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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## The End of Summer

### A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

This week I have been in New York and Washington for meetings and events. Labour Day weekend has just passed, and I saw my first pumpkin spice latte on offer. I guess that is the end of summer.

In Ireland, the Assembly in the North has reconvened, and this week Sinn Féin held its annual “Think-in” in advance of the return of the Dáil next week. Here’s a preview of what’s in store as both the Dáil and the Assembly resume their legislative work.

**In Dublin**, the Sinn Féin President made clear that the immediate focus will be the upcoming budget due in the next five weeks. For Sinn Féin, the focus will be on pushing for a package that supports working families amid rising living costs. The party has developed measures to reduce taxes for low earners, provide rebates on electricity costs, and lower fuel costs by cutting fuel tax over an extended period.

These are well-thought-out, costed proposals that safeguard those most in need. Rising fuel and product costs are driven in part by the conflicts in Ukraine and Iran, and also price gouging by large multinationals. This is obvious when you see how quickly prices rise and how slowly they fall.

These costs are mostly driven by external factors, but the current Irish government has responded minimally, while people continue to bear the cost of its inaction.

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partition of our impacts our economy, infrastructure, reconciliation, and public services. A cost that we all pay.

**In the North**, the Assembly has reconvened with the next round of Assembly elections on the horizon in May 2027. This Assembly has been fractious as the DUP continues to veto issues, including those detrimental to their own electorate, such as the Good Jobs Bill proposed by the Sinn Féin Minister for the Economy.

The DUP is the leading party of pro-British Unionists and shares a mandatory place in a power-sharing government, with mutual vetoes. Having differing parties in government with opposing worldviews will always be challenging. The DUP's actions undermine confidence in political institutions, and they seem determined to test the electorate's patience.

Sinn Féin Vice President and First Minister, Michelle O'Neill at the opening of this term, acknowledged the limitations of the Assembly but remains determined to turn up for work on behalf of all despite the provocations. To walk away simply collapses the Assembly and replaces it with British rule. For Irish republicans, the Assembly is not the endgame.

We have a view beyond partition and the Assembly and it's limited power and a budget set by London. We have a view on a new and United Ireland. A place where the budget is set by all the people who share the island and not in London. A government not bound by a faction's vetoes and one that operates in the interest of all.

Until then, we will continue to operate in the Dáil and Assembly for the benefit of all our people, working for those in need today while we build for a United Ireland.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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

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Taoiseach must now match words with

## action on Irish unity – Mary Lou McDonald TD

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD has said Taoiseach Micheál Martin's acknowledgement that there must be greater clarity around the calling of an Irish unity referendum is significant, but must now be followed by action.

Ms. McDonald said, "The Taoiseach is right to say that it is not satisfactory for the triggering of a referendum on Irish unity to rest solely on an undefined judgement call by a British Secretary of State.

"The Good Friday Agreement is clear that the people of this island have the right to determine our constitutional future, and that a referendum must be held where it appears likely that a majority in the North would vote for reunification.

"What has never been clearly set out is how that assessment is to be made. That ambiguity cannot simply be left indefinitely in the hands of a British Government.

"Micheál Martin has now said that there needs to be a discussion about this. I welcome that shift. The Irish Government should now press the British Government for a serious, structured discussion on the criteria and process for triggering a referendum.

"What is just as urgent is the need for the Irish Government to begin the practical work of preparing for a referendum and for the future beyond it."

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## Book Talk with Author Ben Collins - Registration Open

Join us on Saturday, September 19th for a special call with author Ben Collins. Dozens of Irish Unity activists and supporters have spent the last three months reading and discussing his book 'The Irish Unity Dividend.' He'll join us for a conversation about what's next for Irish Unity as well as the details and ins and outs of his book. It's a free call and ALL are welcome to join. Space is limited - registration link in comments. [REGISTER HERE](#)

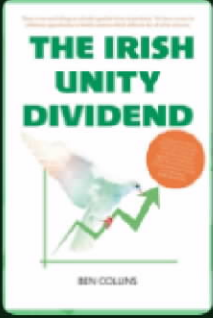
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# The Irish Unity Dividend

Live Q&A and discussion with the author!



REGISTRATION OPEN TO ALL  
NATION-WIDE BOOK READ

WEBINAR

Saturday,  
September 19<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 noon ET  
Online via Zoom



BEN COLLINS

## Friends of Sinn Féin Store: OPEN

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"Irish Unity Now"

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## 6th Annual Martin McGuinness Chieftains Walk NYC - Sun Sept 13

Join us for the 6th Annual Martin McGuinness Chieftains Walk as we honor Martin's extraordinary legacy of leadership, peace, reconciliation, and the continuing journey toward a united Ireland.

This year, we are honored to welcome Martin's daughter, Gráinne Hargan, who will travel from Ireland to join us for the walk.

Whether you have walked with us before or are joining for the first time, we invite you to stand with friends from across the Irish-American community in support of the work of the Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation and our shared vision of peace, reconciliation, and Irish reunification.

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The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation

# 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHIEFTAIN'S WALK

WALKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE, RECONCILIATION & A UNITED IRELAND



**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13  
2026**

**SPECIAL GUEST**  
**Gráinne Hargan**  
Martin's daughter, traveling from Ireland to join us.

**PIER 25**  
West Street & N. Moore Street  
New York, NY

**9:00 AM**  
REGISTRATION & OPENING CELEBRATION

**10:00 AM**  
CHIEFTAIN'S WALK BEGINS

Walk with us along the beautiful Hudson River waterfront from Pier 25 to Pier 45 and back.

HONORING MARTIN MCGUINNESS AND SUPPORTING  
THE WORK OF THE MARTIN MCGUINNESS PEACE FOUNDATION

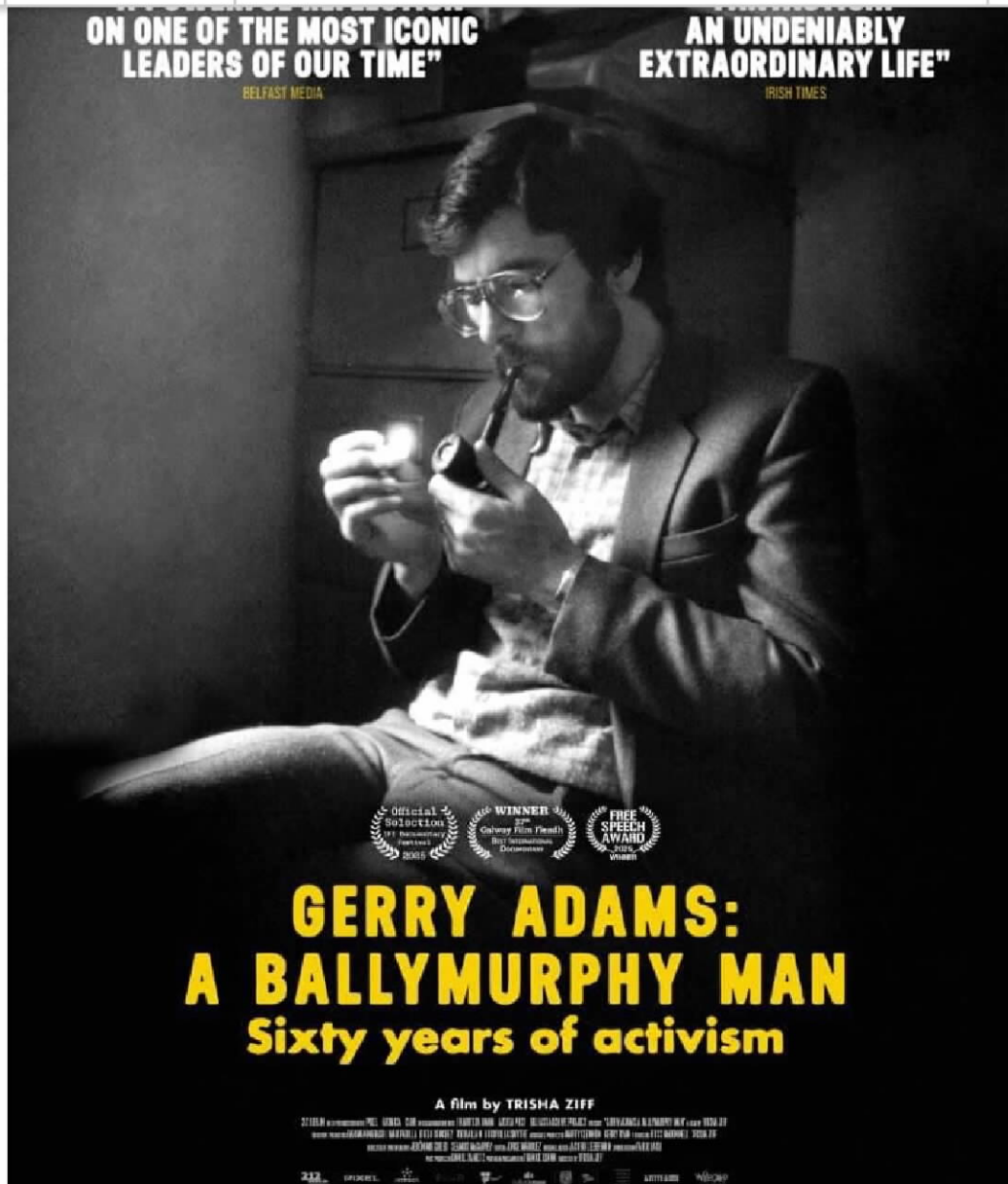
## New York Screenings of 'Gerry Adams – A Ballymurphy Man'

'Gerry Adams – A Ballymurphy Man' will be shown at the New York Irish Center on [Thursday, September 24th](#) and [Friday, September 25th](#). Click the date to get tickets now!

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## NEW - Virtual Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora

Join us on Sunday, October 25th at 12:00 noon ET for a special virtual Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora. We will be joined by Conor Murphy - Member of the Seanad Éireann, The Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and former Minister for the Economy.

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Sunday, October 25, 2026

12:00pm Noon ET

**Virtual - Zoom**

**Conor Murphy**

Member of the Seanad Éireann

Oireachtas Committee on the

Implementation of the

Good Friday Agreement.

Former Minister for the Economy



**AN COIMISIÚN  
UM THODHCHAÍ  
NA hÉIREANN**

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