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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Identity in a New and United Ireland

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Last week, I answered some common questions on the Good Friday Agreement, Irish Unity, and Unity Referendums. The feedback has been very positive. A number of readers raised the issue of the future of those with the British Unionist tradition in a united Ireland.

It should be noted that the founders of modern Irish Republicanism came from a Protestant Anglo-Irish background. The Society of United Irishmen pledged to “*unite Protestant, Catholic, and Dissenter*” and to break the link with Britain.

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic of 1916 promises, “*The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien Government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.*”

To be an Irish Republican is to be anti-sectarian.

Irish Republicans know the impact of discrimination and repression. Our language was banned, economic and political discrimination was rife, our schools were underfunded, our culture was disrespected even the Irish Tricolour was effectively banned as it was likely in the eyes of the unionist police force to cause a breach of the peace. We were Irish Citizens in a state that did not want us.

In discussions with people from a unionist tradition, there is a fear that they will be treated in a united Ireland the way we were treated under the old Unionist regime.

That can never be the case. Our vision is of an Ireland that is a home for all the people of the Island.

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(v), the power of the sovereign government with jurisdiction there shall be exercised with rigorous impartiality on behalf of all the people in the diversity of their identities and traditions and shall be founded on the principles of full respect for, and equality of, civil, political, social and cultural rights, of freedom from discrimination for all citizens, and of parity of esteem and just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos, and aspirations of both communities;

The safeguards of equality and respect in a united Ireland are already agreed.

The second provision relates to the right to be Irish, British, or both:

(vi) recognise the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly confirm that their right to hold both British and Irish citizenship is accepted by both Governments...

As a Sinn Féin President once reminded an audience of Unionists, “You can be British in a divided Ireland, you can be British in a United Ireland.” One issue outstanding is the detail of how the British Government will honor this commitment on Citizenship rights for its citizens in a united Ireland.

Much of the commentary around the issue of identity in a united Ireland has centered around flags and symbols, etc. In all my discussions, I have heard a single unionist commit to a united Ireland if the tricolour was changed or the anthem dropped. The issues are always on the economy, public services, and political representation in a United Ireland. By the same token, I have never heard Irish Republicans calling for a ban on Union flags flying in Unionist areas in a united Ireland.

The demand to censor or ban identities has no place in a United Ireland and is counter to the commitments of the Good Friday Agreement. Unionism tried that for fifty years and failed. It is not beyond us to find ways to share a united Ireland.

I hope that helps.

Have a good weekend

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Do you have any questions about the Good Friday Agreement? Is there something you'd like to know more about? Ask us at admin@friendsofsinnfein.com. We may answer your question in a future edition of the newsletter.

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From Unity Education Webinar Series

Join us on **Saturday, August 30** for a conversation with Glenn Bradley. Glenn is a business man of more than 30 years, the former Chair of the Northern Ireland Business and Human Rights Forum, a leader in ethical transparency in global supply chains, a former British soldier, and Ulster Unionist party officer.

He will share his own personal story from growing up in a Unionist community to his involvement in the negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement, and his hopes for the future around the need for true reconciliation and to address Unionist fears. He is among a growing number of unionists who are now receptive to the idea of constitutional change.

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AUGUST GUEST: GLENN BRADLEY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 - 12 NOON ET
Free & open to all - bígí linn!



Join us on **Saturday, September 20** at 12:00 noon ET for the second in our Irish Unity Educational Webinar Series. We will be joined by special guest Professor Colin Harvey, a professor of Human Rights Law in the Queen's University Belfast School of Law, a Fellow of the Senator George J Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice, an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Irish Studies and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He is a Commissioner on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and a member of the Scientific Committee of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency. Professor Harvey served two terms as a Commissioner on the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, has been involved in an extensive range of advisory roles, and has provided expert evidence to parliamentary committees in Ireland and the UK, including the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the

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**Irish Unity People's Assembly for the
Diaspora in San Francisco - with John
Finucane MP**

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Thursday, September 18

7:00pm - 9:30pm

San Francisco, CA

United Irish Cultural Center

Featuring John Finucane, MP

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

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UM THODHCHAÍ
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Walk NYC - September 13

Registration for the Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation Walk NYC is live!
The date for this year's walk is September 13.

[Register here](#)

The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation 2025 Chieftain's Walk NYC

September 13, 2025

Date: September 13, 2025 @ 9:30 am
Location: Irish Hunger Memorial
Address: North End Ave &, Vesey St,
New York, NY 10280



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



Walk for a United Ireland
Tiocfaidh ár lá

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Irish Unity People's Assemblies in Hartford, Boston, and Philadelphia in October - with Mairéad Farrell TD

The Irish Unity People's Assembly: Diaspora will be hosting free, open events in Hartford, CT, Boston, MA, and Philadelphia, PA in October.

This is a historic moment in the history of Ireland, and we want you to you join us as we hear from Mairéad Farrell TD, and dive into the work of planning and preparing for the creation of a new and united Ireland!

Join us for a conversation with special guest speakers, Irish diaspora, descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

Click the image of the event you want to attend below to register.

THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND	THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND	THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND
 <p>Saturday, October 25, 2025 Hartford, CT Irish American Home Society 2:00 - 4:30pm</p>	 <p>Tuesday, October 28, 2025 Boston, MA Florian Hall 7:00 - 9:30pm</p>	 <p>Thursday, October 30, 2025 Philadelphia, PA The Irish Center 6:00 - 8:30pm</p>
<p>Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.</p>	<p>Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.</p>	<p>Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.</p>
 <p>AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN</p>	 <p>AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN</p>	 <p>AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN</p>

New Issue of Éire Nua

[Download the latest issue of Éire Nua for free now!](#)

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SINN FÉIN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Declan Kearney

Sinn Féin is constantly calling on the Irish Government to begin the process of planning for constitutional change. The provision for a referendum on Irish unity is codified within the Good Friday Agreement (GFA). It makes common sense that preparatory arrangements should be made to plan for it. We all have to plan in our personal lives, with our families and in our communities – governments do it every day.

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