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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Charles and I

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I am an Irish Republican. Modern Irish Republicanism was defined by Wolf Tone as uniting all the people of Ireland and breaking the link with Britain. It was not a narrow Nationalism, but shaped by international republican revolutions in the US and France. Asserting the equal rights of citizens, all working for the common good and establishing democratic institutions opposing the rule of unelected monarchs.

Every generation of Irish Republican leaders has refined strategies and tactics to meet the challenges of their time. The principles of Tone remain constant.

I was reminded of all of this when I watched the British King make his speech to parliament this week. It had all of the pomp and ceremony of an age long gone. I suppose when you lose an empire you have to grasp at a pretense of the past. King Charles traveled in a golden horse carriage to address his parliament in a speech written for him by the elected government.

Charles is not my king and I am not his subject, but he is the British people's monarch and they support his institution. I respect their choices. That does not make me any less an Irish Republican. My objection is to any British Parliament assuming the right to legislate in part of Ireland, and the work of Sinn Féin is to bring that to an end.

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The speech committed the British Government to repealing the detestable Troubles and Legacy Act that granted blanket impunity, ended inquests and investigations, and blocked victims from accessing the courts.

The King's speech is a statement of intent. Not all promised Bills will materialise and others not included will be added over time.

The statement of intent is welcomed, but the detailed explanatory notes raise some concerns.

The briefing notes make clear it will “repeal the conditional immunity scheme” of the Act, a provision that had been struck down in the High Court in Belfast.

The British government says it will reverse the policy that prohibits victims and their families from taking civil claims and it will set out steps to allow for the resumption of Troubles-era inquests.

The British government has additionally committed to more, saying “Further legislation will follow after consultation with the Northern Ireland political parties, the Irish Government, and all communities in Northern Ireland.”

Again we have had decades of consultation and existing agreements are in place. Those need to be implemented.

However, this is all presented without a timescale. As long as the provisions of the Act remain so does the hurt endured by families. Justice delayed is justice denied.

The new British Government has indicated through this speech that they have a change in approach from the previous Tory Government.

This may fall short of what is required by families.

As always we will need our friends in the US to ensure that the British Government meets all of the obligations under the agreements.

Have a good weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Mary Lou McDonald in Irish News: A new era of British-Irish relations is overdue

By Mary Lou McDonald

July 18, 2024 at 6:00am BST

Last year we marked 25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Unfortunately, and to the benefit of nobody in Ireland, north or south, the Tories spent 14 of those years undermining its principles.

The election of a new Labour government, led by Keir Starmer, presents an opportunity to reset this approach, especially now that the executive, assembly, and other north/south and east/west political institutions have been reinstated.

The previous Conservative government abandoned the GFA's principle of 'rigorous impartiality', pushing a crude 'Little Englander' agenda, particularly during the Brexit debacle. This approach must end. A new era of British-Irish relations is overdue.

This will only come about through a fundamental change in British government policy towards Ireland.

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Mary Lou McDonald: A new era of British-Irish relations is overdue

Keir Starmer has the opportunity to reset the approach taken by the ousted Conservative government to Ireland, north and south

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Sinn Féin president Mary Lou McDonald (Damien Storan/PA)

the European Union are promised given ongoing post-Brexit issues, including a more collaborative approach with the executive in dealing with those matters relating to the NI Protocol and the Windsor Framework.

The Conservative government's handling of the past, especially in discarding the mechanisms agreed in the Stormont House Agreement, has failed victims and survivors seeking truth and justice.

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New report from the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement - All-party consensus on planning for Irish unity

Sinn Féin TD Rose Conway-Walsh has welcomed all party consensus on planning for Irish unity.

She was speaking ahead of the launch of the new report from the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, which deals with the Perspectives on Constitutional Change, specifically related to Finance and Economics.

Teachta Conway-Walsh thanked the range of organisations and individuals who made submissions over the last 14 months which built into a timely and comprehensive analysis of the potential and challenges of reunification on the island of Ireland.

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preparation for constitutional change.

It also recommends setting up citizens' assemblies and other relevant forums to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive process that allows all voices with a stake in Ireland's future to be heard. There is cross-party agreement to the broad range of recommendations in the report.

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Taoiseach must press case for public inquiry into murder of Pat Finucane in meeting with British Prime Minister

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald TD, speaking in advance of the Taoiseach's meeting with the new British Prime Minister Keir Starmer in Downing Street, has called on the Taoiseach to press the case for a public inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

Teachta McDonald said, "In 2019, the Supreme Court in London declared that previous investigations commissioned by successive British governments into the murder of Pat Finucane by loyalists to have failed to meet the standards required by Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

"For decades now, Mrs. Geraldine Finucane and her family have led a dignified campaign for truth and justice, seeking a public inquiry into her late husband's murder. They have rightly received strong support from Sinn Féin and the Irish Government in this regard.

"Regrettably, the British government has not adequately or sufficiently responded to that 2019 Supreme Court judgment, forcing Mrs. Finucane to fight a series of legal battles.

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July Video Update

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Opportunity for new British Government to reset relations with Ireland and Europe

Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said there is now an opportunity for the new British Government to reset relations with Ireland and Europe.

The North Belfast MP also welcomed the commitment of the Labour government to begin the process of repealing the Tories' shameful Legacy Act.

John Finucane said, "The election of a new Labour government in London is an opportunity to build positive relations between Britain, Ireland and Europe.

"I welcome the positive acknowledgement from the British Government today that they will work to reset and strengthen these relations with Dublin and Brussels, that have been badly damaged by Brexit and fourteen years of Tory rule.

"A key component of that will be the British government working with our restored Assembly and Executive to seize the full benefits of access to the British and EU markets to grow the economy by helping our businesses and traders to expand.

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now begin the process of repealing the Tories' shameful Legacy Act, which has failed victims and survivors. This is a welcome commitment, and we will engage with them on the full details of their approach in the days ahead.



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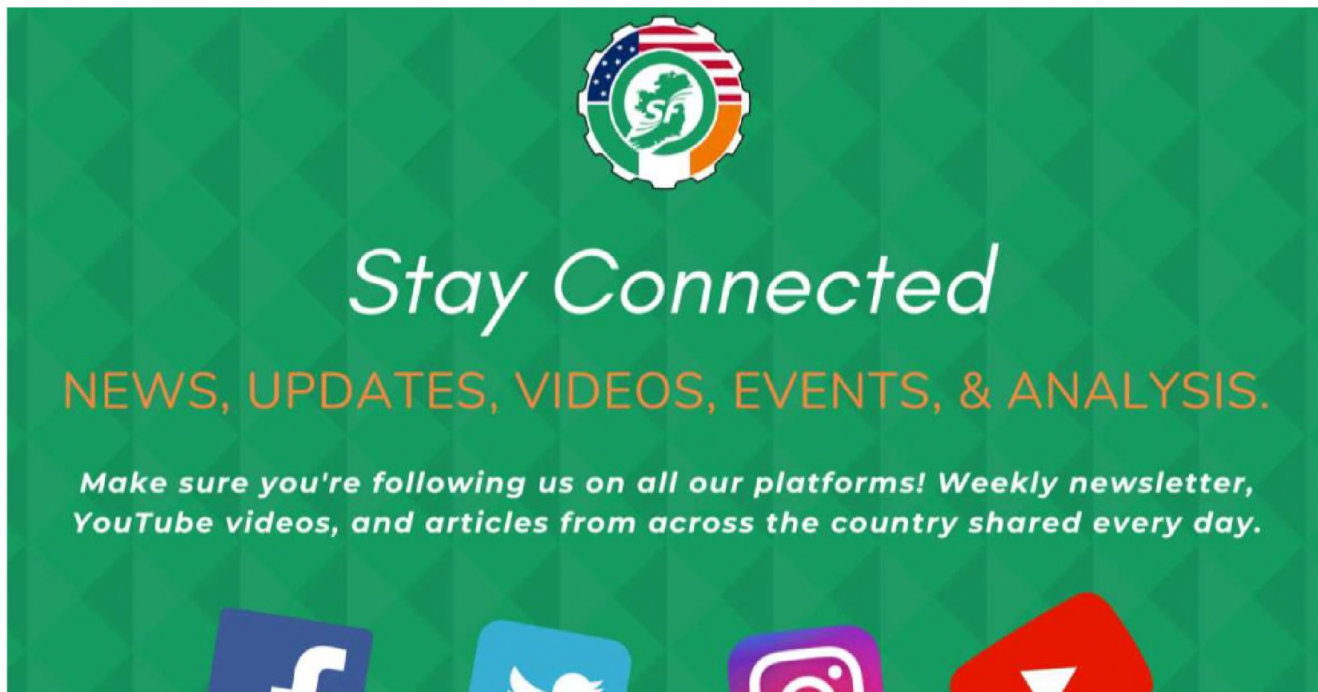
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