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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

A week is a long time in politics

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

A week is a long time in politics. In the past seven days, we traveled to the US and landed back to fight four elections.

This day last week, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald gave the commencement address at the Westfield State University graduation in Springfield, Massachusetts. For her work in Ireland, Mary Lou was awarded an honorary degree.

The event was unlike stuffy graduations in Ireland. The vitality and energy of youth was unreserved with plenty of hooting and hollering. It was an incredible celebration of achievement and potential.

Addressing students entering a world in conflict, and with specific reference to the war in Gaza, Mary Lou's speech challenged those present saying, "I believe that your generation can create a future of equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Your generation can change the world. I hope you choose to do just that."

On the trip, we met with old friends and made new ones. Springfield is the hometown of Representative Richard Neal, the joint chair of the Congressional Friends of Ireland. The Congressman hosted a wonderful event in the John Boyle O'Reilly Club, drawing supporters from across Springfield, Hartford, Rhode Island, and Boston.

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I am used to meeting Congressman Neal on Capitol Hill but here he was, at home and amongst his people, celebrating the connections between Ireland and Springfield.

There were Irish emigrants including two former Dublin and Galway players who could not resist recalling their counties' recent victories over my home county of Antrim.

There were others with links to Ireland spanning generations including State Representative Brian Ashe, a distant relative of the great patriot and Hunger Striker Thomas Ashe.

There were others with no direct link to Ireland, but with a shared interest in equality and Irish unity.

It was a joyous occasion full of hope with a shared commitment to meet the challenges and realize the opportunities to build a new and united Ireland.

Then it was back to Ireland and the election campaign.

On June 7th voters in the South will elect new County Councillors and Members of the European Parliament. The people of Limerick will go to the polls to select the first directly-elected mayor. Sinn Féin is competing in all three elections with over 340 candidates. We are entering the final two weeks of this campaign.

On Wednesday British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called for a Westminster general election to be held on July 4th. As an all-Ireland party, Sinn Féin will run candidates in all 18 Westminster constituencies in the North of Ireland.

The goodwill and encouragement that we received in Springfield and from across the US will fuel us through the next six weeks and four election campaigns. We hope to increase Sinn Féin's vote and representation in all the campaigns. We could also see the end of this disastrous and devious British Government.

Have a great weekend

Is mise,

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Change Starts Here!



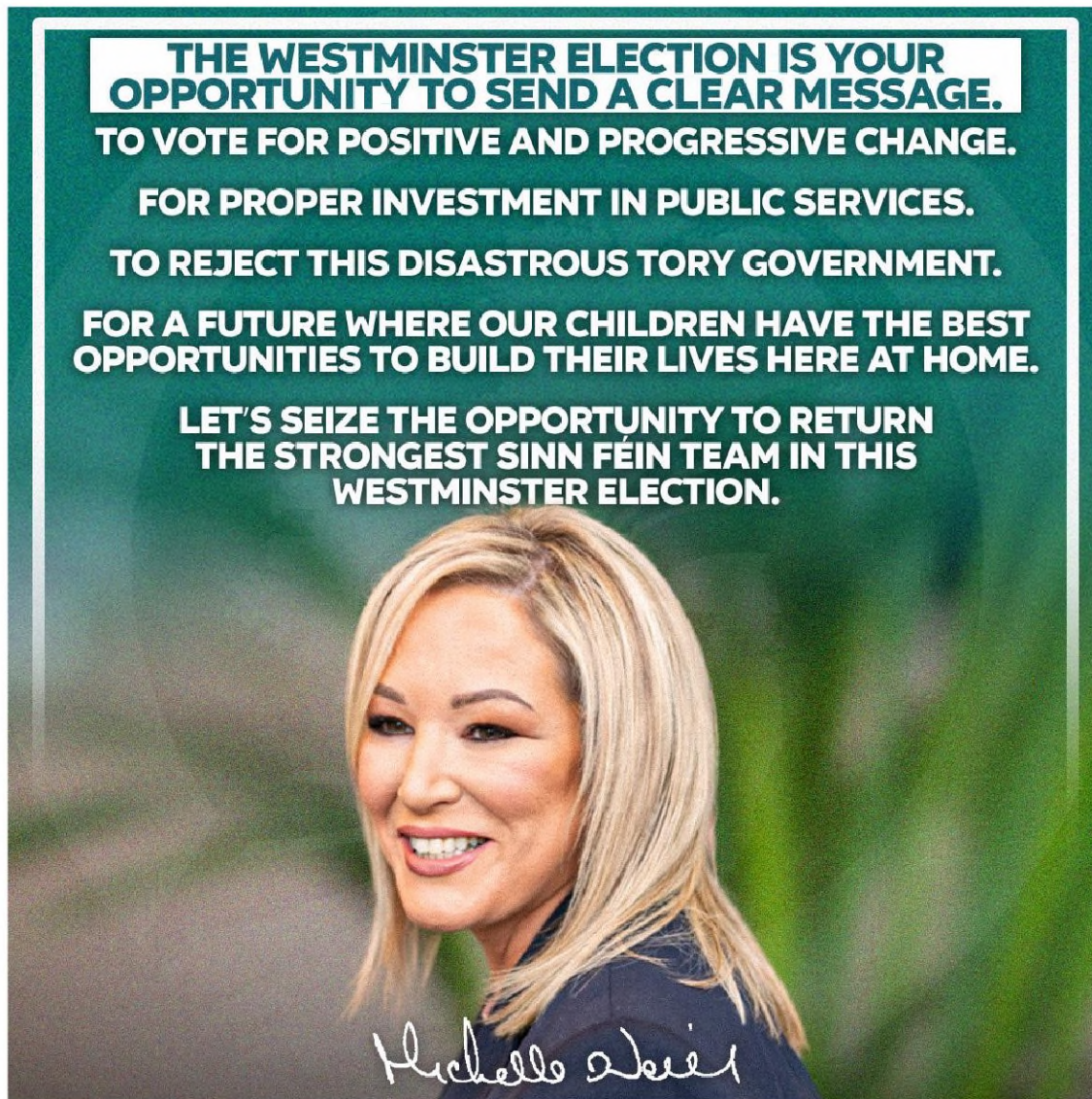
Election an opportunity to send message that underfunding of public services must end – O'Neill

Sinn Féin Leas Uachtarán Michelle O'Neill said today that the Westminster election is an opportunity to send a clear message to the Tory/British government that the systemic underfunding of our public services must end.

Michelle O'Neill said, "The Tory government has been a disaster for the people in the north – bad for the economy, bad for public services and bad for workers and families as the cost of living soared putting them under pressure.

"It is time for change.

"The Westminster election on 4th July is an opportunity to send a clear message.

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Mary Lou McDonald delivers commencement address at Westfield State University

Watch Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald deliver the 2024 Westfield State University commencement address:

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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

Vital links between US and Ireland

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Director Greg O'Loughlin earlier this week. They discussed the positive role the US plays in the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, promotion of Irish Unity & the vital links between the US & Ireland.



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Recognition of Palestinian Statehood an important step for the Palestinian people – Mary Lou McDonald TD

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD has said that the recognition of Palestinian Statehood by Ireland is an important step for the Palestinian people.

Teachta McDonald said, “It is now almost a decade since the Dáil unanimously supported a Sinn Féin motion to recognise the state of Palestine in December 2014. It is regrettable that it has taken the government so long to formally enact this motion.

“I want to commend all of those who have campaigned for this over many decades.

“Ireland is a small nation but we punch above our weight when it comes to influence at both European level and with the United States.

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Mary Lou McDonald's address at the John Boyle O'Reilly Club

The peace and progress that we enjoy have been aided by the people in this room.
The Good Friday Agreement would not have been possible without Irish America.
Without you.

When the British Government sought to impose a hard border on Ireland, it was both parties in Congress under the leadership of Richie Neal as chair of the Ways and Means committee that put a stop to that.

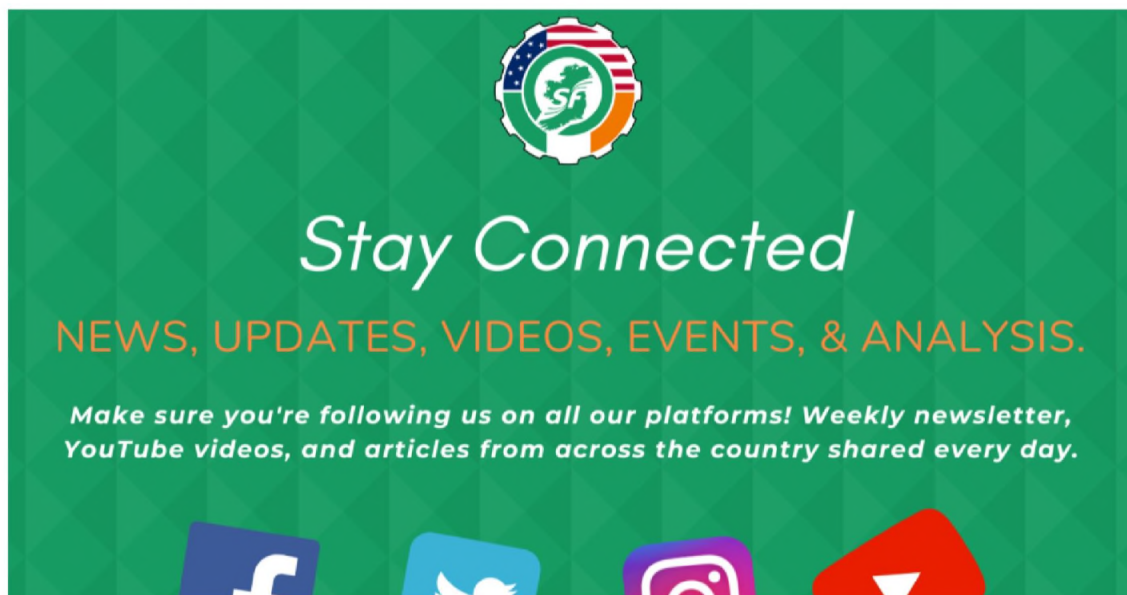
The actions of political, community, and labor leaders brought the British Government back to the negotiating table.

For that Richie, the people of Ireland are eternally thankful.

I am told that I am the third Sinn Féin President to address the club, the first being Éamon de Valera.

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