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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

The loudest voice in the room

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I have a confession to make: I am a closet tech geek.

I remember the onset of the first steps of the internet, email, and file sharing.

The new social media platforms developed with the promise to build communities, connect with people from around the world, and contact people with whom we had lost touch, and allow us to share events in each other's lives. It still does many of those things, though sadly it has also grown into some dangerous territory.

This week the Irish Times ran a front-page story that a leading member of the Ku Klux Klan was advising Irish racists on anti-immigration protests and tactics. Sinn Féin as anti-racist leaders in working-class communities are the target of the vitriol of many of these groups. On the same day, British racists encouraged Irish racists to join them in protests.

These British racists have supported the killing of Irish nationalists in the North of Ireland and celebrate the partition of our island.

Back in the day, every village had an idiot and every bar a loudmouth. They were mostly ignored. Today social media has allowed them to meet others from across the globe online. Not only that, but the loudest voice in the room is rewarded with likes and greater shares, their voice amplified and promoted.

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blame others for the failing of governments. In the south of Ireland, there is a housing crisis that in turn has led to a cost of living and public service crisis. All of which is the responsibility of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael who have governed the state for 100 hundred years. Mostly but not exclusively white Irish, wealthy, and middle-aged men.

This crisis was not created by workers, struggling families, or those seeking shelter. The fear that these racist groups spread is that Ireland is that "Irish culture" is threatened by new communities. Absolute nonsense. Our history is marked by groups that have arrived and assimilated from the Vikings through to today.

In my hometown of Belfast, it was Presbyterians who revived the language, recorded the music, and led the united Irishmen.

These Irish racists align themselves with groups that support and celebrate the colonization of Ireland and other nations by the British.

We are a colonized nation. We are a nation of emigrants.

When Britain colonized Ireland, our language, music, sports, and history were outlawed. Our harpers were hung and Irish Catholics were persecuted and practiced in secret. Partition in the North failed to end Irish culture being celebrated in the six counties.

Irish culture survived for centuries because it is of value. Not just in Ireland but across the world of Irish bars, the GAA, poetry, writing, and music. It has always been inclusive and celebrated. Just look at the global St. Patrick's Day celebrations. It is under no threat.

Next week an award-winning film featuring Irish-speaking rappers Kneecap will go on global release. We are in the middle of a summer of festivals. This Sunday 83,000 spectators will descend on Croke Park to watch the All Ireland football final. Millions more will be watching on TV and online across the globe. The match will be between Galway from the West and Armagh from the partitioned North.

Irish culture is thriving and evolving. It will continue to be the case as the new Irish line out for their counties, lead the sessions, and write their stories.

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division. It is not 'us against them'. It is all of us working together for a better and united Ireland.

The future is bright and I look forward to many more games in Croke Park and sessions in the pub.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Sinn Féin launches plan to fix the International Protection System

The Irish Government – a coalition of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and the Green Party– has created a crisis in housing and public services. They have refused to plan and instead have handed millions in taxpayers' hard-earned money to the private sector to sort out government failings. It has not worked and has only expanded the profits of development and landlords.

The same chaos has played out for the systems of processing those fleeing war and seeking asylum in the south of Ireland. The government has sought to move homeless asylum seekers into unfit accommodations in communities that are already lacking services.

Sinn Féin has launched a plan to fix the broken international protection system: a plan for a fair and humane system that recognises both the pressures that many communities are under and the needs of those seeking international protection.

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As non-republicans and a party of the left, the plan is rooted in our values of equality, anti-racism, and human rights, and stands firmly with working-class communities who have been neglected and forgotten for generations.”

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Bipartisan Congressional Letter presses Starmer on Legacy

A bipartisan group of 24 United States Congresspeople sent a letter to newly elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, pressing him to swiftly repeal and replace the Legacy Act.

They write, “We urge your government to restore genuine paths to justice for the number of outstanding cases where evidence and potential criminal liability remains. Victims and their families, from all communities, still deserve justice.”

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2023, "Legacy Act." In that manifesto, it is written, "The Legacy Act denies justice to the families and victims of the Troubles.

Labour will repeal and replace it, by returning to the principles of the Stormont House Agreement, and seeking support from all communities in Northern Ireland."



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