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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

A dream that is dying of one that is coming to birth

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Happy New Year. I am writing this from the daze of the week between Christmas and New Year. A time of meeting up with old friends and family, reading, walking and eating chocolate for breakfast.

I don't do new resolutions or predictions. Experience has shown that my only confident prediction is that I will break any resolution I make. I have been thinking about the coming year.

Like every year, 2026 will bring new opportunities and challenges. In politics, as in life, change is inevitable. The challenge is how to manage, shape, and adapt to change. The current Irish government is living in denial. This is true of their approach to housing, public services, the economy and Irish Unity. A government devoid of vision and ideas, lurching from crisis to crisis.

As the new year turns, parents will be dropping their grown-up children to the airport because of a government that refuses to change course to provide houses and opportunities at home.

This government is out of sync with the reality of people's lives, their hopes, and aspirations. This is most evident on the issue of Irish Unity. Blinded by a need to shore up the status quo, they are missing the opportunity to define and deliver a new and united Ireland. We can secure and win unity referendums by 2030.

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government's position has shifted from resisting to ridiculing, and on to ignoring the issue.

In 1918, US labour leader Nicholas Klein addressed striking workers describing the path to victory as, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win"

Sounds like the path of recent years. The next step is to ensure that we win the Irish Government around to planning and preparing for unity referendums before the end of the decade.

The peaceful and democratic resolution of constitutional conflict and the building of a new post-colonial state can become a beacon of hope for a world in conflict.

On an international stage, we have the ongoing invasion of Ukraine by Russia, a ceasefire in name only in Gaza, and the international rule of law being upended by a belief that "might is right". The world is a very uncertain place. Relations within Europe and between Europe and the US are changing.

Technology is changing the lives of many for good and bad. Just as social media brought communities together, it also divides society, rewarding conflict and disagreement. The advent of AI will help with research and automating processes, but will also mean job losses, and we will not be able to believe any of what we read, see, or hear, and a new AI-generated consensus emerges that minimises a diversity of voices and thoughts.

I always travel in hope. One of my favourite Poems is Ode by Arthur O'Shaughnessy which begins with the lines:

"We are the music makers

And we are the dreamers of dreams," and ends with the lines,

"For each age is a dream that is dying.

Or one that is coming to birth"

I remain on the side of the music makers, the poets and the dreamers of dreams.

Happy New Year, the future is ours to define.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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New Year Message from Michelle O'Neill

Leas-Uachtarán Shinn Féin Michelle O'Neill said, "We are almost two years since the restoration of the Assembly and Executive.

"It goes without saying that working as part of a four-party Executive with different and often conflicting political positions is difficult and complex.

"It has undoubtedly been challenging but when Ministers work together constructively there has been real progress made.

"The greatest challenge that we face collectively is, of course, the severe underfunding of our public services. When the British Labour Party came to power in 2024, they promised a new dawn after years of Tory cuts and austerity. Yet with a continuing cost-of-living crisis and a recent budget that failed to support workers, families and businesses in a meaningful way, Labour has continued along a similar path to the Tories.

"Austerity, cuts and stealth tax increases are all measures that hit those with the lowest incomes, rather than taxing the wealthy.

"That is a wrong.

"The reality is London has never and will never prioritise the interests of the people of the north of Ireland.

"Only where we can make our own decisions on this island will we be able to build sustainable public services..

"Alongside our determination to deliver in the here and now for the people the Executive is elected to represent, Sinn Féin is actively engaged in the growing debate on constitutional change and building a better Ireland. More people are discussing the exciting possibilities of a post-partition Ireland and what the future would look like for themselves and their families.

"That is why both the Irish and British governments must engage in those preparations now. Sinn Féin has called for a referendum by 2030, and I will continue to press that case.

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of the North's first Commissioner for the Irish Language in October.

“There is an Irish saying: Tús maith leath na hoibre – a good start is half the work.

“Let us make a strong start to 2026. The future is ours to shape, and by working together, we can make it a brighter one.

“Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.”



Watch: December Video Update

Watch our latest video update! Sinn Féin's Representative to North America and Friends of Sinn Féin's Executive Director discuss the latest legacy developments, a review of all the progress and growth in 2025, and a preview of what's in store for 2026!

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IN THE USA

DIASPORA 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 1,100 people in attendance from coast to coast. Previous events featured Sinn Féin speakers Pat Cullen MP, John Finucane MP, and 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 Míaréad 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 Centre in spite of pouring 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 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 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!

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

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Our most recent guest for our Irish Unity Education Webinar series is former Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams. Watch it now - click below:



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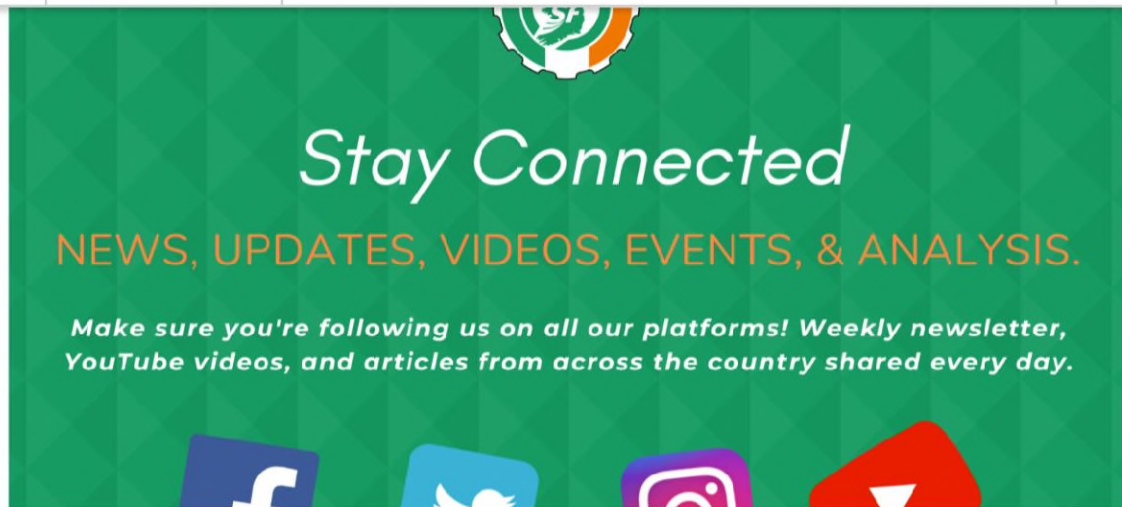
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