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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Election Fever

A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

This week, Simon Harris, the Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael, confirmed what everyone suspected: there will be a general election in the South of Ireland before Christmas. Since becoming Taoiseach, Simon Harris has been adamant that the government would run its full term which would conclude at the end of February 2025.

While refusing to confirm an actual date, he said that it would be a Friday. Leaving the most likely election day as November 29th. It is a bizarre way to plan for an election without a set date, but then again - this government has been like no other.

In a deal to stay in power, Fine Gael agreed to rotate the position of Taoiseach with Fianna Fáil. Leo Varadkar's resignation in April of this year has meant that we have had three Taoisigh in the last four and half years.

Under the watch of this government, revenues are up, but the combination of crises in housing, cost of living, and public services have deepened. Yes, a government with a huge surplus has failed to address the needs of the people. They continue to refuse to countenance the work to be done for Irish Unity, never mind planning for it.

American citizens residing in Ireland are able to go to the polls and vote in their elections. Irish citizens living in the US or Canada cannot vote for an Irish Government or for an Irish President.

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votes of the people their policies force to leave. Yet every year on St. Patrick's day they trawl the globe to pay homage to our diaspora.

Visiting Philadelphia on St. Patrick's Day 2018, the then Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael Enda Kenny committed to recognising the rights of all citizens, adding, "today's announcement is a profound recognition of the importance that Ireland attaches to all of our citizens, wherever they may be. It is an opportunity for us to make our country stronger by allowing all of our citizens resident outside the State, including our emigrants, to vote in future presidential elections."

That commitment was dropped by subsequent Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil governments. It would seem that successive Irish Governments pay lip service to our nation abroad, with promises swapped for duty-free at the departure gate.

For our part Sinn Féin have ongoing, year-round contact with supporters in the USA, Canada, Britain, Australia, and across the EU.

Friends of Sinn Féin USA, this month, launched hearings on the Commission on the Future of Ireland in Cleveland and Columbus. Their ambition is to have similar events across the states. Canada is also planning hearings.

The Irish abroad will be central to securing and winning unity referendums, just as they have been in securing and safeguarding the Good Friday Agreement.

The Commission will report to Sinn Féin on your hopes and vision for a United Ireland.

The coming Dáil elections are an opportunity for Irish Citizens abroad and our wider diaspora to call on the Irish government to listen and to act.

The diaspora can be part of setting the agenda for an incoming Irish Government.

In government, Sinn Féin will plan and prepare for Irish Unity, make good the commitment on voting rights, deal with the barriers to returning home to Ireland, and lay out a vision of a new and united Ireland.

The diaspora can be part of setting the agenda for an incoming Irish Government, an agenda that is more than leveraging the goodwill of our "exiled Children" and

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Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

A Sinn Féin government would prioritise planning for Irish unity

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Foreign Affairs, Matt Carthy TD, has said that planning for Irish Unity must be prioritised by the next government.

Deputy Carthy said that a Sinn Féin-led government would publish a green paper on Irish unity, establish an inclusive and welcoming Citizens' Assembly and create a Minister for Reunification at the Department of An Taoiseach.

The Cavan-Monaghan TD made his remarks as a poll in the Irish News showed a further increase in support for Irish unity.

Teachta Carthy said, "With a General Election just weeks away, Sinn Féin is clear that planning and preparation for constitutional change must be a priority for the next government.

"A Sinn Féin-led government would publish a green paper on Irish unity, establish an inclusive and welcoming Citizens' Assembly and create a Minister for Reunification at the Department of An Taoiseach.

"Today's poll in the Irish News is reflective of the ongoing and vibrant discussion that is taking place across our island and at every level of society.

"There is a continued momentum towards Irish Unity, and Sinn Féin is committed to working to secure Unity referendums by the end of this decade.

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“The trends over the last number of years have been seismic and cannot be ignored by the Irish and British governments. It is time to plan and prepare.

“We have huge opportunities ahead to invest in our health service, build more homes and to create a vibrant economy with good-quality jobs and public services at its heart.

“Sinn Féin firmly believes that it is now incumbent on both governments to begin preparations and to work together to enable communities across our island to realise the potential of a new and better future.”



Minority Support for Continued Partition

A poll funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and published by the Irish News in Belfast again confirms that a minority in the North of Ireland support continued partition. This is another way-marker in the decline in support for the division of Ireland.

All has changed and is changing. Unionism, those who support for partition from the rest of Ireland are a minority position in the Parliament and Government that meets in Belfast. When Ireland was divided the six counties that made up, the Northern State were gerrymandered to retain a perpetual Unionist majority. That is now gone.

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Unity, 14% don't know and the rest refused to say. As one commentor said on twitter, if 14% are not sure if they want to stay in the marriage with Britain then that says a lot.

Sinn Féin MP Dáire Hughes has said a poll in today's Irish News speaks to the growing desire for a new and better future where decisions are taken at home on the island of Ireland. "With a General Election just around the corner, the incoming Irish government must make planning and preparation for constitutional change a priority.

"Under a Sinn Féin-led government, we would publish a green paper on Irish unity, establish an inclusive and welcoming Citizens' Assembly and create a Minister for Reunification at the Department of An Taoiseach.

"It is now incumbent on both governments to begin preparations and to work together to enable communities across our island to realise the potential of a new and better future."

It is now time for an Irish Government to plan and prepare for unity referendums as provided for by the Good Friday Agreement. It is time to do the democratic thing and ask the people.

New Merch Shop Now Open!

Show your support for Irish Unity and Friends of Sinn Féin USA with one of our new 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, union printed, and carbon neutral!

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

Use Code OCTOBER24 for 10% off of your order through October 31, 2024.

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Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora in New York and DC

Join us in November for the next People's Assemblies in New York and Washington, DC. Special guest John Finucane, MP will provide a political update followed by a Q&A session. The second half of the evening will include facilitated, small group conversations about Irish Unity and planning for the work ahead.

Register now - tickets are limited and we expect these events to sell out.

November 18, 2024 - Washington, DC - [Tickets and more information](#)

November 21, 2024 - New York - Rockland GAA - [Tickets and more information](#)

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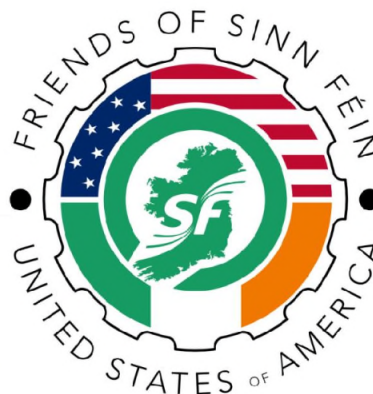
Rockland GAA
New York

November 21, 2024

With John Finucane, MP

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Laborers' International
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With John Finucane MP

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WELCOMES



SOPHIE COLGAN, PODCAST HOST & MC,
IN CONVERSATION WITH
GLENN BRADLEY

Political Evolution: From Firm Stance to Open Mind

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER, 3PM

[**BOOK NOW**](#)

Join Sophie Colgan, host of the Navigating New York podcast, for a candid conversation with Glenn Bradley, former British Army soldier, Officer of the Ulster

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November 3rd — just two days before the U.S. General Election — they will explore the possibility of change in political perspectives, the power of personal evolution, and how people can find common ground, even amidst deep political divides. [Tickets and more information here..](#)

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British government must live up to previous commitment and scrap Legacy Act in full'

Sinn Féin MLA Emma Sheerin has called on the British government to live up to its previous commitment to scrap the cruel Legacy Act.

The Mid Ulster MLA said, "Sean Brown's family have fought for over 27 years to establish the full extent of the events which led to his murder.

"Today's ruling in the High Court is a vindication of the Brown family's efforts and their determination to not give up fighting for the truth.

"The British government must live up to its previous commitments and scrap the Legacy Act in full.

"The majority of families have been clear that they have no confidence in the ICRIR, and nor does the body have the necessary powers to deliver truth and justice.

"The only way to establish the full extent of what happened to Sean Brown is through an independent statutory public inquiry.

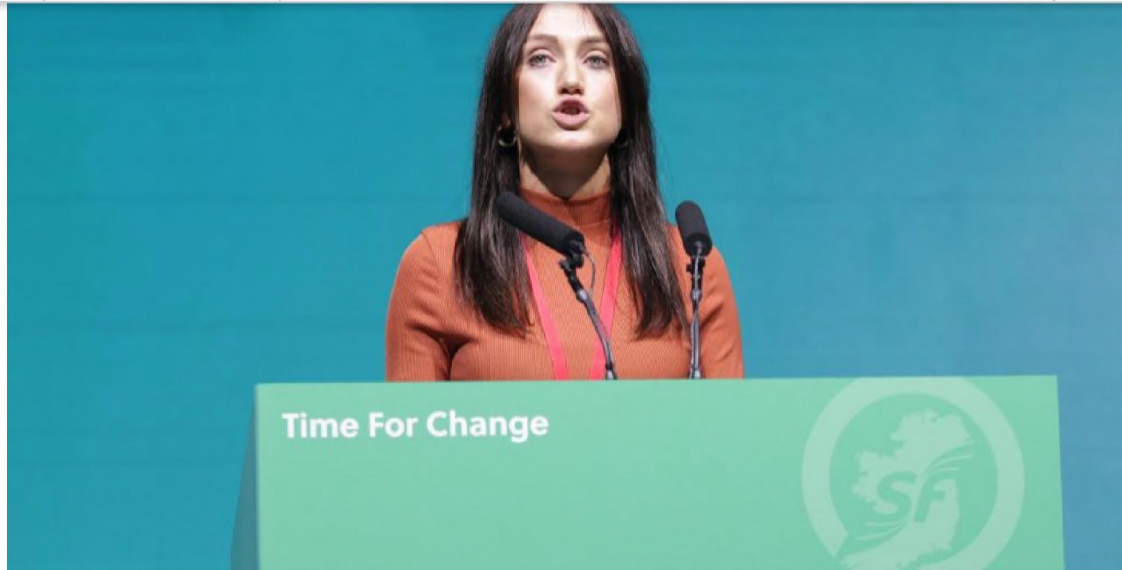
"This was recommended by the Coroner in March and was also supported by the PSNI, the GAA and others.

"The British government must move beyond their acts of bad faith, and finally live up to their commitment to work with families on an agreed way forward for legacy by a return to the key principles and mechanisms agreed at Stormont House."

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