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UNITED IRELAND

On the Road Again

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week I am writing from the road. To be more precise, on a train from New York to Boston, before returning to New York for a meeting with Labor leaders and to attend the Irish American Labor Leaders awards, and then the Martin McGuinness Foundation Chieftain's Walk in New York.

Next week I will be traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Transport Workers Union of America Conference. From there it is on to the West Coast, where I will meet up with John Finucane for the next in our series of Irish Unity Commission Peoples Assembly in San Francisco on September 18th and Vancouver on September 20th.

This trip started with an event hosted by Friends of Sinn Féin US with mostly Irish American construction industry leaders. The event was very successful and while there was politics discussed, it was more a sociable celebration of community and friendship. Stories were told, songs were sung, and those who have passed remembered.

At first glance, this would seem to be a very disparate group: business leaders, labor leaders, Republicans and Democrats, and Irish American community leaders from coast to coast, and the US and Canada.

The common bond is our shared history and hope for the future. A desire for a new and united Ireland. The dream of generations of Irish in Canada and America. Across Ireland and internationally, there is an upsurge in Irish culture, language, sports, and music, which is reflected in interest in Unity.

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phenomenon rapping in Irish, fusing hip hop and dance beats with a punk swagger and radical politics. This is the sound of a new generation defining their Irishness.

Irish traditional and folk music is surging in the charts, on tours, and in sessions. A new generation is discovering old tunes and songs and making them their own. The GAA remains a cornerstone of Irishness, promoting our national games and providing the glue that keeps communities together.

With this cultural resurgence comes a renewed focus on the future, and that future is a new and united Ireland.

Just as our culture is continually being redefined and relevant for a new generation, so too is our politics. And just as every generation redefines Ireland and Irishness, there is a section of those to change.

A racist and sectarian fringe seeks to define Irishness solely in terms of ethnicity or religion. We also have an Irish Government that defines Ireland in terms of a partitioned 26 counties. A government that pays lip service to our nation abroad. A government that relies on emigration to manage its policy failures in building homes at home. A government that fails to seize the opportunity of Irish Unity.

The present is always the battleground between the past and the future. Change can be managed, but it cannot be denied. The people whom I have met on this trip are ambitious for Ireland; they are looking to the future with confidence. The message of this generation to the Irish Government is either get on board or get out of the way.

Have a great weekend, and I hope to see you along the road.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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On Monday, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald said: “Over the summer I seriously considered whether I should contest the Presidential election. We are at a key moment, on the countdown to a United Ireland and the next Uachtarán will play a key role.

“However, my job is to take on this government and get Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael out of office and to present to the electorate a real alternative in the General Election. I will be giving it my all.”

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Uniting Ireland – Uniting Workers

Mobilizing Trade Unionists for Irish Unity

By Anne Speed

It was 66 years ago that trade unions organising on the island of Ireland reunited after almost 15 years apart. Economic prospects for workers across the island were dismal, both North and South, living standards were poor and expectations of a better life were rising. The 1950s was truly a dreadful decade, with emigration and poverty at record levels. British administration of the 6 Counties, delivered through the political consolidation of unionism, meant deepening discrimination and unemployment for catholic workers. Trade unionists, influenced by the role of syndicalist James Larkin or socialist James Connolly, recognised the need to galvanise the trade union organisation. There was common cause in fighting for the needs of working people. There was however no common cause in challenging partition.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions was reborn in 1959, but this time with a Northern Ireland Committee (NIC) constituted to engage with the political administration of the 6 Counties. Over the 66 years since, this has meant enduring periods of direct rule, unionist dominated local governance and, currently, a devolved power sharing government. When the demand for civil rights erupted in the 1960s, strong instincts to challenge Partition were constrained by the imperative to maintain the corporate unity of trade union structures. Many would argue that this was the only path to take. However, it could equally be argued that it was the time to put the democratic demand, the right of the Irish people to accept or reject partition. That question, never put before the people across the island, remains a key question and a key democratic demand.

In the North, years of nationalist exclusion through employment and other forms of sectarian discrimination have been diluted or removed by fair employment legislation and the Good Friday Agreement. Trade unions have adapted to the changing political environment. But our ability to influence economic resilience across the 6 Counties remains intractably constrained by the overarching fact of the political-economic union within the British system. In the South while development of state infrastructure and resources began seriously during the Lemass government, subsequent governments

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landed in the lap of European expansionists who are demanding the ending of our military neutrality.

So what now for trade unions?

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**UNITING
IRELAND**

**UNITING
WORKERS**

**A Trade Union Vision for a
New and United Ireland**



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Reform Party showing total disregard for the Irish people – Finucane

Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said the latest comments by Reform MPs around the renegotiation of the Good Friday Agreement demonstrate a complete disregard for the people of Ireland.

The North Belfast MP was speaking after Richard Tice said Reform would be willing to leave the European Convention on Human Rights without the support of Irish nationalists.

At the same event, Suella Braverman also said she would be open to a ‘border poll’. “Comments today by the British MP for Boston and Skegness, Mr Tice, show a complete disregard and disdain for the Irish people and our hard-fought peace,” said John Finucane.

“The Good Friday Agreement is an international treaty between the two governments, endorsed democratically by the people of Ireland and lodged with the UN.

“Ludicrous attempts to undermine the human rights protections within the agreement, merely to serve a toxic English-nationalist agenda, won’t be wished away.

“Instead of rewriting the agreement, we should be working to fully implement it, including delivering the provision for a unity referendum.”

New Video: Watch Irish Unity Education Webinar with Glenn Bradley

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IRISH UNITY EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES

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

Next Irish Unity Education Webinar Series Guest: Colin Harvey

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 Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Executive Office.

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IRISH UNITY EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES



SEPTEMBER GUEST: COLIN HARVEY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 - 12 NOON ET
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**Irish Unity People's Assembly for the
Diaspora in San Francisco - with John
Finucane MP**

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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.

AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN



Scan Here to Register!



This Saturday: Walk for Unity

The 2025 Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation

Chieftain's Walk NYC

September 13, 2025

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● **Sign-In and Kickoff Celebration:** 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM, featuring live Irish music and remarks from community leaders 🚶

The Walk Begins: 10:30 AM along the Hudson River, a visible march for peace and unity

Be Part of History

Martin McGuinness reminded us that leaders do not create followers, they create new leaders. By joining the Chieftain's Walk, you are stepping into that role. You are showing the world the Ireland you believe in.

Be there. Show your support. Stand for unity.

👉 **Register today at:** <https://martinmcguinnesspf.org/>

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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



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!

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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>	
	AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN		AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN		AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN

New Issue of Éire Nua

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

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The visit on 20 June by former Fine Gael Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to west Belfast was a timely reminder that the issue of a new Ireland remains for many the political priority of our time. The packed event in St. Mary's University College was organised by Féile an Phobail and Ireland's Future and it was chaired by the Rev. Karen Sethuraman.

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