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UNITED IRELAND

Rendering Reconciliation Meaningless

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

The Irish Presidential election campaign is underway. This week, the first TV election debate was broadcast, allowing an in-depth examination of the policies, personalities, and positions of all three candidates.

Over the hour-and-a-half debate, the voters got an in depth insight into the candidates. Jim Gavin (Fianna Fáil) and Heather Humphreys (Fine Gael) represent parties that have effectively been in government since 2016. The remaining candidate is Independent TD, Cathrine Connolly who has the backing of the main opposition parties.

Both Gavin and Humphreys offered meaningless political platitudes far removed from real life. They offered a vision of a passive presidency promising to listen to the Irish people, but would not countenance any criticism of their own parties in government.

In contrast Cathrine Connolly offered a vision of a presidency which celebrated Irish culture and language and promoted the rights of citizens in the constitution and the nation beyond the boundaries of the state.

The final round of questions focused on Irish Unity, mirroring the previous comments by an Taoiseach, the two government candidates spoke of the need for reconciliation before unity. Neither offered any elucidation about what they meant by reconciliation or how this fit with the commitments of the Good Friday Agreement. It hung in the air, intangible and hollow, rendering reconciliation as a meaningless soundbite and an excuse to no not plan for unity.

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candidates mentioned the work being resourced by the government to promote all-Ireland working, or as it's known, the "Shared Island" approach, yet the Taoiseach is on record as saying this is not connected to the unity project.

It would appear that the definition of the government parties of reconciliation is that either Irish Nationalists would accept partition as Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael did, or just as magically, unionists will, over time, become united Irishlanders. This is as insulting as it is ignorant of the politics and identities in the North.

The Good Friday Agreement reconciles the position of those in favour of Irish Unity with those in favour of continued division by codifying a democratic process to address the issue. It is up to the people to determine their future in referendums north and south. That process is agreed and endorsed by the vast majority across Ireland. Both the British and Irish Governments are refusing to implement this right to national self-determination.

Irish Unity and reconciliation go hand in hand. Reconciliation, addressing the past, respecting difference, and working together is required in both a divided and a united Ireland. It is an ongoing process. Over a coffee this week, Glen Bradley, a friend who is from the unionist community and now an advocate for peaceful constitutional change, articulated the position that Irish reunification was nation-building and at its heart must be the process of reconciliation.

Speaking on Saturday at an event, Catherine Connolly reminded us that the Irish Constitution states that Irish Unity is the firm will of the Irish Nation. As President, she would advance the will of the nation and advocate for Unity, and build reconciliation. These are not mutually exclusive, nor does one precede the other. Unity and reconciliation go hand in hand.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Watch Irish Unity Education Webinar with Professor Colin Harvey

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for a new and United Ireland? You can watch it and find links to resources and ways to learn more right here:



Sinn Féin Releases Alternative Budget – “Workers and families deserve better.”

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald, speaking at the launch of the party’s alternative budget said: “Our primary aim is to make life more affordable for people, to ease the pressure on households hammered by soaring prices, and to invest with ambition for a better future. These are all measures that could and should be implemented by this government.”

Ms. McDonald said, “Today, we present Sinn Féin’s Alternative Budget for 2026. It is a budget to end the rip-off. It is a budget to support workers and families. This Budget comes at a time when the cost of living is sky high.

“It also comes when the Fianna Fáil-Fine Gael waste of public money is out of control. Households for whom every euro counts watch on as the government pours their hard-earned money down the drain.

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SNA for nearly a hundred schools. So, there is a real life price to be paid for this waste and it's paid by ordinary people.

“Workers and families deserve better.

“Our driving aim is to make life more affordable for people, to ease the pressure on households hammered by soaring prices, and to invest with ambition for a better future.”

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)

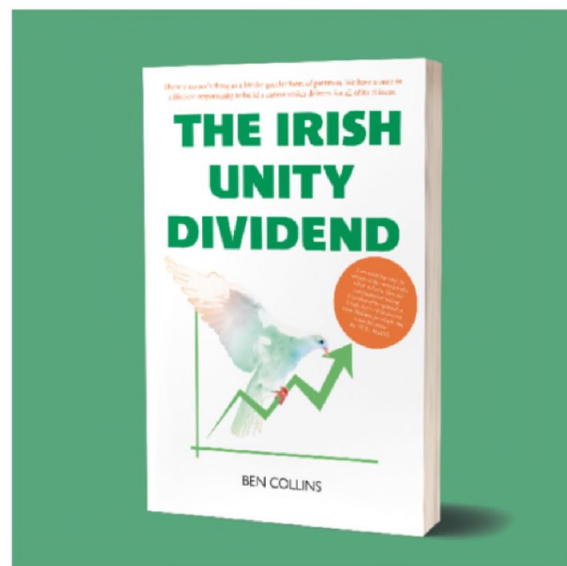


Irish Unity Education Webinar Series October Guest: Ben Collins

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Educational Webinar Series. We will be joined by **Ben Collins**, author of the new book, [The Irish Unity Dividend](#). This event is free and all are welcome! [Register here](#).

Ben Collins grew up in a strongly pro-unionist and pro-British background in East Belfast. Previously an active member of the UK Conservative Party in Scotland from 2001 to 2003 and then a campaigner for the Alliance Party in Northern Ireland, he is not a member of any political party. Ben is a former Chief Executive of NIFHA (Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations) and has worked in roles with a strong focus on political communications for more than twenty years. This has included working as a press officer for the Northern Ireland Office (UK Government Department) at the time of the St Andrews Agreement negotiations, for three international communications consultancies, a professional body and a medical regulator. He has an MSc in Political Communication, an MBA and a Law degree, and is licensed to practise as an attorney in New York State. He resides in his home city of Belfast, working across the island of Ireland. Ben is a Director with Chambré an independent strategic communications and public affairs agency. He has previously lived and worked in Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff and London.



Irish Unity People's Assemblies in Hartford, Boston, and Philadelphia in

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Irish Unity People's Assemblies for the Diaspora will be in New England in late October.

[Click here to register for Hartford, CT](#)

[Click here to register for Boston, MA](#)

[Click here to register for Philadelphia, PA](#)

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.

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ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Oct 25 - Hartford, CT
Oct 28 - Boston, MA
Oct 30 - Philadelphia, PA

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

AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN



Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD

**Catalpa Anniversary Event in New
Bedford, MA - October 27, 2025**

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CATALPA 150TH ANNIVERSARY





THE GREATEST ESCAPE IN IRISH HISTORY

7:00 PM
MONDAY - OCTOBER 27TH
SEAMEN'S BETHEL NEW BEDFORD

CELEBRATING



ANNIVERSARY

NEW BEDFORD CONNECTION

The Catalpa rescue refers to a famous mission where the American whaling ship Catalpa, sailing out of New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1875, rescued six Irish Fenian prisoners from Fremantle Prison in Western Australia in 1876. The mission was a culmination of secret planning by Irish exiles in America and was led by Captain George Anthony, a New Bedford native. The daring escape was a major propaganda victory for the Fenians, ultimately securing the freedom of the six men and symbolizing the fight for Irish independence.



SPECIAL GUESTS



Sinn Féin TD Mairead Farrell
Represents Galway West and South Mayo, and serves as the party's spokesperson on Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform, and Digitalisation.



Marcus Howard
The Independent Historian and Filmmaker
"The Greatest Escape in Irish History: Voices From The Tomb" Catalpa Rescue - 150th Anniversary Talk

Sponsored by The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick New Bedford

INQUIRIES:
CHRISTOPHER DONNELLY
+508 320 8388

Mary Lou McDonald addresses British Labour Party Conference in Liverpool

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald delivered the keynote address at the *From Peace to Unity: A New Chapter in British-Irish Relations* event at the British Labour Party Conference in Liverpool.

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referendums need to be held by the end of this decade.”

She will state: “Since 1998, successive British governments have failed to implement in full the Good Friday Agreement.

“British Prime Ministers raising obstacles to Unity Referendums flies in the face of the spirit of progress that made history in 1998.

“We are just over two years away from the 30th anniversary of the Agreement. This is a milestone moment to shape our future. To make good the promise of Good Friday.”

She will also welcome the decision of the British government to recognise the state of Palestine but will add: “The genocide in Gaza, and the occupation continue. And the world watches on. The failure of the British government and of other European governments to take a stand against the actions of the Israeli state, to afford impunity to Netanyahu’s regime in the face of genocidal slaughter, continuing to arm this slaughter is abhorrent, is shameful and unacceptable.”

[READ HER FULL ADDRESS HERE](#)

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Mary Lou McDonald challenges Taoiseach's complete disregard for the Good Friday Agreement on Irish Unity poll

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald has challenged Taoiseach Micheál Martin's bizarre intervention on the border poll debate. She said: "Twice in a week, the Taoiseach has shown complete disregard for the Good Friday Agreement and its provisions for a border poll. A border poll will be held. Nobody has a veto on that happening. It is the Taoiseach's job to prepare and manage the constitutional change that is coming, and he should do his job instead of trying to rewrite history and block change."

Ms. McDonald said, "Twice in a week, the Taoiseach has shown complete disregard for the Good Friday Agreement in relation to Irish Unity. Firstly he falsely claimed that

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“Now he is attempting to cherry-pick the Agreement.

“Nobody can have a veto on progress. The constitutional duty is on the Taoiseach and a future president to champion Ireland’s future and to lead the preparation for referendums.

“We are just over two years away from the 30th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. This is a milestone moment to shape our future. I believe that there will be referendums on unity before the end of this decade.

“Inch by inch we are getting closer and closer to Irish Unity and the only person pretending that is not the case is the person whose job it is to lead and to prepare for the constitutional change that is coming. It is beyond reckless to keep his head in the sand at such an important moment for our island.

“The commitment to holding referendums must be honoured. That is what is in the Good Friday Agreement and that is what the people voted for.”

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