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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Coming and Going

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I'm taking a break from packing to write this letter. Lately, it seems that I'm either packing or unpacking, coming or going. I suppose that is the nature of life; one thing ends and another begins.

While packing I was working out what was needed for the Hunger Strike Commemoration in Chicago, and Irish Unity Commissions meetings in Cleveland and Columbus. Remembering the events of 1981 and the potential for Irish Unity.

The words of one of my favorite Irish poems, "Ode" by Authur O'Shaughnessy came to mind:

"For each age is an age that is dying,
Or one that is coming to birth"

During the 1981 Hunger Strike, I turned 13. Living in Belfast I felt the urgency and anger of the time. Witnessing the funerals of Bobby Sands and Joe McDonnell. Collecting the badges and posters of each of the hunger strikers. Attending the protests and watching the riots.

In 1998 the year the Good Friday Agreement was signed I turned 30, had gotten married, and had our first child.

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It was then that the full scale of their sacrifice revealed itself. They had been frozen in time as posters and badges. I had been a boy and they had been grown-up men, heroes in a history book.

The hope of peace was alive, and they were dead. I was looking forward to a life that they had forfeited, marriage, and kids. Their black and white photos began to fill with color.

Where we are today is because of all that came before us. The 1981 Hunger Strike changed the course of Irish History in ways that were unimaginable at the time. It came at a terrible cost inside and outside the prison.

It would lead to the electoral rise of Sinn Féin, the development of the Peace Process, the Good Friday Agreement, and the release of all political prisoners.

While we commemorate the 1981 Hunger Strikers, we have to do more than remember. If we are to honor their lives it must be in the building of a new and united Ireland.

In preparation for this trip, I re-read some of the writings of Bobby Sands. Trapped in a prison cell in the worst possible conditions, he was resolute but not bitter. Famously he wrote that the only revenge he wanted was to hear “the laughter of all our children”.

Today, 43 years on from the Hunger Strike, the Good Friday Agreement provides the opportunity of Irish Unity through referendums North and South. The rise of Sinn Féin and the promotion of Irish unity has now created the potential to win those referendums.

Let us remember the past and build for the future. A new and united Ireland for all echoing with the laughter of our children.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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43rd Anniversary 1981 Hunger Strike Remembrance in Chicago on Sunday

CLAN NA GAEL
Organized 1867
A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO IRELAND
Josee Connolly Camo / Chicago

**43RD ANNIVERSARY
1981 HUNGER STRIKE
REMEMBRANCE**
OCTOBER 6TH, 6PM
Chicago Gaelic Park
6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL

STAILC OCRAIS • HUNGER STRIKE • H-CH
Comóradh
43
An Fhíric
BLOKS 1981 - 2024 ARMACH

GUEST SPEAKER: Sinn Féin Daire Hughes
Music by Celtic Rovers
FREE ADMISSION

**There will also be a
RAFFLE FUNDRAISER
for the CR Gas &
The Burning of Long Kesh**

**CR Gas
& The Burning of Long Kesh**
1981 - 1982 October 19th to Long Kesh
Operation Paget
The British government's decision to use the use of a chemical weapon
against Irish Republican prisoners
Members of the CR Gas & The Burning of Long Kesh

BOBBY SANDS
May 25th

MARTIN HURSON
July 13th

FRANCIS HUGHES
May 12th

KEVIN LYNCH
August 1st

RAYMOND MCBREEN
May 21st

KIERAN DOHERTY
August 2nd

PATSY O'HARA
May 21st

THOMAS MCILWHEE
August 8th

JOE McDONNELL
July 8th

MICHAEL DEVINE
August 29th

Sunday, October 6 - 6:00 PM

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W. 147th St

Oak Forest, IL

Guest Speaker Dáire Hughes Sinn
Féin MP

Free Admission

Michelle O'Neill named to Time Magazine's 100 NEXT List

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Sinn Féin Vice President, First Minister Michelle O'Neill was named to Time Magazine's 100 NEXT List. The list honors 100 emerging leaders who are shaping the future.

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald wrote in Time Magazine, "In February of this year, Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill made history, becoming the north of Ireland's first Irish nationalist First Minister, in a state designed to ensure this could never happen. Michelle's election to the office of First Minister reflects the current of powerful generational change under way in Ireland. There now exists an opportunity to build a bright new future of unity, success, and achievement. A future for everybody.

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her eagerness to reach out to others and find a way forward make a real and lasting difference.

“Michelle genuinely cares about people regardless of background, religion, color, or tradition. She is determined to consign the failed politics of sectarianism, inequality, and exclusion to the past. From day one, she said that she would be a “First Minister for all.” She has been true to her word every day since, and I am so very proud to call her my friend.”

Sinn Féin 2024 Ard Fheis



Did you watch the 2024 Sinn Féin Ard Feis? You can revisit both days right here:

[Day 1](#) [Day 2](#)

New Merch Shop Now Open!

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T-Shirts! Get a few stickers and put them on your laptop, water bottle, car, bike, or journal, and let everyone know that it's time for unity!

All shirts are made in America and union printed!

Visit the [Friends of Sinn Féin USA Merch Shop Here](#).



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People's Assembly: Diaspora

Cleveland, Ohio

The Commission on the Future of Ireland and Friends of Sinn Féin will host a People's Assembly in **Cleveland, OH on Tuesday, October 8, 2024.**

A conversation with Dáire Hughes, Sinn Féin MP for Newry and Armagh. He will provide a briefing on the effort, progress, and next steps.

A Q&A and discussion will follow.

This event is **SOLD OUT** - no additional tickets will be released.



Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

Wesleyan Irish American Club

Featuring Dáire Hughes, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of those who left, and all those who support Irish unity.



AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

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NEWS, ANALYSIS & EVENTS

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People's Assembly: Diaspora Columbus, Ohio

The Commission on the Future of Ireland and Friends of Sinn Féin will host a People's Assembly in **Columbus, OH on Thursday, October 10, 2024.**

A conversation with Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn. He will provide a briefing on the effort, progress, and next steps.

A Q&A and discussion will follow.

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Thursday, October 10th, 2024
Columbus, OH
The Glenrock Club

Featuring **Sinn Féin** Representative to North America

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendant of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

Building a Better Future - Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2025

Every year Sinn Féin publishes a comprehensive, fully costed set of budget proposals. No other opposition party provide the level of detail for voters. We do this to show how from day one in government we will deliver real change!

[Building a Better Future](#)

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Packed house at the Rita O'Hare: Irish Unity is the Future event at the 2024 Sinn Féin Ard Feis

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Ard Feis for a discussion and book launch of Rita: A Memoir.

Gerry Adams, Brendan Brownlee, Dawn Doyle, and Danny Morrison shared their experiences and stories about Rita, and invited people from the audience to do the same.

"Rita brought all of the strands of politics and activism together. She was the most human of revolutionaries. She was authentic in absolutely everything she did," said Dawn Doyle, Rita's friend and comrade.



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