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UNITED IRELAND

What's possible when peace with justice becomes the priority

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I am back in Ireland for a week before heading to Washington for engagements over the week of St. Patrick's Day.

I am still reeling from the success of the Irish Unity Summit in New York. The reviews are in and all are positive. In fact, of all the events I have been involved in, this is the only one that got universal commendation. For a room of over 600 mostly Irish and Irish Americans, that is no mean feat.

Hats off to Greg as well as to the team of volunteers who turned up on the day to give up their time. No job was too big or too small. I knew it would be a good day when the volunteer list was oversubscribed. People wanted to play their part.

The political standout was the wide diversity of speakers brought together with the shared hope of creating a better Ireland, excited by the opportunity to build a new and united Ireland.

I believe that positivity is contagious. Speaker after speaker acknowledged the challenges but all also agreed that these are outweighed by the opportunities. There was a sense in the room that change was coming, and those present were determined to have their say.

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that the future was ours to write.

This event is the start of a new discussion, the opportunity of Irish unity, and how it can be brought about.

I strongly believe that the people in Cooper Union will look back and remember the day when the potential for change was led bare. The day when a unity of purpose was found that would go on to deliver a united Ireland.

The discussion continues. We will be in Washington celebrating the Good Friday Agreement, discussing current developments, and promoting Irish Unity. We will also address global issues.

The Good Friday Agreement remains a foreign policy success. It ended the longest period of continuous conflict in Irish history. A conflict that was deemed intractable. Conflict is now in the past and political differences are dealt with politically. The future is in the hands of the people.

This visit to Washington coincides with continued conflict and starvation in Gaza. Starvation has haunted the Irish for generations. We know the cost of conflict and the value of peace. Conflicts are made and can be resolved.

We will bring not only Ireland to the US but also the potential for peace. This requires immediate ceasefires, rendering of humanitarian aid, the release of all hostages, and a political process to secure a two-state solution.

It is incompatible to call for peace while sustaining conflict, to call a war just while breaking international law.

The US made a positive contribution to the cause of peace in Ireland, and it can do the same in Gaza. Ireland and our peace process demonstrates what is possible when peace with justice becomes the priority.

Have a good weekend and I hope to see you on the road.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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Irish Unity Summit Pictures and Videos

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald gave a keynote address that kicked off an historic event attended and viewed by hundreds of people from all across the country and overseas.

Panels, conversations, new connections, and interviews were punctuated by world-class music and a review of the work and goals of the seven largest Irish American organizations in the country.

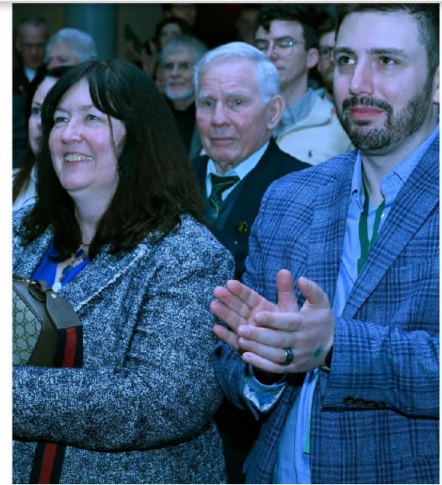
More pictures to come on our social media this week, so be sure you're [following us on all the channels](#).



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Irish Unity Summit - Watch, share, and find your favorite moments

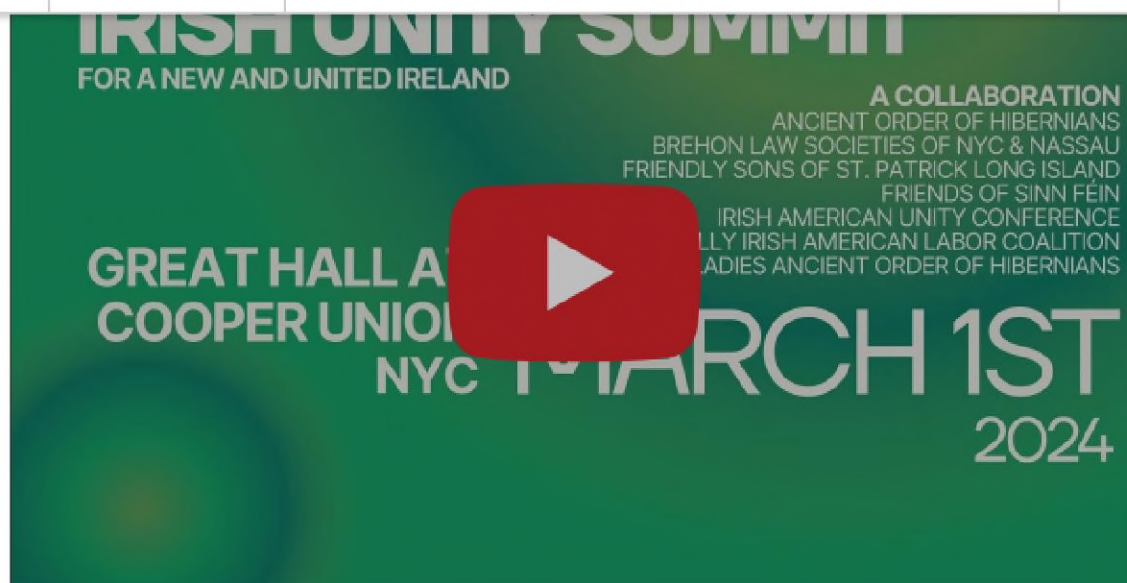
Watch the Irish Unity Summit for the first time, go back and listen to a panel for references and new ideas, or relive your favorite parts. The whole day was captured and is available now for you to watch.

Part One

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Part Two



Part Three

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Britain's Ambassador must account for disgraceful behaviour of government and MI5 during Sean Brown murder inquest – Senator Paul Gavan

Sinn Féin Senator Paul Gavan has called on the Government to call in Britain's Ambassador to Dublin to account for the disgraceful behaviour of the British government and its intelligence agency MI5 during the inquest into the murder of Sean Brown.

Three days ago in a Belfast court the Coroner had to halt the inquest into the murder of Mr Brown by the LVF loyalists, a family man and leading figure in the local GAA in Bellaghy.

Speaking in the Seanad, Senator Gavan said, "Shocking revelations of collusion between Britain's intelligence agency MI5 and loyalists in the Belfast Coroners Court this week resulted in the coroner halting the inquest into the killing by loyalists Sean Brown.

"The Coroner did so because the British government's intelligence agency MI5 has refused for over a year to supply the coroner with vital information it has in its

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“It was revealed in court that a number of British state agents, loyalists, were among 25 people suspected of being involved in the murder of Mr Brown.

“In addition to this it was stated that MI5 had the loyalist killers under surveillance for some time and did not prevent the killing.

“One of two intelligence files relating to the surveillance, which can only be viewed by those vetted and approved by MI5, has 56 pages of information blanked out, unreadable.

“The Ombudsman, Nuala O Loan’s investigation into Mr Brown’s killing found ‘significant failures’ in the investigation, and ‘no effort was made to identify those who carried out the murder’ and the scenes of crime investigation were superficial and perfunctory.

“In addition her investigation was ‘seriously impeded’ by the ‘unexplained disappearance’ of official and secure documents like the ‘Murder Investigation Police File’ and the ‘Occurrence Book’.

“The appalling treatment by the British government, through its intelligence agency MI5 of the Brown family and the justice system comes less than a week after a judge in another Belfast court said the British government’s Legacy Bill of shame failed to meet international human rights standards.

“The Irish government has correctly, and I commend it, taken the British government to the International Court of Human Rights over its Legacy Bill.

“The government should call in the British Ambassador to account for the disgraceful behaviour of the British government and its intelligence agency MI5 during the inquest into the murder of Sean Brown.”

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Diaspora For Unity

DIASPORA AR SON NA hAONTACHTA

St Patrick's Day Social Media Campaign

Feachtas na meánsóisialta do Lá le Pádraig

Ask your
family and
friends abroad
to record a
10 second
clip calling
for Irish
Unity



*Clips should be filmed from a recognisable landmark if possible and sent by WeTransfer to **sinnfeinpress@gmail.com** by Tuesday 12th March.*

*Videos should be posted on
St Patrick's Day with the hashtag*

#Diaspora4Unity

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