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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Equal Justice Under the Law

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

In the coming weeks, a public inquiry will begin into the killing of Human Rights Lawyer Pat Finucane in Belfast on February 12th, 1989.

Pat was gunned down in his home by pro-British unionist paramilitaries as he sat down for Sunday dinner with his wife Geraldine and their children. He was a well-known and respected lawyer who had given evidence to Congress on British human rights abuses in the North of Ireland.

The brutality of the shooting in front of his wife and children sent a shock wave throughout the legal community. He was killed because he had exposed Britain's abuses in domestic cases and done so on the international stage.

It was evident that this was more than a random killing. Threats had been issued by police officers against Pat to his clients. After the killing, his family immediately raised their concerns. There was a police investigation in name only.

The family maintained their demand for an inquiry as it became clear that military and police agents had been involved in the planning, arming, and shooting of their father and husband. By 2003, the British Government's own limited inquiry found that the killing was carried out in collusion between unionist paramilitaries and the police.

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British government accepted these recommendations, except for the Finucane case.

Geraldine and her family continued to campaign for a public inquiry as recommended by Judge Cory. A position resisted by successive governments, afraid that the scale of collusion would become public. The British Prime Minister David Cameron apologised to the family for the killing but refused to detail what the apology was for.

His children, now grown up, continued to campaign alongside their mother. Congress passed resolutions calling on the British to honour the recommendation for a public inquiry.

It was a long and frustrating campaign for the family. The British used every tactic to cover up the circumstances of the killing. The family never gave up, and this week it was announced that the inquiry will begin in a number of weeks.

A victory for a family almost 40 years after the killing. The British, in trying to cover up their actions, placed additional suffering on a family. It is hoped that the inquiry will bring the full truth to light.

The British Government has failed in this case, has been exposed in others, and has changed the law to block families' access to the courts and inquests. They granted blanket amnesty to their own forces. In spite of the promises of the current British government to repeal and replace the Legacy law, it remains on the books.

Amending legislation is currently before the British Parliament and is promised to bring it into line with the European Convention on Human Rights. However, the commentary surrounding this has focused on protecting their military at the cost of truth, acknowledgement and ultimately reconciliation.

Carved into stone above the U.S. Supreme Court is the legend, "Equal Justice Under the Law." That has not been the experience of the Finucane family nor the practise of the British Government.

The Finucane family demonstrate that a family can face down the might of a government and hopefully demonstrate that justice and truth can win out.

Have a great weekend.

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Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill to speak in San Francisco in June

Join Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill for a conversation about uniting Ireland. This event is open to all. Registration is required and suggested donation amounts are \$10 for students, \$20 for supporters, and \$32 for Champions for Change.

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Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill

**Friday, June 5, 2026 - 7:30pm
United Irish Cultural Center
San Francisco, CA**



John Finucane Addresses Inner Temple Panel: 'Historic Trials of Soldiers'

The Honorable Society of the Inner Temple, a prestigious professional association of barristers and lawyers that dates back to the 14th century, hosted 'Historic Trials of Soldiers', a timely panel discussion examining one of the most complex legal and moral questions arising from the legacy of the Northern Ireland Troubles.

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legislation and the impact it has on the Good Friday Agreement.

He said, "This is not simply a debate about individual soldiers.

"It is a debate about whether the State itself can ever be meaningfully accountable before the law when the State is also the institution defining the limits of accountability.

"And that is why these issues cannot simply be dismissed as an internal sovereign matter for Westminster.

"The peace process itself was built upon international agreement, bilateral obligations and human rights commitments.

"The Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements such as Stormont House carried constitutional and international significance.

"And that context is often conspicuously absent from political discussion in Britain."

[READ HIS FULL ADDRESS HERE](#)

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Irish Unity Education Webinar with Rose Conway-Walsh TD

Sinn Féin TD for Mayo Rose Conway-Walsh is our latest guest on the Irish Unity Education Webinar. We discuss the work of a TD, her work on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement Committee, Citizens Assemblies, and more!



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A celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the returning of the Catalpa



Join us for an evening of story and song to remember one of the most daring prison escapes and rescues in history!

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

New York Irish Center

7:00pm

Tickets and more information coming soon!



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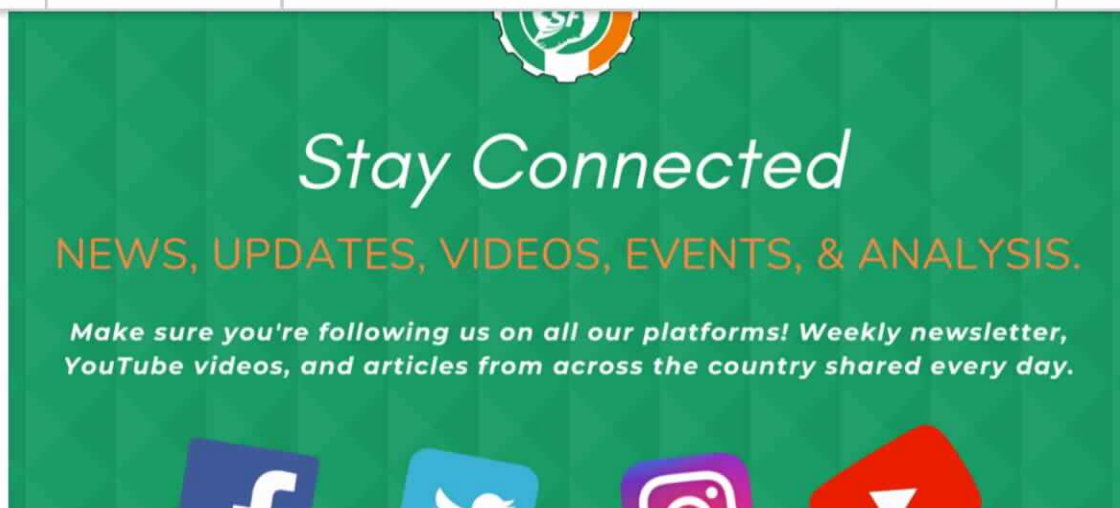
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