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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

All Politics Is Local

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

It is election season. Doors are being knocked. Posters hang in full bloom from lampposts. On June 7th, voters across the south will go out to elect new County Councilors and Members of the European Parliament.

I have been on the doors with the excellent local Sinn Féin candidate. I live in a commuter village outside of Dublin. They say that all politics is local. It is in these villages and small towns that decisions made in the Dáil, European Parliament, and County Councils play out.

In the 2000's the village was one of the fastest growing in the state, becoming five times the size in as many years. Government policy was developer-led with cheap credit, relaxed regulations, and almost zero oversight. The model was, "build them cheap and sell them quick."

Families moved in and created diverse communities. It remains a great place to live. However, the developer-led approach meant no investment in infrastructure. Water outages became common, roads backed up, and the bus service hit and (mostly) miss. Today we are still dealing with legacy and bad government policy and council planning. Lack of building regulations has led to defects trapping homeowners in unsafe accommodations and with the state spending millions repairing homes.

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bedrooms. For this generation the idea of owning a home is unattainable and rents unaffordable. Government policy is led by developers who control supply and institutional landlords with deep pockets competing against working families.

This is not solely an Irish issue and impacts beyond my home village. There are over 14,000 homeless living in emergency accommodations. In addition, over 1000 asylum seekers are living rough on the streets or in government-supported, tented accommodation.

We are a wealthy nation, the land of cead míle fáilte, which is failing our children and our international responsibilities. Our nation has not recovered its population from An Gorta Mór. Ireland is not full but it has been failed by generations of political leaders. When immigration has been raised on the doors, the people connect the dots. Unlike the loudest and most extreme voices on social media, they know the problem is government-made and that it can be solved. We are a nation that built the world. We can build homes. We can meet our domestic and international obligations. It is not an either/or scenario. We can and we must do both.

The village I live in has been represented by the same parties since the foundation of the state and oversaw the disastrous policies from the 2000s to today. We hope to elect a Sinn Féin councilor to represent those who want better. I'll keep you updated on the campaign. It is still early days and we have much to do to break with the past and instill hope in the people.

Have a great weekend. I'm away to knock on some doors and listen to the people.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Rights in a New Ireland: a golden opportunity

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland hosted the latest in its series of events across the island on Friday, May 3, 2024. The Commission hosts community

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Ireland and featured campaigner and activist Ailbhe Smyth, Endowed Chair and Associate Professor in Human Rights at St Thomas University in New Brunswick, Canada Dr, Shannonbrooke Murphy, Professor of Human Rights Law in the School of Law, Queen's University Belfast Colin Harvey, and Director of the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Daniel Holder.

The event began with opening remarks by Sinn Féin's Chair of the Commission on the Future of Ireland, Declan Kearney. He began by reminding everyone that under the GFA there was to be a Bill of Rights for the North as well as other protections.

"The Good Friday Agreement and the peace process have transformed Ireland, North and South. Our challenge is to complete the work commenced 26 years ago in the Agreement," Kearney said. Twenty six years after the Agreement there is no Bill of Rights, no Civic Forum in the North, no all-Ireland Civic Forum, and no all-Ireland Charter of Rights.

"There is an onus on us to put in place strategies that promote understanding, an internationally compliant human rights system of laws & governance that incorporate rights, freedoms and responsibilities that guarantee civil and political rights."

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Chairwoman Mary Lou McDonald to visit Springfield, MA

THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB TO HOST

MARY LOU MCDONALD TD

**SATURDAY,
MAY 18, 2024
11:00 AM
OUTSIDE PAVILION**

**JBO CLUB
33 PROGRESS AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MA**



**MUSIC BY
THE BARDS**



**LEADER OF SINN FÉIN, THE
LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY
ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND**

**WE ARE HONORED TO HOST
HER AT AMERICA'S OLDEST
IRISH CLUB, THE JBO.**

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We must not give up on reconciliation

Hope must be kept alive

by Declan Kearney

Sinn Féin's latest policy document, '[A New Ireland for All: Ending Sectarian Segregation](#)' was launched in Ionad Eileen Howell on 10 April.

This date was chosen because it marked the 26th anniversary of the 'Good Friday Agreement' (GFA). The policy was endorsed at the Party Ard Fheis in November 2023. It is Sinn Féin's fourth policy contribution to addressing how the scourge of sectarianism is tackled, and reconciliation is achieved in Ireland; following the adoption and publication of previous policy positions in 2016, 2017 and 2019. This new policy builds on the previous policy frameworks and reaffirms Sinn Féin's commitment to the development of a reconciliation process. However, it also places the challenges of ending sectarian segregation, healing the legacy of the past, and achieving reconciliation into the context of shaping and implementing public policy, and the role of democratic political institutions.

It makes clear that confronting sectarian segregation and ending the cycle of sectarianism requires a constant focus; and needs to be embedded within public policy processes, which are future proofed.

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**Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising Commemorative Committee of R. I.
&
Irish Northern Aid of Rhode Island**

**Remembering those who gave their lives for a
Free and United Ireland**



Join us honoring the ten brave Irishmen who sacrificed their lives in defiance of the British claim that Ireland's centuries long fight for Independence was a criminal enterprise!

The R.I. Famine Memorial Monument Site

Providence River Greenway

May 24, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Followed by a Reception at

Patrick's Pub

381 Smith St

Providence, RI

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Constable on attempts to silence journalists

Sinn Féin MLA Gerry Kelly has said he will be seeking a meeting with the Chief Constable of the PSNI about revelations this week in relation to the covert surveillance of journalists by police.

The revelations emerged at a hearing of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in London. The party's policing spokesperson said, "Sinn Féin is seeking a meeting with the PSNI Chief Constable Jon Boucher about worrying revelations this week at a hearing of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal on the covert surveillance of journalists.

"The tribunal is examining allegations that investigative journalists involved in a documentary 'No Stone Unturned' on the Loughinisland Massacre, Barry McCaffrey and Trevor Birney, were subject to unlawful covert surveillance.

"Disclosure from this tribunal has now also pointed to extensive covert surveillance and the harvesting on an industrial scale of the phone data of journalists by the police.

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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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**Ireland's
Future**
Todhchaí na hÉireann

PATHWAY TO CHANGE

**Public Meeting, Thursday, May 23rd, 7 PM,
United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco**

Planning And Preparing For a New and United Ireland

**With guest speakers from Ireland's Future:
Niall Murphy & The Reverend Karen Sethuraman**

All Are Welcome



**Niall Murphy is the National Secretary of Ireland's Future,
and a Civil Rights Attorney from Belfast.**

"I believe that the debate and momentum towards constitutional change is growing and developing. Ireland's Future want to see constitutional change which delivers a new Ireland and society in which all who live here feel comfortable and have a stake in."

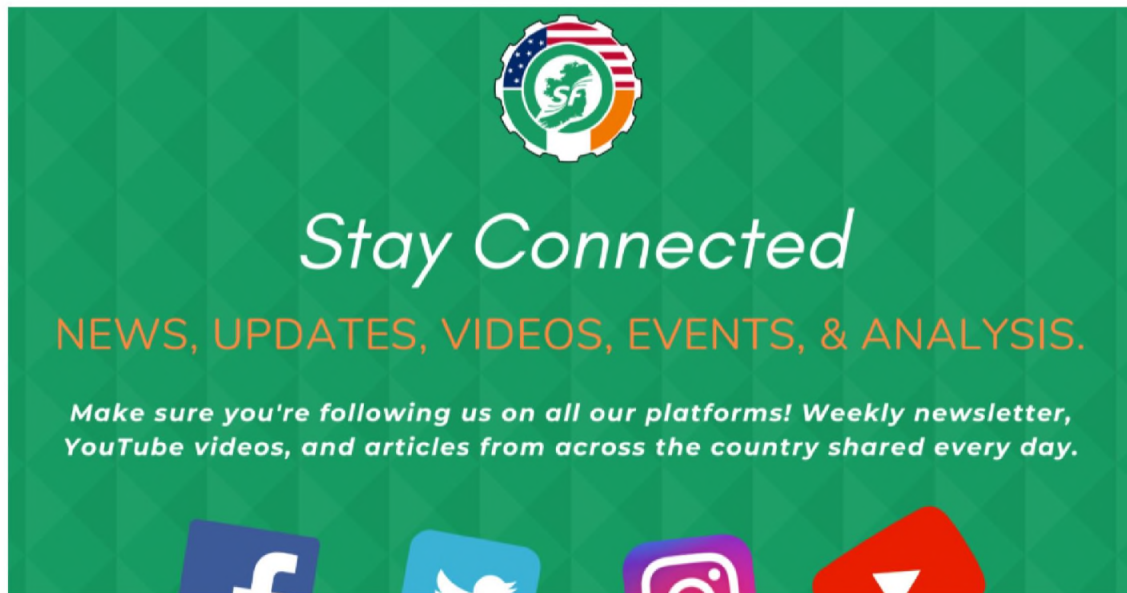


**Karen Sethuraman is the first and only female Baptist Minister in Ireland.
Karen practices her ministry in East Belfast.**

"Growing up in East Belfast, I saw a lot of 'us and them' and 'in and out' mentalities," says Karen. "But those divisions really didn't sit right with me and I felt obliged to question what the whole issue was about. I was never personally wedded to the Union and in the past was always quite ambivalent or centred on the issue but I believe Brexit in particular has catapulted us towards this new situation. Now we need to start asking ourselves, 'Is there something better than what we have now?' and I think there is."

**Ireland's Future is a non-politically aligned group of civic nationalists,
Formed in 2017 to advocate for the reunification of Ireland.**

**This event is co-sponsored by:
The Knights of the Red Branch, San Francisco
& The Irish Herald**

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