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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Hope is not a strategy

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week an Dáil (the Irish Parliament) passed a Sinn Féin resolution calling on the Irish Government to establish Citizens Assemblies and a Parliamentary Committee to promote discussion on Irish Unity, to produce a plan for unity, engage with protestant and unionist opinion about the future of Ireland, and to work to secure the dates for unity referendums as promised in the Good Friday Agreement.

The debate in the Dáil was informed and respectful. The resolution was supported by all of the opposition parties and independent TD's. All spoke of the need to plan and prepare for referendums. Many shared personal histories of previous generations who had fought for independence and unity. All professed their hopes to end the division of our island.

The resolution was passed. The government parties' speakers were clear that they would not oppose the resolution but also support it. Speakers from the government parties of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael spoke of their hopes for unity, but would not commit to plan, prepare or advocate to end partition.

Instead, they believed that unity would just evolve, that unionists would stop being unionist and we would waken up to find partition withered on the vine. This does no justice to the complexities of undoing partition and reconnecting different administrations, policies, and practices. It fundamentally fails to understand unionism and a denial that a united Ireland will and must be a new Ireland.

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This seems to be what the Irish government's definition of reconciliation and a prerequisite to unity.

As an Irish Republican, I knew too well the attitude as I was once told to accept that I was British and stop complaining. After all, why would anyone be against being a British subject!

Reconciliation is an ongoing process. It is about reconciling differences, not denying them.

A united Ireland can be home for all that share our island without giving up their identity. The Good Friday Agreement is explicit you can British, Irish or both in a divided Ireland and the same in a united Ireland.

No identity has a veto, and reconciliation is not a precondition. The process of reconciliation will continue in a united Ireland.

The constitutional future is in the hands of the people North and South. If a majority north and a majority south vote for unity then our nation will be united.

The passing of the motion is sign of progress in the unity discussion. The opposition parties are united on what needs to be done and Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael are running out of road in their denial of change.

The position of both parties has been laid bare. They claim to want unity but are not prepared to plan, prepare or advocate for it. That is not leadership. That is an abdication of responsibility. Hope is not a replacement for strategy, planning, or action.

Have a great weekend

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

People's Assemblies in the Northeast with Mairéad Farrell TD

Friends of Sinn Féin hosted a series of three Irish Unity People's Assemblies for the Diaspora in the Northeast of the United States in late October. These were the ninth, tenth, and eleventh Irish Unity People's Assemblies organized across the US over the

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Dara Hughes MP, with stops in Cleveland, OH, Columbus, OH, Pearl River, NY, Washington, DC, Cincinnati, OH, Nashville, TN, Chicago, IL, and San Francisco, CA.

This run of events included stops in Hartford, CT, Boston, MA, and Philadelphia, PA. Special guest Mairéad Farrell, TD for Galway addressed hundreds of supporters and activists from all over the region.

Late autumn in New England can feel like a movie set. Vibrant foliage, fall festivals, pumpkin patches, and apple orchards abound as Mairéad made her way from city to city accompanied by Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin's Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin. The setting was bested only by the energy and engagement at every stop where the crowds that gathered jumped right into the work of planning and preparing for a new and united Ireland.

In Hartford, more than 150 activists gathered at the Irish American Home Society to hear from Ms. Farrell and to work in small groups at their tables in order to make plans and organize action. A rare weekend afternoon event made it possible for families to participate, and featured pipers, a local Irish dance school, and a reception after the work to help solidify the connections made.

The fireside chat portion of the event was hosted by Tricia Mcivor, who led Mairéad through a series of questions that had been suggested by registrants. It was a highlight of the series, and it provided the audience with an opportunity to learn more about the role of activists in the work.

Later in the week, more than 100 people convened at the home of the Boston Firefighter's Local 718, Florian Hall. Boston's host for the fireside chat portion was none other than long-time activist and Irish Republican Kathleen Savage. Kathleen and Mairéad not only answered the many questions suggested by the attendees, but also worked their way through a myriad of topics and events that provided a special review of Boston's long history of support.

Activists young and old jumped at the chance to discuss the actors and the work involved in creating a new and united Ireland and to make plans for next steps.

More than 100 people came out to Philadelphia's Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Irish Center in spite of pouring rain and flood warnings. The room filled

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The fireside chat in Philadelphia was hosted by Terry Welsh, Pennsylvania's Chair of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom for All Ireland Committee and it was a great conversation. Afterwards, attendees were eager to engage with the small group work and discussion questions. Philadelphia has been a center of Irish Republican activism in the United States for decades and the crowd was ready, willing, and able to dive into the deep end of organizing and next steps.

All of these events were made possible by the work of volunteer activists and supporters. The progress made and the work to be done on the horizon is clearer than ever and that is thanks to the dozens of volunteers, hosts, donors, and activists.

Plans for events next year are already underway. In the meantime, it is clearer than ever that Irish America is ready to work for a new and United Ireland and to be part of the generation that makes it happen!



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Watch: Irish Unity Education Webinar with Ben Collins

Author Ben Collins joins us for a conversation about the practical elements of planning and preparing for a new and united Ireland.

Ben is the author of "Irish Unity: Time to Prepare" and "[The Irish Unity Dividend](#)".

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Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man screenings in Philadelphia, DC, New York, and Boston



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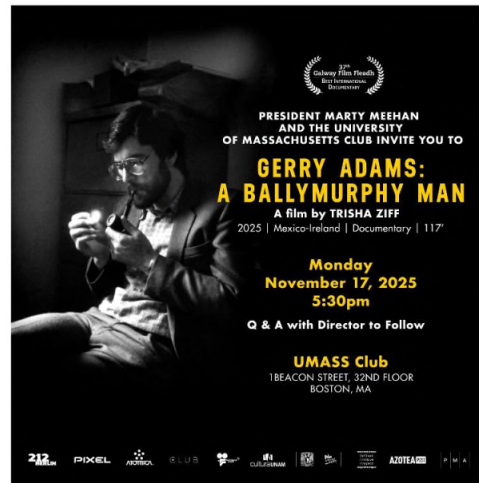
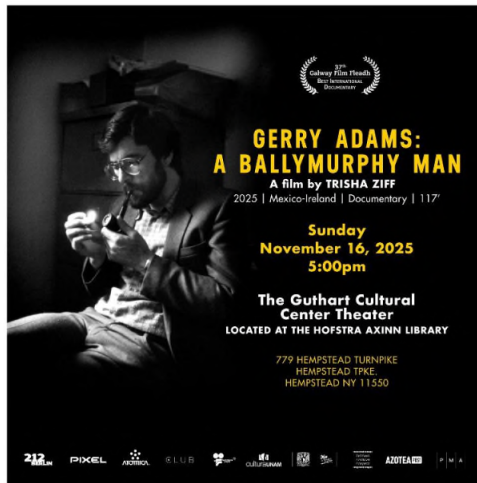
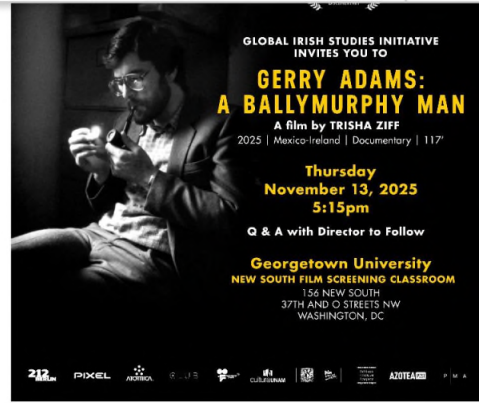


American INSIGHT
2025 Free Speech Award Ceremony

Honoring Trisha Ziff
 Free Speech Award-Winning Director
Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man

5-7 PM, Wednesday, November 12th

The Philadelphia Club
 Philadelphia, PA



Irish government must now begin planning and preparations for Irish unity – Hughes

Sinn Féin MP Dáire Hughes has said preparations for a referendum on Irish unity must now begin without delay.

It follows a Sinn Féin motion passed in Dáil Éireann calling on the Irish government to begin planning.

The Newry and Armagh MP added that the British government should publish its criteria for calling a border poll.

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“Increasingly, people are looking towards a brighter future where all decisions are made at home in the best interests of those living here.

“Westminster has shown time and again that it has no regard for workers and families in our society.

“The Irish government must now show the leadership to get on with this important work.

“Equally, it is imperative that the British government publishes the criteria for triggering a vote on constitutional change, and the Dublin government must also press for this.

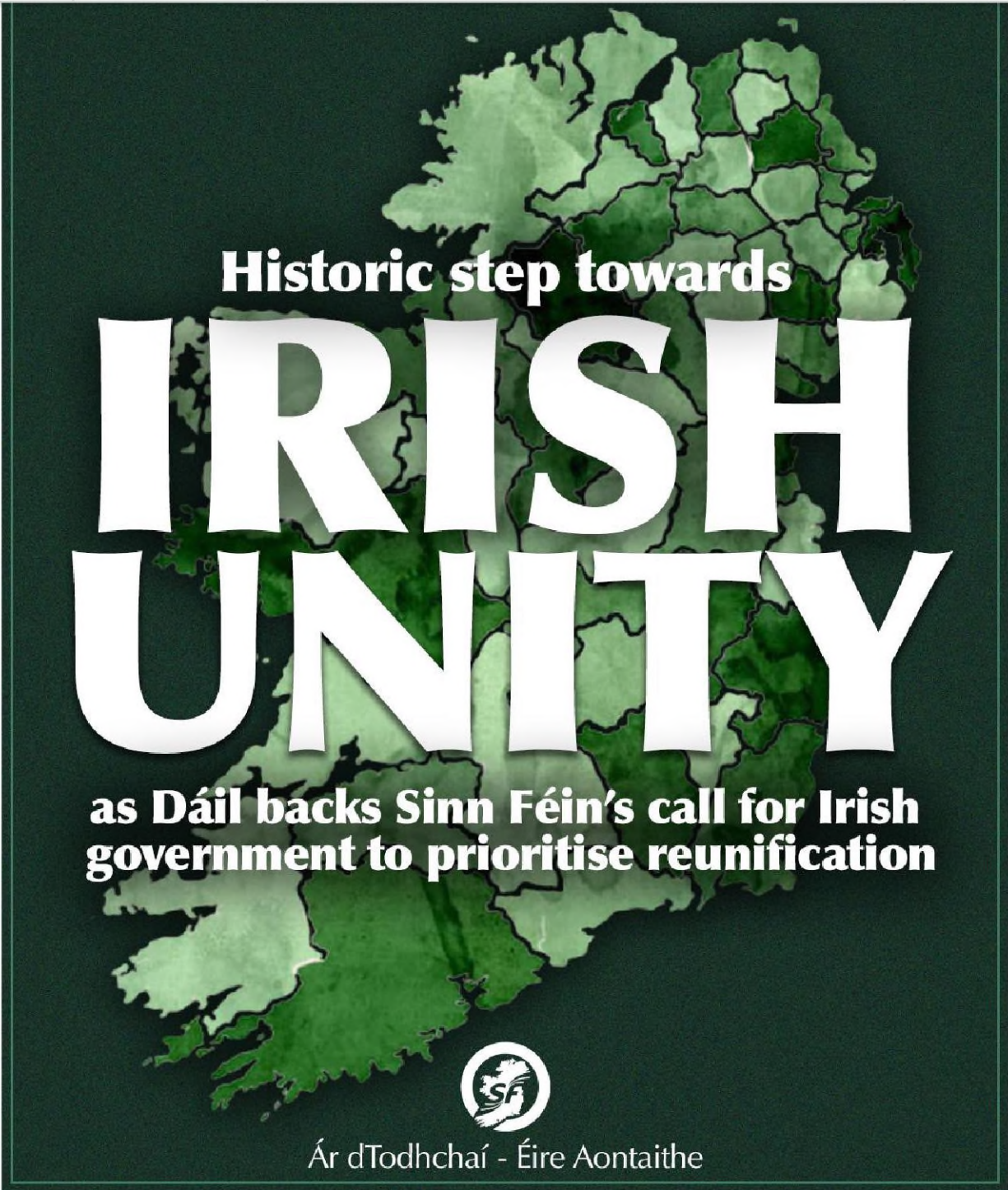
“It is clear the appetite is there for change.

“We have huge opportunities ahead of us to write the next chapter of our nation and build a modern, thriving and prosperous Ireland for all. That potential must be seized.”

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