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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## Plenty of work to do

### A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

After two and a half days of counting the results are in from the Irish General election. Sinn Féin made an overall gain of two seats leaving the party as the second largest in the Dáil (parliament), the biggest group of Sinn Féin TDs to enter Leinster House in over a century

Fianna Fáil took the position of largest party and looks set to form a government with their former coalition partners Fine Gael. The third party of the outgoing government, the Green Party had their vote decimated losing 11 of their 12 seats.

Between them, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are short of an overall majority and will be reliant on either some independents or one of the smaller parties to make up the government numbers.

The two parties have been briefing that it will be the New Year before a government is formed.

While this election has not moved the dial in terms of government this time, it does continue a historic trend. For almost one hundred years Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael swapped roles in government and opposition. Ireland was a two-party state.

Over the past twenty years, all has changed. In the 2002 election, the two parties won 112 seats and Sinn Féin returned 5. This year Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael had a

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The reaction of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael to the rise of Sinn Féin has been to rule out ever going into government with Sinn Féin. This is a very blatant attempt to portray a vote for Sinn Féin as a wasted vote.

This is not a new tactic. For years the British Government and other parties refused to recognise the mandate of Sinn Féin. Unionists refused to countenance working with the party's elected representative even in local councils. The media and his own party widely criticized John Hume for talking with Gerry Adams.

Their tactics failed, and support for Sinn Féin grew until the party could no longer be sidelined.

The position of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael to rule out even talking to the second-largest party is fundamentally anti-democratic. That is not to say that any agreement between the parties and Sinn Féin would be possible, but the democratic choice of people must be respected.

It looks like we will now have a continuation of the same parties in the government, with the same policies and with the same crises. Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have refused to plan, prepare, or advocate for Irish Unity.

There is a need to build a viable alternative to these two parties. To engage with others and inspire the electorate to know that real change is possible. Supporters of Irish Unity can and must hold the incoming government to account. Your voice can be heard to make sure any agreed programme for government must include concrete steps to promote and prepare for Irish unity.

I hope that you have a restful weekend because we have plenty of work to do. If you are in the NY or DC area, you can register for one of the next Irish Unity People's Assemblies and join the conversation. Events in more cities will be announced in the new year.

Is mise,

Ciarán

**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

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**The work of winning a better future for**

## **all continues right now – Mary Lou McDonald TD**

Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald has said that the work of winning a better future for all continues right now.

Speaking as she met with the largest team of Sinn Féin TDs in over 100 years, Ms McDonald said: “We are in the corner of ordinary people. We have your back, and we are not giving up.”

Teachta McDonald said, “We are standing here with the largest team of Sinn Féin TDs in over 100 years; a team of 39 TDs with the energy, determination, and commitment to deliver for working people.

“On Friday, hundreds of thousands of people voted for Sinn Féin and for real change. They voted in the hope that workers, families, and communities would come first – their needs, their interests, their futures. That the lives of the many would be prioritised over the privilege and wealth of the few.

“They voted for affordable housing, to be able to see a doctor when they’re sick, for affordable childcare, for an end to paying the USC for those on average incomes, for the scrapping of the unfair carer allowance means test and for real investment in communities left behind by successive governments.

“They voted for our young people to have the opportunity to build a good life and prosperous future here at home in Ireland.

“I know there is deep disappointment that Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael look set to pick up where they left off before the election. That they will form another government for the status quo.

“But to every single person who voted for change, who voted with the hope and the belief that a better, fairer, united, and more equal Ireland is possible, I want to say this – your vote matters. Your vote counts. Your hope counts. Your belief counts. We hold tightly to your desire to see a better future for working people in Ireland. We will use your hope and desire to motivate us, to inspire us, and to drive us forward.

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morning, noon and a night to stand up for you. To fight for you. To make sure your voice is heard. That is what we will do whether we are in government or in opposition.

“This is your team. We are in the corner of ordinary people. We have your back, and we are not giving up. Not now. Not ever. There is too much at stake. Far too much that can be achieved if we stick together and keep believing that it can be done. That we can have a new government for working people.

“So, there will be no pauses, no let-up, it’s full steam ahead. The work of winning a better future for all continues right now.”

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## British Secretary of State announcement falls short of commitment to 'repeal and replace' Legacy Act

Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said the announcement by the British Secretary of State falls short of Labour manifesto commitment to 'repeal and replace' Legacy Act.

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‘repeal and replace’ the Legacy Act ‘by returning to the principles of the Stormont House Agreement’, this announcement falls far short of that.

“Instead, the British Secretary of State has focused on reforming the Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery (ICRIR) which has been rejected by victims and families and the political parties.

“This is absolutely outrageous and disgraceful.

“It is essential in any democracy that judicial processes are free to carry out their duties independently, free from state interference.

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)



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## New Books and Thank You Gifts Available

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*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.

## 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.




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## Biggest group of Sinn Féin TDs to enter Leinster House in over a century

“This is the biggest group of Sinn Féin TDs to enter Leinster House in over a century.

We are here to work for you, we are in your corner and we will never ever give up on our mission to create an equal, a fair and a united Ireland.” Mary Lou McDonald

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## **Sinn Féin TDs Rose Conway Walsh and Mairéad Farrell update diaspora around the world**

Two Sinn Féin TDs met with dozens of Irish diaspora from around the world to discuss the role the diaspora can play in Ireland, to provide updates about the election, and answer some questions from attendees. Watch the recordings of the calls below.

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## [Sinn Féin Online Election Update with Mairéad Farrell](#)



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**Get the latest news & updates on Friends of Sinn Féin's social media channels**

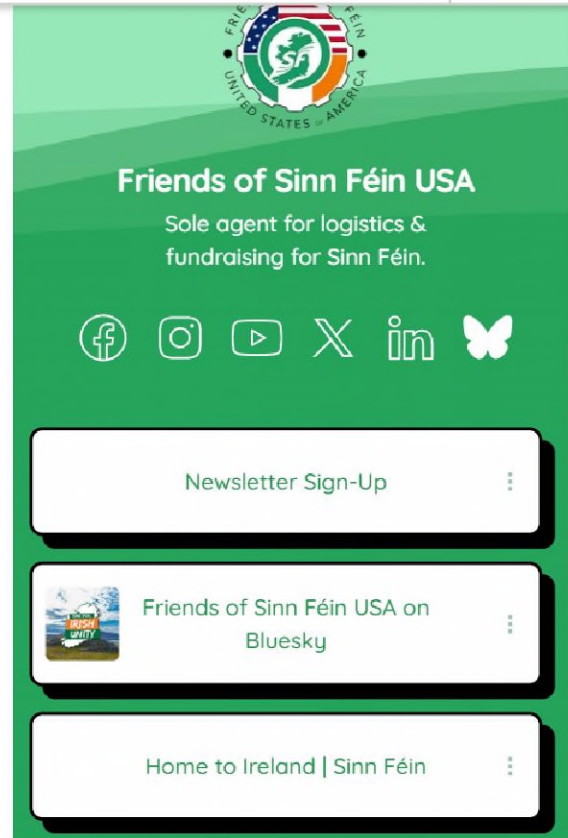
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...to news breaks, make sure you keep up with all the developments and analysis. Find links to all of our social media platforms - including our newest account on Bluesky - right here:

[Friends of Sinn Féin Linktree](#)



The image shows a Linktree widget for 'Friends of Sinn Féin USA'. At the top is the organization's logo, which features a circular emblem with the letters 'SF' in the center, surrounded by the text 'FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN' and 'UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'. Below the logo, the text reads 'Friends of Sinn Féin USA' and 'Sole agent for logistics & fundraising for Sinn Féin.' There are five social media icons: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, X, and LinkedIn. Below the icons are three white buttons with rounded corners and black borders, each with a three-dot menu icon on the right side. The buttons are labeled: 'Newsletter Sign-Up', 'Friends of Sinn Féin USA on Bluesky' (with a small Bluesky logo icon to the left), and 'Home to Ireland | Sinn Féin'.

# 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 and registration is required. Tickets 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

## Your Donation Counts!

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# NEWS, ANALYSIS & EVENTS

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## New Items in the Friends of Sinn Féin Merch Shop!

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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