

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

UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Come to Ireland

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week, I got sent a very funny message. It was an Irish folk song with a photo that looked like an obscure 1970s folk album. The singing was pitch-perfect. The tune was strong, but the words were very funny relating to a friend of mine and their *ahem* “misadventures”.

It was AI-generated, but for a moment I thought, “How is this real ??”.

If something this trivial could be so convincing, how can we divine the real from the made-up? Are we at a point where we can’t believe anything that we see, hear or read online?

On any given day, I can go online and be told that Ireland is full, that Irish Culture is being lost, that we are on the verge of Sharia law being imposed and that Ireland is on fire. None of this is true. I could call it fake news, but even that term has been rendered meaningless.

I have always been cynical about what is referred to as mainstream media. I grew up as an Irish republican in Belfast. We were censored, marginalised and reduced to caricatures. We were described as savages. The image of my community in the media was not the community that I knew.

It is right to challenge media bias, but social media is not a counterweight. It carries the same bias with the added problems of being largely unregulated. If a so-called “citizen journalist” is asking for donations and/or receiving payment from online platforms, they are a business.

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

In today's networked world, a lie is halfway around the world before the truth gets out of bed.

Last year, Sky News, using X's own data, found that 55% of all posts using the hashtag "Ireland is full" originated in the US, 28% in Ireland, 8% from Britain and the balance from across the globe. Remembering that X is not representative of Ireland but of its users and is an uninformed echo chamber.

Some may claim that I am living in denial, but I am not. I am living in the Ireland of today. A vibrant, diverse and changing Ireland with a resilient, deep and shared culture of language, music, sports and literature. A home where cead mile failte is a cherished value.

Immigration is not a problem; I meet the sons and daughters of Irish immigrants in the US and Canada all the time. Generations that shaped their new homes and are proud of their Irish heritage.

The issue in Ireland is that government policy is failing immigrants and society as a whole. It can and should be fixed. We can build homes for all in need, regulate immigration and share our culture.

I tend to question all media equally, print, radio, TV or online and balance it against my own lived experience.

I suppose if you truly believe that Ireland is full, you will not be thinking of seeing for yourself, as there would be no room in the inn.

But I would say, come to Ireland, see for yourself and celebrate our culture with us.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Watch: Irish Unity Education Webinar with guest Gerry Adams

November's guest for our Irish Unity Education Webinar series is former Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams.

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

Time for government action as Houses of Oireachtas support Irish unity motion – Conor Murphy

- **"To ignore the process of change that is gathering pace across Ireland is not simply to stick your head in the sand, it is a dereliction of duty for any sovereign government."**

Sinn Féin Seanad leader, Senator Conor Murphy, has said that the Irish government now needs to take a lead on preparing for Irish unity following universal support across the Houses of the Oireachtas for a Sinn Féin unity motion.

Seanadóir Murphy said, "The Sinn Féin Irish unity motion was discussed in the Dáil chamber in October and in the Seanad last evening. I am delighted that both houses supported the motion and that the position of the Houses of the Oireachtas is now that the government must establish an all-island representative Citizens' Assembly or Assemblies and a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity.

"Furthermore the motion commits the government to produce and publish a plan towards Irish unity in conjunction with civic society and key stakeholders, and to

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

“We want to be free to govern ourselves and determine our own destiny. That is what uniting Ireland is about. That is what self-determination is about. Without the right to self-determination for the people of the north all other rights are illusory.

“The unity campaign can be a great unifier among both the parties and the people who support reunification. There is a major role to be played by civic and community groups who will be central to winning the referendums, our global diaspora must be included as well.

“People from the protestant tradition are a vital and integral part of our new shared future. There cannot be a new Ireland that does not celebrate and include those from this tradition. They will be every bit as valid Irish citizens as anyone who sits in the Dáil and Seanad Chambers.

“We have an opportunity to forge a new relationship with Britain. It will always be our nearest neighbour, and the ties of family and friends mean that there will always be a close affinity with that country.

“Going forward it will be a partnership of equals, that is one of the lessons of the Brexit experience, significant change must be planned for and managed by governments.

“The Good Friday Agreement clearly identified where such responsibility lies. To ignore the process of change that is gathering pace across Ireland is not simply to stick your head in the sand, it is a dereliction of duty for any sovereign government.”

Read the latest issue of Éire Nua

The latest issue of Éire Nua is now available. Read all about the latest work being done for a new and united Ireland, get updates on events from around the world, and more!

[**READ ÉIRE NUA HERE**](#)

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



IN THE USA

DASPORA MEET ON UNITY

By Greg O'Loughlin

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 last year, which drew more than 1,700 people in attendance from coast to coast. Previous events featured Sinn Féin spokespeople Pat Caffrey MP, John Fitzmaurice MP, and Dara Hughes MP, with stops in Cleveland, OH; Columbus, OH; Paul 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 Naimeel Fareed, TD for Galway, addressed hundreds of supporters and activists from all over the region.

Late autumn in New England can feel like a more icy, vibrant feeling, full of pumpkins, pumpkin patches, and apple orchards abound as Naimeel made his way from city to city accompanied by Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Cláirín Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin. The setting was heated only by the energy and engagement of every step where the crowds that gathered jumped right into the work of planning and preparing for a new and united Ireland.

In Hartford, more than 120 activists gathered

at the Irish American Home Society to hear from Ms. Fareed 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 friends chat portion of the event was hosted by Irish activists, who led Ireland through a series of questions that had been suggested by organizers. 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 gathered at the home of the Boston Irish Republican Party (BIRP) to hear from Naimeel Fareed, TD for Galway, and to work in small groups at their tables in order to make plans and organize action.

At the home of the BIRP, Naimeel Fareed, TD for Galway, addressed hundreds of supporters and activists from all over the region. Late autumn in New England can feel like a more icy, vibrant feeling, full of pumpkins, pumpkin patches, and apple orchards abound as Naimeel made his way from city to city accompanied by Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Cláirín Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin. The setting was heated only by the energy and engagement of every step where the crowds that gathered jumped right into the work of planning and preparing for a new and united Ireland.

More than 100 people came out to

Philadelphia's Commodore John Barry Arts and Cultural Irish Center in spirit of passing rain and flood warnings. The room filled quickly and the warmth of the greetings and of the gathering quickly vanquished the cold, raw evening.

The friends chat in Philadelphia was hosted by Terry Webb, Pennsylvania's Chair of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) for all Ireland Committee and 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 meet them.

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

Greg O'Loughlin, Executive Director, Friends of Sinn Féin

A LETTER FROM NORTH AMERICA

By Cláirín Quinn



I have just returned from attending Irish Unity Commission hearings in Hartford, Boston and Philadelphia. Over the past thirteen months, Friends of Sinn Féin USA has hosted eleven such events in cities across the USA, and I think of Sinn Féin Canada has hosted four events in Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver.

The Commission events allow for activists and supporters to meet directly from Sinn Féin Representatives and to discuss the way forward to secure and win Irish Unity. Representatives are asked to share their views on the need for the organization to call a halt to the discussions as each event went over time. This is a measure of the interest and energy of activists hungry to see Irish Unity.

One question that arises in both North America and Ireland is, "Why do we put so much time and resources into these events?" It was fitting that the last Commission of the current year was held in Philadelphia, a city to which Wolfe Tone travelled in exile to meet and learn the lessons of American Revolutionary leaders. It was there that he made contact with the French Government Representatives and began his journey to Paris.

In each phase of Irish revolutionary history, North America has been crucial. There would have been no Easter Rising without "our exiled children." Throughout the years of conflict, activists and supporters in Irish North America, the Volunteers, Cláirín Quinn and others stood on the side of justice and Irish Unity.

It was US and Canadian activists who campaigned in support of the McBride Principles and against endemic discrimination in the North of Ireland. As the peace process developed, US-based activists campaigned for a visa for Gerry Adams and for the appointment of a special envoy to the North as part of the 1992 Presidential campaign.

President Clinton upheld his campaign promises and remained engaged throughout the negotiations that would lead to the Good Friday Agreement. He took these actions despite British Government objections and set an era in which US foreign policy in Ireland would be independent of both governments, with peace and progress at its core.

The US and Canadian involvement in our peace process did not end in 1995. The OIA remains the most successful US foreign policy initiative in a generation. Each administration and both parties have remained engaged, acting as a guarantor for the agreement, peace and progress. This became evident in the Brexit process, as a bipartisan basis, the US Congress voted that a trade agreement would be progressed unless the Good Friday Agreement was protected and a hard border across

Ireland was avoided. A similar position was supported in the Canadian Federal parliament.

This focus on the attention of the British Government, which returned to the negotiation table with the EU.

Every election cycle throws up new challenges and opportunities. We have a Labour Government in Westminster and a Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Government that are desperate to build relationships with the Trump White House and lobby across the US political, economic, and civic society. Both governments also oppose the implementation of the referendum on the terms of the OIA.

The role of Sinn Féin in the US has been both as a partner in the peace process and a critical friend to the US political establishment. We need to protect the Good Friday Agreement and promote the cause of Irish Unity. That does not mean that we support or endorse all US foreign policy. We use our meetings to raise concerns and share our perspective or peacebuilding, most recently on the genocide in Gaza.

History demonstrates that the main driver for progress and Irish unity in the US and Canada will come from Irish Citizens and the wider diaspora. The Irish Government has retained a special relationship with the diaspora. It will support Irish cultural projects in the US and Canada, promote Irish Government priorities, but not stand voting rights to the Irish diaspora. It appears that you are a cherished part of the nation and you seek a voice in shaping the politics of the nation. Full on the green jersey, he was not out there.

Yes, the Irish in America and Canada have a role to play in shaping Irish, British and domestic policy. The McBride Principles campaign was met by British objections, Irish Government official ambivalence and unofficial opposition, which shaped the US White House and Congress positions. Yet the campaign built momentum across city councils, state houses, about unions and Irish American civic society. In the end, it was a fair employment law and practices in the North.

In every city we have visited, the demand from the floor has been simple. It is time to implement the referendum commitments in the Good Friday Agreement. It is time for the Irish Government to plan, prepare and advocate for Irish unity.

The Irish in North America now need to be heard. Cláirín Quinn is Sinn Féin's representative in North America.

Zelenskyy visit underlines urgent need for peace, protection of civilians and just end to war – Mary Lou McDonald TD

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD has said that Tuesday's visit to Ireland by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy underlines the continuing human cost of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and the urgent need for all international efforts to be focused on ending the war and achieving a just and lasting peace.

Speaking Tuesday morning, Ms. McDonald said, "President Zelenskyy's visit comes at a critical moment in this terrible war. Almost four years on from Russia's invasion, the Ukrainian people continue to endure devastating loss, displacement and suffering. "Sinn Féin stands firmly with the people of Ukraine and supports their right to sovereignty, freedom and self-determination.

"This conflict has exacted a shocking human toll. Millions have been forced from their homes, entire communities devastated, and far too many lives lost.

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

upholding of international law, and meaningful diplomatic efforts to end the war and bring about a sustainable and just peace.

“Ireland is respected internationally, as a military neutral, for its voice on peace, human rights and international law. That voice must be used constructively and consistently – to promote ceasefires, support humanitarian relief, and to push relentlessly for diplomacy to replace war.

“Sinn Féin will continue to advocate for peace, for the protection of civilians, and for a political resolution that upholds international law. War can never be allowed to become normal.”

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.

[**DONATE HERE**](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)



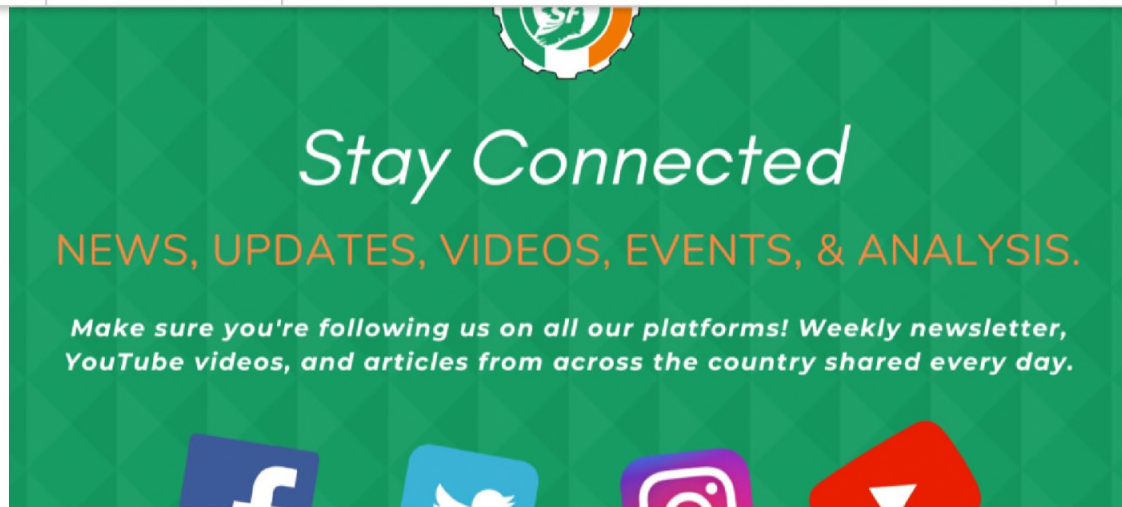
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN USA

NEWS, ANALYSIS & EVENTS

Your donation makes it all possible!

**Do you follow us on Instagram?
YouTube? Facebook?**

Click the image below to find videos, articles, and links to all of our social media platforms. Follow and share and help boost the signal!

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

[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](#)