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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Looking to the future with confidence

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Last week I attended events in New York in the lead-up to Saint Patrick's Day. I accompanied Senator Conor Murphy to the Celtic Medical Society of New York annual dinner.

Dr. Tom McGinn, in accepting his award, made an inspiring speech on the need to allow doctors to act as healers. In a medical world that focuses on metrics and throughputs, time with patients is needed to see beyond the surface symptoms and to get to know the person, their life, and living conditions. The most appropriate treatments could only be identified by looking at the whole person.

In his contribution, Conor asked what it meant to be Irish with the challenge to look beyond the stereotypes and to understand the experiences of the Irish at home and abroad.

He referenced the life of Dr. Gertrude Kelly. When she was a child, her family was forced into exile following the failed Fenian uprising.

She would grow up to become a teacher and surgeon. Her medical practice focused on the most impoverished and destitute. She was a feminist and the President of the Cumann na mBán, the Irish women's revolutionary movement dedicated to Irish independence. Her whole life was helping those in need in New York and promoting the cause of Irish Unity, equality, and independence.

The night before I had attended the boisterous Saint Patrick's celebration of the Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union. At the event, they remembered their founder

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Mike Quill was an IRA volunteer who fought against the British in the Tan War and would go on to fight in the Irish Civil War against the treaty that partitioned Ireland. On the losing side of the Civil War, he emigrated to the US and began working on the subway. At the time workers were divided into small competing guilds that allowed the bosses to dictate terms and conditions.

Quill, reflecting on Connolly, sought to unite the workers into one big union. He connected with other veteran Irish Republicans to organize under the slogan, “United. Invincible”. At the time of his death, the Transport Workers Union had revolutionized the conditions of workers.

Quill would continue to campaign for equality, unity, and justice in the US and Ireland. Following his death, Dr. Martin Luther King said “Mike Quill was a fighter for decent things all his life—Irish independence, labor organization, and racial equality”

The Local 100 is the union of the subway, bus, and ancillary workers. The room was a perfect representation of diverse blue-collar New York. Many in the room were Irish and Irish-American, others were not. All were united in celebrating the contribution that Ireland and Irish leaders had made to their lives.

Both events included Irish dance, music, speakers, and rousing singalongs of rebel songs. These were open, inviting, and inclusive celebrations of Irishness looking to the future with confidence.

At the end of his speech, Senator Murphy concluded that to identify what it means to be Irish is to look below the surface and remember those who were the best of us. To be Irish means “to cherish and share our heritage, to support one another, and above all else to care”

That was true of Gertrude Kelly and Mike Quill and for generations yet to come.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Sinn Féin MEPs to host Irish Unity conference in European Parliament

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Commission on the Future of Ireland, will be hosting a conference on Irish Unity in the European Parliament on Tuesday April 8.

Titled, “The EU and Irish Unity: What Next?” the conference will bring together speakers from the worlds of academia, trade unions and politics to discuss the opportunities for the island of Ireland as a re-united Ireland within the European Union.

Speaking from Brussels MEP Funchion said, “The European Union made clear several years ago that in the event of reunification the island of Ireland would automatically be part of the EU.

“The conversation on Irish Unity has significantly increased in recent years and successive opinion polls show substantial growth in support of unity.

“Last year the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Good Friday Agreement urged the Irish government to plan for Unity.

“Planning is essential and this conference is part of Sinn Féin’s efforts to encourage dialogue and persuade the Irish government to make preparations for unity.

“I am delighted that we will have a number of high level speakers who will discuss the damaging impact partition has had on our island, as well as the positive potential emerging from the all-island economy. The conference will be an opportunity to hear the European perspective on the question of our constitutional future.”

Lynn Boylan MEP said, “Conferences such as these are important, as the EU will have a role to play in any future referendum.

“As the conversation on Irish Unity progresses, we need the EU institutions to both take note, and engage.

“The EU institutions will play a vital role in any future referendum on Unity, as it will be incumbent upon them to make clear what political and financial supports they can provide to assist us in the event of a successful referendum on Irish Unity.”

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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

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Policing Ombudsman finds investigation into the 1991 execution of Colum Marks 'lacked independence and rigour'

Sinn Féin MP Chris Hazzard has welcomed findings from the Policing Ombudsman which concluded the investigation into the 1991 execution of Colum Marks 'lacked independence and rigour'.

Welcoming this, the South Down MP said: "Colum Marks' family have courageously fought for decades to reveal the truth into his execution by the RUC, and today is testament to their strength, resilience and determination.

"These findings support what Colum's family and the entire community knew all along; that he was unarmed, unmasked and not posing a threat when he was executed.

"Unsurprisingly, much of the evidence was destroyed by the RUC, and former officers also did not cooperate with the investigation, and that unfortunately means many questions remain unanswered.

"Sinn Féin will continue to support the Marks family."



April 22 - Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation Dinner in New York

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The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation 2025 Chieftain's Dinner NYC

Save the Date
April 22, 2025

Special Guest Speaker:
Kathleen Funchion, MEP

Date: April 22, 2025

Location: Bobby Vans

Address: 135 W 50th St, New York, NY 10020
b/n 6th and 7th Ave

**Cocktail hour from 6-7 pm, sit down 3
course dinner 7-9 pm**

Check our website:
<https://martinmcguinnesspf.org/>

Tickets - \$250
Sponsorships - \$500

Email Andrea McAuliffe 631-777-6940
amcauliffe@abgllaw.com



Chicago Easter Commemoration

Saturday April 19, 2025, with Sinn Féin MP Cathal Mallaghan.

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Organized 1867
A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO IRELAND
Josie Connolly Camp / Chicago

109th Easter Commemoration Dinner and Dance Erin Ballroom

Saturday, April 19th, 2025 6:30 p.m.

At Irish Heritage Center
4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago, IL

Tickets: \$50

Cocktails at 6:30

Guest Speaker: **Cathal Mallaghan, Sinn Fein**

Honoree: **Finola Fagan**

Cash Bar

Live Music by Joe McShane

CONTACT: Seamus Murin (312) 593-2129 or Vincent Casey (708) 790-8900



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Easter Commemoration in San Francisco with Galway East Sinn Féin TD Louis O'Hara

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ANNUAL 1916 EASTER RISING COMMEMORATION
AT THE GRAVE OF THOMAS DESMOND
Fenian Organizer and Catalpa rescue participant
HOLY CROSS CEMETERY, COLMA.
Easter Sunday 20th April
Assemble main Gate 11am.
March to graveside with the Pearse and Connolly Fife and
Drum Band
Reading of Phoblacht Na Eireann
Main Oration by
GALWAY EAST SINN FEIN TD.
LOUIS O' HARA



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