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UNITED IRELAND

Government and Opposition

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

We are living at a time in which political precedents are being swept away. What was once thought to be unacceptable is now celebrated.

In the Dáil (Irish Parliament), a row has been growing since Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael established this new government with the support of several “independent” TDs. This week it resulted in a vote of “no confidence” in the Speaker Vorona Murphy, an “independent” TD elected from Wexford.

All of the opposition parties voted “no confidence” in the Speaker. She only survived by the votes of the Government TD’s. This was without precedent as all previous Speakers worked with the confidence of both government and opposition.

In a parliamentary democracy, the Speaker has to act with, to borrow a phrase from the Good Friday Agreement, rigorous impartiality. The Speaker is neither Government or Opposition. Their role is to oversee the operation of the parliament in fair way and to ensure that the rules of conduct are enforced. That is why the Speaker is the highest paid official in the political system, paid more than the Taoiseach, and also is automatically re-elected as a member of the parliament in the subsequent election.

Central to the operation of the parliament is the ability to hold the Government to account. Without the checks and balances in other systems, a parliamentary democracy is left to the tyranny of the majority.

So how did we get to the point of a motion of no confidence? Following the general election in November 2024 the combined number of seats held by Fianna Fáil and

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Sinn Féin were returned as the second largest party in the Dáil. True to form, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, the establishment parties, refused to talk to Sinn Féin and began canvassing support with other smaller parties and “independents”.

They settled on a group of “independents” headed up by a TD called Micheal Lowery. The current speaker Verona Murphy was part of that group.

In 2011, a Tribunal of Inquiry found that Lowry had an “insidious and pervasive influence” on the bidding process for a mobile phone licence when he was a Fine Gael minister in the 1990s.

The tribunal found that the winning bidder had made or facilitated payments of hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling to Lowry. Lowry rejected the findings.

Micheal Martin, the current Taoiseach, supporting a motion to expel Lowery, said that the tribunal’s report on Lowry “amounts to a shocking indictment of his behaviour”. Years later and the findings of the Tribunal still stand, however the position of the Micheal Martin has changed.

The leaders of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael entered into negotiations with the Lowry led “independents”, and in return for their unwavering support, a number of the group became Ministers. Ms. Murphy, a member of the group, was elected Speaker with the support of government TDs.

The government proposed that remaining members of the group who supported the government were allowed the same opportunities as the opposition to hold the government to account. They were to be in government and opposition at the same time.

The government pushed through these changes with the Opposition highly critical of the role played by the Speaker. Hence, the vote of no confidence.

I hope that explains what is an inside-baseball issue, but one that will have ramifications in the days to come. A government established by grubby deals and enforced by their majority is not a good omen for the future.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**North-South Ministerial Council should**

meet to protect all-Ireland economy

Sinn Féin Senator Conor Murphy, the former Economy Minister in the Northern Executive, has said there must be a serious collaborative approach from the Irish Government and Northern Executive to protect the all-Ireland economy.

Seanodóir Murphy added that he has engaged extensively with Northern Economy Minister Caoimhe Archibald, and he said that a meeting of the North-South Ministerial Council should be convened without delay.

He added that the experience of Brexit showed that a close working relationship between the Irish Government, the Northern Executive and the European Union was critical to navigating times of economic turbulence.

Seanadóir Murphy said, “A trade war helps nobody. The immediate focus now for the Irish government and the Northern Executive is that both institutions work collaboratively to protect jobs and businesses across the island, and that we protect the all-Ireland economy.

“Businesses right across the island will be deeply concerned about the introduction of tariffs by US President Donald Trump and all the uncertainty that they will bring.

“I have engaged extensively with Northern Economy Minister Caoimhe Archibald in recent days, and we both recognise the increased post-Brexit complexities on this island, and these are complexities that need to be understood by the Irish Government.

“The likelihood of increasing designation of goods at risk and the complex and uncertain reimbursement procedures that might be involved is a significant concern to businesses, particularly at a time when the economy here, north and south, has been outperforming the British economy with higher growth rates and higher export performances.

“I know from my experience as Finance Minister and as Economy Minister during the testing times of Brexit uncertainty, in particular the approach of the British government which could have had disastrous consequences for business on this island, that close

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“The reality is that the approach by the US government is the latest in a series of economic shocks that we have seen with Brexit, the pandemic, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, and these are not going to end anytime soon.

“That means the onus is on the Irish Government to assess the vulnerabilities in our economy, in particular the concentration of corporate tax receipts among a small number of multinational corporations, and the lack of diversification among the FDI base in terms of sector geography and region.

“We must also address the infrastructural deficits in areas such as housing, energy, water, ports and airports, and to take the necessary steps to support our indigenous businesses, to scale, to increase exports, to grow talent right across the island, and to trade across the island and internationally.

“It is clear that many businesses will face challenges in these uncertain economic circumstances. That means that the conversation needs to move beyond words of reassurance to concrete action on how we develop and support our businesses.

“There are longer-term lessons to be taken from the current uncertainty because economic uncertainties are going to continue regardless of what emerges from the United States approach.

“We must therefore examine the current all-Ireland economic model, which leaves us particularly exposed in a growing uncertain world.”

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New Issue of Éire Nua

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'IRISH UNITY DEFINING ISSUE OF OUR TIME' - SEANADÓIR CONOR MURPHY **PAGES 2-4**

SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER **PAGES 16-17**

THE POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS ARE SITES OF REPUBLICAN STRUGGLE **PAGES 29-30**

New IRELAND

EARRAIGH
2025 SPRING
EAGRÁN ISSUE 9



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A Plan for Unity



Sinn Féin is a United Ireland party. Our core political objective is to achieve Irish Unity and the referendum on Unity contained in the Good Friday Agreement that is the means to secure this.

In a new publication Sinn Féin sets out our Plan for Unity: A United Ireland – A Plan for Reunification/Plean d'Aontacht na hÉireann.

Our goal is to build a new Ireland – based on the 1916 Proclamation - that is home to all of our people and which is dedicated to equality, reconciliation, opportunity, and prosperity.

A new Ireland which ends divisions, embraces those who define as British and unionist and which in the words of Wolfe Tone unites Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter.

A United Ireland offers a new beginning. A new start which will provide a greater range of economic, employment and improved public services than ever before.

SEE PAGES 23-27

KEEP TALKING ABOUT PALESTINE



Seasann Muid Leis an Phalaistín

Enact the Occupied Territories Bill and Illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill.

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Amplification of women's voices crucial in constitutional discussion

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Rose Conway-Walsh TD, has said that it is crucial that a feminist analysis is brought to the current discussion on the constitutional future.

The Mayo TD made her remarks following the launch of the National Women's Council report 'The Women's Assembly: A Shared Feminist Future' this week.

The Women's Assembly was chaired by former President, Mary McAleese, and funded by St Stephen's Green Trust. Teachta Conway-Walsh said, "I welcome the work the National Women's Council is undertaking regarding the constitutional future and it was encouraging to hear from some of the women who participated in their Women's Assembly. The issues which were raised by participants are similar to issues raised in other deliberative forums such as the Good Friday Agreement Committee, the Belfast Women's Assembly and the Women's Charter.

"It is imperative that the experiences, needs, and vision of women North and South are front and centre of all discussions about shaping the future of the island we live on. We all need to move forward together to grasp this unique space to influence the social, economic and political changes that are happening. I am delighted that the NWCI are facilitating these discussions and I look forward to working with them in the future on the issue of constitutional change.

"This initiative from the NWCI complements work being undertaken by other women and higher educational institutes such as 'The Women's Charter for Inclusive Constitutional Futures', produced by Professor Fidelma Ashe, the 'Gendering Constitutional Debates' research published by Scholar Emeritus at Ulster University, Eilish Rooney and the deliberative cafes led by Dr Shelley Deane, DCU and Joanne McEvoy, Aberdeen University being held in Mayo, Longford and Tyrone.

"I believe that the constitutional discussion is moving from dialog to action and I am enthused by what we can achieve together and how we can work on our shared values while respecting and understanding our differences.

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the Good Friday Implementation Committee for the 'setting up of a central portal in the Department of the Taoiseach where all research carried out regarding the constitutional future is contained and accessible to all'.

"This is to encourage an exchange of learning, to co-ordinate initiatives, ensuring additionality and avoiding duplication. We have an opportunity to design a fairer, more equal society. We must invest in these initiatives and ensure that the hopes and dreams of the women who participate are realised in a new constitutional future."



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

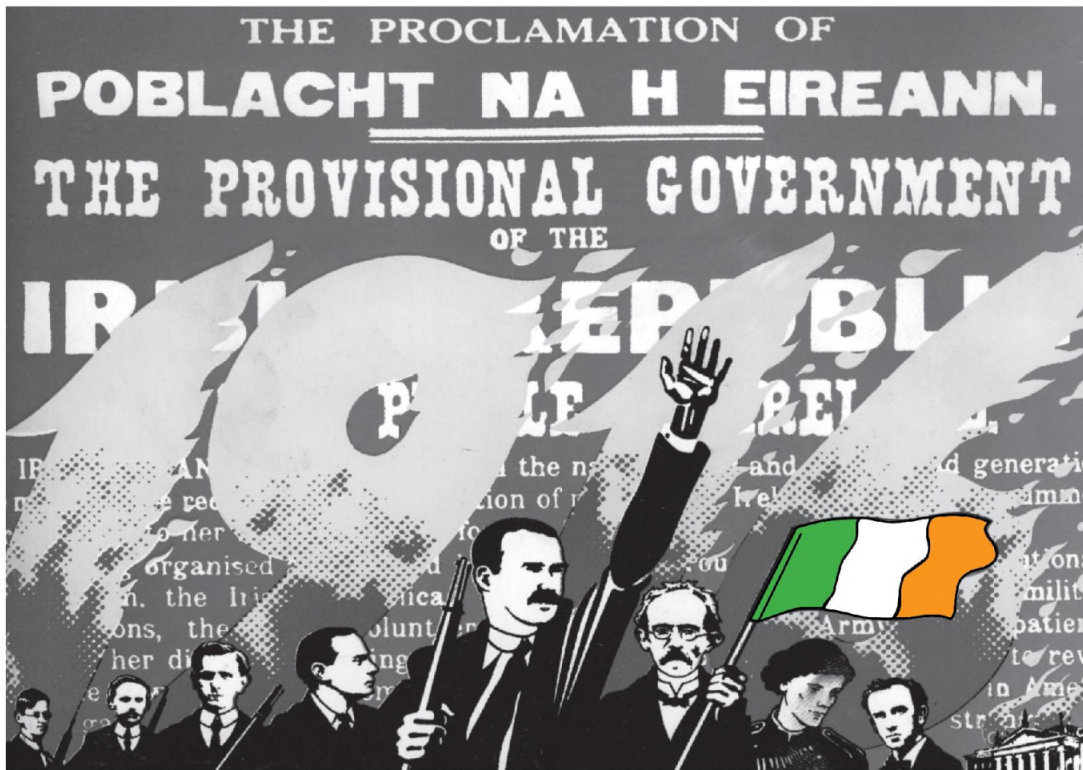
Guest Speaker: **Cathal Mallaghan, Sinn Fein**

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



ORGANIZED BY THE K.R.B.
WEAR YOUR EASTER LILY WITH PRIDE

Your Donation Counts!

**Thank you for helping make our March fundraiser a success!
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Thank you!

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Time for Irish government to begin preparations for a new Ireland

Sinn Féin MP Pat Cullen has today spoken at 'Arise Festival Dayschool 2025' in London.

The panel discussion, 'Winning Irish unity this decade', included John McDonnell MP and explored the enormous potential which lies ahead in a new Ireland.

Pat Cullen called on the Irish government to 'grasp the nettle' and begin to properly prepare for Irish unity.

"The conversation on constitutional change in Ireland continues to go from strength to strength," said the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MP after the event.

"More and more, ordinary people across society want to know what this future would look like, and how they can play a positive role in shaping it.

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“Sinn Féin has called for the Irish government to establish an inclusive Citizens’ Assembly on Irish unity, draft a green paper on Irish unity and appoint a Minister for Reunification at the Department of An Taoiseach.”

Mrs Cullen also highlighted the damaging role the British government continues to play in the north.

“Over the last number of weeks, Westminster has once again made clear that it has no regard for workers, families or public services here. It has made the wrong choices, focusing on increasing spending on weapons of war while draining frontline services.

“As a former leader of the world’s largest nursing union, I know just how damaging the Tories’ austerity agenda was, attacking the most vulnerable and slashing investment in vital public services.

“Disappointingly, the Labour government is continuing down this path with an agenda of cuts and adopting a turbo-charged Tory approach.

“It is only through building a new and united Ireland, where decisions are made in the best interests of people on the island, will we fully prosper and realise our huge potential.”

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IRISH UNITY:

Time for Irish govt. to begin preparations for a new Ireland

Pat Cullen MP



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