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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Now is the time for unity

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

We are in the last week of the elections in the south. Sinn Féin is standing a record number of candidates for local government, the EU parliament, and the Mayor of Limerick.

In the last set of these elections in 2019 Sinn Féin was the third party in the Southern state trailing well behind both Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael by 20 points.

Within 18 months of the 2020 general election, Sinn Féin emerged as the largest party. The party was excluded from government by a coalition of both parties with the Greens.

Since the 2019 elections, we have had four Taoisigh, a worsening housing crisis with record levels of homelessness, and working families struggling to make the rent with no hope of ever owning a home.

Routinely we have hospitals without beds and staff shortages. While the rate of inflation slows, prices and interest rates remain far higher since this government came to power in 2020.

These issues are failures of government policy over decades. Since the foundation of the State, Fianna Fáil and/or Fine Geal have controlled government. They have dogmatically stuck with policies that created and deepened the crisis.

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100,000 to seek temporary protection for the duration of the war in the South of Ireland.

While a lot fewer in number, there has also been an increase in international protection applications by those fleeing other conflicts or prosecution.

The response by the government has been a shambles. Providing tented accommodation, or none, and failing to speedily process cases.

Last weekend Alex Maskey spoke at an event in Montreal at the site of a mass grave where over 6,000 Irish died of illness fleeing from starvation in Ireland. The number of orphaned children overwhelmed the Irish community and state support. The French-speaking Quebecois adopted many of the children as their own, but kept their Irish names to remind them of their history.

An Gorta Mór, the great hunger, was the outworking of British Government policy. It was not a natural disaster. They starved a generation into exile across the US and Canada. Their children remain there today.

We remember our history where the Irish migrants faced discrimination and attack by nativist movements. The “No Irish Need Apply” brigade. We remember the compassion and generosity of host communities.

The crisis Ireland now faces in housing, health care, and cost of living is not the outworking of a natural disaster. It is not the fault of those genuinely seeking protection any more than it is the fault of the 14,000 homeless living in temporary accommodation.

The fault lies with the successive governments of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, Ireland is not full. Our population has not yet recovered from an Gorta Mór. We are a wealthy nation with a strong economy. We have the resources to resolve these issues.

To build homes and a health care system that meets the needs of the sick and injured.

Sinn Féin supports a migration system that is fair, efficient, and enforced. Those entitled to stay should be afforded that right. The rule of law must apply.

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continues to impose its immigration policies on the north of Ireland. Sinn Féin is working to unite Ireland so that the people who share the island have sovereignty over the whole of Ireland.

The Irish people and those seeking shelter in Ireland are being failed by the government.

We remember our history as a nation of emigrants. Now is the time to change. Now is the time for unity.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Michelle O'Neill Profile in Time Magazine

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Northern Ireland Is Steeped in Its Past. Michelle O'Neill Has a Vision for Its Future

By [Yasmeen Serhan](#)

Time, one of the largest magazines in the world, with a global readership of more than 26 million readers, profiled First Minister and Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill this week.

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Migrants blamed for the sins of others – Gerry Adams

In last week's Irish Echo, former Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams wrote a story about conservative and right wing elements are exploiting the issue of asylum seekers and immigrants or race to advance their own agenda.

He writes: Divide and conquer is an age-old tactic. It is often utilised by conservative elements to advance their regressive agendas. This is true of the Irish as it is of any other nation. In fact, historically some Irish people have acted against the interests of Ireland and supported imperialistic and other colonial or domestic adventurers.

Nonetheless, the vast majority of Irish people are fair-minded, decent and progressive.

At this time conservative and right wing elements are exploiting the issue of asylum seekers and immigrants or race to advance their own agenda. They deliberately heighten the mistaken belief by some that 'outsiders' are responsible for too few jobs, low wages, or a lack of housing, All of the ills of society are blamed on these 'others' who are of a different ethnicity or race or religion, colour or language or customs. Northern society suffers to this day from divisions supposedly based on religious belief. Nowadays, however, many have come to understand that this is false. It is sectarianism pure and simple, created and sustained to divide. So too with racism. Not everyone concerned about immigrants is a racist. But their fears are being whipped up by those who are.

The reality of course is that it is governments that have responsibility for managing their societies and economies. If there are not enough homes it is because the government is not planning for or building them. It is not the fault of immigrants.

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Providence Remembers Hunger Strikers

By Mike Cannon

On the evening of Friday, May 24th, a large group of people gathered at the Irish Hunger Strike Monument, located at the Irish Famine Memorial site in Providence Rhode Island. The dedication of the Irish Hunger Strike Monument took place nearly one year ago to the date. Friends, newcomers and members of different Irish organizations were there again to honor the ten great men who gave their lives in hopes that Ireland will be free.

The commemoration included a speaking program that honored each individual hunger striker, special readings, and music that reflected spirit of the event.

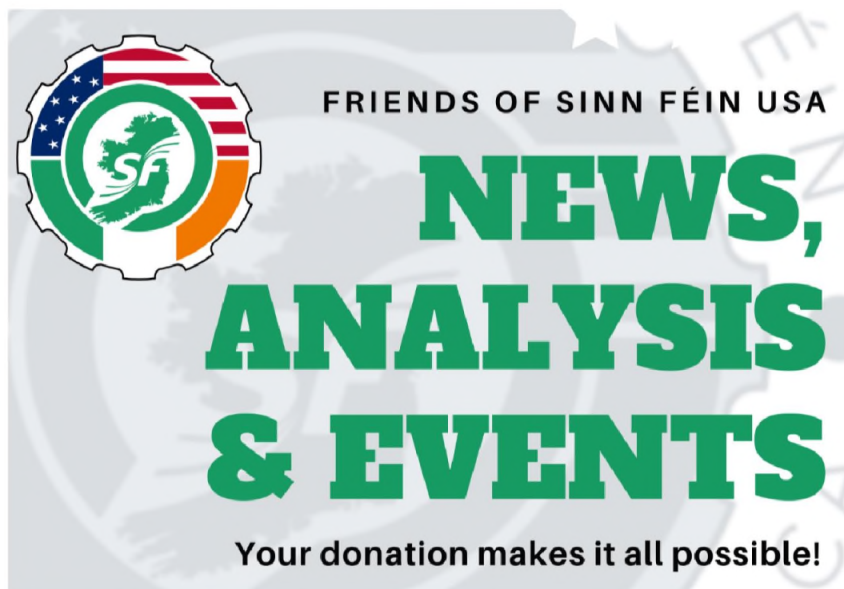


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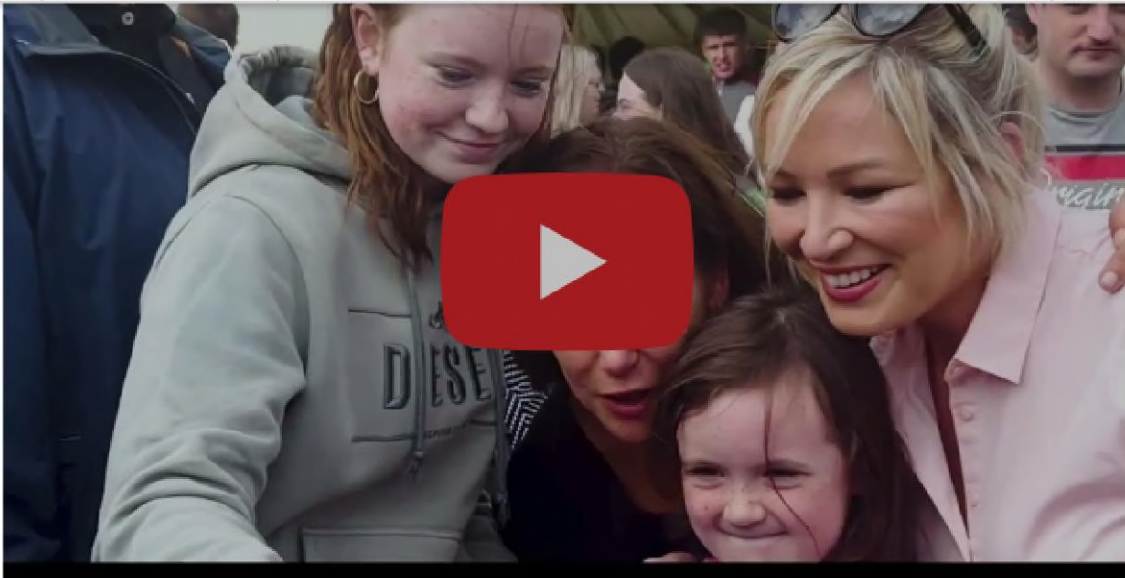
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Recognition of Palestinian state ‘hugely significant’ – Kearney

Sinn Féin MLA Declan Kearney has described Ireland recognising the state of Palestine as a ‘hugely significant occasion’ and once again called for a permanent ceasefire.

Speaking in the Assembly this week, the Party’s National Chairperson said, “Today is a hugely significant moment as Dáil Éireann finally recognises the state of Palestine.

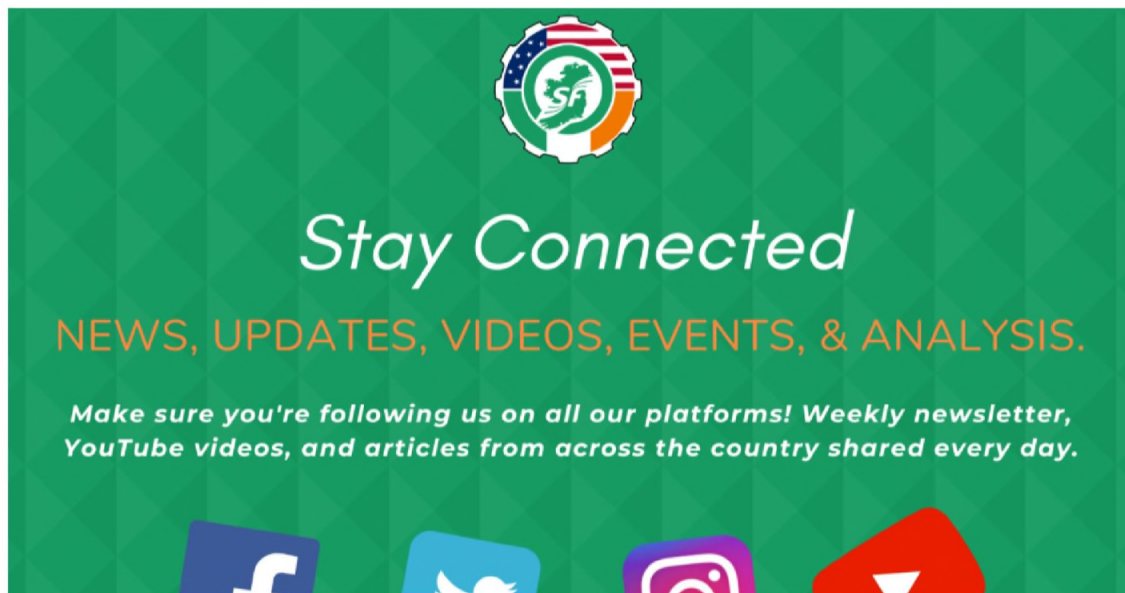
“On Sunday night, Israeli missiles were fired at tents in Rafah, and we witnessed horrendous scenes of charred remains and bodies under the rubble of a refugee camp in ruins.

“This atrocity was Israel’s response to the latest ICJ order for an end to the slaughter of the Palestinian people, and the announcements by Ireland, Spain and Norway.

“The international community must finally take a robust stand against Israel’s war machine. Comprehensive political and economic sanctions must be applied. Arms embargoes must be imposed.

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Gaza and the West Bank, unimpeded humanitarian aid into Gaza, and, an end to settler colonialism.”



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