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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

A Chara,

We are living in a historic moment in Irish history. The path from a divided Ireland to a United Ireland has never been more direct. The Good Friday Agreement spells it all out in black and white.

The United States has played a vital role throughout the course of the negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and as a guarantor of its implementation. Its role in the work of uniting Ireland is not yet complete.

Thanks to the work of Friends of Sinn Féin, the Irish diaspora now have an opportunity to be a part of the process and to contribute to the conversation about Irish unity.

Friends of Sinn Féin's *Irish Unity People's Assemblies: Diaspora* have already organized hundreds of activists who are working to further the goal of a new and united Ireland.

We need your help to bring Sinn Féin speakers to cities all over the United States for more *People's Assemblies* this year.

With the support of Irish America, we will be able to move a United Ireland from an aspiration to an achievable goal, and we all have a role to play.

[Please contribute what you can today.](#) **Every single dollar counts.** We are so grateful for your support as we continue to raise the volume on the voice of the Irish Diaspora and everyone working for a new and United Ireland.

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Momentum grows for Irish Unity in USA

By Greg O'Loughlin

Planning for Irish Unity continues to gain ground thanks to the discussions and workshops happening at the People's Assemblies: Diaspora in cities across the United States.

The Irish diaspora were the centre of events in Cleveland, OH, Columbus, OH, Rockland County, New York, and Washington, DC. Hundreds of recent Irish immigrants and generational Irish Americans have come together to weigh in on key questions and plans for next steps in the work towards a new and united Ireland.

With events planned for Chicago, IL, Cincinnati, OH, and Nashville, TN, in the coming months, momentum

keeps growing and the need to prepare for unity is clearer than ever!
Here's a look at how the Assemblies have gone so far:

CLEVELAND, OHIO

At a sold-out event, hundreds of members of the Irish-American community gathered to discuss their role in securing Irish unity. The meeting was addressed by Sinn Féin's Newry and Armagh MP Dáire Hughes.

Addressing the Cleveland event, the Newry and Armagh MP said, "Irish unity requires an Irish government to plan, prepare, and advocate for unity. The Irish government needs to hear the voice of Irish America."

Questions and topics that were raised in the small-group discussions included questions on how to integrate two separate economies and public services, how to ensure a peaceful transition, governance issues, and many more.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

Nearly 200 gathered in Columbus Ohio to hear from Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn. He told the gathering "The US was essential in reaching the Good Friday Agreement. It also acted to safeguard progress when the British government sought to impose a hard border across the island as part of Brexit.

"Since its signing, the US has acted as a strong guarantor of the agreement. The agreement provides for Irish unity referendums. If you support the Good Friday Agreement you support the democratic right of the people to have their say. It is now time for that right to be vindicated. The US should continue to act as a guarantor of the agreement, ensuring its full implementation, including unity referendums."

In the small group discussions, participants focused their attention on the types of activism it will take to move the needle at local, state, and national levels with their representatives and elected officials. Small groups worked on a variety of options for activism with their civic groups, unions, and other community organizations.

WASHINGTON, DC

The event sold out weeks before the evening everyone gathered at the headquarters of the Laborers International Union of North America on Black Lives Matter Boulevard in Washington, DC.

Members of many Irish American organizations, including the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish American Unity Conference, and Irish Network DC came together for the discussion and to hear from John Finucane, MP for Belfast North.

He told attendees, "For supporters of Irish unity, the objective is clear. We need to secure and win unity referendums. To ensure that the right of the people to referendums is vindicated and that we persuade the majority in both jurisdictions that Unity is in their best



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interests.

"We are engaged in a project of nation-building. To demonstrate to the world that a peaceful transition is possible. A united Ireland must be a new Ireland. We want to reconcile past differences and build a home for all."

Many of the people and the groups worked together to make plans for outreach to their representatives, newspapers, and unions to make clear the growing support for unity. Additionally, many in attendance made plans to raise the issue at their upcoming St. Patrick's Day events with attendees and visiting dignitaries.

Rockland County, NY

The largest GAA club in America played host to the first People's Assembly to be held in New York. People travelled from as far as Boston, MA, Hartford, CT, and Providence, RI, to join the attendees from the New York area at the Rockland GAA club.

John Finucane again addressed the crowd, saying, "This Irish government fails to grasp the historic opportunity of our time. Instead they tell us that now is not the time.

"One hundred years after partition. Twenty-Seven years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Five years after the Unionist electoral majority came to an

end. When is the time?"

"To effectively prepare, the Irish government must establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity and use its resources to lay out a vision of a new and united Ireland.

The small group discussions were invigorating as many seasoned activists shared their thoughts about how best to make it clear to American political leaders as well as Irish political leaders that there needs to be a plan for Irish Unity. Conversations were focused on the importance of maintaining and growing bipartisan support all over the United States as well as raising awareness at local, state, and national levels.

At every one of the events, the calls for the US to continue to support the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement - including the provision for unity referendums - echoed from table to table, around the room. Just as clear were the calls for the Irish Government to act and seize the opportunity to build a new Ireland.

These events offer an opportunity to connect with other activists from around the country, to share strategies and ideas, brainstorm, teach, and learn from one another. Stay connected to learn more details about upcoming events across the United States and Canada.



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