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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Progress is possible, & the future is ours to write

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

The election of Michelle O'Neill as First Minister in the North of Ireland was truly historic. A measure of how far we have traveled on the road to peace and equality. A tangible symbol of the fundamental changes in society.

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald spoke of progressing the cause of Irish Unity. The response of others was predictable and a measure of how far we have yet to travel. Unionists, political opponents, and British Ministers feigned shock and horror. Words lost all meaning. Talk of unity was divisive, and the future cannot be contemplated.

Michelle O'Neill stated that she would be a First Minister for all. She committed to respect all traditions and work for the common good.

Some called for her to stop talking about the potential of Irish Unity and focus solely on the immediate work. As if it was impossible to work today and plan for tomorrow. Evidentially those promoting this approach have never witnessed the ability of an Irish woman to multitask.

While some have tried to minimise the significance of the election or close down the discussion on Irish Unity, the British Government have decided to oppose the concept

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The Good Friday Agreement is explicit on the equal legitimacy of those who favor Irish unity and those who favor continued partition. It will be up to the people of the island of Ireland alone to determine their constitutional future in referendums free from external impediments.

The same agreement places an obligation on the Government with jurisdiction to act with “rigorous impartiality”.

This British government has now aligned itself with the Unionist political minority.

It brought forward an 80-page document entitled, “Safeguarding the Union” in which it explicitly stated that it was not neutral on the constitutional question. The document brought forward policies, plans, and proposals to promote continued partition.

From the establishment of the state, the British have maintained that they were neutral peacekeepers acting on the wishes of a majority. That fiction is now exposed. They are players taking a side in a divided community.

The partisan actions of this current British Government undermine its credibility in the setting and running of a unity Referendum.

These actions have the potential to undermine years of progress and are a challenge to the Good Friday Agreement. The US as guarantors of the agreement should remind the British of their obligations and need for democracy free from their partisan interventions.

The election of Michelle O'Neill charts a new future for Ireland. The new executive will face many challenges in delivering public services and building prosperity. It does not need a partisan British Government acting to undermine the democratic process of the Good Friday Agreement.

A nationalist First Minister demonstrates that progress is possible, and the future is ours to write.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

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Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

February Video Update

This month, we learn more about the historic election of Michelle O'Neill, the upcoming Irish Unity Summit, and more. Watch and share!



America Responds to Historic Election of Michelle O'Neill to First Minister

As news of the historic election of the first Irish nationalist First Minister made its way around the world, American political leaders responded with congratulations and optimism.

United States President Joe Biden released a statement on Saturday saying “I welcome and strongly support the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly at Stormont, and I commend the political leaders of Northern Ireland for taking the necessary steps to restore these core institutions.

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Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the democratic institutions it established remain critical for the future of Northern Ireland, and a government that finds ways through hard problems together will draw even greater opportunity to Northern Ireland.

“I look forward to seeing the renewed stability of a power-sharing government that strengthens the peace dividend, restores public services, and continues building on the immense progress of the last decades.

“This is an important step, and I am confident that through consistent dialogue and ongoing cooperation with both the United Kingdom and Ireland, Stormont’s restoration will facilitate the critical North-South and East-West relations vital to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, and ensure that Northern Ireland will continue to be vibrant and dynamic, defined by unlimited opportunity for all who call it home.”

Representative Richard Neal of Massachusetts said, “Congratulations to Michelle O’Neill on her election to serve as First Minister of Northern Ireland – the first Irish nationalist leader in history to hold the seat. The people made their voices heard in two successive elections, & now the parties can resume the people’s business.”

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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!

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IRISH UNITY SUMMIT

FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND



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SOPHIE COLGAN



CHRISTINE KINEALY

THE GREAT HALL
AT COOPER
UNION

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

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 Nationalists take top job in Northern Ireland - a day that will live in history

The election of Michelle O'Neill as First Minister of Northern Ireland "was met not with a sense of triumph but optimism."

When Michelle O'Neill was elected as First Minister, I received messages from friends saying that they wished their grandparents had lived to see this day. The appointment was historic and symbolic. It was also emotional.

To be understood, it must be placed in the context of the Irish Catholic and Nationalist experience in the six counties.

When Ireland was partitioned by the British 103 years ago, the new Northern State was 66% protestant and nearly completely British Unionist. The one-third Catholic and

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The new structures of government would be in the terms of one of its architects, “a protestant parliament for a protestant people.” For over 50 years, the North was in effect a single-party unionist state.

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