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UNITED IRELAND

Preserving Our Past, Rising to Our Future

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

This week I attended a conference on the future of Moore Street in Dublin hosted by Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald in the GPO on O'Connell Street.

Many will have traveled along the street linking Parnell Street with Henry Street. Along one side is the Ilac shopping center and the other is a dilapidated terrace of houses and shop fronts. Despite years of neglect, it is a vibrant host to fruit stalls, flower sellers, and ethnic food shops.

A short walk from our offices on Parnell Square, Moore Street is a dynamic blend of the old and new Dublin - full of noise and colour.

There are currently plans to demolish the street and the surrounding buildings to make way for another shopping center.

Moore Street is more than just a street. It was the last meeting place of the Provisional Government.

At the end of Easter Week 1916 with the GPO ablaze, the order was given to evacuate the building. The rebels and their leaders, under intense gunfire, made their

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The rebels attempted to fight their way out of the street but were gunned down. Surrounded, the leaders of the Provisional Government met on a row of terrace houses on Moore Street. It was there that the order to surrender was issued. The leaders would be arrested and executed in the following weeks.

The current government of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael has backed the plans to effectively demolish the battlefield site for a mall of retail shops and fast food outlets.

The US knows the value of preserving historical battlefield sites. One American friend was horrified to hear of the plans and likened it to building a drive-through in the Alamo.

The years of neglect, and the plans to demolish it are emblematic of the one hundred years Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil have governed the state. They know the cost of everything and the value of nothing. They failed to make good on the promise and vision of the leaders of 1916.

The official neglect and abandonment of Moore Street is a fitting tribute to Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. It is not a fitting tribute to the rebels who fought to establish a Republic that, "guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation."

The Moore Street Preservation has alternative plans not only to preserve the site but to enhance it. To make it a living, breathing, and prosperous cultural quarter. A site to inspire generations to come to work for the common good of all who share our island.

The proposals are common sense, workable, exciting, and a unique alternative to another bland shopping mall.

More information can be found on the [Moore Street Preservation Trust Facebook page](#).

The conference was aptly entitled "Preserving our Past - Rising to Our Future".

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

April Video Update

We catch up with Sinn Féin Representative Ciarán Quinn for the latest news and analysis. A review of the Irish Unity Summit, St. Patrick's Day and Easter events, a preview of upcoming elections, and more. [WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



Speech by Mary Lou McDonald at “Preserving Our Past, Rising to Our Future” Moore St conference

Every nation that has fought for its independence has its sacred soil, its revered buildings, its hallowed ground. Ireland is such a nation.

Places imprinted with the legacy of our proud revolutionary history, touched by noble rebellion, which today echo still with the courage and inspiration of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. We meet in the GPO.

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the proclamation of the Irish Republic. Not only was it a notice of revolt, it was a clarion call to the future. A parchment that poetically expresses a hope that has reverberated through the generations. An Irish republic: Ireland; free, united, equal, and prosperous.

Today, we still reach with hopeful hearts for that Ireland that can be. If we walk a just short distance from here, we come to Moore Street.

Moore Street is part of the 1916 Battlefield site – the laneways of history. This includes the historic terrace at 10-25 Moore Street, as well as the GPO, the “White House” and O’Brien’s Bottling Store in Henry Place, and the lanes, streets and boundaries of Moore Street, Moore Lane, Henry Place and O’Rahilly Parade. The area is at the heart of our fight for independence.

16 Moore Street is where five of the seven signatories of the Proclamation met for the final time. It was the last HQ of the 1916 government of the Irish Republic. It was in the buildings, streets and laneways surrounding Moore Street that the Irish republic was born and where it was defended for six days by gallant patriots who believed in a better future with all their hearts. The battlefield site has been described by the national museum of Ireland as the “the most important historic site in modern Irish history.”

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Paul Maskey MP, West Belfast, to speak in Pittsburgh on Sunday, April 28

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the IAUC present “A Nation Once Again - The Road Ahead” Join Paul Maskey, Sinn Féin MP, West Belfast for a conversation about the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement & present efforts toward Irish unification. [More information and registration here.](#)

A United Ireland is Imminent

By Judge Michael C. Mentel

The Irish Unity Summit was held on March 1st this year in New York City at the historic Cooper Union. I had the privilege to attend. The Cooper Union venue is indeed historic. In 1860, Abraham Lincoln gave his celebrated anti-slavery speech at Cooper Union before his election as President. It is also the venue where, in 1902, James Connolly spoke in support of a free and United Ireland. Fourteen years later, he would be executed at Kilmainham Gaol for his participation in the Easter Rising. The Cooper Union once again served as a historic venue when Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Féin

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create a United Ireland.”

Ms. McDonald’s declaration was not one made-up of hope or wishful thinking. It is a declaration that recognizes the changes from the past and grounds itself in fact. Three major events within the past thirty years support Ms. McDonald’s declaration. First, no Irish Republican-Nationalist has served in any elected leadership capacity in the north following partition. This year, Michelle O’Neill, Sinn Féin Vice President and MLA, became the First Minister and leader of the Northern Ireland Assembly, with Sinn Féin holding the majority in the Assembly. This is a clear tell on the political direction the north is taking. In the Republic, a poll conducted by Politico in early March of this year revealed that, among all political parties in the Republic, Sinn Féin has a 28% support level among Irish citizens, followed by Fine Gael at 20%, and Fianna Fáil at 18%, with all other parties and independents trailing. The level of support for Sinn Féin in the north and the Republic provides an indicator of the direction that unification support is heading.

Second, although a slim majority in the north presently favors...

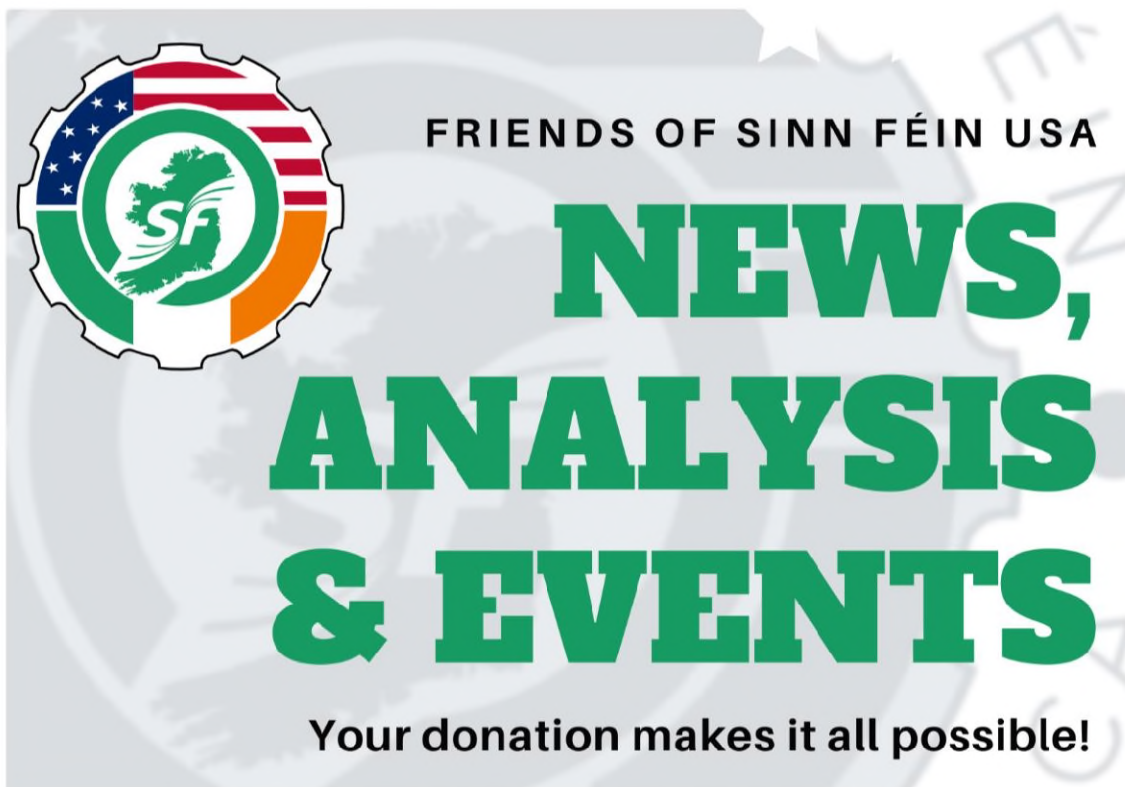
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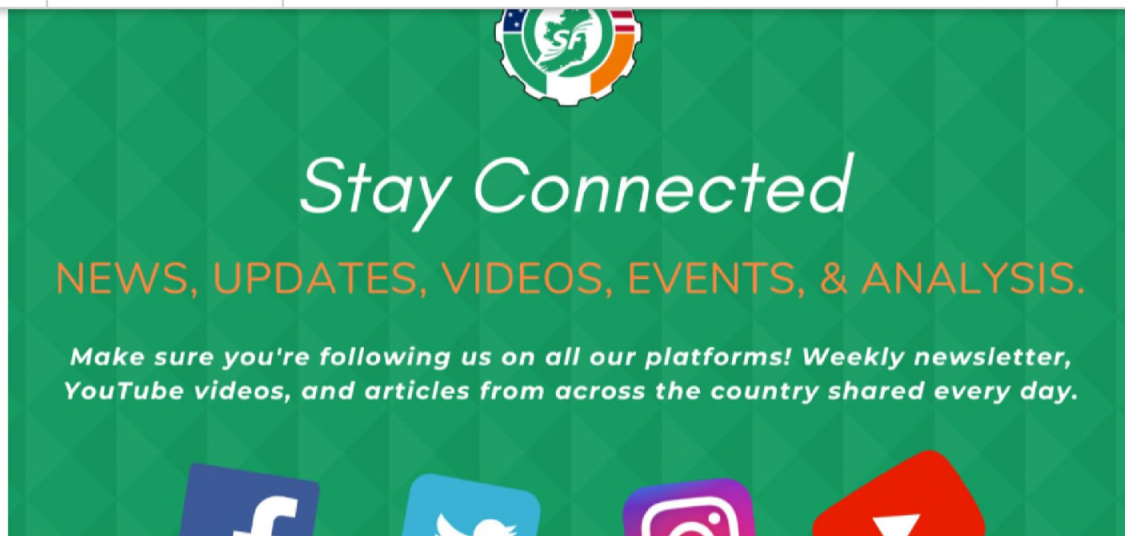


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We provide the latest news and analysis every week via our newsletter and every month on our video updates. We let you know about events all across the country and we organize and host events like the recent Irish Unity Summit. We bring Sinn Féin members 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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