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UNITED STATES UNITED IRELAND

Have a banana

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

I'm writing from New York, and this weekend I will be travelling to Pittsburgh for their annual Hunger Strike Commemoration.

In New York, I spoke at a wreath-laying ceremony at the graveside of John J. Breslin to mark the 150th Anniversary of the return of the Catalpa Rescue to New York.

Breslin was central to the greatest prison break in history when Clan na Gael in America freed six Fenian prisoners from Fremantle in Western Australia. Historian Marcus Howard brilliantly told this epic tale of bravery in the face of adversity at the New York Irish Centre.

The night before, I attended a lecture in Brooklyn by Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, who traced the twists and turns of the Fenian movement's development in the US and in Ireland. The impact of the US Fenians on Ireland cannot be overstated and was central to the Easter Rising. They also had a global impact by developing the first military submarine and the Thompson submachine gun, and their actions led to the Confederation of the States, forming modern-day Canada. But that, as they would say, is a story for another day.

The Irish in America and Canada are rightly proud of their impact on Irish History. From Wolfe Tone arriving in Philadelphia through to today, the right to national self-determination has been the common thread. History has taken many detours and

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We remember the past to learn from it and be inspired by those who selflessly gave themselves to the cause of Irish Freedom. In Ireland, it appears that some have forgotten their past and desperately cling to a status quo that failed the people and the island.

This week, it was reported that Taoiseach Micheal Martin told a party meeting that he “goes bananas” when his party colleagues raise Irish Unity referendums.

Many Fianna Fáil members can trace their heritage back to the revolutionary generations of Fenians and the Rising. They attend commemorations and sing the songs of struggle, yet their leader refuses to advocate, plan or prepare for unity.

Sinn Féin has led the call for unity referendums as agreed and endorsed in the Good Friday Agreement. But these objectives can only be delivered by a wider alliance of domestic and international parties, governments and civic groups. All have a role in securing and building a new and united Ireland. The only nationalist or Republican party outside of this consensus is Fianna Fáil under the leadership of Micheal Martin.

It is no surprise that the British Government hide behind the Irish Government objections to unity referendums.

At the beginning of August, well-renowned and respected academic Prof. Brendan O’Leary was asked to identify the biggest obstacle to Irish Unity and, without missing a beat, said, “Micheal Martin.”

This week in New York and Pittsburgh, we remember the past and plan for the future.

The legacy of the Fenians and the hunger strikers has outlasted governments and changed Ireland. We will continue to secure Irish Unity referendums, so have another banana, Taoiseach Martin.

Have a great weekend. I hope to see you along the road.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Capacity Crowd Remembers 150th Anniversary of Catalpa Escape at New York Irish Center

A standing-room-only, sold-out crowd met at the New York Irish Center on the evening of August 19, 2026 to remember and celebrate the 150th anniversary of the returning of the Catalpa. After some songs and tunes by an excellent traditional band, historian Marcus Howard recounted the details of the planning, coordination, and bravery of the fenians who made and executed the plan to break 6 fenian prisoners out of Fremantle Prison and bring them from Australia to New York.

Many had travelled from all over the North East to hear the story told and to learn about the escape. People came from New Bedford, MA, Hartford, CT, Springfield, MA, and beyond to celebrate the exact 150th anniversary of the ship's return to New York harbor.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Marcus Howard reflected on the moment and said, "We're not only here tonight to learn about history, but we are here tonight to make history. Coming together to reconnect with the long legacy of these brave and daring fenians reminds us of what is possible. There will only be one 150th anniversary of this event, and we are making sure to mark the moment, and to make sure these stories and this history continue to inspire."

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Watch: Irish Unity Education Webinar with Pat Cullen MP

Pat Cullen MP joined us for an in-depth conversation about health and care in a new and united Ireland. We were joined by Irish Unity activist, Dr. Tricia McIvor who hosted an excellent conversation about the incredible opportunity Irish Unity holds for healthcare, doctors, nurses, and patients.

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Clan na Gael, Friends of Sinn Féin USA & Australia honor John Breslin

More than a dozen people gathered at the grave site of John Breslin exactly 150 years after his return to New York after orchestrating one of the most daring prison escapes in history.

On August 19th, 2026, members of Clan na Gael led a commemoration along with Friends of Sinn Féin on a beautiful summer afternoon. Flowers were laid at Breslin's headstone, provided by Clan na Gael, Friends Sinn Féin USA, and Friends of Sinn Féin Australia.

Speaking at the site, Sinn Féin's Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn said, "I am honored to be asked to speak at the graveside of John Breslin, an Irish patriot, and to remember the return of the Catalpa to New York 150 years ago today.

"When it landed here, it carried more than six freed prisoners and a weary crew. It carried with it the hopes and dreams of an Irish Republic. It demonstrated that a dedicated few can break the might of the British Empire.

"For John Boyle O'Reilly and John Devoy, this mission was both political and personal. They had recruited members of the British military into the Fenian

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“For John Breslin and John Desmond, it was their duty as sworn Fenians to be the advance party for the escape. They held their nerve and maintained their cover for months.

“Freeing the prisoners demonstrated that the will of the British empire could be faced down. It re-energised the Fenian movement in the US.

“In Ireland it revitalised the Irish Republican movement. Both of which would lead to the 1916 Easter Rising which would be supported by our exiled Children in America.

“Governments come and go, but our struggle continues to secure the right to self-determination.

“To secure and win unity referendums. To build a new and united Ireland. A home for all our people. That will be the legacy of the Fenians of the Catapla.”



New Issue of Éire Nua Out Now!

The latest issue of Sinn Féin's online magazine dedicated to all matters relating to Irish unity - Éire Nua - is out now!

It features analysis, updates and perspectives on the growing conversation around Irish unity alongside contributions from across the movement and beyond.

Click below for free download.

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SAMHRADH
2026 SUMMER
EAGRÁN ISSUE 13

NEW IRELAND eIRE NUA

Progressing Unity in North America

Ciarán Quinn & Greg O'Loughlin

This year marks the 250th Declaration of Independence, the principles of equality a who signed the Declaration. War of Independence were Scots-Irish Presbyterians. C discrimination and oppression. Their struggle for independence the stain of slavery, subjugating women. It was the case that of white European men. O slavery was abolished; late constitutional right to vote, in legislation. The Nation's abhorrent compromises, as were added, and a former Yet equality and self-determining principles.

The connection between the principles of equality a meetings that Friends of Sinn Féin US and Canada.

In recent weeks Friends of well-attended Unity Committee online. These meetings are Canada to formulate and pursue cause of Irish Unity.

In San Francisco at the beginning Uachtarán Michelle O'Neill gathering of more than 200

Cultural Centre, outlining the potential and the pathway to Irish unity. The same message was shared with labour and



Mary Lou McDonald in USA



Congress member Rashida Tlaib and Mary Lou McDonald in US



Mary Lou McDonald with Congress member Richard Neal

Friends of Ireland, a group focused on Ireland, in of Keir Starmer, the national affairs. Again, it steps were outlined to ensure continuation as agreed in the

ington, Mary Lou was a labour organiser and union professionals set this for Irish Unity. The event was not only. The Sinn Féin continue to push the Irish are and set dates for unity

ton and major Irish communities but also online. Activists from all over Ireland and are hard at work in these, and participating in The Education committee with elected leaders, such as. The Outreach and a Virtual Irish Unity committee has been established in various counties, and states to ensure union and democracy.

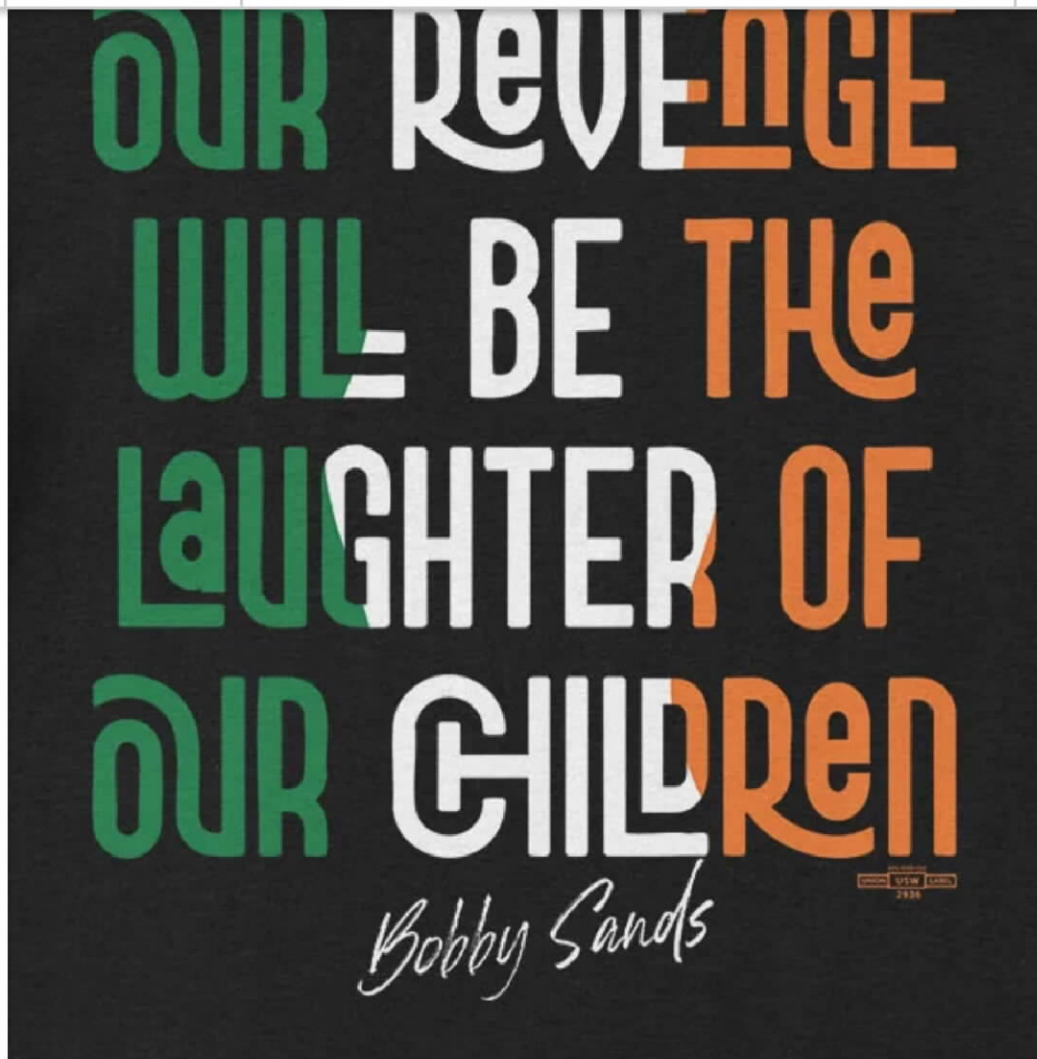
throughout all across the country into The Irish Unity study group that will

focus on the text for months before hosting the author for a special online Q&A session. In every instance, the

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Brehon Law Society of New York Statement Regarding Taoiseach Michael Martin Remarks on Border Poll

The Brehon Law Society of New York is an organization composed principally of lawyers, judges, and other law-related personnel. Members include well-respected attorneys, as well as distinguished state and federal judges whose members freely volunteer their time and services to law society projects.

On Tuesday, they released the following statement:

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principal aim of reuniting Ireland, it had leaders who took bold steps that brought about peace on the island of Ireland and thereby helped to create conditions for the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

“The Good Friday Agreement, which was approved by majorities north and south, provides for a border poll on the issue of Irish unity. It has been 28 years since the Good Friday Agreement, and there is growing momentum for that border poll. Political parties such as Sinn Féin and Fine Gael have embraced this movement with their political leaders talking about unity and how to prepare for unity.

“On the other side are Fianna Fáil and the unionist parties. Their leaders share a coldness when it comes to any conversation on unity. Fianna Fáil’s current leader is temporary Taoiseach, Micheál Martin. Followers of Irish politics have long recognized that he is most likely the biggest obstacle to real progress on Irish unity. At a Fianna Fáil meeting this past weekend, he effectively censored any meaningful conversation on unity within the party with a warning to his members that he “goes bananas” when he hears discussion of the border poll.

“Not only does this undercut the founding purpose of the Fianna Fáil party, it ignores the provision of the Good Friday Agreement that provides for a democratic vote on Irish Unity. Fianna Fáil has become a cold house for Irish republicans.”

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

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The Martin McGuinness Peace Foundation

6TH 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



The untold story of the British states attack on the funeral of hunger striker Joe McDonnell by 3 republicans centrally involved in the events of that fateful day.

Dig in, catch up, and get involved!

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