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UNITED IRELAND

A staggering level of political entitlement

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I made it back to Ireland in time to witness the appointment of a new Taoiseach. Simon Harris, the new leader of Fine Gael, was elected by the Dáil (Irish Parliament) to head a coalition government alongside Fianna Fáil, and the Green Party. His nomination was supported by several “independent” TDs.

After returning from Washington following St. Patrick’s week, Leo Varadkar made the surprise announcement that he was standing down as Taoiseach. The current government has less than ten months left to operate. The Electoral Act of 1992 says that no Dáil can sit for more than 5 years from its first date of meeting, so the next election must take place before March 22, 2025. With local and European elections also set for early June, it seems that the outgoing Taoiseach believed that he was not best placed to lead his party into the elections.

Fine Gael has led the government for over 13 years.

Simon Harris takes over a party at a time when a number of his senior colleagues have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election. It is as if they, too, have seen the writing on the wall.

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Minister and now Taoiseach Simon Harris.

In 2020, Sinn Féin emerged as the largest party. Since the foundation of the state, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have controlled both government and opposition. They were interchangeable and indistinguishable.

Following the 2020 election, both parties broke with history (and election promises) and went into government together with the sole purpose of excluding Sinn Féin. The Green Party joined the government to make up the difference needed.

As part of the deal, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael decided on a deal where the Taoiseach's position would be shared. Fianna Fáil for the first half of the term and Fine Gael for the second half. A rotating Taoiseach. All without going to the people to decide who would lead. It has been a staggering level of political entitlement from parties that have been in power for one hundred years.

Not surprisingly from a government formed on exclusion they end their term with increased homelessness, increased housing costs, increased health care waiting lists, and an increased cost of living.

This is a government that has lacked ambition and vision. They have refused to plan, prepare, or advocate for Irish Unity. They promised continuity as a cover for a lack of coherent strategy. Our people and our economy continue to pay the price.

So we now have a third Taoiseach since the 2020 election with voters relegated to the role of spectators.

A "new" leader that promises more of the same is good for neither the political system nor the people.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Mary Lou McDonald responds to the nomination of Taoiseach

Ceann Comhairle,

Our great country faces real challenges and big opportunities. The decisions that we take now directly affect our people today and for the future. I believe that our prospects can be so bright.

When all is said and done politics is about choices. Good politics is about making the right choices.

Today, for the third time in four years you present your choice for Taoiseach. For the third time you rearrange the cabinet deckchairs. For the third time in four years, you pat each other on the backs, and tell the people what a great job you're doing. The narrative today from the government is a fairytale so outrageous that Hans Christian Anderson himself would be proud of it. For people to believe the spin from government benches, they would have to suspend all connection to reality, and any memory of people's lived experiences. On the things that really matter to workers and families you have comprehensively failed, and no amount of bragging or bluster can disguise that fact.

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Easter 2024 in North America - More News & Photos



Philadelphia

On April 7, Tar Anall America hosted Philadelphia's annual Easter Rising Commemoration at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yeadon, PA. A large group of dedicated Irish activists visited the graves of three champions of Irish freedom from the Philadelphia area. Luke Dillon (1848-1930), from Co Sligo known as "Dynamite Luke, Danny Cahalane (1924-1980) from Co Cork, and Joseph McGarrity (1874-1940) from Carrickmore, Co Tyrone.

Joseph McGarrity is Philadelphia's direct link to the 1916 Easter Rising. At 18 years of age, McGarrity arrived in America penniless, with nothing to his name. Over the years he became very successful in business. At the direct request of Padraig Pearse, McGarrity provided financial support to the Irish volunteers. He participated in the purchase and delivery of 1500 Mauser rifles and 49,000 rounds of ammunition that were used in the 1916 Easter Rising. At that time, McGarrity personally hosted important leaders of the Rising including Thomas Clarke, Padraig Pearse, Roger Casement and Eamon De Valera. McGarrity's grandchildren were present to lay the wreath and spread Irish soil: "Since you

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Proclamation was read by Co Tyrone native Gary McKernan...[read more here.](#)

Chicago

Nearly two hundred people gathered on Saturday, March 30 in the Erin Ballroom at the Irish Heritage Center in Chicago for Clan na Gael's 2024 Easter Commemoration.

The event honored Colin Fagan of Irish Northern Aid and they hosted guest speaker Sinn Féin Mid Ulster MLA, Emma Sheerin.



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Reflections on The Good Friday Agreement: 25 Years of Peace and Progress - new HD Video

Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Former President of the United States Bill Clinton, and former President of Sinn Féin Gerry Adams shared their reflections and insights from the process.

A high-definition recording of the event is now available and [you can click below to watch.](#)

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Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Board visits Ireland

The national board of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians visited Ireland this week for meetings across the country.

They met with First Minister Michell O'Neill on Tuesday and later with Ireland's Future representatives Andrée Murphy & Karen Sethuraman on themes of peace building, understanding and our shared future.

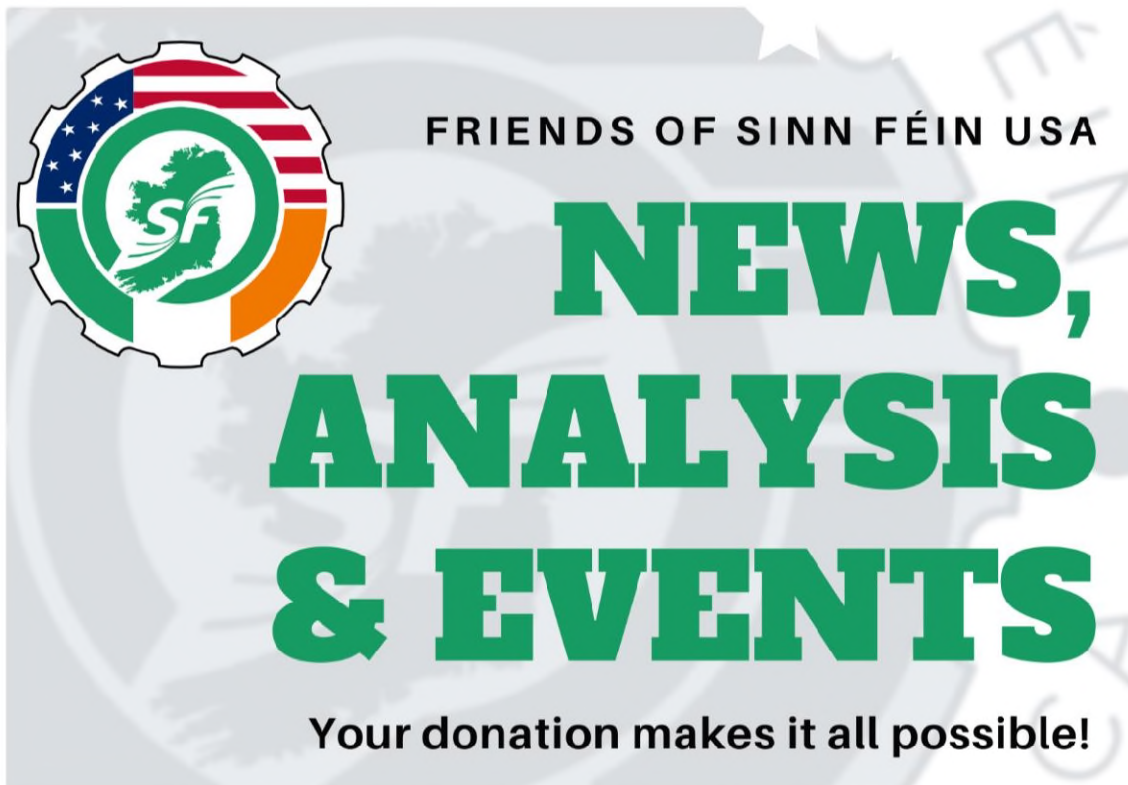
They then met with Relative for Justice who said that they were grateful that they "came to the Clonoe Inquest to provide solidarity to the families and to bear witness to the devastating evidence."



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We provide the latest news and analysis every week via our newsletter and every month on our video updates. We let you know about events all across the country and we organize and host events like the recent Irish Unity Summit. We bring Sinn Féin members over for community meetings and political briefings and updates. All of that is possible thanks to your donations and your support. When you donate to Friends of Sinn Féin, you make it all possible. Please make a gift today, and if you're able, make it monthly. Thank you!

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A New Ireland for All: Ending Sectarian Segregation – Michelle O'Neill releases new Sinn Féin document

Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill today released a new Sinn Féin document focused on ending sectarian segregation and building a new Ireland for all.

Speaking at the event, she said, "We must work together, in political leadership and in local communities, to tackle sectarianism and segregation."

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a more equal, respectful, integrated and inclusive society.

“For far too long our communities have been living back-to-back, it’s now long overdue that we strive forward together side-by-side and build that brighter, better future for everyone.

“That is the vision that I am committed to and I will work everyday to bring about.”

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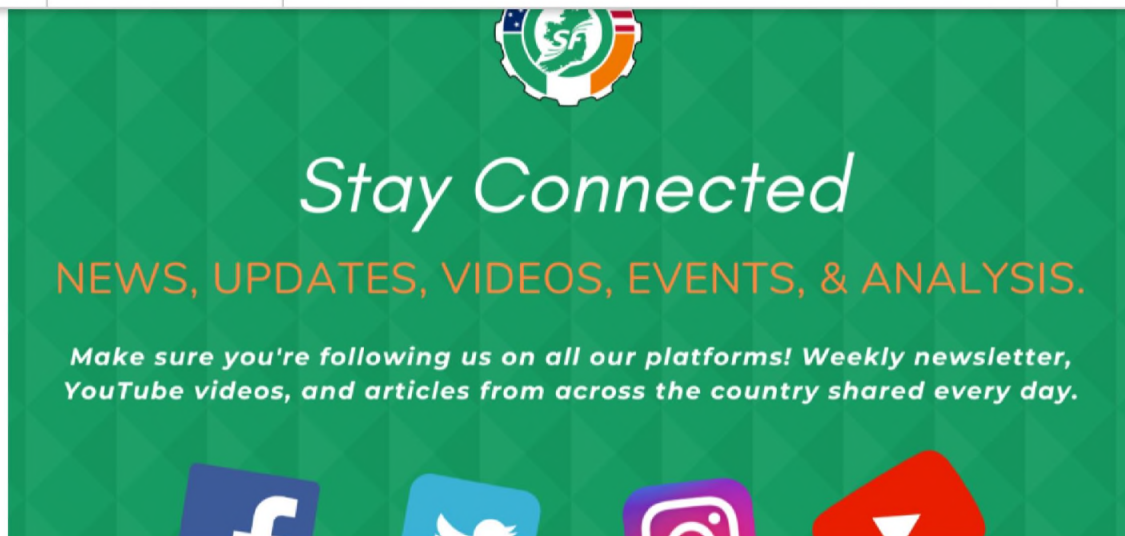
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A NEW IRELAND FOR ALL:

Ending
Sectarian
Segregation



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