

Before Christmas the British Secretary of State announced their Talks with the DUP have now ended.

And yet, Jeffrey Donaldson remains in suspended animation, undecided.

All the while, children with special educational needs and their parents suffer, patients on waiting lists crippled with pain suffer and our wider society suffers.

This indecision is hampering the £3.3bn that was put on the table. And now that much needed money hangs in the balance.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Public sector workers cannot be punished for the DUP failures.

The Tories have chronically underfunded the Executive for over a decade.

And now they scandalously use this money as ransom, ransom on their own terms.

A ransom that is causing financial pain to public services and our public sector workers.

This is nothing more than scandalous.

Tomorrow 170,000 workers will take unavoidable general strike action - our nurses, doctors, civil servants, train drivers, bus drivers, teachers and education workers, police support staff, and essentially our entire public administration.

It represents the single biggest day of industrial action in a generation.

These workers should not have had to take to the streets.

Because of the DUPs inaction, Politics is stalled indefinitely, and our public services are at a standstill.

Today is the seventh attempt since the Assembly election to restore this Assembly, and Executive.

To date the DUP refuse to respect the democratic outcome of that election.

However, my message to the DUP is still to join with us, work with us, let us get round the Executive table and make a difference to people's lives.

I stand for mature, pragmatic politics where irrespective of your social, religious, or political background I see it as my duty to fairly stand -up for everyone in our society, across all communities, and to represent the Northern Ireland Executive as a "First Minister for All".

Regrettably, the approach of the DUP Leader is jeopardising vital public services, including health and education, with no clear explanation for stalling Executive formation.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

credibility.

Few people out there know what the DUP are talking about, and fewer care because it's not for the common good.

The hardship and suffering, the bread-and-butter issues for workers, families, households and businesses is what counts and it's what the DUP refuse to prioritise.

The only remaining explanation for the DUP boycott is the refusal to accept a nationalist First Minister.

There is a dangerous attempt underway to discard the democratic outcome of the Assembly election, and this threatens our democratic governance, public administration, reconciliation, and the fabric of this society.

If Jeffrey Donaldson does not change his approach, then this sitting may well be the final one of this Assembly.

I fear that the democratic institutions of the Good Friday Agreement are in free-fall.

And while this is reprehensible, those are the hard facts before us.

At midnight tomorrow, the statutory legislation underpinning Executive Formation falls if not restored by then.

The statutory duty is placed upon the Secretary of State thereafter to call another Assembly election.

Those are the rules.

However, Mr. Heaton-Harris signalled to the parties on Monday that he intends to introduce new legislation at Westminster to change those rules and extend the deadline.

If it is the case that the DUP will not respect the outcome of the election and restore democracy, then there is an obligation on both the British and Irish Governments to look at Plan B – a British-Irish partnership that provides joint stewardship and an

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The public looking on here today are not seeing the change they voted for.

If the DUP position of obstruction remains unchanged, then it is imperative that a change of direction within the constitutional framework of the Good Friday Agreement is now advanced.

If there are some within the DUP who think that by crashing the institutions that they will also crash the Good Friday Agreement itself, they are wrong – the Good Friday Agreement will prevail.

Go raibh maith agat.



Irish Unity Summit - March 1, 2024 - NYC

Join us for an historic event of guest speakers, panels, music, Q & A, and more! Free, but registration is required and limited. [Tickets are available right now](#) - click the image below and register today!

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

IRISH UNITY SUMMIT

FOR A NEW AND
UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024
1:00PM - 6:00PM

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



MARY LOU McDONALD
PRESIDENT OF SINN FÉIN

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



NIALL MURPHY
FOUNDER, IRELAND'S FUTURE
BOARD, RELATIVES FOR JUSTICE

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



OLAMAJEK OLUWALAN
BROADCASTER, WRITER,
PRODUCER, BOARD OF
FORAS NA GAELIGE

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



BRENDAN O'LEARY
AUTHOR & PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



SOPHIE COLGAN
HOST OF THE PODCAST:
NAVIGATING NEW YORK

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

**IRISH UNITY
SUMMIT**
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

MARCH
1ST 2024

THE
GREAT
HALL AT
COOPER
UNION
NYC

SPECIAL GUESTS, PANELS,
MUSIC, & MORE
INCLUDING



GLENN BRADLEY
FORMER BRITISH SOLDIER
PEACE ACTIVIST

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

ADMISSION IS FREE
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON
JANUARY 15, 2024

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

We are sharing an unprecedented moment in history. The path to a new and united Ireland is clearer than ever.

Your support is vital to ensuring we can continue to make progress on this journey.

By becoming a Champion for Change, you provide stable and sustainable support for the journey on the path to a new and United Ireland.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN USA

**NEWS,
ANALYSIS
& EVENTS**

Your donation makes it all possible!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Friends of Sinn Féin is registered with the Department of Justice, Washington D.C. under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of Sinn Féin. This material and the registration statement are on file and available for inspection at the Department of Justice and on their website www.fara.gov. Registration does not imply approval by the United States Government.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)