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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

A historic election trifecta

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

The votes are counted and the results are in. Sinn Féin has completed a historic election trifecta. In the north of Ireland, it is the largest party of local government, in the Assembly and now at Westminster.

This in a state gerrymandered to have a permanent unionist majority. It is another sign of a changing Ireland. A way-marker on the road to Irish unity. But we have further to travel.

The election also delivered a landslide victory for the British Labour Party. Keir Starmer is now Prime minister, and he has appointed Hilary Benn as his Secretary of State for the North of Ireland.

While he served in opposition, Keir Starmer described himself as an avowed unionist, in favour of maintaining partition in Ireland. That may be the case, but as Prime Minister, he is bound by the obligations of the Good Friday Agreement to be impartial.

The agreement is clear: the future constitutional position, Irish Unity or continued division, is a matter for the people of Ireland North and South, and a matter for the people alone. It obliges the government with jurisdictions to act with "rigorous impartiality" with equality and respect between all communities.

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the new Prime Minister said, "This is provided for by the Good Friday Agreement, and I am absolutely committed to the Good Friday Agreement. Today is a recommitment to that and to the approach and role of the UK government in that as an honest broker"

This is the first Labour Government in 14 years.

For the last 14 years, the Tory-led British government moved away from the principles of the Good Friday Agreement and away from working in partnership with the Irish Government, to unilateral actions and breaking agreements.

This was the government that imposed Brexit and passed legislation that ended judicial and police investigations into killing during the conflict and banned victims from access to the court.

The new Labour government has committed to repealing and replacing this legislation. It remains to be seen how this commitment will be converted into action. Will the legislation be revoked in full? Will stalled inquests and investigations be allowed to continue and the rights of victims to access the courts vindicated?

In addition, will any replacement be consistent with the previous agreements, legal obligations, and agreed with the Irish Government in consultation with other political parties and victims groups?

In a historic week for Irish republicans, the new British Government has been making the right noises, but delivery is what will count.

The British Labour Party did not stand in elections in the North of Ireland. It has no mandate to govern.

All of this leads to the fundamental conclusion that no British Government should have jurisdiction over any part of Ireland. Achieving that end took a significant step last weekend.

Have a good weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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July Video Update

Did you watch the latest [Video Update](#)?

BONUS

We added 10 more minutes of discussion and information about last weekend's historic election results. Watch now and share!



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As we move closer to the unification of our country, the voice of citizens in the north cannot be lost

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD has said that as we move closer to the unification of our country the voice of citizens in the north cannot be lost.

Ms McDonald was speaking as Sinn Féin's newly-elected Westminster MPs met with their Oireachtas counterparts at Leinster House today.

She said that Sinn Féin MPs will continue to play a positive, constructive role in the work of the Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, saying that the Committee has provided an important vehicle for all-island political matters to be considered.

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Teachta McDonald said, “The recent Westminster election has seen Sinn Féin, once again, emerge as the largest party north of the border.

“Everyone who has been elected has been elected on a pledge to work hard for everybody, to work collaboratively, and to continue the forward march of progress.

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US Congressman Neal – “I look forward to working with the incoming government to build on 26 years of progress made through the Good Friday Agreement.”

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Party's victory in the UK elections:

"The partnership between the United States, United Kingdom, and Irish governments has been crucial to peace on the island of Ireland, and I look forward to working with the incoming government to build on 26 years of progress made through the Good Friday Agreement.

By continuing to join our efforts, honor our agreements, and remain steadfast in our commitment to mutual prosperity, we can ensure this era of stability is guaranteed for generations to come.

This election offers a chance to renew our relationships, and I look forward to meeting with the elected parties in Washington to discuss the continued work between our nations."

New opportunities to foster positive relations between Britain and Ireland

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD said that there is a new opportunity to foster positive relations between Britain and Ireland following last week's historic elections. She said the British Government has the opportunity to embrace the principles of rigorous impartiality and respect the provisions in the Good Friday Agreement for constitutional change.

The Sinn Féin leader also raised the issue of immigration and pressed for bilateral arrangements between Dublin and London to ensure safe return of asylum seekers and welcomed his acceptance for such arrangements to be in place. She also welcomed his decision to end the Tories' Rwanda plan.

The Sinn Féin Uachtarán was speaking after she lead a party delegation, including Leas-Uachtarán Michelle O'Neill, and MPs Pat Cullen and John Finucane, in a meeting with the new British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Mary Lou McDonald said, "Today's meeting marks a historic change, offering a new opportunity to foster positive relations between Britain and Ireland.

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Brehon Law Society: Benn too ambiguous on Legacy commitments

The President of the Brehon Law Society of New York released a statement today calling for greater clarity from the new British government in regards to their commitments to repeal and replace the Legacy act.

The statement reads:

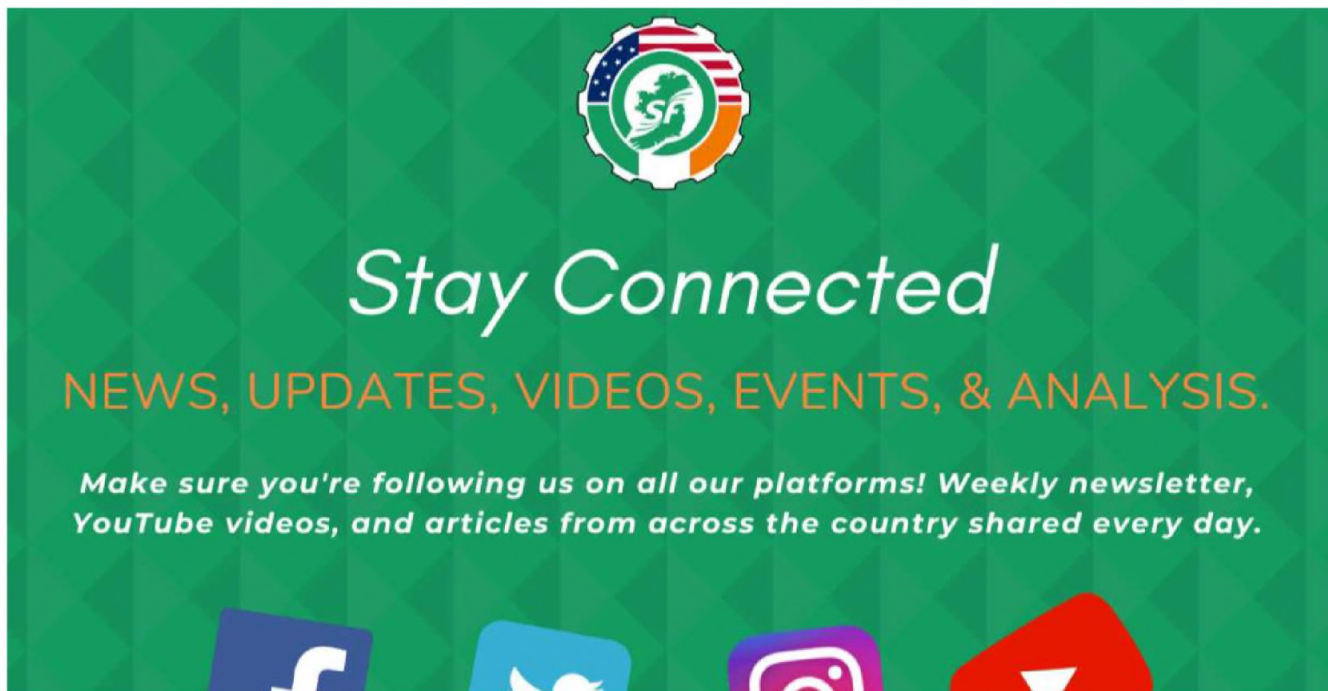
“The election of Keir Starmer as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and his appointment of Hilary Benn as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is a hopeful sign for those of us focused on peace and justice in Ireland.

Of course, the bar was set so low by the Tories over the past number of years that any change of power in London is to be welcomed.

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the Labor party has been consistent in its support of the Agreement. The extent of that support will now be put to the test. The Legacy Act has been law since last September. The Labor government, with its overwhelming majority, can right the wrongs of that law...

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