

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



**UNITED STATES**  
**UNITED IRELAND**

---

# Life and Changing Times

## A Letter from Ireland

a Chara,

When I got back from the States, I looked out onto my back garden and realized the grass needed to be cut. Summer in Ireland is a mix of sunshine and showers. Ideal growing weather, and the reason why we have forty shades of green.

We never see the grass growing. One day we look out and everything has changed. So it is with politics and life in general. Change is gradual until it is undeniable and unstoppable.

I was thinking about this when I read the latest Life and Times Survey conducted by Queen's University and the University of Ulster. This is the go-to poll for policymakers in government. Traditionally, this poll has always underrepresented Nationalist opinion and voting patterns.

This time around, there is a significant narrowing of the gap, down to 5% between those who would vote to retain partition and those who would vote for unity. This is a halving of the difference over the course of a year. Those in favor of Irish Unity were 36%, those in favor of continued partition 42%, with 11% "don't know" and 6% would not vote if a vote was held tomorrow.

This is a false question. Sinn Féin is not looking for a vote tomorrow. No credible body is looking for a vote tomorrow. We believe in having an informed and respectful debate and then letting the people decide.

Partition never worked for Ireland, north or south, and has never made economic sense. It fractured public services and entrenched community division. Within ten

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

prosperous city on the Island.

When Ireland was divided, it was based on a sectarian gerrymander. The six northeastern counties provided a 62% Protestant majority with a 34% Catholic minority trapped in a state that was 100% British and unionist.

The years of conflict that followed were not a theological dispute between warring tribes. It was a conflict against inequality, exclusion, repression and the denial of self-determination, all in a single-party state that was underwritten and sustained by Britain.

Today the north is a shared place, but it is not a settled place. Demographic changes continue. There are more Catholics now than Protestants. It should be remembered that not all Catholics support unity and likewise not all supporters of unity are Catholic.

The parliament in the north no longer has an overall pro-British Unionist majority. There is one seat advantage in favor of those who support continued partition over those who seek Irish Unity.

The demographic trend is clear from surveys, elections, and census data: increasing support for Irish Unity. This trend is set to continue. Support for unity is greatest among the under-45-year-olds.

As support for unity grows, so opposition to planning for referendums becomes unsustainable. It is like being on a journey and being told you cannot set the destination and route.

Ireland is changing. One day soon we will look out the window and all will have changed. The right thing to do is to prepare to manage the change, tend the garden, and watch it grow.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

@Ireland\_votes

## NI Life & Times Survey 2024

Would you vote to unify with the Republic if a vote was held tomorrow?

No: 42% (-5)

Yes: 36% (+1)

Unsure: 11% (+1)

Would not vote/Other: 11% (+3)

Lowest gap between No & Yes in this series of polls.

2002: No +27

2019: No +26

2021: No +14

2023: No +12

2024: No +6

Excluding Unsure/Non Voters

2002: No 67% Yes 33%

2021: No 58% Yes 42%

2024: No 54% Yes 46%

7:55 AM · Jun 6, 2025 · **120.2K** Views

## Pat Cullen MP in Chicago: America is a driver for change in Ireland

Irish Americans and Irish diaspora from all over the Chicago area came together to the Irish American Heritage Center for the latest installment of the Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora.

Chicago's history of connection with Ireland spans generations, from James Conolly organizing and founding the Irish Socialist Federation in Chicago and New York, to the annual hunger strike memorials hosted by Clan na Gael for decades, Chicago is home to one of the largest and most active Irish and Irish American communities in the country.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

and pay respects to the sacrifice and labor of workers around the world. The Haymarket memorial featured messages of solidarity from around the world including a message from the SIPTU with a quote from Jim Larkin: “The great appear great because we are on our knees: Let us rise.”

After these stops it was time to go to the Irish American Heritage Center to deliver the keynote address and help guide the small group discussions about Irish Unity.

She said, “America is a driver for change in Ireland.

“By the 1990’s we had endured almost thirty years of violence. The longest period of continuous conflict in Irish history.

“Thousands died and many more were injured. Over ten thousand Irish Republicans were imprisoned.

“The conflict in Ireland was deemed intractable.

“Irish America saw the potential of a peace process that Gerry Adams was building with Martin McGuinness and John Hume. Irish America acted.

“Calling for the US to get directly engaged in peacebuilding, the issuing of a visa for Gerry Adams, and the appointment of a special envoy.

“President Clinton agreed and broke with 80 years of practice of unquestioningly supporting the British to develop an independent policy for Ireland with achieving peace at its core.

“Gerry Adams travelled to the US to directly brief political and civic leaders. Ceasefires followed.

“Senator George Mitchel was appointed as the envoy and the Good Friday Agreement was reached. A new chapter in our history was written.

“We have enjoyed twenty-seven years of relative peace and progress.

“The Agreement asserts the primacy of politics over conflict, secures the rights of citizens, and lays out the operation of interrelated and co-dependent sets of

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

“The Agreement provides for Irish Unity referendums North and South. If the people in both jurisdictions vote for Irish Unity then the British Government is obliged to legislate.

After her address, she was interviewed by event host host, Vincent Casey. They discussed the importance of this moment in Irish history and ways activists can get involved and advance the cause of a new and united Ireland.

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



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

## No place for racism in our communities

Sinn Féin MLA Philip McGuigan has condemned the racist disorder witnessed in Ballymena as ‘disgusting.’


Speaking today following a second consecutive night of rioting in the town, the North Antrim MLA said, “The racist disorder witnessed in Ballymena last night, fuelled by hatred and intolerance, was disgusting.

“There is absolutely no place for racism in our communities — it is repulsive and must be unequivocally condemned.

“My thoughts are with those in Ballymena and beyond who are living in real fear as a result of this behaviour.

“Rather than some politicians feeding fear with mistruths and misconceptions, we should all stand together, show strong leadership, and work to bring this trouble to an end.”

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)



*Stay Connected*

NEWS, UPDATES, VIDEOS, EVENTS, & ANALYSIS.

*Make sure you're following us on all our platforms! Weekly newsletter, YouTube videos, and articles from across the country shared every day.*



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

# Paul Maskey MP in New York: A United Ireland will unlock the full potential of our island

Paul Maskey, MP for West Belfast travelled to New York to address an event hosted by Glór na Móna to celebrate 20 years of serving as an innovative community hub for grassroots language regeneration and youth work through the medium of Irish. The event also served as a fundraiser for an expansion of their programming and footprint Croí na Carraige a multi-purpose youth, community, family, and heritage center adjacent to our current building, Gael-Ionad Mhic Goill, in the heart of Ballymurphy, West Belfast.

Speaking to the more than 100 people who gathered at Rosie O'Grady's, Paul Maskey said, "A big thank you to Glór Na Móna and a big thank you to you all for the welcome.

"As an elected representative I proudly represent the citizens of west Belfast who send their best wishes and appreciation to you all for being here and supporting this great cause.

"I have been very lucky over the years to have been able to visit America on many occasions, from having friends and family here and meeting the diaspora to talk about all things Irish and Irish Unity of course.

"A referendum on Irish Unity is achievable and winnable!

"A United Ireland – a new and shared Ireland – will unlock the full potential of our island and provide the basis on which a stronger and fairer society can be built.

"An Ireland of equals that caters for everyone including our native speakers.

"The help and support from Irish America over the years has been invaluable.

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

Subscribe


Past Issues

Translate ▼

**Events across the country, weekly newsletter, video updates, news, and analysis – when you donate to Friends of Sinn Féin, you make it all possible. Every dollar makes a difference!**

**Thank you!**

[\*\*DONATE HERE\*\*](#)



**FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN USA**

**NEWS,  
ANALYSIS  
& EVENTS**

**Your donation makes it all possible!**

## **Putting manners on the BBC – The Gerry Adams Blog**

The success of my case against the British Broadcasting Corporation and in my opinion it is a very important and very significant breach in that institutions monopoly on how it broadcasts ‘news’ especially in Ireland.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

The British Broadcasting Corporation is supposed to be a public service provider. It is paid from public funds.

It upholds the ethos of the British state in Ireland, that goes without saying almost, but it should be publicly accountable for its broadcasting content.

It rarely is. That's what this court case did. That's what the jury did. The BBC lost.

Fair journalism was a victor not a loser. But only if the lessons are learned and acted upon.

When the case began six weeks ago the BBC's legal strategy was evident very quickly.

Their narrative was that pursued by successive British and Irish governments for years.

They blamed everything during the conflict on Irish republicans, and by extension during this trial, on me.

The BBC lawyers embarked on a Jesuitical presentation of the case that tried to convince the jurors that the words broadcast and published by the British Broadcasting Corporation that I had sanctioned the murder of Denis Donaldson, did not in fact mean that I sanctioned the murder of Denis Donaldson.

They were, they said, not defending the truth of the accusation.

Instead they were, they claimed they were defending their journalism which they claimed was fair and reasonable and in the public interest and made in good faith.

They concluded their case by trying to exert moral pressure on the jurors by claiming that a defeat for the British Broadcasting Corporation would be a blow to freedom of speech and a setback to victims.

In the end the Jury didn't buy into any of this.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▾



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



*Friends of Sinn Féin is registered with the Department of Justice, Washington D.C. under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an agent of Sinn Féin. This material and the registration statement are on file and available for inspection at the Department of Justice and on their website [www.fara.gov](http://www.fara.gov). Registration does not imply approval by the United States Government.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)