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The whole world is in a state of chassis

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week, the Assembly in the North of Ireland and the Dáil (Parliament) in Dublin returned from recess.

The Assembly in the North is once again facing the reality of a lack of sovereignty. The budget for the North is set by London, and it is the job of the Assembly and Executive to manage the allocation. Once again, the amount is not enough to meet current demands, never mind investing in the future. The budget is set by the British government, which is not elected by or accountable to the people of the North of Ireland.

The Executive in the North is a mandatory coalition of parties with opposing views and priorities. As the pie gets smaller, tensions arise between parties. That is the nature of the institutions established by the Good Friday Agreement. Just as the budget cuts and economic stagnation are the cost of continued partition and the Union with Britain.

In Dublin, the Irish Government of Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael, supported by indepenents has been in power for a year. Over that period, the housing crisis has deepened with sky-high rents and increasing house prices, pushing families out of the market in favour of landlords and investment trusts. The market is driving these increases as developers control housing supply and the government stands idly by.

Over the past year, the lack of action on housing, affordability, and public services earned the parliament the name of the “do nothing Dáil” as the government blocked Sinn Féin and opposition parties' proposals. This stasis is unsustainable and undermines confidence in the political institutions.

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that have governed the state for over one hundred years, and now represent a minority.

These are parties that have run out of ideas and refuse to recognise the changes around them in Ireland, on Irish Unity or in a geopolitical context.

At times, Irish Government ministers look like rabbits caught in the deadlights as the international rules-based order lies in tatters not only due to the actions of Russia in Ukraine and Israel in Gaza, but also the response of Western leaders to these challenges.

The domestic agenda in Ireland and across Europe has been dominated by international actions such as protests in Iran, the US approach to Venezuela and the threats to annex Greenland, an autonomous region of Denmark which is part of NATO and sits on the UN Security Council.

How the world responds is uncertain, but change is on the way; it cannot be denied, and the clock cannot be turned back.

It seems to quote, Sean O'Casey, "The whole world is in a state of chassis"

The first rule of managing change is to acknowledge that things are changing. We have many challenges to meet to ensure that the world that emerges is better for all.

Ciaran

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Irish Unity Education Webinar - January Guest: Niall Murphy

Niall Murphy is a Belfast based solicitor and partner in the practice of KRW Law. In recent years he has represented the victims and survivors of the Loughinisland and Ormeau Road atrocities.

Niall is a founder and secretary of Ireland's Future, a civic movement advocating for constitutional change on the island. He is Chairperson of Club Aontroma, Vice Chair of St. Edna's GAC, and a founder and Governor of Gaelscoil Éanna. Niall is a Director of Relatives for Justice, a member of the Development Panel to the Northern

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Join us on Saturday, January 31st for a conversation and Q&A about the work and planning being done to prepare for a new and united Ireland.

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British and Irish Governments' joint legacy framework must command the confidence of victims of conflict

Speaking following the attendance of Raymond McCord and Dr Sandra Peake from the WAVE Trauma Centre at the Good Friday Agreement Committee, Sinn Féin

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Senator Murphy said, “My Sinn Féin colleagues and I welcome the attendance of WAVE and Raymond McCord at the GFA Committee.

“Their presentations regarding the experiences of victims of conflict and their families in seeking truth and justice were deeply moving.

“The personal toll on victims and their families who are denied truth and justice was evident throughout the session today.

“Sinn Féin has worked consistently over decades with victims’ organisations, the Irish and British Governments and all the political parties to help ensure bereaved relatives and those injured in the conflict secure truth and justice.

“In 2014, Sinn Féin helped negotiate the Stormont House Agreement’s provisions on legacy.

“It remains our position that the provisions contained within the Stormont House Agreement are the best mechanism available to those campaigning for access to the truth.

“Sinn Féin has serious concerns about the British Government’s commitment to truth and justice for bereaved relatives and those injured during the conflict.

“These concerns are shared by victims’ groups across Ireland and were also outlined by Raymond McCord and Dr Peake from WAVE Trauma this morning.

“The British Government’s Legacy Framework, which has the support of the Irish Government, contains many areas of concern such as the potential for relatives to be denied information on the grounds of British national security; special protections for veterans of British armed forces; scope for limitations to the ability of the coroner to provide information to families and the prevention of inquests by the coroner.

“The Legacy Framework has diluted the key human rights principle of the Stormont House Agreement which compelled the British Government to comply with human rights obligations to one of simply ‘respecting’ human rights obligations. This is not satisfactory.

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Court of Human Rights.

“We also bear in mind that the British Government is currently taking the family of murdered GAA member Sean Brown to the Supreme Court to try to block a public inquiry into his death.

“Against this background of uncertainty and suspicion about the British Government’s intentions, the Irish Government must continue with its inter-state case against the British Government’s Legacy and Reconciliation Act 2023 at the European Court of Human Rights.”

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Have your say and make a written contribution today at irish.unity@sinnfein.ie

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Sinn Féin MPs attend Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh court case in London

Sinn Féin MPs John Finucane and Paul Maskey have criticised the decision to bring Kneecap member Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh back to court.

The Belfast MPs were in attendance outside the court in London today alongside supporters ahead of Liam Óg's appearance.

"The decision by the British government to pursue an appeal and drag Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh back before the courts must be called out," North Belfast MP John Finucane said.

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unapologetically political."

"This is an attempt to silence an artist who has been unequivocal in shining a light on the atrocities committed by an out-of-control Israel, aided and abetted by various governments."

West Belfast MP, Mr Maskey added: "Today, the British government has again chosen to drag Liam Óg of Kneecap back into court.

"They should instead be focussed on holding Israel who have murdered over 440 people since the so-called ceasefire to account.

"I want to commend Liam Óg and Kneecap on their unwavering determination in the face of a campaign to silence them.

"Kneecap have never wavered in their steadfast support for the Palestinian people and their utter condemnation of the Israeli war machine.

"End the genocide. Free Palestine."

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