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# UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

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## Garvaghy Road Update

### A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

By the time this arrives in your inbox, we will be two full weeks into the Garvaghy Road protests. This issue has dominated headlines across Ireland, undermined the operation of the political institutions in the North, and left the residents of the Garvaghy Road living in fear of an unwanted Orange Order march being forced through their community. The person with the power to resolve this issue, Chris Bryant, the British Secretary of State, has gone missing.

Mr Bryant has the power to ban the parade and reinstate the peace. Last weekend, his talks process between the Orange Order and residents ended without agreement. The Orange Order intends to march down Garvaghy Road and is demanding the police to clear the way of protestors.

In the absence of action from the British Secretary of State, the residents returned to the Courts. The British have abdicated their responsibility to secure the peace that has been enjoyed by the Garvaghy community for twenty-eight years to the courts. This is a political crisis that must be resolved by political leadership. In times of hardship, you can tell who your friends are; that has been demonstrated over the past week. Across the US and Canada, people have stood in solidarity with the community. Irish American groups, including the Brehon Law Society, AOH, LAOH, Irish American Unity Conference, and others, have issued statements calling on the British Secretary of State to act.

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That call has been echoed by internationally renowned singers, artists, and writers. Members of the British Parliament, including from Chris Byrants own party, and members of the unionist and protestant community, have called on him to ban the parade rather than force it through.

The Secretary of State's response: silence.

If his strategy is to say nothing and hope this blows over or the courts ban the parade, that is delusional. Until it is made clear to the Orange Order that, after twenty-eight years, their parade is not coming back, they will keep campaigning. From the outset, the Orange Order made it clear that if allowed to parade this year, they would return year on year with demands for larger marches.

Already their supporters in the DUP and TUV have called for the arrest of Sinn Féin leaders who stood with the residents. They have tabled a motion of no confidence in the Sinn Féin First Minister Michell O'Neill, a stunt that will fail.

The Garvaghy Parade is one of only a very small number of contested marches, with thousands of others passing off without dispute. In some areas, residents have agreed to local accommodations. This week those residents made clear that forcing this march on the Garvaghy community would call into question other local agreements.

It appears Chris Bryant is not listening to common sense, the wishes of a community that has lived in peace, the wider nationalist and unionist voices, or the international community.

Meanwhile, the standoff continues. The community is resolute; they are not giving up on decades of relative peace. They will resist any parade. The only lasting solution is to call an end to the march; the sooner Chris Bryant realised that, the better for us all.

Is mise,

Ciarán

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

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# Dispatch from Ireland: Resisting Hate on the Garvaghy Road

Sinn Féin Representative for North America Ciarán Quinn was a guest on Meidas Canada where he spoke with Charlie Angus about the situation on the road, the community's response and what they mean for a future of peace and reconciliation.



## CALL TO ACTION

**CALL TO ACTION:** British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Bryant has still not responded to the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, the dozens of Irish American organizations, and the hundreds who have come out to protest and to say in one voice, "STOP the unwanted march down Garvaghy Road!"

The Garvaghy Road community is still living under threat. Contact Chris Bryant and let him know that he must act now, intervene, and let the Garvaghy Rd community live in peace.

His email addresses are: [chris.bryant.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:chris.bryant.mp@parliament.uk) and [correspondence@nio.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@nio.gov.uk) and his handle on Twitter/X is [@RhonddaBryant](https://twitter.com/RhonddaBryant).

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## A statement from Sinn Féin

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## Statement from Sinn Féin

Sinn Féin can confirm that a number of representatives and party members have received correspondence from the PSNI in relation to peaceful protests on the Garvaghy Road.

Sinn Féin have stood with the residents of the Garvaghy Road for the last two weeks in the face of provocation and the threat of an unwanted Orange march through their community.

Standing up for what is right is always the right thing to do.

Sinn Féin will continue to stand with the Garvaghy Road residents who should be allowed to live in peace and free from sectarian intimidation.

Sinn Féin will continue to stand with the Garvaghy Road residents who deserve a future for their children that is free from fear and anxiety previous generations had to endure.

From right across Ireland and the world, people have stood and spoke with one voice to protect 28 years of peace and to say clearly that they will not be dragged back.

Because there is no going back. Not now. Not ever.



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

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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.

This is a live, interactive Assembly with Q&A, small group discussions and more. It is free and all are welcome - registration link in bio.

**[REGISTER NOW!](#)**



Sunday, October 25, 2026

12:00pm Noon ET

**Virtual - Zoom**

**Conor Murphy**

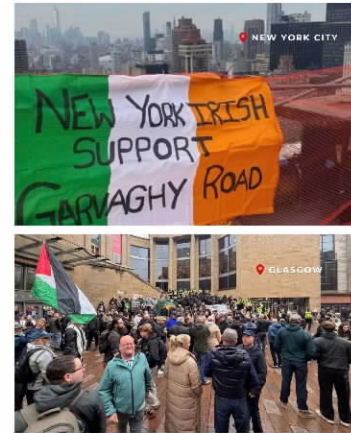
Member of the Seanad Éireann  
Oireachtas Committee on the  
Implementation of the  
Good Friday Agreement.  
Former Minister for the Economy



**AN COIMISIÚN  
UM THODHCHAÍ  
NA hÉIREANN**

## **No Going Back**

Across the globe the Irish diaspora have shown solidarity and support to the residents of the Garvaghy Road.

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## The long trail of bigotry to Garvaghy Road: Orange supremacy in Portadown since 1795

It is impossible to fully understand the current impasse on Garvaghy Road without knowing what that community went through in the 1990s and what nationalists in Portadown endured for two centuries before that.

The north of County Armagh was where the Orange Order began in 1795 as an exclusively Protestant and anti-Catholic organisation. From the beginning it was provoking violence by Protestants against their Catholic neighbours. It was seen as a useful tool by the British government in its efforts to prevent the unity of Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter in pursuit of Irish independence as championed by the

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occasions its marches were restricted.

Click below to read a chronology based on a chapter in 'Garvaghy - a Community Under Siege' published in 1999.

**Inside**





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Road  
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for the  
Orange  
Order  
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# An Phoblacht

## REPUBLICAN NEWS

Sraith Nua linn 21 Uimhir 28
Déardaoin 16 Iúil 1998

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 FROM THE STATE



On Monday Orangemen walk past Ormeau Road residents holding black flags and through black balloons representing the residents of the area killed by loyalists

# Parades of Shame

DESPITE the deaths of three children in Ballymoney the Orange Order still insisted on its sectarian marches in nationalist areas. They also, to the disgust of the whole world, pledged to continue with their Drumcree protest which had led to the three deaths.

Their actions show that the Orange Order has no compassion or decency. Their desire to express supremacy over nationalists over-rides all sense of humanity. Even in Rasha'kin where Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn were being waked, an Orange parade went

ahead and bands played sectarian tunes.

On Belfast's Ormeau Road and elsewhere nationalist residents carried black flags and placards saying 'Shame On You' as the Orangemen passed.

Significantly, nationalists have called once again for dialogue with Orangemen who want to march through their areas. But along with calls for dialogue comes a determination to once and for all banish the nightmare of contentious marches. That can only happen if the Orange Order opens itself to talk on the basis of equality.

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If you think a friend or a colleague would like to get this sent the their inbox for free every week, [send them a link to our website and encourage them to sign up!](#)



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