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UNITED IRELAND

A Government Absent Policies or Priorities

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It has been quite the week. A new President in the US and a new Government in Dublin. As I write, all of Ireland is preparing for a major storm. I hope that it is a mere coincidence.

However, the signs are not good around the new Irish Government. This week was marked by a dispute and a standoff in the Dáil (Irish Parliament).

Government formation in Dublin is different from the US. For almost a hundred years it was a two-party system between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael. Each would either control the Government or The Opposition. The largest of the two parties, with at times a smaller party, would assume its role as Government after a perfunctory vote in the Dáil.

All of that changed over the past ten years. Neither of the two parties can command a majority individually or together. It is now a three-party plus others system with Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, and Sinn Féin with almost equal standing and a fourth group of smaller parties and independents,

In the last term, (essentially 27 June 2020 through 23 January 2025) Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael entered government with the support of the smaller Green party. This was an unprecedented coalition designed solely to stop Sinn Féin leading a government.

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Democrats and Republicans governing jointly together.

Following the Irish General Election of November last year, both parties again collectively failed to win an overall majority. In the same election, the Greens were decimated. Again Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael worked together to exclude Sinn Féin and began to look around for others to make up their numbers.

So a grubby process began. The two large parties looked to different independent groups. A Program for Government was drafted, largely promising more of the same as the outgoing government with the main negotiation being over positions and perks. The outcome: we now have the largest government in the history of the State, with an array of senior ministers, super junior, and junior ministers and associated advisors.

In what amounted to a fast move, a group of “independents” who agreed to support the Government also sought to be designated as an Opposition group in order to try to claim additional speaking slots. They sought to be independent, opposition, and government all at the same time. The government went along with this nonsense and the Dail was unable to vote for a government.

The issue has been resolved for now. The new government then voted to allow itself a two-week break. We will have been without a functioning Dáil for over 80 days by the time it is reconvened.

As for the new program of government, it lacks both detail and ambition. It is noted as much by what is not in it as what is. There is no plan or even a process to prepare for Irish Unity. In fact the issue isn't even mentioned. As noted by former Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar, this programme falls even short of the weak election promises of both parties.

They have also dropped the long-standing commitment to grant Irish Citizens living abroad a vote in the Irish Presidential election. A real measure of their commitment to the diaspora.

This is a government of parties and individuals absent of policies or priorities, but concerned only with position and perks. Meanwhile, the housing crisis deepens, a generation is leaving, families are under pressure, and public services are failing.

The only people to prosper will be Ministers when they come back from a two week break.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Mary Lou McDonald congratulates John Samuelsen for receiving Irishman of the Year Award

John Samuelsen, International President of the Transport Workers Union, was named Irishman of the Year and Aide to the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade by the United Emerald Societies earlier this week. Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald sent a letter and her congratulations, celebrating John's commitment to Ireland and standing up for workers.



Oifig Mary Lou McDonald TD
Office of Mary Lou McDonald TD

John Samuelsen
International President
Transport Workers Union of America

22nd January 2025

John a chara,

Congratulations on your recognition as the Irishman of the Year by the Grand Council of United Emerald Societies.

Pride in Ireland, fighting against injustice and standing up for workers are core elements of our shared Irish heritage. Claiming the title of Irishman of the Year is a fitting tribute to the Viking part of your heritage!!!

Following in the footsteps of Mike Quill the founder of the Transport Workers Union of America, another dedicated Irish Republican, you are fearless in the face of intimidation and beholden to none but your membership.

We in Sinn Féin are proud to call you a friend and a brother in struggle. Enjoy your day and I look forward to catching up with you in the future.

Is mise

Mary Lou McDonald



Uachtarán Sinn Féin, Oifig Theach Laighean, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.
President of Sinn Féin, Leinster House Office, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

☎: (+353 1) 618 3230



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John Finucane MP to speak at NYC Bar to address Public Inquiry into murder of his father - Wednesday, January 29th



John Finucane, MP will be discussing the 35-yearlong campaign for truth about the murder of his father, Northern Irish Human Rights Lawyer, Patrick Finucane. John will discuss the long-awaited quest for answers as to who was involved and why, and provide an update into the British government's recent commitment to hold a public inquiry into his father's murder.

This event is free for NYC Bar members and \$15 for Non-Members. Members of the Brehon Law Society can call 212-382-6663 to register.

[More information and registration here](#)

Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora

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The People's Assembly will include an address about the current status of work towards Irish Unity from John Finucane, MP, 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. More information available in the links below.

There are only a handful tickets remaining for the Rockland, GAA event - no more tickets will be released once they sell out. Make your plans to join us and 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

Sinn Féin invites leaders to conversation on unity

Sinn Féin National Party Chairperson Declan Kearney MLA has written to all party political leaders on the island of Ireland inviting them to meet with Sinn Féin to discuss future constitutional change and the shape of a new Ireland.

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“The Commission on the Future of Ireland, established by Sinn Féin in July 2022, was created to facilitate grassroots consultation and provide a platform for people to express their views on the opportunities and benefits of Irish unity.

“Over the past year, the Commission has made significant progress through People’s Assemblies and sectoral events held across the island and internationally. These initiatives have been instrumental in fostering a positive and inclusive dialogue on constitutional change. The level of discussion on this issue today is unprecedented, and there is now a cross party political consensus on the need to plan and prepare for Irish unity.

“However, achieving this goal requires collective leadership. That is why I have written directly to leaders of political parties, urging them to meet with Sinn Féin and take part in this vital conversation. This is not a challenge for one party or one perspective—it is an opportunity for all parties to engage, contribute, and shape the future of our shared island.

“The all-party Oireachtas committee on the Good Friday Agreement published a detailed report last July which called on the Irish government to begin planning for Irish Unity. The Irish and British governments have a crucial role to play. It is time for them to begin planning for constitutional change and a new and united Ireland.”



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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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IRISH NORTHERN AID OF CONNECTICUT

Bloody Sunday Mass & Pancake Breakfast

Sunday January 26, 2025

Irish American Home
132 Commerce Street
Glastonbury, CT

11:00AM Mass
Breakfast to Follow

\$12.00 Adults
\$7.00 Children under 10



♪ Irish Music in Lower Lounge After Breakfast ♪

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