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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## The *how* of Irish Unity

### A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Regular readers will know that I am a passionate advocate for Irish Unity. A believer that we in Ireland will not meet our economic potential, reconcile our people, or build a republic of equal citizens while our island remains divided.

In many ways, the question of why Irish unity is clearly answered: partition has failed on every metric. Less understood is *how* Ireland will be united.

In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was struck. It is an agreement between both the Irish and British Governments, incorporated into law in both jurisdictions, bound by international law..

It was endorsed by all major parties, except the now-largest pro-partition party, the Democratic Unionist Party. In subsequent referendums, it was passed in the North of Ireland with 71% support and in the South with 94% in favor. By any measure, the Good Friday Agreement is the will of the Irish Nation.

The path to constitutional change and Irish unity is a matter of international law, political agreement, and the will of the people.

The Agreement recognises the right of the people of Ireland to self-determination, as measured by Unity Referendums North and South. If a simple majority in both jurisdictions votes to unite, the British Government is obliged to legislate and request sovereignty for a newly united Ireland.

There are three provisions relating to the calling of referendums:

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when he called for a British referendum to resolve the issue. A call that was ignored by the British Government).

2) The British Secretary of State must call a referendum when it appears likely that a majority in the North would support unity. This provision was to ensure that there could be no indefinite refusal to deny a vote.

3) There cannot be a subsequent referendum within seven years of a previous one.

The right to referendums is agreed; it is now a simple matter of the process of implementation. A democratic imperative to put the question to the people: Is the future one of continued division or of unity?

The optimal approach, one that would be true to the partnership between the governments that underpins the agreement, would be for both governments to agree on a date, a process, and a question for the referendums.

The current British Government's position is to stall and frustrate a unity referendum. However, a future government led by Nigel Farage might want to spring a referendum on the North for his own narrow English nationalist political reasons.

The position of the Irish Government should be clear, regardless. Irish Unity is in the national interest. It is a constitutional imperative and is the will of the vast majority of the Irish nation.

It is simply good governance to plan for the future, to build the case for unity, to push the British government to implement the agreement, and to be prepared for any future government.

Planning and preparing for the future is the role of a responsible government.

The pathway to unity is agreed; it is legislated for; it must now become Irish Government policy. Anything less is an abandonment of duty, an undermining of the Agreement and an abdication of leadership.

Have a great weekend.

Ciarán

**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

## **Irish Unity Education Webinar February**

### **Guest: Rev. Karen Sethuraman**

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is doing to plan & prepare for a new & united Ireland! Our next installment of the Irish Unity Education Webinar Series will be on Saturday, February 28 at 12:00 noon ET. Free & all are welcome! Register now & join us on Saturday, February 28 at 12:00 noon ET. [Click the image below to register!](#)

## FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN IRISH UNITY EDUCATION WEBINAR SERIES



**FEBRUARY GUEST:  
REV. KAREN SETHURAMAN  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 - 12 NOON ET**



## Voices of Irish diaspora must be brought into discussion on constitutional change

Sinn Féin TD for Mayo, Rose Conway Walsh, has said that the Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement must do more to bring the voice

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Deputy Conway Walsh was speaking from London as part of an Oireachtas Delegation to Westminster, where she was joined by party colleagues Dáire Hughes MP and John Finucane MP. During the course of their visit, the delegation met with Westminster's All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Irish in Britain and an array of Irish community organisations.

Teachta Conway Walsh said, "Today was a very welcome opportunity to engage with the Irish community in Britain. When we talk about not wanting to leave anyone behind when it comes to the constitutional conversation that has to include our diaspora.

"It is an unfortunate truth of our island's history that many of our best and brightest have had to leave home for better opportunities. But that does not mean that they have ever truly left. The Irish abroad are an intricate part of the Irish nation and our best ambassadors on the world stage.

"In 2024, the Oireachtas Committee published a 'Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics', a cross-party report that recommended urgent preparation and planning for Irish unity. It proposed the establishment of a dedicated Department for Reunification under the Department of An Taoiseach, a Green Paper on Irish Unity and the establishment of Citizen Assemblies and deliberative forums.

"This was followed by another report on 'Women and Constitutional Change'. Both reports emphasised the importance of reconciliation and the need for a planned engagement with the unionist and Protestant population.

"As we envision a new future for the Irish people, the voice, perspective, experience, and expertise of our diaspora will be vital. The Irish in Britain have a unique opportunity to shape the future of Ireland. I look forward to working with them to make this happen."

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## Columbus, Ohio supports calls for planning for Irish Unity

Columbus, Ohio - the capitol and largest city in Ohio, and 15th largest city in the United States - expressed their support for need to plan and prepare for Irish Unity earlier this month.

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther's Proclamation "...welcoming The Dail Eireann's passage of its resolution calling upon the Irish Government to plan and prepare for the unification of Ireland," was matched by a City Council Recognition, signed by Columbus City Council President, Shannon Hardin, and the Council President Pro-Tem, Rob Dorans.

Columbus joins Cleveland, OH, Albany, NY, and many other cities calling for the preparation for Irish Unity.

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Office of the Mayor  
City of Columbus  
Ohio

### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on April 10, 1998, two agreements were mutually agreed to in Belfast, Northern Ireland comprising the Good Friday Agreement. The two agreements were agreed to separately following successful peace talks; one agreed to by the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the other agreed to by the political parties representing both the unionist and nationalist constituencies and traditions in the north of Ireland including each government; and

WHEREAS, United States envoy George Mitchell chaired the peace talks at the direction of President Bill Clinton, resulting in the end of a thirty-year conflict and the beginning of an era of peace in the north of Ireland; and

WHEREAS, on May 22, 1998, referendums were held on the ratification of the Good Friday Agreement in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and by a democratic vote of the people, with 94% of the people in the Republic of Ireland and 71% of the people in Northern Ireland voting to ratify the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Good Friday Agreement provides a democratic and peaceful means to achieve reunification through the provision of unity referenda which can only take place with a democratic vote of the people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland;

WHEREAS, surveys conducted by Northern Ireland Life & Times, Queen's University, Ulster University, and information published by Ireland's Future, demonstrate that support for a united Ireland in the north is shifting significantly in favor of unification, with young adults in the north ages 18 - 24 favoring unification by a margin of eighteen percent; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2023, the Dáil Éireann, the legislative house of Ireland, passed a national resolution calling for the Irish Government to initiate planning and preparation for the unification of Ireland; that a politically unified stance was taken among all the political parties represented in the Dáil Éireann, including the major political parties Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin, Fine Gael, Labour Party, and the Social Democrats; and

WHEREAS, the Irish American organizations of Columbus and their members, support the peaceful and democratic processes outlined in the Good Friday Agreement, to promote a lasting peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and endorse the Dáil Éireann's passage of the resolution to initiate planning and preparation for the unification of Ireland;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, do hereby proclaim that City of Columbus expresses its support of the Irish American Organizations of Columbus, Ohio, their members, and all Irish Americans, who uphold the principles set out in the Good Friday Agreement, in welcoming the Dáil Éireann's passage of its resolution calling upon the Irish Government to plan and prepare for the unification of Ireland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, to be hereunto affixed this 10th day of February 2026.

*Andrew J. Ginther*  
Andrew J. Ginther  
Mayor



CITY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO



### City Council Recognition

WE, the President of the Columbus City Council and the President Pro Tem of Columbus City Council, recognize and acknowledge the following:

RECOGNIZING THAT, on April 10, 1998, two agreements were mutually agreed to in Belfast, Northern Ireland comprising the Good Friday Agreement. The two agreements were agreed to separately following successful peace talks; one agreed to by the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the other agreed to by the political parties representing the unionist and nationalist constituencies and traditions in the north of Ireland including each government; and

RECOGNIZING THAT, United States envoy George Mitchell chaired the peace talks at the direction of President Bill Clinton, resulting in the end of a thirty-year conflict and the beginning of an era of peace in the north of Ireland; and

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RECOGNIZING THAT, on October 21, 2023, the Dáil Éireann ("Dáil éirí"), the legislative house of Ireland, passed a national resolution calling for the Irish Government to initiate planning and preparation for the unification of Ireland; that a politically unified stance was taken among all the political parties represented in the Dáil Éireann, including the major political parties Fianna Fáil, Sinn Féin, Fine Gael, Labour Party, and the Social Democrats; and

RECOGNIZING THAT, the Irish American organizations of Columbus and their members, support the peaceful and democratic processes outlined in the Good Friday Agreement, to promote a lasting peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, and endorse the Dáil Éireann's passage of the resolution to initiate planning and preparation for the unification of Ireland;

RECOGNIZING THAT, the City of Columbus has a large and proud Irish community and values the countless contributions they have made to the economy, culture, and community of the city; now, therefore,

WE, the President of the Columbus City Council and the President Pro Tem of Columbus City Council, stand with the Irish American Organizations of Columbus, Ohio, their members, and all Irish Americans, who support the principles set out in the Good Friday Agreement, in welcoming the Dáil Éireann's passage of a resolution calling upon the Irish Government to plan and prepare for the unification of Ireland.

*Shannon Hardin*  
Shannon Hardin, President  
Columbus City Council

*Rob Durans*  
Rob Durans, President Pro Tempore  
Columbus City Council

# Hughes and Finucane meet British Government on lowering of voting of age

Sinn Féin MPs Dáire Hughes and John Finucane today met with British ministers Samantha Dixon and Mathew Patrick on what steps are being taken to prepare for lowering the voting age to 16.

Last year, it was confirmed that the right to vote would be extended to 16 and 17-year-olds with legislation introduced earlier this month.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Hughes said, "Introducing votes from the age of 16 is a positive step forward for democracy, giving young people a real and meaningful say in shaping their future.

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change will mean for young voters right across the North.

“Our young people deserve a say in their futures and the right to vote for representatives who truly reflect their views and aspirations.

“Sinn Féin will continue to speak up for our young people and ensure they have a strong voice in building a stronger, fairer and united Ireland.”



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## Watch: Webinar with Ireland’s Future Co-founder Niall Murphy

Our latest guest on the Irish Unity Education Webinar was Niall Murphy, Secretary and Co-founder of Ireland’s Future and human right’s lawyer.

We discuss the grassroots origins of Ireland’s Future, the historic nature of this moment in history, ways to learn more about how to best prepare for a new and united Ireland, and an update on some of the legacy cases Niall is working on. It’s a packed webinar full of excellent resources and analysis, not to be missed!

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## 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 and celebrations? Everyone will be excited about being seen to be green - let's make sure they know that it's time for unity!

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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.



**Sinn Féin**

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[www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity](http://www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity)

#Time4Unity  
Am d'Aontacht



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.



[www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity](http://www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity)

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