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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Progressing Irish Unity

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week I attended the wake and funeral of Ted Howell. He was a Sinn Féin leader, a mentor, and a good friend.

It was a bitterly cold day. Between snow showers, tears, biting winds, and laughter we swapped stories about Ted. I was glad of the company of Todd Allen from New Jersey and Ciarán Statuton from New York and Mayo, both good friends of Ted and who acted as honor guards for part of the procession.

At his graveside, both Mary Lou McDonald and Gerry Adams gave passionate and personal orations on the loss of their friend.

Gerry Adams remembering his comrade of over 50 years finished up by stating, “So Ted is that rare thing. A successful Irish revolutionary.” I was surrounded by generations of Irish Republicans and former prisoners. Men and women, all grown grey with their heads bowed against the cold. A knowing chuckle broke out. He then added, “Struggle is a continuum and Ted’s contribution has set us up for the next phase.”

For centuries Irish Republicans had sought Independence from Britain. Many of the uprisings ended before they began, some lasted days or weeks. The Tan War and Border Campaign lasted a short number of years. At the end of each, Republicanism

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Ted was born into a divided Ireland and a state that refused to recognize his equal rights or identity. When conflict broke out, he joined the IRA, and was interned for years without a trial. He was instrumental with others in building Sinn Féin, and formulating and overseeing the implementation of what would become the peace process, including its international dimension.

The war of attrition that was the conflict in the North lasted over 25 years and could have gone on for longer.

I remember chatting to Ted about the stance of a leading republican critic of Sinn Féin. With that familiar look in his eye, he said that the critic was ideologically “right” and then added, “but politically wrong”. I was taken aback. He explained that struggle was not about basking in the self-satisfaction of being ideologically pure and continuing to do the same things as the world changed around us. It was about progressing Irish Unity, building support, banking gains and always moving forward. It was a long game.

Jokingly he once reminded us of the good news that we were more than halfway through a 1600-year struggle!

Ted Howell had no ego. He quietly got on with the work. Nor was he dogmatic. He understood the difference between irrevocable principles, and strategies and tactics. That was his great gift.

Standing in a cold Milltown cemetery surrounded by those who had fought the British for years, and are unwavering in their support for peace, I thought of the difference they had made.

Sinn Féin is the largest party across Ireland. We have a peaceful pathway to a new and united Ireland. Irish Republicanism is in its strongest position since partition. By any measure, Ted and those of his generation are that rare thing, successful Irish revolutionaries. The journey is not complete and we have further to travel but with your support, we will honor those who came before and will build a new and united Ireland.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

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Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora

New York & DC

LOW TICKET WARNING

Join us in [Washington, DC on January 27th](#) and in [New York on January 30th](#) for the next meetings of the Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora.

Featuring John Finucane, MP, the People's Assembly will include an address about the current status of work towards Irish Unity, a Q&A session, and small group discussion about the role of the Irish Diaspora.

The event is free to attend, and registration is required. Registration and more information available in the links below.

The Washington, DC event is very close to selling out and the Rockland, GAA event will sell out - no more tickets will be released once they sell out. Make your plans to join us and reserve your tickets today!

**THE COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE
OF IRELAND**



Monday, January 27th, 2025
Washington, DC
Laborers' International Union of North America
905 Black Lives Matter Plz

Featuring John Finucane, MP
A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

NEW

**AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN**

**THE COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE
OF IRELAND**



Thursday, January 30th, 2025
Rockland County, NY
Rockland GAA

Featuring John Finucane, MP
A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

NEW

**AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN**

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Statement from Gerry Adams on the death of Ted Howell

Former Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams spoke of his “deep sense of personal loss and sadness at the death of my good friend of many years Ted Howell.”

Gerry Adams said, “Ba mhaith liom mo chomhbrón a ghabháil le teaghlach Howell.

“Ted Howell was a stalwart in the struggle for Irish freedom for over 50 years. He and his late wife Eileen Duffy were, with others, central figures in the Irish struggle.

“During his many years of activism Ted played a leadership role in the evolution of republican politics. He had a steadfast commitment to anti sectarianism and principled democratic republican values.

“He was part of the core group which managed Sinn Féin’s strategy in the early 1980s, our engagement with the SDLP in 1988 and the emergence of our peace strategy.

“Ted was central to the publication of two key policy documents ‘Scenario for Peace’ in 1987 and the ‘Towards a Lasting Peace in Ireland’ in 1992 – and central to all of the engagements with the Irish, British and US governments in the decades that followed. He was a key part of our negotiating team.

“Ted was also deeply involved in Sinn Féin’s international outreach and played an important role in the peace negotiations in the Basque country. He also travelled with me to the Middle East and he was heavily invested in the Palestinian struggle and for peace in the Middle East.

“Despite ill health in more recent years he has been part of the party’s Uniting Ireland Committee working to advance that objective.

“Ted brought a perceptive and sharp mind to republican politics and to the countless projects he was involved with. His contribution to modern republicanism is enormous. “He was also a very decent and generous person, funny, and modest. Very sociable and good company. A decent cook and a knowledgeable gardener. His death is a great personal loss to me and to all of us who had the honour and pleasure to know him.

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grandchildren and their wider family and friends, including his sisters Anne and Margaret I want to offer on my own behalf and that of Colette and my family our deepest condolences and solidarity.

“Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.”



Óglach Ted Howell laid to rest

On a cold and wintry morning, hundreds of Irish republicans from across Ireland and further afield gathered in West Belfast to pay their respects to our friend and comrade Óglach Ted Howell, a revolutionary Irish republican leader who was laid to rest in Milltown cemetery where his friend and comrade Gerry Adams gave the main oration.

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Video Update: Elections & 2025 Preview

In our final video update of 2024, we discuss the General Election results, a visit to Capitol Hill, look back at a very busy and eventful 2024, and talk about plans for 2025.

We also take a moment to thank you - our readers and viewers. Without your support, none of this would be possible, and we are very grateful for every donation, share, meeting, and more. Thank you!

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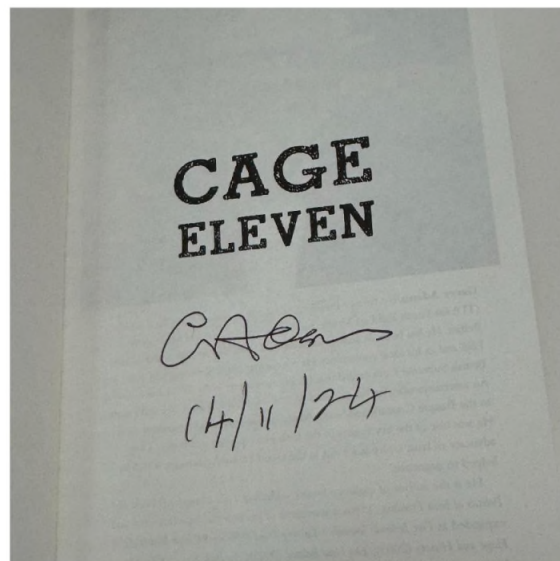
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Rita: A Memoir Now Available

As our way of saying thanks for your donations, and to encourage new support, we have many new items available as thank you gifts for your donations. [Rita: A Memoir](#), the new edition of [Cage Eleven](#), signed by **Gerry Adams**, a new edition of [Bobby Sands' Prison Poems](#) collection, and much more.

Visit our [Champions for Change webpage](#), and learn more about the different giving levels and thank you gifts for one-time donations and recurring, monthly gifts.



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ETA scheme will harm tourism and damage all-island economy'

Sinn Féin MLA Philip McGuigan has called on the British government to provide time-limited exemptions for tourists in relation to its Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme.

The North Antrim MLA said, "The Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme will harm tourism in the north and damage our flourishing all-island economy.

"With non-European travellers now requiring one of these when entering the north from today, I am calling on the British government to at least provide exemptions for tourists impacted by this.

"Around 70% of tourists in the north arrive in Ireland via Dublin, and this scheme threatens over £200 million of revenue which our local economy enjoys from these visitors.

"The ETA, designed by the Tories, is hugely flawed and jeopardises years of progress our island has made through its tourism offering.

"Economy Minister Conor Murphy has also raised this issue directly with the British Home Office, imploring them to listen to the tourism industry.

"There can be no further delays, tourism and hospitality businesses need action now."

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All shirts are made in America, union printed, and carbon neutral!

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

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The Commission on the Future of Ireland Releases Report

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland released a report on the successful work & events that have taken place across Ireland and beyond. Read the full report - click the image below.

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN

REPORT




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