

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[View this email in your browser](#)**UNITED STATES**
UNITED IRELAND

The not so glorious twelfth

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It is that time of year again. With depressing regularity, we are now at the July 12th holidays, or as it's known in the North of Ireland, "the twelfth".

In 1926, the newly formed Stormont Parliament declared this day a public holiday. The government was controlled by the Ulster Unionist Party. For all intents and purposes, it was a single-party British state with little rights and recognition given to its then Irish minority.

The holiday marks the victory of Protestant Dutch King William III of Orange over the deposed Catholic King James II of England, Scotland, and Ireland at the Battle of the Boyne. Notwithstanding that the Battle of the Boyne was on July 1st, 1690, and the decisive victory for William was in Aughrim on July 12th, 1691.

Over the centuries, despite its historical context, it has become a celebration of pro-British Protestant Unionism over Irish Catholic nationalists.

A hundred years after the battles, the Orange Order was formed to protect protestant interests.

The events are marked by bonfires and marches by the Orange Order. There is also an increase in sectarian tensions.

While the violence has receded, the tension along community interfaces remains. Bonfires are burnt alongside Irish Tricolours, nationalist election posters, sectarian banners, and effigies of nationalist leaders. They are the most visible and ugly

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

This year, added to the sectarian displays, have been effigies of migrants, only weeks after the homes of migrants were attacked in Unionist areas. Those attacks were reminders of the anti-Catholic pogroms of the past.

Racism and sectarianism are two in the same. Neither can be justified, and both must be condemned. Racism is not just a problem for a sectarian minority in the North.

A report released this week exposed the links between the racist North and South. In the south, groups that claim to be “Irish Nationalists” tell us that Ireland is full and Irish culture is being undermined, yet have found common cause with white, anti-Irish groups in the North.

This week a former Unionist paramilitary from Belfast addressed a small rally in Dublin. Speakers called for the closure of the border between North and South. Yes, we are through the looking glass. While true Irish patriots are working to unite the country, remove the border, and regain our national sovereignty, these groups want to entrench partition.

After centuries, we know the cost of sectarianism and the challenges of overcoming its legacy. We cannot allow discrimination and intimidation based on religion or political belief to be replaced by discrimination and intimidation based on race.

Our job is to build a new and united Ireland for all who call our island home.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

‘Vile’ racist effigies and posters must be removed – Gildernew

Sinn Féin MLA Colm Gildernew has this morning condemned the placing of an effigy of refugees in a boat atop a bonfire in Moygashel as ‘deplorable’.

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

attitudes,” said the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MLA.

“This is a clear incitement to hatred and must be removed immediately.

“Those who come to our island to make it their home are not the enemy. They are our friends, our neighbours, and are welcomed, cherished and valued by the vast majority of people here.

“Political leaders in this area must step up, call for the removal of these offensive materials and make it clear they do not support such vile, deplorable views.”

Newly formed Moore Street Oireachtas group visits historical 1916 terrace

A newly formed Moore St Oireachtas Group including TDs Mary Lou McDonald, Gary Gannon, Marie Sherlock, Aengus Ó Snodaigh and Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, has today visited the historical 1916 terrace on Moore St.

The cross-party group recognises the responsibility of elected representatives to act as guardians of the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street, the place where the leaders of the Easter Rising met for the last time.

The group will champion safeguarding, protecting and preserving the 1916 Moore Street Battlefield and surrounding areas, which has been defined by the National Museum as the most important historic site in modern Irish history.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

The visit, facilitated by the OPW, gave representatives an opportunity to inspect the historic terrace at Moore Street. It comes days after the Taoiseach set out the government’s intentions for the GPO.

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald said, “Honoured to visit the historic 1916 terrace with the newly formed Moore Street Oireachtas group.

“Moore St and the GPO are at the heart of Ireland’s rebel history and cannot be torn down for commercial profit.

“The National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street and the entire battlefield site must be preserved. The area should be developed as a 1916 historic cultural quarter as part of the regeneration of Dublin’s North Inner City.



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

24 AUGUST 2025

SAVE THE DATE
SÁBHÁIL AN DÁTA

44th Anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike
I DDIL CUIMHNE ORTHU 2025

Michael Gaughan 1949-1974
Frank Stagg 1941-1976
Bobby Sands 1954-1981
Francis Hughes 1956-1981
Raymond McCreesh 1957-1981
Patsy O'Hara 1957-1981

Joe McDonnell 1951-1981
Martin Hurson 1956-1981
Kevin Lynch 1956-1981
Kieran Doherty 1955-1981
Thomas McElwee 1957-1981
Mickey Devine 1954-1981

NATIONAL HUNGER STRIKE
COMMEMORATION

COMÓRADH BLIANTÚIL
AR AN STAILC OCRAIS

BELFAST, SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST

The British And Irish Government's Aversion to Irish Unification

By Judge Michael C. Mentel

Twenty-seven years ago an agreement was entered into by the British and Irish governments, along with key unionist and nationalist political parties, which brought an end to the Troubles. The agreement was the Good Friday Agreement (the "GFA").

The GFA established various political structures to realign the unionist and nationalist communities towards a cooperative and respectful coexistence. Notably, these

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

structures suffered some difficulties over the years, they are still in place today.



All indicators make clear that a border poll is at hand. The economics, facts, and surveys tell us that the government must lead a planning process, and it must do so soon. The Irish and UK governments aversion to holding dialogue on a border poll, while issuing a joint statement in support of the northern status quo, is not grounded in the GFA and its sound public policy. Preparing a plan is not the execution of the plan. And, failure to do so is inexcusable.

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)

44th anniversary of the death of the fifth hunger striker, Joe McDonnell

From Bobby Sands Trust: This week marks the forty-fourth anniversary of the fifth hunger striker to die, Joe McDonnell. Below is a link to a documentary by Ocean FM about Joe's death which won the Silver Award in the prestigious International New York Festivals Radio Awards in 2022. The documentary was produced and presented by Niall Delaney.

Delaney's interviews and archival material include the voices of Joe's family: his wife Goretti and daughter Bernadette; his sister Eilish and brother Paul; republicans Owen Carron, Gerry Adams, Dermot McNally,

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



[LISTEN TO THE
DOCUMENTARY HERE](#)

Friends of Sinn Féin Video Update

News, analysis, & updates in the latest video update, featuring Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn & Friends of Sinn Féin Director Greg O'Loughlin. In 37 minutes you'll be caught up on the politics and planning for a United Ireland & more!

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN USA

**NEWS,
ANALYSIS
& EVENTS**

Your donation makes it all possible!

Your Donation Counts!

Events across the country, weekly newsletter, video updates, news, & analysis - when you donate to Friends of Sinn Féin, you make it all possible.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

[DONATE HERE](#)

Gerry Adams - A Ballymurphy Man Trailer



Irish Unity: A Better Future

Major research published last week from Dublin City University and Ulster University shows beyond doubt the economic benefits of Irish Unity.

The government must prepare for unity referendums and the economic opportunities which will flow from it.

[READ THE REPORT HERE](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

of the Early Years of a United Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Subvention


John Doyle
Dublin City University



Subscribe

Past Issues


Translate ▼



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 ▼

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. 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](#)