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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## Raise the Roof

### A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

The housing crisis in the South is a constant worry in the minds of many. This week it was back in the headlines.

The government of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael brought forward proposals that have been assessed by independent analysts as leading to increased rents and evictions.

This week in Dáil the other parties worked together on a motion opposing the government's plans. Outside the gates of the Dáil civic bodies, labor unions protested the government proposals under the banner of "Raise the Roof".

The government refused to take on the views of other parties, housing groups, and workers.

Fine Gael has been in Government since 2011 and has been supported by Fianna Fáil since 2016. When Fine Gael first came to power the average monthly rent was €765 it has now increased to over €2000.

From 2013 to 2024 House prices have increased by 151%. This is way beyond inflation and wage rates. House prices have moved from being 3 times the average wage to over 5 times the average and are now classed as "severely unaffordable".

All of these changes have led to record adult and child homelessness. Some are not waiting around to add to that statistic. We are losing a generation of young people to Canada, Britain, Australia, and elsewhere. They cannot afford rent and do not see a pathway to home ownership. Tenants are living in fear of rent increases and possible eviction.

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rent increases outstrip wages leading to recruitment and retention problems.

Through all of this Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have stood dogmatically to a position that the market will fix the problem. Their major intervention is to subsidize rents in the private sector for tenants that should be in the public sector.

The market is working for landlords and developers who control supply. It is not working for the people, economy, or public services.

Housing has a particular resonance in Irish History. A Gorta Mor was accompanied by the eviction of starving Irish Tenants from their homesteads. The Land League of Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell fought for the rights of tenant farmers to fair rents, security of tenure, and the right to buy their land. Those who fought in 1916 came from the slum tenements of Dublin. Afterward, generations were raised in public housing in vibrant communities.

The Southern state is a wealthy state, yet this government refuses to acknowledge its failure to manage housing and change course. This appears to be one part dogma and two parts supporting their developer and landlord friends.

Another reason why we need a change of government.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

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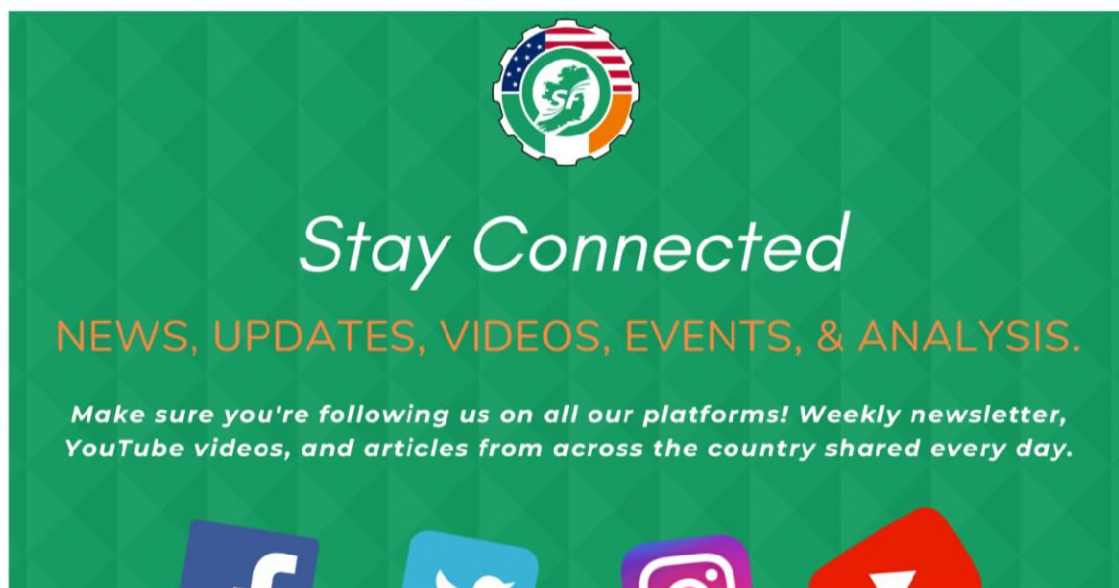
## New Video Update

Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin discuss the latest in Irish politics, including the current housing crisis, the work of a unified opposition, the latest in the Pat Finucane and Sean Brown cases, and more.

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## Why Irish reunification is worth it!

Opinion piece by Jim Ward, Galway Sinn Féin

Irish re-unification isn't solely the preserve of dedicated Irish republicans anymore – it concerns us all.

Everybody is a stakeholder in this future – Irish people North and South, the 'new

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The Irish Government has an obligation to listen to the voice of the people, and to persuade their British counterparts to act on their responsibility as agreed under the Good Friday Agreement and move on a Border Poll. This will mean everybody being involved in real, active, participatory democracy to enact this momentous change in lobbying for a poll – nobody should feel excluded: the historic goal of a new Ireland of Equals is now achievable.

A United Ireland will not be simply an extension of the 26-County state. Irish nationalism isn't an all-conquering, jingoistic nationalism like others. Irish nationalism, being the nationalism of a dispossessed people, historically, seeks to find common ground to unite all Irish people.

Economically, the North was once an industrial powerhouse, now it only contributes 2 percent of the UK's GDP and is in decline. Britain benefited from EEC/EU membership, effectively starving the North of European monies, whereas the South benefited enormously from European membership. Southern GDP is almost eight times that of the North. In a unified Ireland, the region would benefit generously from inward investment and funds.

[\*\*READ FULL STORY HERE\*\*](#)

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## PODCAST UPDATE

Starting this week, Gerry Adams' weekly podcast will now be released every Thursday. Click the image below to access all episodes.

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**Bodenstown 2025**

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ANNUAL WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION

# Bodenstown 2025

**Sunday 22nd June**  
Assemble 2.30pm  
Sallins, Co. Kildare



MAIN SPEAKER:  
**MICHELLE  
O'NEILL** MLA




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