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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

Clearing the Land of People

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

When I travel throughout the United States and Canada, I have the privilege to meet with the newly arrived Irish, the descendants of those who fled an Gorta Mór (the Great Hunger), and all generations in between.

I have visited “famine” monuments in Quebec, New York, Rhode Island, and Philadelphia. Each is a powerful reminder of the scale of suffering, death, and sacrifice of those fleeing starvation.

In the census of 1841, the population of all of Ireland was 8 million but by 1851 over 1.5 million had been lost to starvation and emigration. More than one in six of the population.

There was a potato blight that wrecked harvest after harvest, but this was not a famine. Ireland was producing enough food to feed all of the people, but it was being exported by landlords for profit.

The landlords realized that more money could be made from cattle, sheep, and commercial crops than from rents from subsistence farmers. The Irish were evicted and starved off their own land. It was one part genocide (starvation) and one part ethnic cleansing (forced emigration).

Ireland was a colony of Britain. They could do as they pleased without sanction from other nations.

The impact of this policy would be felt for generations. Our countryside is haunted by skeletons of abandoned stone cottages. The memory of an Gorta Mór drove generations to resist and rebel against the British. Like other colonial powers, the

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I have met the descendants of those forced by starvation to emigrate who returned to Ireland to find the only reference to their family in a church register. Their land was lost and a community was wiped away. But the sense of belonging remains.

Our past colors how we view the world of today. Uniting our nation and undoing the division that is part of Britain's colonial legacy is why I am an Irish Republican.

Our past explains the widespread horror in Ireland at the proposal to clear the land of Gaza of its people. It spoke to our history.

The US played a central and successful role in building and sustaining our peace process. It was a facilitator and guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement.

Our history demonstrates that the seeds that are sowed today are reaped tomorrow.

The British starved a generation and dispersed people across the globe. The memory of that horror was never lost leading to generations of conflict.

In 1994 the US helped sow the seed of peace and today a generation has grown up without knowing conflict.

I hope that the US administration reflects on Irish history and the injustice of ethnic cleansing, and supports the effort to rebuild Gaza for the people of Palestine and peace.

I always travel in hope. Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Senator Conor Murphy appointed Sinn Féin Seanad Leader – “I will be a strong northern voice in Leinster House.”

Sinn Féin Senator Conor Murphy was appointed Sinn Féin Seanad leader this week, and said that among his priorities would be advancing the all-Ireland economy, providing a voice for the people of the North of Ireland, extending presidential voting rights to all Irish citizens, including those in the North and those living abroad, and building towards a referendum on Irish reunification.

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interests of the entire 32 counties of Ireland are at the heart of everything.

Speaking following his maiden speech in the Seanad, Seanadóir Murphy said, “It is an honour to be here, representing the people of the North of Ireland and bringing their voices into this chamber.

“As the outgoing Economy Minister in the Northern Executive, I focused on advancing the all-Ireland economy. That work does not stop today. It continues and I intend to place a robust focus on this key area.

“I will continue to advocate for these priorities here in the Oireachtas, I will be a strong northern voice in Leinster House, I am proud to be part of a 45-strong Sinn Féin team in these houses, and to take up the role as Sinn Féin Leader in the Seanad.

“We will take a progressive approach, working collaboratively and constructively with others while holding this government to account. We need a government that puts ordinary people first. That means building homes, fixing our health service, making childcare affordable, and giving young people the chance to build their futures here in Ireland. As the opposition, we will ensure that this government is scrutinised every step of the way.

“On the issue of future constitutional change, this government cannot continue to ignore the conversation about Irish unity. This is the defining issue of our time.

“As someone from County Armagh, I have lived my entire life in the border region. I understand firsthand the political, social, and economic challenges that partition has created.

“Having served in the Stormont Assembly since 1998, and as an MP and as a Councillor, I have worked to strengthen cooperation across the island – on health, agriculture, education, tourism, and transport and challenge the negative impacts of partition.

“A referendum on a united Ireland is coming in this decade, and we must be ready. We must engage with people across the island – north and south, British and Irish, unionist and nationalist – to plan for the future in a spirit of respect and inclusion.

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“Later this year, the people in this State will elect a new President, and it is past time to extend voting rights to all Irish citizens, including those in the North and those living abroad.

“In 2013, a Constitutional Convention recommended this change. In 2017, the government agreed a referendum should be held. Yet Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have dragged their feet, in fear of what real democratic change might bring.

“This is a matter of fairness and inclusion. Irish citizens, regardless of where they live, should have a say in who represents them as Uachtarán na hÉireann.

“As we enter this new political term, we must face the challenges of our time head-on. I look forward to tackling these challenges, and to ensure that the interests of the entire 32 counties of Ireland are at the heart of everything we do.”



Ancient Order of Hibernians host author of *Lost Gaels* for series of book events

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Members of the GAA Killed During the Conflict in Ireland, is the first comprehensive account of how the Troubles impacted the GAA community.

This poignant tribute honors the lives of lost Gaels and highlights the power of sport to foster unity, resilience, and healing in the face of conflict.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians will be hosting a series of events with Peadar Thompson who will lead an engaging talk about the impact of The Troubles on the GAA community. Following the talk, there will be a Q&A session where you can dive deeper into this compelling history.

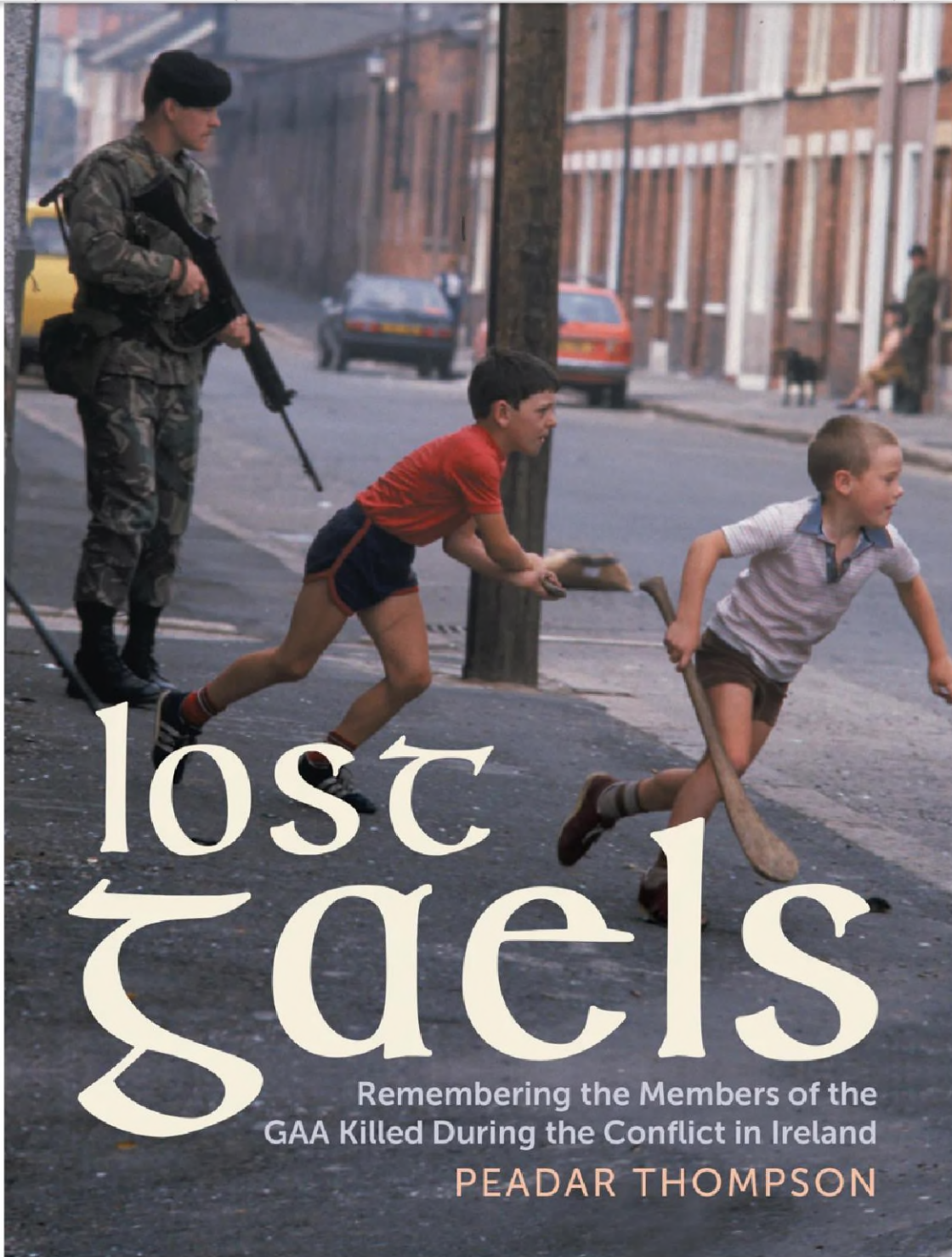
They will be hosting events in Watertown, MA, Albany, NY, Glastonbury, CT, Orangeburg, NY, New York, NY, Middletown, NJ, Philadelphia, PA, Baltimore, MD, Pittsburgh, PA, Cleveland, OH, and Chicago, IL. Click the button below for more information and details.

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Time to make United Ireland a reality

By Seán Mac Brádaigh

The weekend of 18 and 19 January saw Irish republicans from Sligo, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Roscommon, Cavan and further afield mark the 50th Anniversary of the death of IRA Volunteer Kevin Coen through commemoration and reflection.

A native of Rusheen, near Riverstown Co Sligo, Kevin was a Volunteer with the IRA's South Fermanagh Brigade.

He joined the ranks of the Defense Forces in the pivotal year of 1969 in response to the tumultuous events of that year which saw conflict ignite across the north of Ireland.

While on active service on 20 January 1975 at Cassidy's Cross, Mullan, near the Fermanagh village of Kinawley and close to the Cavan border, Kevin was fired on by undercover British soldiers who were in an unmarked civilian car. Shot from a distance of just a few feet, he died at the scene.

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and friends in his native Co. Sligo.

His body was treated in a particularly disrespectful manner while being brought to the Erne Hospital by British soldiers.

At Kevin's funeral several days later, the graveside oration was delivered by Sinn Féin's John Joe McGirl who had just been released from Long Kesh Internment Camp some weeks beforehand.

During the course of his remarks, John Joe said of Kevin: "He felt strongly that the nationalist people of the Six Counties should not have to fight the war for freedom on their own. Kevin felt that the people of the North should not be left alone".

"One thing is clear – republicans are sincere that the Irish people should live and work together as Kevin did with his neighbors – but the intruder in Irish affairs must withdraw so that lasting freedom and peace can be brought about in Ireland".

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Commission on Future of Ireland in Canada - Saturday, March 15 in Montreal



MONTREAL



Presented by



Leading members of Montreal Irish community

- Dr. Donal Gill - Assistant Professor of Canadian Politics at Concordia University
- Dr. Emer O'Toole - Assistant Professor School of Irish Studies, Concordia
- Eoin Ó hÓgáin - founding partner at Power Sustainable, Gaeilgeoir
- Neal Cunningham - Director of Investments at Innergex, Montreal Shamrocks GAC

Prominent Sinn Féin Speaker

Saturday March 15
14h - 16h
Concordia University Hall
Building (H12.20)
1455 De Maisonneuve West

Register to attend on
Eventbrite using QR Code
or at <https://bit.ly/4hDGSD3>



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