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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

In the Steps of Connolly

A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

I will be traveling shortly to Nashville, Cincinnati, and Chicago to take part in the Commissions on the Future of Ireland organised by Friends of Sinn Féin. These Commissions complement others that have been rolled out in Ireland, Canada, the US, and Brussels.

The points raised will be fed back directly to Sinn Féin in Ireland. It is an opportunity to be updated on political developments and to be part of building a new and United Ireland.

I am particularly delighted that we will be joined at these commissions by the recently elected Member of Parliament for Fermanagh South Tyrone, Pat Cullen.

Pat is a nurse by profession and went on to become the Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, a labor union representing nurses across Britain and in the North of Ireland. A passionate advocate for health care and the rights of nurses, she led the nurses in a pay dispute and strike. In doing so, Pat gained the reputation of a committed leader, standing up to the British government and delivering for her members.

Pat follows in a long line of labor leaders and Irish republicans.

It was James Connolly, once a labor organiser in Chicago, who said, "The cause of labor is the cause of Ireland and the cause of Ireland is the cause of labor". The twining of social change and Irish self-determination. Connolly, as Commandant General, would go on to lead the republican forces in the Easter Rising. After the

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Social change, the betterment of all people, and constitutional change are the defining characteristics of Irish Republicanism and patriotism. A love of country and people.

Some seek to define patriotism by national symbols, narrow identity politics, and self-interest. The leaders of 1916 sought to unite, not divide, the people. Building an Irish Republic that was a home to all who share our Island.

We now have the opportunity to unite our country and build a republic true to the vision of Connolly, the leaders of 1916, and all who followed.

This will not be without its challenges, but that is the nature of driving change. Challenges that collectively we all can and must meet.

I hope that you can come along and meet with Pat in Nashville, Cincinnati, or Chicago. To hear of political developments in Ireland and to discuss the way forward.

Together, we can all build a new and united Ireland.

I hope to see you along the road.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Nashville, Cincinnati, & Chicago “Irish Unity People’s Assemblies” Register today!

The “Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora” is coming to [Nashville, TN](#), [Cincinnati, OH](#), and [Chicago, IL](#)! Pat Cullen MP will be our special guest. Info & registration links below.

Be a part of the conversation about creating a new & united Ireland!

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**THE COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE
OF IRELAND**



Wednesday, May 28th, 2025
Nashville, TN
Scarritt Bennett Center

Featuring Pat Cullen, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

**AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHÁÍ
NA hÉIREANN**

**THE COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE
OF IRELAND**



Thursday, May 29th, 2025
Cincinnati, OH
Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati

Featuring Pat Cullen, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

**AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHÁÍ
NA hÉIREANN**

**THE COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE
OF IRELAND**



Saturday, May 31st, 2025
Chicago, IL
Irish American Heritage Center of Chicago

Featuring Pat Cullen, MP

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

**AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHÁÍ
NA hÉIREANN**

Special Screening of new Gerry Adams documentary in San Francisco - streaming options available

A new film - Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man will be shown in a special screening on Sunday, June 1 at 7:30 at the Vogue Theater in San Francisco. Streaming options will be available in late May. Learn more by clicking below.

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DOCFEST
OF INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL SCREENING WORK IN PROGRESS

GERRY ADAMS: A BALLYMURPHY MAN

Directed by TRISHA ZIFF

SUNDAY, JUNE 1st
7:30pm
Vogue Theater
3290 Sacramento St.
San Francisco, CA 04115

TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION:



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Friends of Sinn Féin President Mark Guilfoyle in Irish Echo: Momentum for Irish Unity is Growing

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A United Ireland: The Political Project of Our Generation

By Mark D. Guilfoyle

Over the years, I have helped more than a few clients navigate the bureaucracy in Kentucky state government.

The first question to answer is whether to adopt a top-down or bottom-up approach. Top-down means you start with the Governor and work your way down to the career employees to effect a solution. Bottom-up means you start at the lower levels of the bureaucracy and work your way up to the Governor.

I was reminded of this dynamic when I read the recent opinion piece by Leo Varadkar in the Belfast-published Irish News. Varadkar stated: "As is always the case, the impetus for great change must come from below. It will not come from above."

He was referring to the reunification of Ireland.

I was privileged to be in the audience to hear Varadkar speak in Philadelphia at the Gala Dinner of Ireland's Future on April 10.

In his remarks, Varadkar stated that every generation has its great cause and that he saw ours as "the cause of uniting our island, working to build a new home where all traditions, all stories, and all people belong."

Specifically, Varadkar stated that "I believe building a new Ireland, a United Ireland, is the political project of our generation."

I could not agree more. It was fitting that Varadkar made these remarks directly under a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, the great Kentuckian who gave everything to preserve our Union in the United States.

But, what does Varadkar mean when he says that the impetus for great change must come from below? Surely he had in mind the efforts of grassroots organizations like Ireland's Future, a cross-party, cross-community organization that promotes the shared responsibility of delivering constitutional change within the



Leo Varadkar speaking in Philadelphia.

framework of the Good Friday Agreement.

One of its stated objectives is to "promote detailed planning for referendums, North and South, to give people a meaningful choice on their constitutional future."

Niall Murphy and the entire Ireland's Future Board should be commended for bringing their work to Philadelphia.

The Gala was an immense success and, as Varadkar mentions in his opinion piece, Irish America has a vital part to play in building a new and United Ireland. In a truly bottom-up approach, we all can work to promote and plan for a United Ireland, individually and through social and political organizations.

"In his remarks, Varadkar stated that every generation has its great cause and that he saw ours as "the cause of uniting our island, working to build a new home where all traditions, all stories, and all people belong."

Reconciliation is certainly one of the objectives of the GFA, but it spans the democratic process of constitutional change in both a divided and a united Ireland. Reconciliation is not a prerequisite to constitutional change. As Varadkar correctly notes, the GFA "provides for a democratic mechanism by which Ireland can be united once a majority of both sides of the border want it."

Martin's erecting a reconciliation hurdle to a border poll is an obvious ploy to slow-walk Unity.

The good news is that Irish Government elites cannot halt the Unity discussion. Ireland's Future is not waiting for a top-down solution. Good for them.

For our part, the Friends of Sinn Féin is organizing a series of fora in the U.S. at which individuals can learn about planning for a United Ireland and have their say. "The Commission on the Future of Ireland: Diaspora" has already held successful programs in Cleveland, Columbus, Rockland County, New York and Washington, D.C. In May we will have programs in Nashville (May 28), Cincinnati (May 29) and Chicago (May 31).

Momentum for Unity is growing, and here's hoping the Irish Government will take note.

Mark Guilfoyle is a lawyer in Covington, Kentucky. He serves as President of Friends of Sinn Féin, Inc.

Unfortunately, Varadkar is also right when he states that a United Ireland will "not come from above."

In fact, the Irish Government is in retreat on Unity. Its Programme for Government 2025 is silent on Irish Unity as a goal. That silence speaks volumes.

In a recent interview in the (Belfast) Newsletter, Taoiseach Micheál Martin could not even bring himself to utter the words "United Ireland." He admits that the government is simply not planning for unity referenda. What a disgrace.

Worse still, Martin is engaging in a deliberate distortion of the Good Friday Agreement by claiming in a recent speech that the main purpose of the GFA is to foster "reconciliation," before consideration of constitutional change.

We must continue working together to break down segregation – Cullen

Sinn Féin MP Pat Cullen has said society must deliver on the aspirations of our young people to tackle sectarian segregation.

She was speaking after the release of a new report by Pivotal, which explores greater integration in the north.

The report builds on previous research by the think tank, published in March, which examined segregation in both schools and housing.

"From this report, it's evident that young people — born in and around, or after, the Good Friday Agreement — want to work together to build a better future," said Ms Cullen.

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that hinder integration in the north.

“That means supporting our youth from all communities to regularly interact with each other outside of school, strengthening transport links, ensuring housing is developed and delivered based on need and tackling inequalities in our society.

“Uniting all our people — irrespective of creed, colour or background — remains Sinn Féin’s priority. That is why the party launched a new policy document in 2024 aimed at ending sectarian segregation.

“The north has huge untapped potential, and by breaking down these barriers, we can create a new, shared and prosperous future for all who live here.

“Sinn Féin will continue to work with all political, community and youth leaders to tackle division, end sectarianism and realise the enormous opportunities ahead — opportunities that must be seized.”

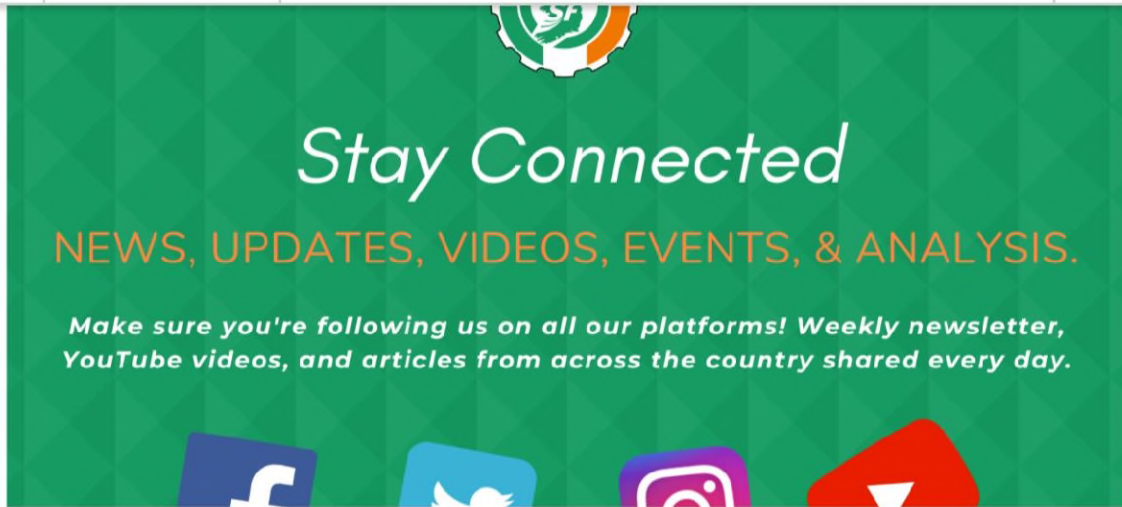
In April 2024, Sinn Féin launched a new policy document titled ‘A New Ireland for All – Ending Sectarian Segregation’, you can read it here; https://vote.sinnfein.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/A4_NewIreland_SectarianismTOGETHER.pdf

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Friends of Sinn Féin Video Update

Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin discuss recent Irish Government and Opposition formation issues, discuss the latest in legacy news, preview upcoming Easter events, and upcoming Irish Unity People's Assemblies which will take place in Nashville, TN, Cincinnati, OH, and Chicago, IL.




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Thank you!**

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