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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Between Christmas and New Year - a look back

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

I hope that you got all that you wished for at Christmas. As we head into the New Year, it is timely to look back at the year past.

In the North of Ireland, the Assembly and Government continued their work uninterrupted. These institutions operate on a unique power-sharing basis, reflecting a changing but still divided community. Managing the tensions and political differences in a mandatory coalition is always challenging.

This Stormont parliament is far removed from the gerrymandered government established at the time of partition. The pro-British Unionist majority is gone and not coming back. This year, the Assembly passed a Sinn Féin-backed resolution calling on the South to extend voting in the Irish Presidential election to Irish Citizens in the North. A resolution that would have been unthinkable only a matter of years ago. All has changed and changed utterly.

Unionists, Nationalists and others now face the joint challenge of managing an inadequate budget set by the British Government. We are again seeing the real cost of partition in the north with reduced investment in public services.

Over the past year, the British government has reneged on its promise to revoke the previous government's legislation that provided an amnesty for their military for killings during the conflict and obstructing the rights of the families of victims to have full legal recourse to the courts and coroners.

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British governments in blocking the full disclosure of information across cases and multiple murders. It will require international pressure to ensure that the British Government live up to its commitments. There is a particular role for the Irish Government to hold the British to account for the killing of Irish Citizens.

In January of this year, the new Irish Government led by Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael came into power. This government looks much like the last, held together by opposition to Sinn Féin. The same political parties in Government, with the same policies, have led to the deepening of the housing crisis and the loss of a generation to Britain, Canada and Australia.

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have led the government and opposition in Dublin since the establishment of the State. In a desperate bid to halt the change brought about by the rise of Sinn Féin, they now govern in coalition. Over the past year, Sinn Féin has consolidated its position as the largest party in the polls, with falling support for the government. However, the next planned general election is not due until 2029.

The leader of Fianna Fáil and current Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheal Martin, shortly after taking office, ruled out planning, preparing or advocating for Irish Unity Referendums over the government term. This position is at odds with popular opinion in the South that supports Irish Unity. The right to referendums is part of the Good Friday Agreement. The former Taoiseach and leader of Fianna Fáil and one of the signatories of the Agreement, Bertie Ahern, this year stated that referendums were inevitable and that Irish Unity was desirable.

Another former Taoiseach and leader of Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar, speaking in Philadelphia this year, said that “Uniting Ireland was the political project of this generation”.

One of the most significant images of the year was at the inauguration of Catherine Connolly as Uachtarán na hÉireann (President of Ireland), over her shoulder sat Leo Varadkar with the former Taoisigh. When she described Irish Unity as the will of the Irish nation, he nodded along in agreement as the current Taoiseach, Micheal Martin, sat stony-faced.

Catherine Connolly won the Presidential election by a landslide over the Government parties' preferred candidate, and Irish Unity was central to her vision of Ireland.

By the end of the year, both houses of the Oireachtas, the Dáil and the Seanad, have passed motions calling on the Irish government to begin the process of planning and preparing for Unity referendums. The motion was not opposed by the government,

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Across Ireland and internationally, Irish Unity is now centre stage.

This year, the Friends of Sinn Féin organisations hosted thirteen Irish Unity Commissions across the United States and Canada. Each had its own character, but all shared a passion to bring about Unity.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to thank all who have attended the Commissions, shared our newsletters and supported Friends of Sinn Féin. In particular, to Greg O'Loughlin and Mark Guilfoyle and the Board of Friends of Sinn Féin USA and Alan McConnell and the Board of Friends of Sinn Féin Canada, who make all of this work possible.

Ireland is changing. The Irish and British governments may want to hold on to the past of division and partition. Irish Unity is the future. It is time for them to listen and start work to prepare and plan for the referendum. It is our job, all who believe in unity, to secure and win those referendums. Next week I hope to address the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring.

Meanwhile enjoy the rest of the holidays.

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Merry Christmas Message from Mary Lou McDonald

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Christmas message from Michelle O'Neill

Leas-Uachtarán Shinn Féin, Michelle O'Neill, said, "Christmas is a time of reflection and rejuvenation as we come together with loved ones to celebrate and look back on the experiences of the year gone by.

"It is also a time of joy as we spend valuable time with family and friends, some we may not have seen in some time. Make the most of it.

"Life has become so busy that sometimes we can forget to pause and make time for ourselves and those we love most or to remember those who are no longer with us.

"The Christmas period can be a difficult time for many too.

"As a community this is the time to put our arms around the most vulnerable in our society and support them.

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“Our healthcare workers, carers and the many heroes who support the most vulnerable in our communities.

“The sacrifices you make for the sake of others are remarkable and do not go unnoticed.

“With 2026 just around the corner we will all naturally turn our focus to what needs to be done.

“We are in a time of great change in the world and it is vital we work together for a more prosperous and brighter future for all communities.

“But for now, it is time to relax and get much-deserved rest and enjoy the holiday season with those who matter most to you.

“Nollaig shona daoibh go léir.”

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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AN FHÓMHAIR
2025 AUTUMN
EAGRÁN ISSUE 11

New éire IRELAND NUA



Plan and prepare for Unity

The debate around Irish Unity has become more intense in recent months. Almost every day its advocates are setting the political agenda.

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ABOUT
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SEASANN MUID LEIS AN PHALAISTÍN



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Watch: Irish Unity Education Webinar with Gerry Adams

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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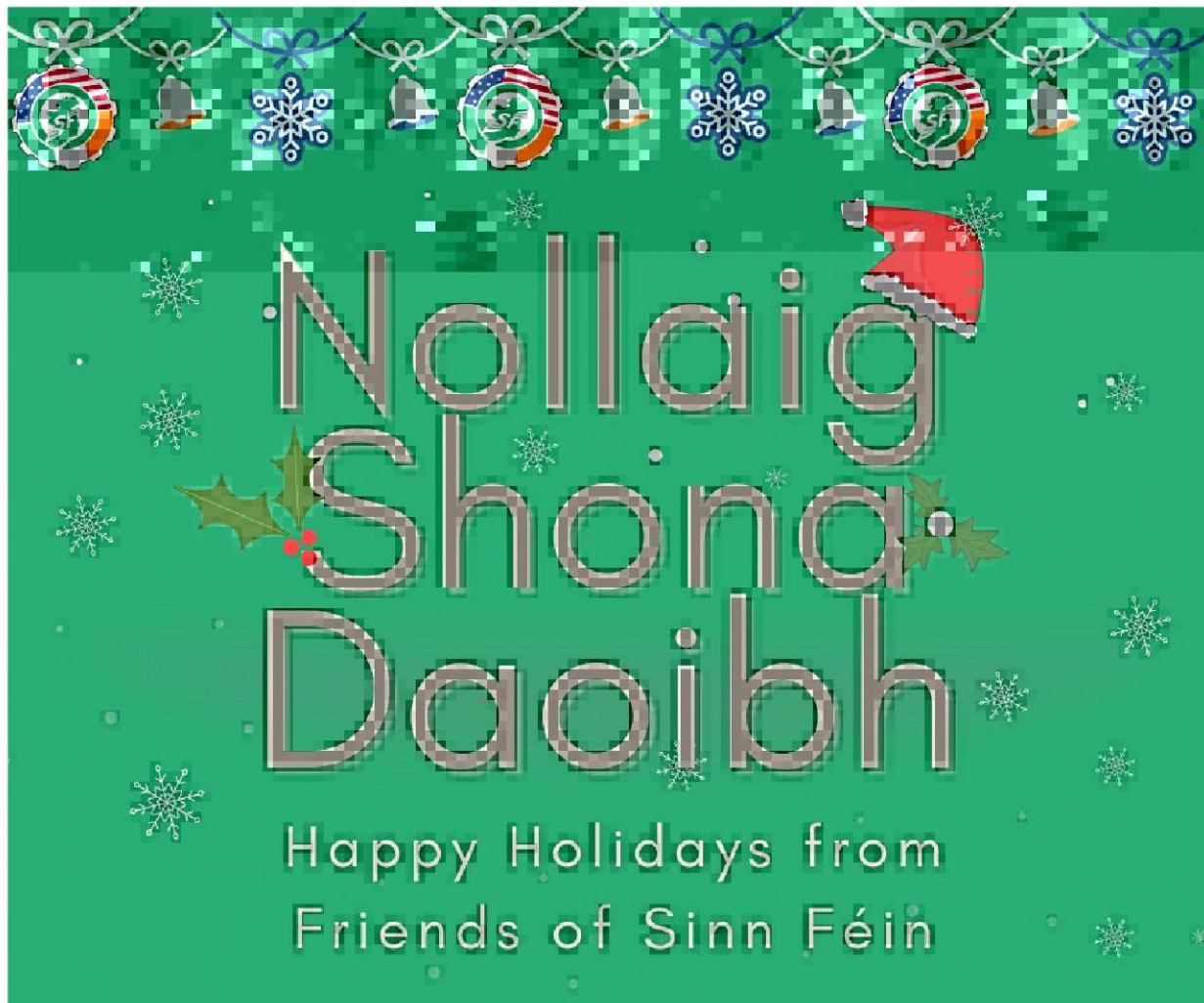
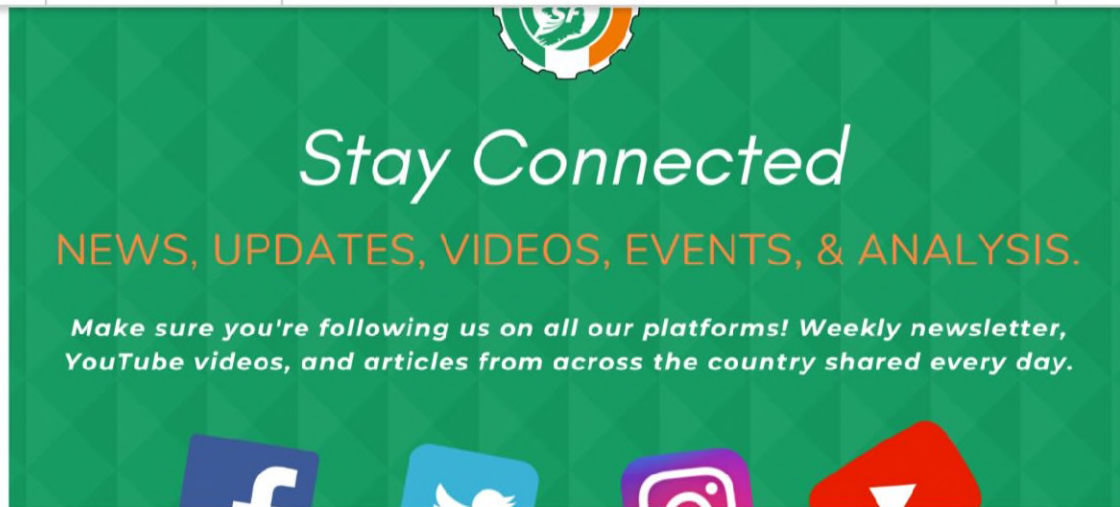
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