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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

British justice?

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Next week, a court case will begin in London. It is a crowd-funded civil case, seeking limited compensation, being brought by several victims of the IRA against Gerry Adams. Previously, victims of the British state had brought such cases and won, which led the last British Government to ban victims from bringing civil actions.

No doubt a line of spooks, spies, and so-called “intelligence experts” will be called in to give evidence against Gerry Adams. The same agencies that failed in every attempt to use similar evidence to secure a criminal conviction.

The conflict in Ireland was brutal and bloody. We all must acknowledge and learn from the past in the name of reconciliation. It is central that victims are acknowledged and have the right to access justice and truth.

In 2014, Sinn Féin, then led by Gerry Adams, along with other parties and the Irish and British governments, signed the Stormont House Agreement. This agreement provided victims with the option to seek criminal convictions through the justice system or pursue a pathway to information recovery that could not be used in future criminal cases.

Decades on after the conflict, the likelihood of convictions is low, and many of those involved are dead. The vast majority of victims welcomed the agreement to learn more about what had happened to their loved ones.

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to acknowledge its role as a protagonist in the conflict.

They prefer to maintain the obvious lie that they were referees in a centuries-long sectarian conflict rather than the truth that they were defending British interests by any means necessary.

For the British, Bloody Sunday was soldiers confused in the “fog of war,” collusion in the killing of citizens was down to a few bad apples, evidence was destroyed in mysterious fires or was destroyed by mistake, and killings done by their agents were the actions of rogue elements.

These actions are not isolated or ad hoc; they are part of a well-rehearsed and public strategy. Actions that were refined in other British colonial conflicts. That included using counter gangs, assassinations, and subverting the rule of law as an arm of repression. Throughout the course of the conflict, tens of thousands of Irish republicans went to jail, arrested under special powers, in many cases tortured and convicted in non-jury courts.

Others, like Gerry Adams, were interned without trial for years. The British had not even abided by their own rules when interning Gerry Adams, rendering his detention illegal; they recently changed the law to ensure that he could not seek redress. Over the same period, only a handful of British soldiers or their police were investigated or convicted of any offence.

These issues are not in the past. The cover-up continues, with legislation to hold back on vital information and at every point, cases from victims of state violence are stalled by endless appeals and delays.

The concept of British justice in Ireland was at the service of British interests, and with a few notable exceptions, it still is.

How can Britain talk about reconciliation when they refuse to acknowledge their role as a protagonist?

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Irish Unity Education Webinar with Rev.

Karen Sethuraman

Watch the latest episode of the Irish Unity Education Webinar series. Friends of Sinn Féin USA Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin was joined by Rev Karen Sethuraman. She is the first female Baptist Minister on the island of Ireland. She also serves on the board of Ireland's Future and has decades of community organizing and leaders experience.

Our conversation covered a lot of ground - from the Belfast Mayor's office to community centers, from international perspectives to the importance of knowing your neighbors.



Law for Some - Amnesty for Others

By Marty Glennon

For half a century, allegations have swirled around Gerry Adams—often repeated as if the accusations themselves were proof.

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“determine” his guilt have not delivered the definitive findings his critics promise.

Take the most publicized modern detention. In May 2014, Adams was held and questioned for days over the 1972 abduction and killing of Jean McConville, then released without charge.

Whatever one believes about the moral and political history of the era, that outcome matters in a society that allegedly claims to run on evidence, not insinuation. The same evidentiary gap shows up in courtrooms.

Adams has consistently denied IRA membership and involvement in violence; that denial has become so legally consequential that it is now routinely stated as a formal disclaimer in major media portrayals.

And when a broadcaster crossed the line from reporting controversy into presenting a specific, defamatory claim as fact, Adams fought back, not frivolously, but based on facts.

A Dublin jury found the BBC had defamed him and awarded damages over an allegation that he sanctioned the 2006 killing of Denis Donaldson.

Why can the individual win against a conglomerate but the Empire and BBC, with all their respective resources consistently come up empty?

What gets far less attention is the volume of independent scrutiny documenting wrongdoing not by republicans, but by the British state.

The Saville Inquiry of 2010 concluded that the British Army shootings on Bloody Sunday were “unjustified and unjustifiable,” and the then UK prime minister issued an explicit apology.

Multiple investigations and reports have also detailed collusion and impunity problems involving policing and intelligence structures, including the RUC and MI5.

Most recently, Operation Kenova’s final report criticized state agency behavior—including obstruction—and laid bare how informant-handling corroded justice. And then there’s the political punch in the face. While victims’ families have been told to “move on,” the UK’s Legacy and Reconciliation Act 2023 created a conditional

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Now, due to immense pressure from families on both sides of the Troubles, they seek to amend it.

At the same time, after legal rulings opened paths to compensation for unlawful detention, governments moved to rewrite rules to block payouts - actions targeted particularly at Adams and others.

You can dislike Adams's politics and still recognize the double standard: relentless allegation as substitute for proof on one side, and law-engineered impunity on the other.

It's a funny thing that any time Sinn Fein gets a bump in the polls, or there is a growing discussion and media coverage on the reunification of Ireland, you can always count on the British sponsored state media to defame Sinn Fein leadership and/or a frivolous civil or criminal action to steal the headlines for a while in the hopes of delaying the inevitable.

Gerry Adams stepped down as Sinn Fein's President in 2018 after serving in that position since 1983, in part, to remove the distractions that his name, and name only, have caused.

He did so, because he understood that the movement was more important than any one person.

Yet, as we can see, the threat of a united Ireland is such a threat to some, they must do whatever they can to tarnish the old guard.

The tactics haven't changed but have become extremely tedious.

This first appeared in the [February 11, 2026 edition of the Irish Echo](#).

Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora: Virtual

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Assembly for the Diaspora. This is a virtual event that will take place on zoom. Special guest Dáire Hughes MP for Newry and Armagh will provide an update on the latest news and analysis and then registrants will join small discussion groups focused on next steps for Irish America. Registration is free and space is limited.

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



Sunday, March 29th, 2026
3:00pm ET
Virtual - Zoom

Featuring Dáire Hughes

Sinn Féin MP for Newry and Armagh

A conversation with the diaspora, the descendants of Ireland, and all those who support Irish unity.

AN COIMISIÚN
UM THODHCHAÍ
NA hÉIREANN

Busting United Ireland Myths

As you're making your plans for St. Patrick's Day events, why not print these out and share them with your friends, colleagues, and any dignitaries speaking at your parade

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BUSTING THE UNITED IRELAND MYTHS

Irish Unity is the future.

A United Ireland – a new and shared Ireland – will unlock the full potential of our island people and provide the basis on which a stronger and fairer society can be built.

Ending partition and the Westminster control of part of our island is central to building a modern, inclusive, fair society, and a country, within the EU, which can play its full part in the world.



However some myths about Irish Unity remain – **let's deal with them....**

MYTH
THE SOUTH CAN'T AFFORD THE NORTH
↓

FALSE

Academic research shows how reunification could provide a major boost to the all island economy. The southern economy, while in need of reform, is consistently ranked highly on global performance indexes. However, border counties and the west of Ireland are disadvantaged by partition and Dublin government policy. Reunification would unlock the full potential of our island economy.

MYTH
I'D HAVE TO PAY FOR HEALTHCARE
↓

FALSE

Reunification paves the way towards a universal, free at the point of delivery healthcare system for the whole island. Sinn Féin is committed to a single all-island healthcare system. This is the most sensible way to plan and deliver healthcare to the whole population of Ireland.

MYTH
MY STANDARD OF LIVING WILL DECREASE
↓

FALSE

Irish Unity will not threaten anyone's standard of living. It will boost the island economy meaning that more people will be working and contributing. That means more money is available for public services.

MYTH
THE NORTH HAS A BETTER EDUCATION SYSTEM
↓

FALSE

Educational outcomes in the north compare poorly with the south and many areas of Britain. Irish unity will enable the redesign of the education system across the island so that all children fulfil their potential.

MYTH
I WON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE SAME BENEFITS
↓

FALSE

Social Protection and Pension payments in the south are significantly more generous than the north. The British government's policy of cuts is unfair and people in the north of Ireland should not have to live under Tory austerity.

MYTH
BRITAIN PAYS A £9BILLION SUBVENTION TO THE NORTH
↓

FALSE

British spending on military, servicing huge debt and overseas interests should not be shouldered by anybody in Ireland. When this spending is removed, and pension obligations are met, the true subvention value could be as low as £2.5 billion. However the subvention is only necessary because the economy of the north is held back by partition. The economic dividend brought by unity would make the subvention unnecessary.

MYTH
A UNITED IRELAND WILL NOT ACCOMMODATE PROTESTANT, UNIONIST AND BRITISH IDENTITY
↓

FALSE

The Good Friday Agreement provides protections for identity. The Good Friday Agreement will also protect identity in the new united Ireland. Furthermore, people of all traditions will be protected in law. The new Ireland provides an unparalleled opportunity to end divisions. Sinn Féin envisages a future based on equality and the unity of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter.



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