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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

A President for All

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Greetings from Ireland. After two weeks traveling coast to coast from New York, Boston, New York, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and up to Vancouver, I am now back home.

To all those I met along the way, thank you for your continuing support, good humour, and commitment to Ireland.

The trip finished up with successful Irish Unity Commission hearings in San Francisco and Vancouver. Two very different cities, but at each meeting, there was a shared love of Ireland and a belief that we can and will unite our country.

The Irish Presidential election at the end of October was one of the points of conversation. This week, nominations for the position closed, and three names will be on the ballot paper: Heather Humphreys, a former Irish Government Minister, is supported by her party Fine Gael, Jim Gavin a former Dublin Football manager, is supported by Fianna Fáil, and Catherine Connolly, who is an independent TD from Galway.

Sinn Féin, after a wide consultation with its members over the summer months, has thrown our party's support behind Catherine Connolly.

Connolly is also supported by all of the main opposition parties, Sinn Féin, Labour, Social Democrats, and People Before Profit.

In essence, the election will a choice be between the current government party candidates, Humphreys and Gavin, against a united opposition candidate, Connolly.

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be wholly independent and separate from a government party.

In the Dáil, Connolly has been an outspoken critic of the government and an advocate for workers, communities, and equality. As a proud gaelgoir (Irish language speaker), Connolly portrays a confident vision of a modern Ireland rooted in a love of Irish Culture.

The term of office of Uachtarán na hÉireann (Irish President) is seven years. It is entirely possible that the incoming President could preside over the ending of partition in Ireland. In this regard, Catherine Connolly has spoken of the need to plan and prepare for Irish Unity. A call that the two government candidates refuse to make.

These are all the reasons that Sinn Féin has decided to back Connolly. An agreed cross-party candidate with a vision for the Irish Nation well beyond the narrow vision of the parties of government that are bound to an outdated, partitioned Ireland.

In both Vancouver and San Francisco, John Finucane, the Sinn Féin MP for North Belfast, reminded the audience that he, like them, could not vote in this election. The government parties continue to block the extension of voting rights to Irish Citizens in the North of Ireland and those citizens living abroad.

The President is an important guardian of the Constitution of the Irish Nation. The constitution, which describes Irish Unity as the “will of the nation,” not as a bland and distant aspiration.

We all need a President who will act on behalf of the whole island and nation abroad. A president who will be ambitious for Ireland. The campaign is underway, and I, for one, will be supporting Catherine Connolly.

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

Did you see our conversation with Professor Colin Harvey about how to best prepare for a new and United Ireland? You can watch it and find links to resources and ways

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Full House for San Francisco Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora

A capacity crowd gathered in the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco for the latest Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora.

Sinn Féin MP for Belfast North John Finucane addressed the more than 130 people in attendance with an update and the latest news about progress being made towards Irish Unity referendums and the work needing to be done to prepare.

He said, "For supporters of Irish unity, the objective is clear. We need to secure and win unity referendums.

"To ensure that the right of the people to referendums is exercised. The Agreement is predicated on the right of the people to determine their constitutional future. A right delayed is a right denied.

"The promise of referendums is the foundation of the Agreement. The hosting of referendums is part and parcel of the implementation of the Agreement.

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The standing-room only crowd committed to specific goals and actions along with plans for providing updates for the work and progress. Local event coordinators Ciarán, Ronan, Seamus, and Gilbert had prepared for everything and ensured the event was a success by every measure.

It was an extraordinary evening that featured a diverse mix of voices, experiences, and backgrounds working together and weighing in on plans for the work ahead.

[See more photos here.](#)



Kelly and Finucane react to news PSNI accessed phone data of journalists & lawyers

Reacting to the publication of the McCullough Review, Sinn Féin's policing spokesperson Gerry Kelly MLA said, "The McCullough Review sets out a stark assessment of PSNI practices around surveillance of journalists, lawyers and others. Sinn Féin welcomes the depth of his work in uncovering the scale of activity and recognises the limitations of what he could access.

"The independent review covered a period from 2011 to 2024.

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therefore unlawful. The deliberate use of covert intelligence to identify journalistic sources, and surveillance activity in and around court buildings, are particularly egregious. Such practices strike at press freedom and legal professional privilege. Policing can never be above the law.

“Recognising the gravity of what has been revealed, the Policing Board – on a cross-community basis and with the support of its members – has treated this as a Section 59 report from the Chief Constable under the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. This is unprecedented and underlines the seriousness of the failings identified.

“Sinn Féin is assessing the 200-page report and the actions necessary to restore confidence. Public trust – especially among those targeted – has been badly damaged. That trust will only be rebuilt by firm, transparent and time-bound accountability.

[READ FULL STORY HERE](#)



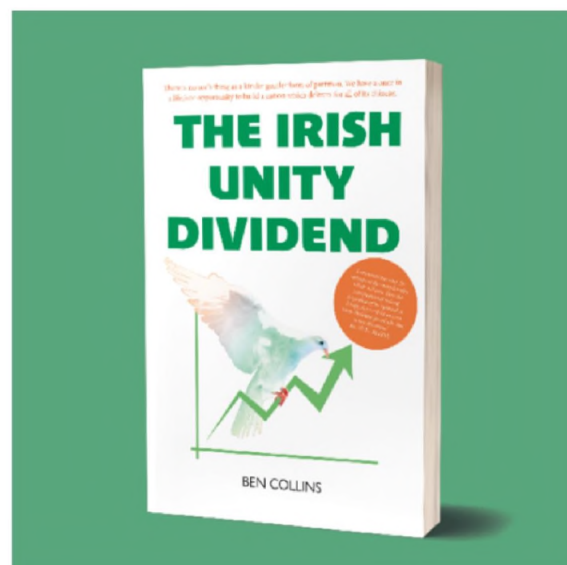
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Irish Unity Education Webinar Series

October Guest: Ben Collins

Join us on **Saturday, October 25** at 12:00 noon ET for the third in our Irish Unity 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.



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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>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>Tuesday, October 28, 2025 Boston, MA Florian Hall 7:00 - 9:30pm</p> <p>Featuring Mairéad Farrell TD A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.</p>  <p>AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA HÉIREANN</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>AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA HÉIREANN</p>

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 Fein 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
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Statement of Brehon Law Society of New York Regarding the Surveillance of Journalists

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that the suppression of journalistic freedom is an art that was perfected long ago by the authorities in Northern Ireland.

Barry McCaffrey and Trever Birney are journalists who were involved with the “No Stone Unturned” documentary that explored collusion and the cover-up by British government agents in the murder of 6 innocent people. The police in Northern Ireland later raided the journalists’ homes and arrested them in an attempt to shield the cover-up.

A High Court judge subsequently exonerated the journalists and ordered the police to pay damages of approximately \$1 million. In another action filed by the journalists before the Investigatory Powers Tribunal, the Tribunal ruled that the police had illegally spied on them.

Today, the report of a review into police surveillance of journalists by the police in Northern Ireland was published.

The report found that the police never deleted data that was seized from both Birney and McCaffrey even though the police were court ordered to delete it.

The report found that the police failed to fully disclose the surveillance of the telephones of Birney and McCaffrey.

The report found that the police maintained a secret register of the phone numbers of over 1,000 people, including journalists.

The Brehon Law Society commends the persistence of these journalists who, through their professional lives and personal lives, have exposed the extent to which the British State will go to intimidate journalists. It is time for a public inquiry.

Deirdre Feerick

President, Brehon Law Society of New York

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