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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Nollaig shona daoibhsa

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

I'm back in home in Ireland, and Fairy Tale of New York is on the radio. I was brought back to last week walking along Broadway and being cut in two by the wind.

*"They've got cars big as bars,
they've got rivers of gold,
But the wind goes right through you,
it's no place for the old"*

The poet Shane MacGowan stripped the hollow sentimentality out of Christmas and delivered a message of hope, love, and the possibility of redemption.

Community is found in a band playing and the choir singing. It is quintessentially the experience of Irish emigrants and universal in the sense of displacement, longing, and belonging.

Emotions shared by generations of Irish and other emigrants, dreaming of finding a home at Christmas.

On my travels, I meet with the young Irish hoping to make a life for themselves in the US and Canada as well as the grandchildren of generations that made the same journey. They carry with them a sense of place and a celebration of Irishness. A belief

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Here's to 2025 and in the words of the song.

"I've got a feeling.

This year's for me and you

So happy Christmas"

Nollaig shona daoibhsa.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

New Video Update: Elections, Year in Review, & a Preview of 2025

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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We are not giving up. We never will.

Mary Lou McDonald was nominated by Sinn Féin for Taoiseach. She was not elected by the members of the Dáil, but she addressed the body after the vote and said, “We are not giving up. We never will. We will continue to stand up for you, to have your back, to defend and advance the rights of working people, of families and of communities.”

Watch her full address below.

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New Books Available

Your donations make our work possible, and we are grateful for your generosity.

As our way of saying thanks, 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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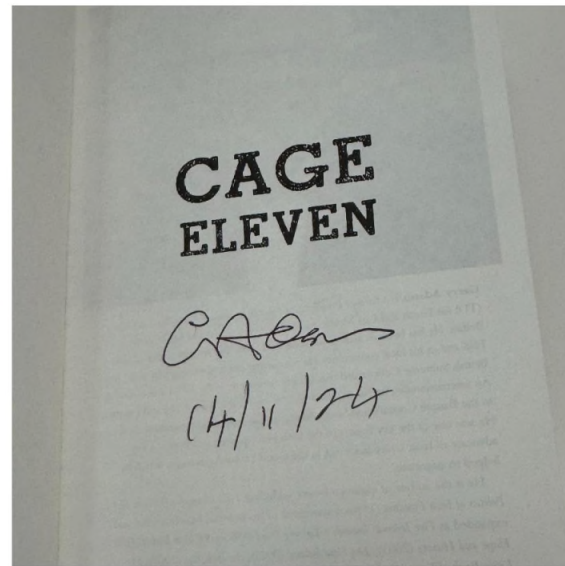
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Rita: A Memoir

Veteran republican, IRA Volunteer Rita O'Hare led an astonishing life. She was imprisoned three times—in Armagh Jail (twice) and Limerick Prison; survived being shot and gravely injured by the British Army; became a writer, editor, Director of Publicity, and Sinn Féin's representative in Washington.

Nelson Mandela referred to her as his 'little warrior'. Of all republicans she was the longest 'on the run'. But above all she was devoted to her beloved partner Brendan, to her four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Rita is the memoir she was writing at the time of her death in March 2023.



In memory of Jack O'Brien

I have been lucky in my life to work alongside so many great activists in Ireland and abroad. I was honored to count among them, my friend Jack O'Brien.

Our paths first crossed when I traveled with Martin McGuinness to the United States. Jack stood out thanks to both his stature and his soft southern drawl.

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Rita O'Hare, her desk always had an opened envelope with newspaper clippings and important articles from US publications that Jack would carefully cut and post. They were always interesting and, at times, annotated with Jack's thoughts.

Over the past five years, I got to know Jack well as a historian and as a political activist. He always had an insightful comment to make, a helpful suggestion, and a probing question, all served up with good humor and topped with his head-back, full-hearted laugh.

He not only talked the talk, but he got things done. Important markers of Irish American history include memorials to Commodore Barry and the statue of Robert Emmet. I always smile when I pass the Emmet statue and remember Jack telling the story of how when it was designated, it became the smallest National Park.

The last time I saw Jack was at the rededication of the Wayside Marker for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument at the end of the summer. Later that night we swapped stories at the launch of the memoir of Rita O'Hare.

While Jack had an interest in history, his passion was for the living. He was a proud Irish Republican who fought against injustice in Ireland. He was unwavering in his belief in the cause of Irish Unity. Many across Ireland will mourn the passing of Jack.

I recently came across a photo from 1972 of a group of activists on the steps of Capitol Hill. It was the American Committee for Ulster Justice set up by the legendary Civil Rights Attorneys Frank Durkan and Paul O'Dwyer. There in the middle was an unmissable young Jack O'Brien. Fifty years later he had lost none of his passion and retained all of his conviction.

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...will be remembered by his family as a loving father and grandfather. For me he will be remembered as a friend and as an activist. On behalf of Sinn Féin, I offer our profound condolences to his son Timothy and grandchildren. Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.

Slán,

Ciarán



New Friends of Sinn Féin Merch

Show your support for Irish Unity and Friends of Sinn Féin USA with one of our new mugs, sweatshirts, and 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](#).

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Incoming Irish government must plan for Irish Unity - Mary Lou McDonald TD

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Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD speaking at the launch of the party's interim report on the work of its Commission on the Future of Ireland demanded that any new incoming Irish government must implement a plan for Irish Unity.

Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora to meet in New York & DC in 2025

Join us in New York and Washington, DC in January 2025 for the next meetings of the Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora.

Featuring John Finucane, MP, the 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.

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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.



AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

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.



AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

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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HAVE YOUR SAY
HAE YER SPAKE**
THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE



THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN

REPORT



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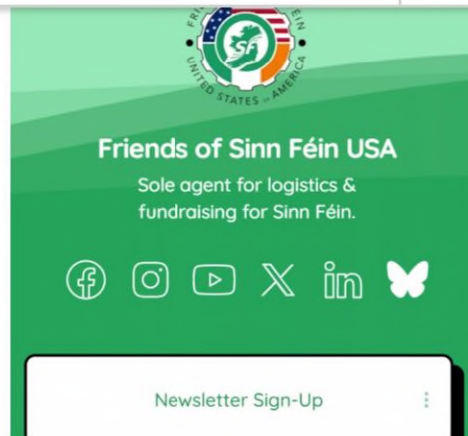
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As news breaks, make sure you keep up with all the developments and analysis. Find links to all of our social media platforms - including our newest account on Bluesky - right here:

[Friends of Sinn Féin Linktree](#)



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