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A Tipping Point?

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Are we approaching the tipping point for Irish Unity? In years to come scholars may look back on the last ten days to determine this was that the point in time.

This week a poll in the North of Ireland conducted by Lucid Talk and carried in the Belfast Telegraph found that the gap between those who support continued division and those who support unity had narrowed to 4 percentage points. The same poll also found increased support for Sinn Féin.

One poll does not a summer make, to contort my clichés, but the trend is clear with rising support for unity. This gap is almost within the margins of error before a campaign for unity has even begun.

That is why the political developments this week are more significant and impactful than a single poll. There has been a consensus between Sinn Féin, the opposition parties in the Irish Parliament, and the SDLP in the North on the need to plan, prepare and advocate for Irish Unity.

The two main parties of Government in Dublin, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil had been outside of this consensus. It came as a surprise to many that Simon Harris, Fine Gael leader, committed to addressing the issue at his party conference. Last weekend the conference was held, and good to his word he published a blueprint for Irish Unity.
It is a substantial, informed, and engaging report. It is explicit in its support for Unity. It proposes a Constitutional Forum to discuss unity and make recommendations; a

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It also seeks to examine extending Presidential voting rights to Irish citizens living in the North but significantly not to Irish Citizens living abroad.

Many of these are welcome and their significance is that Simon Harris, who is currently the Tánaiste (deputy Prime Minister), his expected to take over the role of Taoiseach in Sept/ October of next year as part of their coalition deal with Fianna Fáil.

A couple of days in advance of the Fine Gael proposals, the current Taoiseach and leader of Fianna Fáil, announced that he would bring forward proposals to government in December to investigate two models of united Ireland; one with a government in Dublin, and another with a government in Dublin devolving powers to an Assembly in Belfast. He also proposed the option of maintaining partition! While this falls well short of the detail, proposals, and explicit support for Irish Unity in the Fine Gael document, it is to be welcomed.

It should be noted that this is a significant change in position for a Taoiseach who has refused to countenance planning, preparing, or advocating for Unity. During the summer he was quoted as saying talk of unity referendums drove him bananas.

The change of position of the Irish Government parties reflects the public aspirations at home and abroad for a better Ireland, a new and united Ireland.

This does not mean that unity referendums are imminent, but this could be the moment when planning and preparing for referendums becomes Irish government policy. This will increase pressure on the British government to live up to their obligations and a set date for a unity referendum.

This has been made possible by pressure from across North America, and for that we are thankful.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald in New York & Chicago in November

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald will be in New York City, Notre Dame University, and Chicago in November.

On November 19th, she will be speaking at the Retail, Warehouse, & Department Store Union in **New York City.** TICKETS HERE

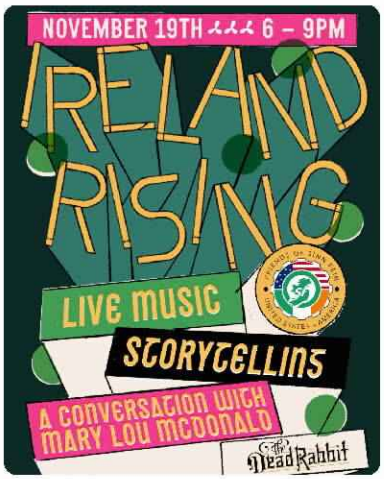
Later that day, she'll be at **The Dead Rabbit** for a special night of revolutionary chat, craic, ceol agus ól. Not to be missed by anyone interested in Ireland, past, present, and future. TICKETS HERE

On Friday, November 20, she will be at **Notre Dame University** for a public conversation with Colin Barr, the Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and professor of modern Irish history. No registration is required. More information here.

On Saturday, November 21, she will be in **Chicago** at the Irish American Heritage Center for an update on building a new and United Ireland. TICKETS HERE

Tickets and more information for all of these events are available by clicking the images below.







CALL FOR YOUR STORIES!

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celebrate the Seanchaí (Irish storytelling tradition) with live storytelling, poetry, spoken word, and musical performances hosted by Fintan Warfield.

We want to hear from you!

The theme of the night is, "Ní neart go cur le chéile" translated "There is no strength without unity." Submit a story that is related to that theme, and you may be selected to share your story at the event!

Storyteller Submissions: Ireland Rising Storytelling event at the Dead Rabbit

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United States/United Ireland Tee

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DUP has abandoned every working family in the north

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undermining power sharing and democracy.

The Party's workers rights spokesperson said, "Since 2025, the DUP has pursued a wrecker's agenda. It has systematically undermined power-sharing, and blocked progress on holiday hunger, Irish language signage, education, climate action, and minority rights.

"Now the DUP has destroyed any prospect of the Good Jobs Bill becoming law within this Assembly mandate.

"It has denied the Assembly the opportunity to properly debate or even vote on this landmark employment rights legislation.

"The DUP has exposed itself to be anti-worker, anti-trade union, and fundamentally opposed to progress.

"It has treated the trade union movement with contempt. It has prevented measures to deliver strengthened protections for workers, carers and parents, including access to special leave, and equal pay and conditions.

"The message is clear: the DUP has abandoned every working family in the north.

"Sinn Féin will continue to stand up for workers' rights, for trade unions, and decent work for everyone, including working class unionists whom the DUP has long since abandoned."

John Finucane in NY For AOH Annual Dinner Dance

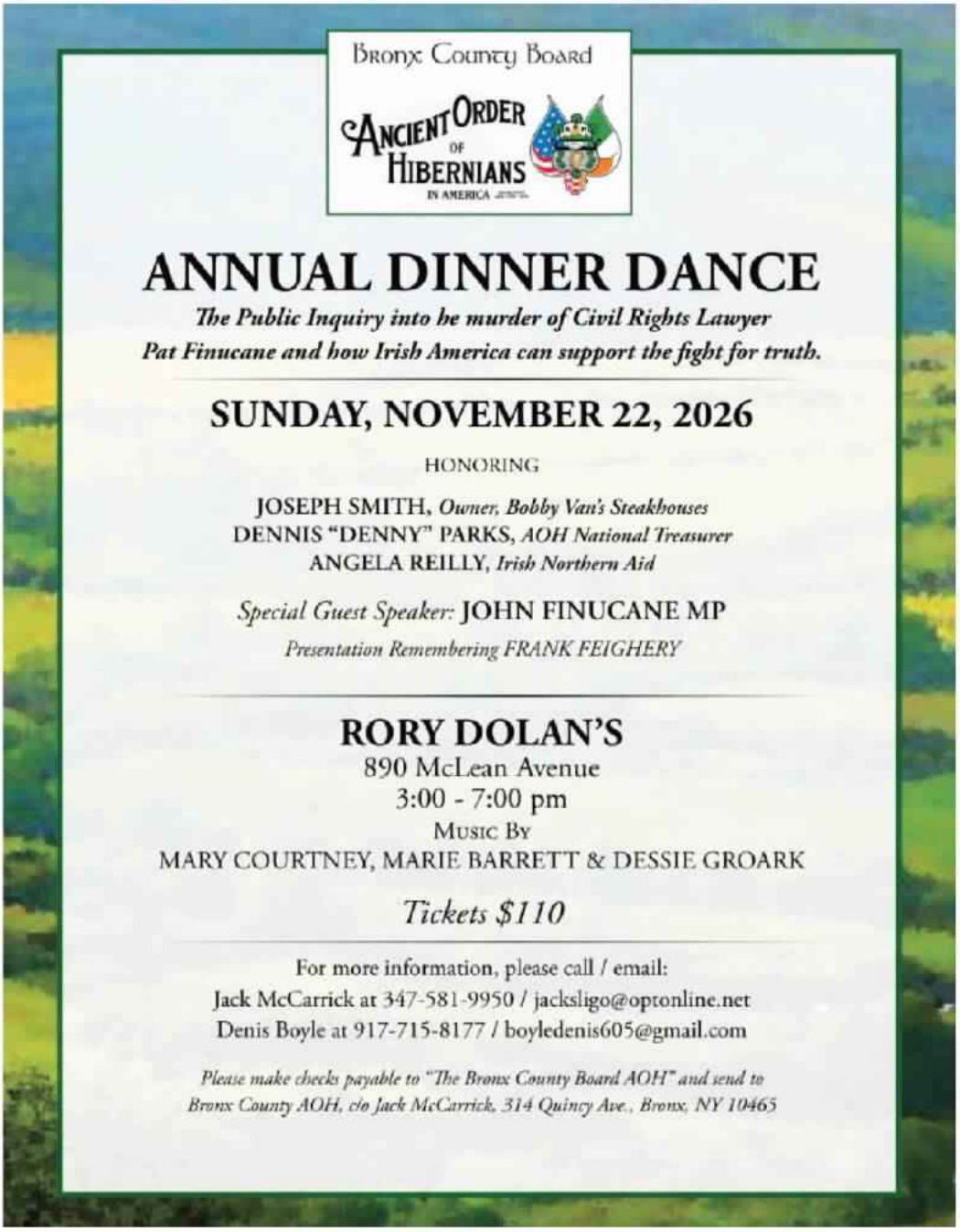
The Bronx AOH will be hosting their annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, November 22 at Rory Dolan's in Yonkers, NY.

Sinn Féin MP John Finucane will be speaking at the event about the public inquiry into the murder of his father, Civil Rights Lawyer Pat Finucane. The evening will also honor long time Friend of Sinn Féin and owner of Bobby Van's Steakhouse, Joseph Smith.

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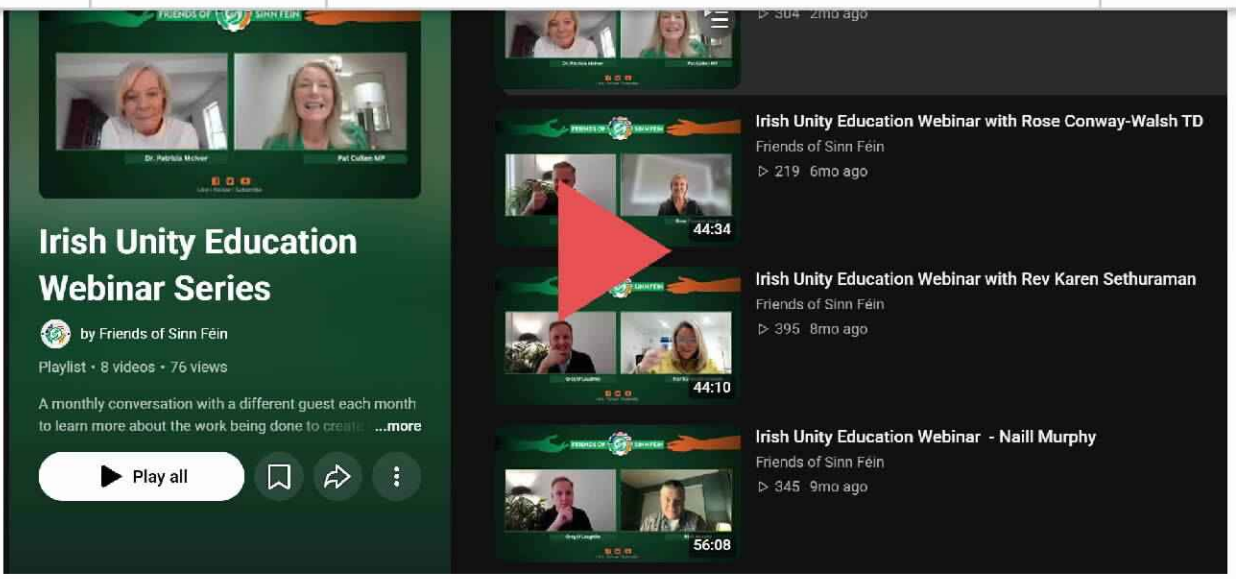
Denis Boyle at [redacted]



Irish Unity Education Webinar Series

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Forwards and Backwards

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It is a simple enough question: what have the last couple of weeks been about? The British have now moved to ban the march along the Garvaghy Road. The status quo that has delivered peace for that community for twenty-eight years has been reinstated. The motion from Unionist political parties to expel Sinn Féin ministers from the Government in the North failed.

Court cases continue, as does a demand from Unionist leaders for Sinn Féin members to be arrested for protesting a decision by the Parades Commission that the British Secretary of State subsequently overturned.

The community and their supporters across Ireland expended energy in defending their right to live in peace. Irish American and Canadian organisations and political and labor leaders sided with the rights of the residents and demanded that the British act.

The philosopher Kierkegaard said, "life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." Looking back at these events, this was an attempt by a minority in Unionism that was determined to deny the present and turn back the clock.

For decades, pro-British political Unionism could impose their will on the Irish minority. They controlled a parliament that served their and only their interests. They could rely on the old police force, the RUC, to baton protestors off the streets and make way for the Orange Order's demands. This period was known as the Orange State, sustained by gerrymandering, repression, silencing internal dissent, and discrimination.

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Unionist community, some showed their dissent from the Orange Order's call to action through public challenge, while others chose private silence. Like their Nationalist neighbours, they did not want to go back.

Political Unionism always looks back at a past that is gone, denies the present, and refuses to face the future. They use the Assembly to frustrate and stall progress, even when the needs of their community and public services become collateral damage and institutions are undermined. Some call on Unionist leaders to crash the institutions rather than share power with Sinn Féin.

Irish Republicans and Nationalists know well the Assembly's limitations: Unionist tactics and a budget and powers limited by a British Parliament in Westminster. Day and daily Sinn Féin ministers and elected representatives act in the best interests of their electorate and all the people in the North. The alternative is British Government ministers making decisions for the people. Irish Republicans cannot relinquish any power to British Ministers. We aim to end their role in Ireland.

The Assembly in the North is not and never will be the limit of our ambition. We seek a united Ireland with an All-Ireland parliament. More and more people see this as the alternative to the dysfunction of Stormont. We are working in the here and now, delivering change on the ground and building a majority for Irish Unity north and south.
The course of progress is neither smooth nor linear. At times it seems that we take two steps forward and one step back. Challenges and detours will come along the way.

The actions of a unionist minority were an attempt to drag us back. It has failed. Their attempt was rejected by the vast majority of people—no doubt they will try again. We will meet them with the same resolute action, for we are living our lives going forward.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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British Government legacy amendments no more than a 'Veterans Charter' for British state forces

The latest legacy amendments announced by the British Government represent a deeply concerning statement of intent on legacy and amount to no more than a 'Veterans Charter' for British state forces, Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said. The North Belfast MP said they raise serious questions about whose rights this legislation is designed to protect and whether victims and bereaved families will ever receive the truth and accountability they deserve.

Mr. Finucane said, "The British Government cannot claim to be delivering a legacy framework capable of commanding confidence across all communities while introducing measures that risk undermining independent investigations and the equal application of the law.

"There must be no hierarchy of victims. Every family deserves equal access to truth and justice, regardless of who killed their loved one. Political pressure from the British military or intelligence services must not stand in the way…

READ FULL STORY HERE

Pat Sheehan on the 45th Anniversary of the ending of the 1981 Hunger Strikes

Saturday, October 3 2026 marked the 45th anniversary of the end of the 1981 Hunger Strikes. To mark the occasion, we premiered an exclusive interview with Pat Sheehan MLA. Pat was on hunger strike for 55 days when it ended. He shares his story and devotion to the republican cause from his early days growing up, to his time on hunger strike, all the way through to his work today in Stormont as an MLA devoted to ensuring high quality education for all.

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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.

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.

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ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

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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Irish Unity Education Webinar: Housing in a New and United Ireland

Saturday, November 7 - 12:00noon ET - Irish Unity Education Webinar with special guest Eoin Ó Broin TD! Free and open to all - join us for a discussion about housing in a new and united Ireland! **REGISTER HERE**



Dig in, catch up, and get involved!

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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

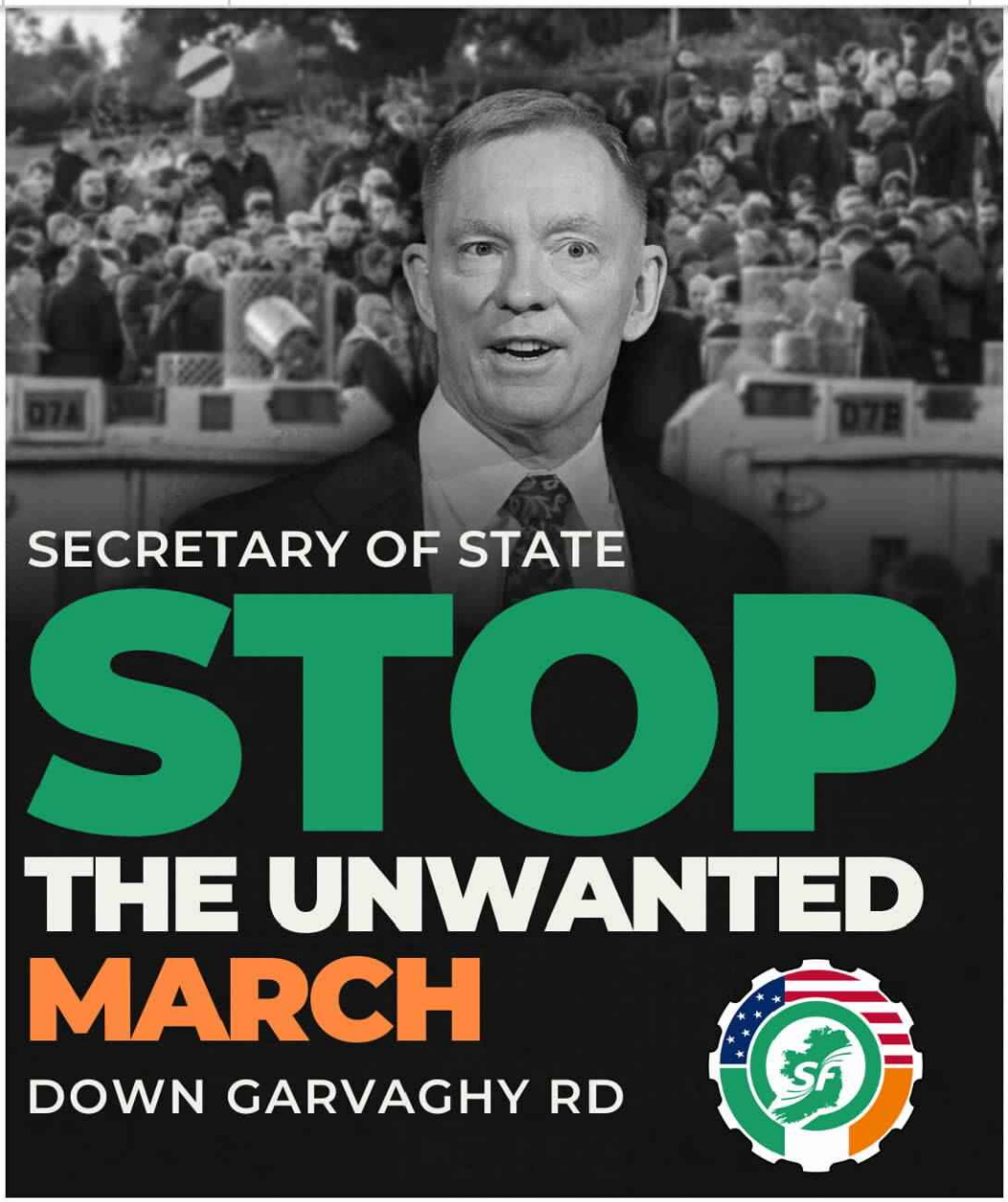
CALL TO ACTION: British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Bryant has still not responded to the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, the dozens of Irish American organizations, and the hundreds who have come out to protest and to say in one voice, "STOP the unwanted march down Garvaghy 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 and correspondence@nio.gov.uk and his handle on Twitter/X is @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.

Virtual Irish Unity People's Assembly for the Diaspora

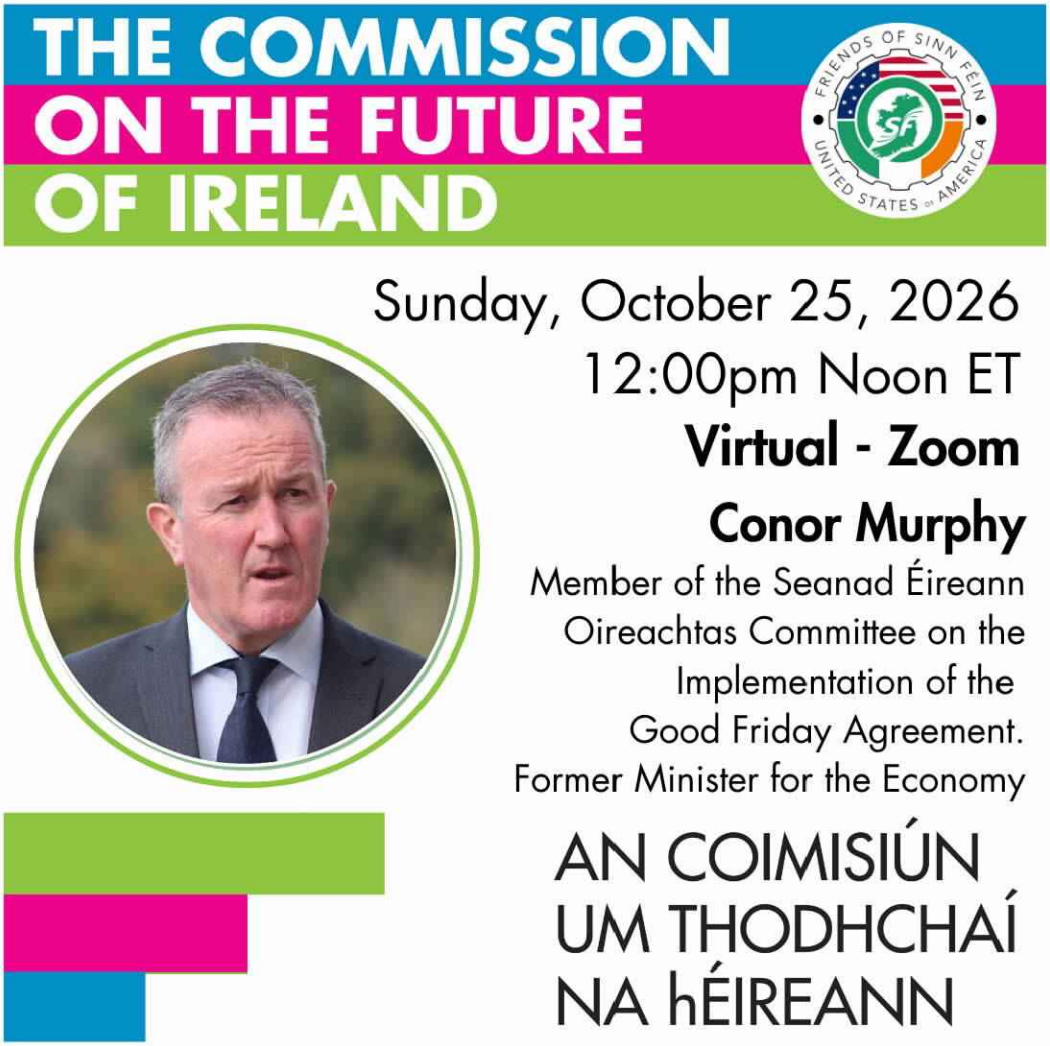
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People's Assembly for the Diaspora. We will be joined by Conor Murphy - Member of the Seanad Éireann, The Oireachtas Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and former Minister for the Economy.

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.

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No Going Back

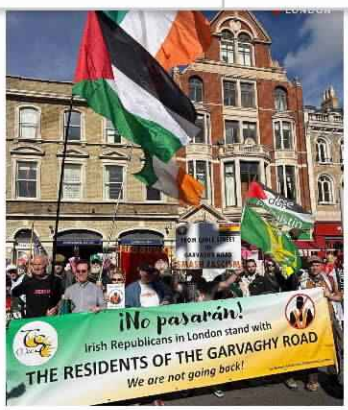
Across the globe the Irish diaspora have shown solidarity and support to the residents of the Garvaghy Road.

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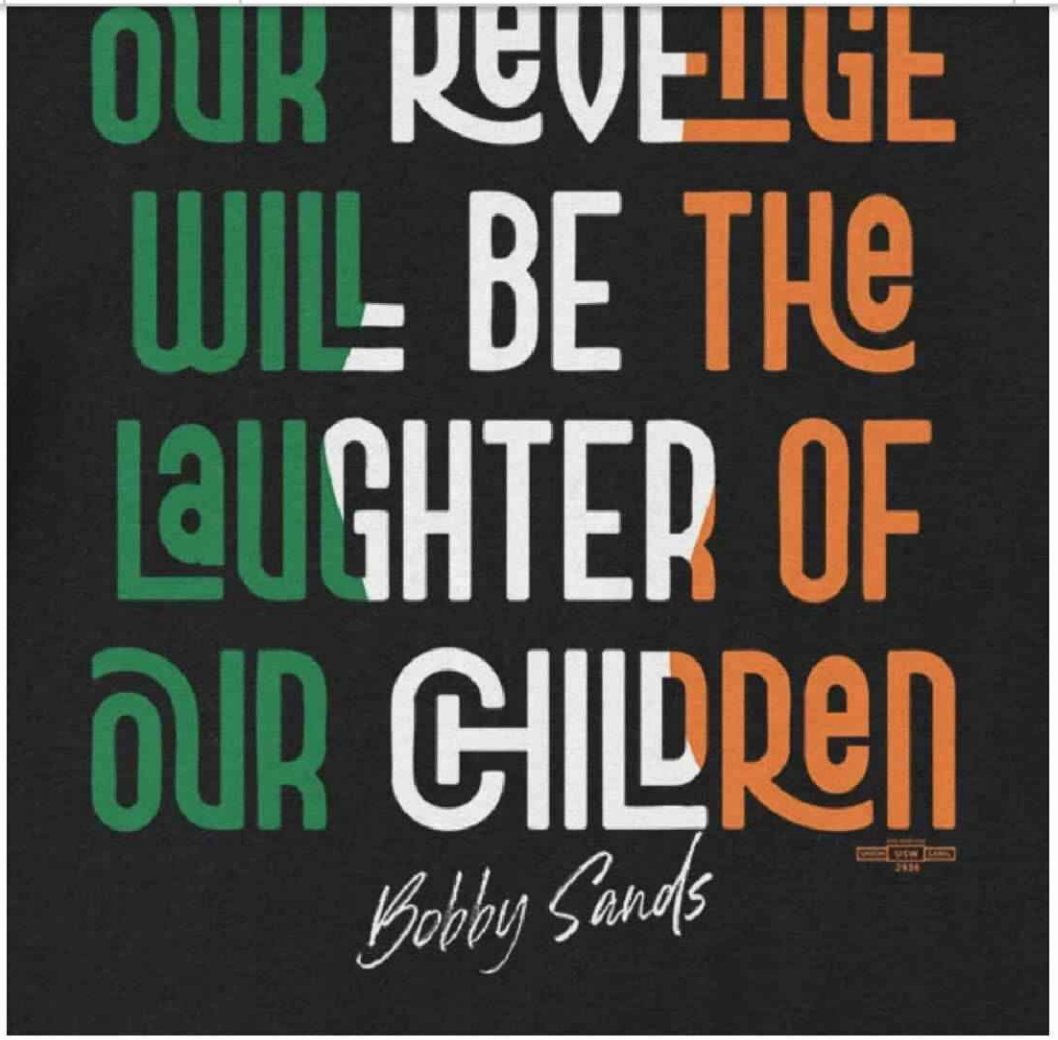
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Get yours right here!

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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

Orange murder in Ballymoney 3

Convoy to the Garvaghy Road 4/5

Where now for the Orange Order 10/11

An Phoblacht

REPUBLICAN NEWS

50p

Sraith Nua Iml 21 Uimhir 28 Déardaoin 16 Iúil 1998

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 Rasharkin 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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Garvaghy Road

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Last Saturday night, through to the early hours of Monday morning, I stood vigil on the Garvaghy Road. We had received word that the courts had upheld the Parades Commission's decision to authorise an Orange Order march along this roadway, which bisects a small Catholic and Nationalist Community. We made our way to Portadown to support the residents and were joined by thousands of others.

The march was due at 8:00 am. We knew from experience that would mean the police would move in to clear the road around 6:00 am. We stood throughout the night. Just before dawn, the rain started. And still we stood.

I explained to some younger people what to expect. When you hear the signal, sit down on the road, link arms, put your glasses and phones in your pocket, expect the police to baton you off the road, move down to another section, get back on the road, and repeat.

The rain intensified; rumours spread that the police were about to move in, dawn broke, and hours passed. We were soaked, cold, tired and expectant, but we stood firm. We passed the designated march time. Word came through that the Orange Order was still assembled at Drumcree Church with the police in place to force a march through. We knew we were in for a long wait. The rain passed, the sun came up, and thankfully a friend brought dry clothes. The crowd swelled and has remained there over the past week. Resolute and determined.

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police had beaten peaceful protesters off the road. Images of RUC officers gleefully wading into the protesters were beamed across the world. Within a few years, the RUC would be disbanded and replaced by the PSNI as part of the peace process. In 1998, the Orange Order, Unionist political leaders, and paramilitaries mobilised tens of thousands to lay siege to this small community. Violent protests in support of the Orange Order were held throughout the North. By the end of the week, their supporters firebombed a house belonging to a Catholic family, burning three young children to death.

The violence subsided. Many of the protestors returned home. Yet the Orange Order continued its demand to march through the community. In 1999, Unionist paramilitaries killed the residents' association solicitor, Rosemary Nelson, leaving behind her young family.

In total, twenty-one people were killed by unionists in support of the Orange Order in the period between 1996 and 1999. The community carries those scars.

The Orange Order is a Protestant and Unionist organisation. You cannot be a member if you are a Catholic, married to a Catholic, and can be disciplined if you even attend the funeral of a Catholic. Thousands of Orange Order marches happen every year, and they are uncontroversial.

The Orange Order has an alternative route to bypass the Garvaghy Road, but they refuse to take it. After 28 years of relative peace on the Garvaghy Road, the Parades Commission inexplicably authorised a march to proceed. A decision that has brought us back to the streets. The largest unionist party, the DUP, is standing side by side with the Orange Order. In 1998, the Orange Order mobilised thousands of unionists.

That has been absent this year. Many across the community recognise the benefits of peace and are alarmed that an issue thought resolved 26 years ago is now back in the news and on the streets.

There are those who hope to drag us back to the days of Unionist superiority, of conflict and sectarianism. This weekend shows we are not going back to 1998; we are moving forward.

The British Secretary of State can ban this parade and end the threat against this community. The question he has to answer is: does he want to compound a bad

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take the alternative route and let the community of the Garvaghy Road live in peace?

Until the Secretary of State acts, we will continue to stand resolute and determined in defence of a small community, peace and progress.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Live Call - Friday, Oct 2 - 1:00pm ET - Update on the Garvaghy Rd

Join us on Friday, October 2 at 1:00pm ET for a special live call with John Finucane MP and Cllr. Catherine Nelson. They will provide an update on the latest situation and discuss ways to support the Garvaghy Road residents and community. It is a free call and all are welcome. **Register here.**

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WATCH: Pat Sheehan MLA Reflects on 45th Anniversary of the end of the 1981 Hunger Strike

Sat, Oct 3 2026 marks the 45th anniversary of the end of the 1981 Hunger Strikes. To mark the day, we are excited to premier an exclusive interview with Pat Sheehan MLA. Pat was on hunger strike for 55 days when it was ended. Do not miss it on our

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US Congressional Friends of Ireland call on Chris Bryant to “cancel Orange Order parade”

On Thursday, a bipartisan group of United States Congresspeople sent a letter to the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Bryant, warning him that, “Without decisive action, we risk reopening one of the most painful chapters of Northern Ireland’s history and undermining nearly three decades of peace, stability, and reconciliation made possible by the Good Friday Agreement.”

The Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, a bipartisan group co-chaired by Democrat Richard Neal from Massachusetts and Republican Mike Kelly from Pennsylvania sent the letter this morning. It continued, “we respectfully urge you to put a stop to this march. Failing to intervene and allowing this contentious parade to move forward would risk undermining the progress that has been painstakingly built over the past three decades. As a guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, the United States has a vested interest in seeing the principles embodied in the accord

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It was one of many letters sent from around the world and across the country in support of the residents of Garvaghy Road. Read more letters here.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2026

The Right Honourable Sir Chris Bryant MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary of State Bryant,

As Members of the Friends of Ireland Caucus, we respectfully urge you and the Government of the United Kingdom to cancel the Orange Order parade on Garvaghy Road. Without decisive action, we risk reopening one of the most painful chapters of Northern Ireland's history and undermining nearly three decades of peace, stability, and reconciliation made possible by the Good Friday Agreement.

Over the last three decades, the progress made on the island of Ireland has been nothing short of extraordinary. Twenty-eight years have passed since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and a generation has grown without a single memory of the Troubles. Whether they realize it or not, their hopes and aspirations will forever be shaped by years of tireless diplomacy that have brought us to this moment.

It was that same 28-year period that saw the end of the controversial Orange Order marches on Garvaghy Road in a majority-Catholic area of Portadown. During the Troubles, these parades became a symbol of the sectarian tensions, public disorder, and violence that once threatened Northern Ireland's peace. The Parades Commission has prevented the proposed march down Garvaghy Road year after year, and for good reason. This march harkens back to decades of sectarian rule and the divisions that defined one of the darkest periods in Ireland's history. For those who have dedicated their lives to achieving peace and stability, allowing this march to proceed would reopen wounds that have yet to fully heal. For the next generation, who want nothing more than peace, prosperity, and a shared future, this would represent a marked step backward.

This is a consequential moment on the island of Ireland, which is why we respectfully urge you to put a stop to this march. Failing to intervene and allowing this contentious parade to move forward would risk undermining the progress that has been painstakingly built over the past three decades. As a guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, the United States has a vested interest in seeing the principles embodied in the accord upheld, ensuring the gains we have achieved can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hundreds of Protestants Sign Open Letter to Secretary of State for Northern

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Hundreds of Protestants have signed an open letter to British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Chris Bryant MP and Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Helen McEntee TD, calling on them to intervene to “spare the residents of the Garvaghy Rd a return to the fear they endured,” for so long.

The letter states, “We value the peace and progress built since the 1998 Agreement. We want our children and grandchildren to inherit a future free from the anguish of the past, and we are anxious that some now seem willing to reopen old wounds.”

As of 10:00pm ET on Thursday, October 1, there were more than 400 signatures and growing. You can read the full letter below.

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Northern Ireland, and Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

1 October 2026

Dear Secretary of State and Minister,

We write as a group of concerned individuals from a Protestant background. We hold a wide range of views on politics, faith and identity, and no single label captures our diversity. But we are committed to our shared society, and we feel compelled to speak publicly about what is happening in Portadown.

We value the peace and progress built since the 1998 Agreement. We want our children and grandchildren to inherit a future free from the anguish of the past, and we are anxious that some now seem willing to reopen old wounds.

While we recognise that the Portadown District LOL regard Drumcree as unfinished business, we are distressed by the trauma that is being visited on the residents of the Garvaghy Road after 28 years of calm. This is a community that has suffered deeply and still lives with the legacy of the parading disputes of the 1990s, which cost lives and left lasting scars.

Many of us have family and friends for whom parading is a valued tradition, and some of us have been directly involved ourselves. We recognise its importance to many in our community. The vast majority of loyal order parades take place each year without restrictions - an outcome enabled by agreements and arrangements reached after exhaustive efforts. All of that is now being called into question, with potentially devastating consequences far beyond Portadown.

We appeal to the Orange Order to look towards the bigger picture and bring this impasse to an end in the interests of our entire community.

We urge the British and Irish Governments to act together and without delay: to restore stability, to ensure that the parading framework is robust and trusted, and to spare the residents of the Garvaghy Road a return to the fear they endured for so many summers.

This is a time when all of us committed to a better future have a responsibility to raise our voices to protect peace, progress and a shared society free from sectarianism.

We must avoid the abyss we are currently staring into. For the future of our children and grandchildren, we cannot go backwards.

Yours sincerely,

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28 Years Ago This Week: Legal Representative for Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition Rosemary Nelson Testified Before U.S. Congress

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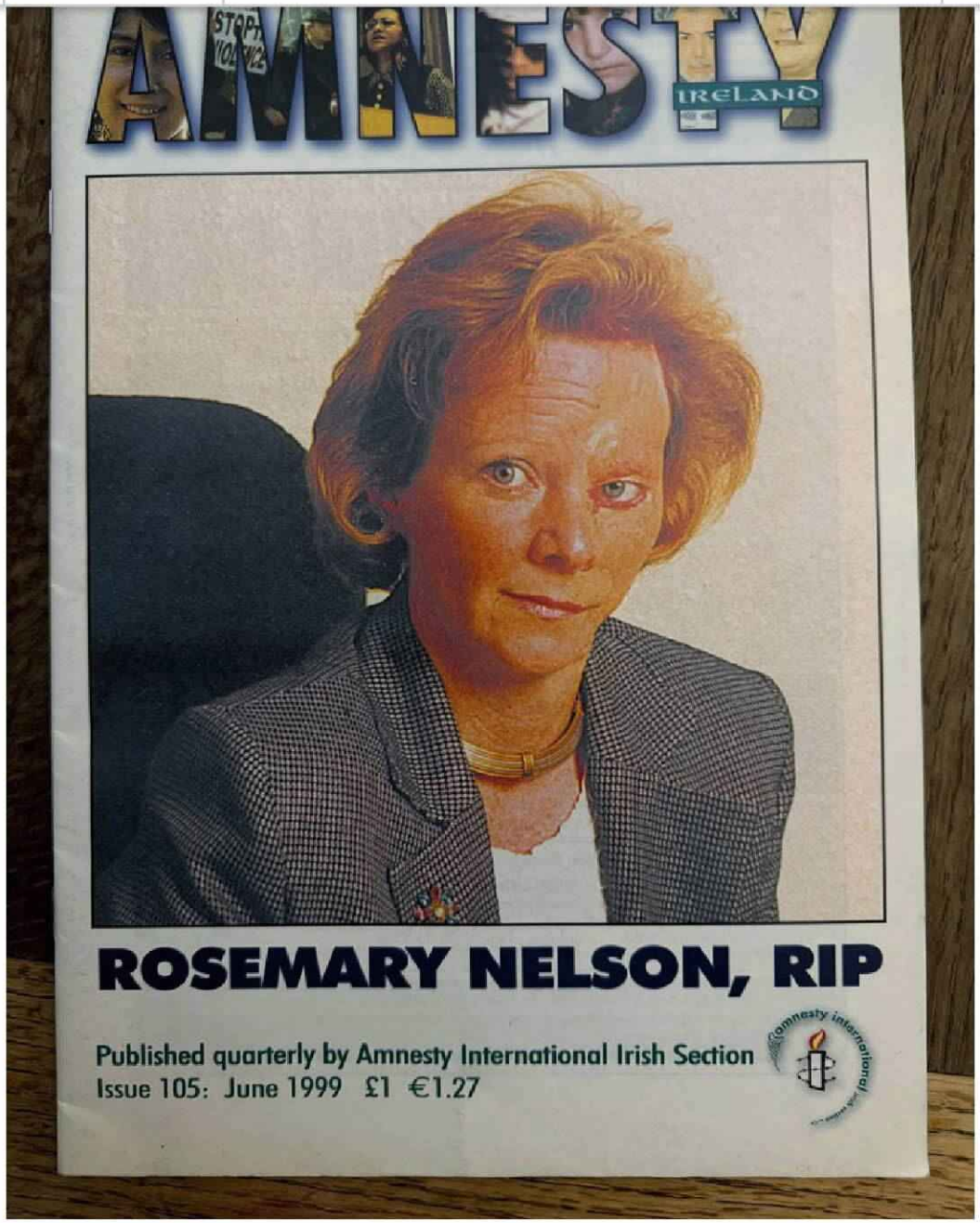
Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the Committee on International Relations of the US House of Representatives.

In her testimony, which was broadly focused on the “United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Mission of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers”, Rosemary Nelson said, “This behavior on the part of RUC officers has worsened over the past 3 years and, most particularly, since I began to represent the residents of the Garvaghy Road area in Portadown.

READ FULL STORY HERE

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Irish Americans Want a United Ireland

President Trump's comment that he hopes to see a united Ireland seems to have caught both the British and Irish Governments off guard. I was surprised and amused when he made the announcement while sitting beside Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who over the summer was quoted as saying that talk of Irish Unity drives him "bananas". The truth is, for anyone willing to listen, Irish America supports Irish Unity. The President, unbeholden to the current British or Irish Government, stated the obvious:

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Over the past two years, I have crisscrossed the US speaking at Friends of Sinn Féin Unity Commissions and engaging with our diaspora. The message coming back has been clear and consistent—a pride in the US role in the Good Friday Agreement and the peace it has delivered.

There is a shared hope for a new and united Ireland and a recognition that we now have the opportunity to achieve it.

That Agreement, endorsed by the people of Ireland, North and South, includes the right to self-determination. It provides a peaceful and democratic pathway to Irish Unity; if the people agree to end division in referendums in the North and South, then our country will be united.

READ FULL STORY HERE

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.

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!

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Dig in, catch up, and get involved!

Read previous editions in the **Newsletter Archive**.

Watch videos, interviews, webinars and more on our **YouTube Channel**.

Find and follow us on many social media platforms on our **Linktree here**.

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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Hello!

How the heck is already time for our November Irish Unity Activist Call!?

After an excellent Virtual Irish Unity People's Assembly, and then an informative Webinar on Housing and Irish Unity, dozens of more people from all over the country are now a part of the work being done around the world to plan and prepare for a new and united Ireland. Thank you to all of the volunteers and planners for ensuring that we hosted a top-notch event!

To all of the new folks on the email list - welcome! We're so happy you're here! We meet once a month on the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm ET to keep making progress, stay connected, and coordinate our effort and activism. Calls are not required, and we don't take attendance, but they are always better when more people show up. We follow the Norms listed below to make sure that we all have a clear channel of engagement. We would love to see you on Monday if it's your first call, if you haven't been on in a while, or if it's your 22nd call!

We have a lot to do on our next call **on Monday, November 9th at 7:00pm ET, right here: https://zoom.us/j/93819110821**

Outreach and Engagement
We had a great crew of volunteers and participants. Let's dig into next steps, outreach, and maybe put a little extra look at how to get folks that are already on the list feeling activated and supported enough to join the work! We also have a lot of in-person events coming up and we could use a hand spreading the word.

Education
Before the Vote is our next book. Let's look at where we are with a study guide and a calendar for calls in the coming months. We can even explore ways to support in-person study groups.

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Let's think through the latest map idea and think about how we might take advantage of recent news from other parties who are jumping into the work of planning and preparing for unity.

Reminder - the only prerequisite to joining a call is that you've attended an Irish Unity People's Assembly.

We have a lot of work to do and we need a lot of hands, heads, and hearts to get it done. If you have been hemming and hawing about joining a call or are feeling like it's too late to get involved because you haven't made it onto a call yet, please hear me loud and clear: we need your help and you're invited to be a part of this extraordinary moment in history!

See you soon,

Greg O'Loughlin
Executive Director
Friends of Sinn Féin

Next Call: Monday, November 9 at 7:00pm ET

Join our next call on Monday, October 12th at 7:00pm ET right here:
https://zoom.us/j/93819110821

They are always better when YOU are there!

Norms

Participate to the fullest of your ability, respect others when they are talking, and be present.
This can look like:

- Keeping your mic on mute when you are not speaking

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Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing

Speak from "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you".

Our goal is not to agree on everything -- it is to advance the cause of a new and united Ireland.

We all share the same goal, but we don't all have to agree on every detail of politics, current events, or analysis. Disagreement is ok - healthy even - but we are working together to advance the cause of a new and united Ireland, and anything else that detracts attention, resources, or energy away from that has no place on our calls. Disagreements can come out of committees and into a smaller discussion.

What's shared here stays here.

We are not doing this work for social media likes or for publication. People will change their minds over time, and some projects are best served by a lack of attention. All of that is better served by a sense of confidentiality. There are no secrets, but there is an expectation that everyone will have had a chance to review any and everything that is shared publicly.

Some practices that help support the work:

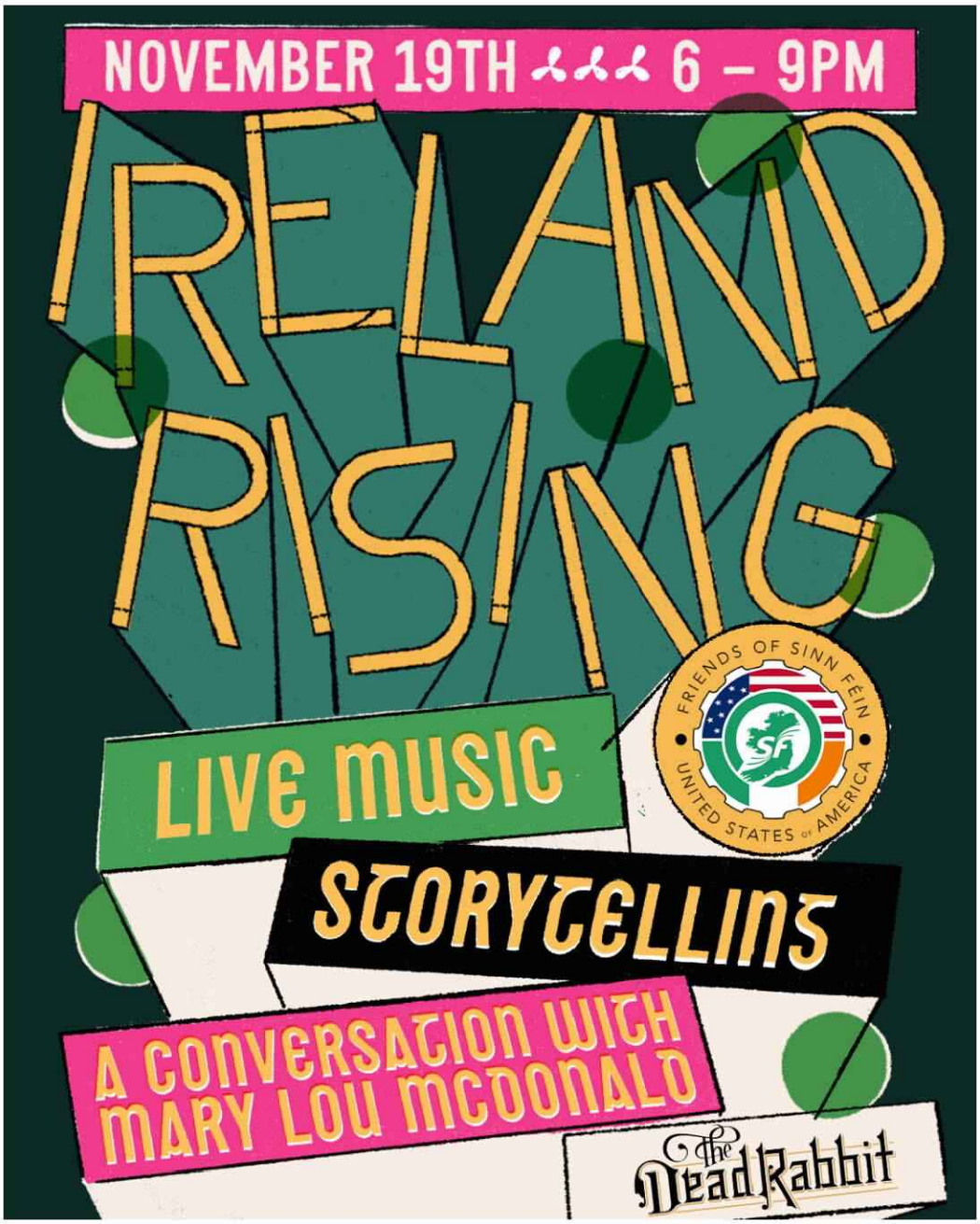
Parking Lot: If you have an idea, question, or some feedback that is important for the group, but not pertinent to the goals or conversation during the limited time we have, add it to The Parking Lot. Ideas and questions can be addressed and answered asynchronously and raised at future meetings as needed.

Three Before Me - In virtual group work, it can be challenging to get a word in or to monitor how much air-time you're taking up. A good rule of thumb can be: once you've spoken up in the group, let at least three people speak before you chime in again.

It's better when you're here - We're all volunteers and we're all trying our best. We don't take attendance, but we do rely on one another to get the job done. Let you committee chair know if you said you'd do a task or get something done but now can't for whatever reason. If you're in a season in your life where you can take on a little more work, let you committee chair know. If you need to take a break from the meetings and the work, let your committee and chair know. We're making

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Hello!

I hope everyone has seen the good news out of Portadown from just a couple hours ago. The Orange Order has been told that they will not be allowed to march down Garvaghy Road by the British Secretary of State Chris Bryant.

This is a great relief to the Garvaghy Road community. Thank you all for the emails, social media sharing, solidarity marches and protests, webinar engagement, political contact, and more over the last couple of weeks. It made a difference not only in the outcome, but as importantly in ensuring that the families and members of the Garvaghy Road community felt the support during such a stressful and challenging time. It was an extraordinary display of solidarity.

We have a lot to do on our next call **on Monday, October 12th at 7:00pm ET, right here: https://zoom.us/j/93819110821**

Shout out to Tricia McIvor for taking notes from our last meeting. If you want to catch up and review what we discussed, you can read them here. Super helpful - thank you Tricia!

Virtual Assembly Planning
Number are looking good but we could use some more folks to make it our biggest yet. We can brainstorm ways to spread the word.

Tricia McIvor has been spreading the word about the need for facilitators for the call on October 25th. If you want to volunteer to help, please let her know - email her at: pmcivor@cox.net

Education
Study Group Planning. On our last call, we selected Before the Vote for our next

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Resolutions
We're making good progress in Chicago and it would be good to get a review of the history of resolutions that have been passed over the last many years. We can use some of our time for that as well as updates and planning from other cities.

Don't forget to put these on your calendar.

- Oct 25 - Irish Unity Virtual People's Assembly with Senator Conor Murphy
- Nov 7 - Irish Unity Education Webinar with Sinn Féin TD for Dublin Mid West and Sinn Féin's Spokesperson for Housing Eoin Ó Broin.

It's going to take some support from the incredible activists on this list - YOU! - to deliver a top notch experience on all of those calls and events.

Reminder - the only prerequisite to joining a call is that you've attended an Irish Unity People's Assembly.

We have a lot of work to do and we need a lot of hands, heads, and hearts to get it done. If you have been hemming and hawing about joining a call or are feeling like it's too late to get involved because you haven't made it onto a call yet, please hear me loud and clear: we need your help and you're invited to be a part of this extraordinary moment in history!

See you soon,

Greg O'Loughlin
Executive Director
Friends of Sinn Féin

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THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

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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Norms

Participate to the fullest of your ability, respect others when they are talking, and be present.
This can look like:

- Keeping your mic on mute when you are not speaking
- Refraining from chatting about unrelated topics
- Cameras on during calls and meetings

Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing

Speak from "I" instead of "they," "we," and "you".

Our goal is not to agree on everything -- it is to advance the cause of a new and united Ireland.

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Let Democracy Reign

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It will come as no surprise that I love elections. I have been involved in winning and losing campaigns and the cycle of ups and downs. It is a brutal experience and the only job in which you get publicly sacked and immediately asked by a reporter how you feel about it!!.

It is also a chance to listen to people, learn what matters, and escape your own bubble. Watching from Ireland, I'm astonished by the sums of money involved in these campaigns. One candidate's cost in a congressional race would pay for the costs of all parties in a national election in Ireland. It was heartening to see that spending does not always dictate the outcome of races. That the people are sovereign.

Elections always prove the power of the vote, looking at you, Mississippi. So I look forward to working with the next Congress just as I did with the previous one.

As politics in the States is changing, so are things in Ireland. In the North, a minority of the pro-British Unionists are calling for the collapse of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement, rejecting power sharing today in the vain hope of returning to the supremacy of the past.

The largest unionist party in government, the DUP, has not yet joined the minority but has instead refused to work “publicly” with the Sinn Féin First Minister. How

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To date, they have blocked the Sinn Féin First Minister Michelle O'Neill and their own deputy First Minister from attending a meeting with the British Prime Minister to discuss economic development—the classic case of cutting off your nose to spite your face.

Michelle O'Neill has made it clear that while the Assembly in the North operates, Sinn Féin will continue to work for the betterment of all the people. The Assembly has well-known limitations and built-in dysfunction, rooted in partition and a budget set by whatever government is in power in London. Sinn Féin is clear: Irish Unity is best for all our people, our economy, and our public services.

This fact now seems to be belatedly recognised by Taoiseach Micheál Martin, who has now moved to a position in which he will bring to government proposals to examine models of Irish Unity: one with a single government, one with a government in Dublin and devolved institutions in the North or also an option of maintaining the status quo. He has yet to explain how partition would be the preferred choice for Fianna Fáil or an Irish Government.

It should be noted that this weekend his partners in Government, Fine Gael, are due to bring forward their own plans for progressing Unity. While all the other parties across Ireland are on the pitch to promote Unity, it seems Micheál Martin is eventually warming up on the sidelines.

It has been a big week in politics in the US, in the North and for the cause of Unity in Dublin. The people in the US are sovereign and have exercised their democratic right to determine their future. The same needs to be afforded to the people of all Ireland in a vote in favour of Unity or continued division. Let democracy reign, and the people's voice be heard in Irish Unity Referendums.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald in New York & Chicago in November

Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald will be in New York City, Notre Dame University, and Chicago in November.

On November 19th, she will be speaking at the Retail, Warehouse, & Department Store Union in **New York City.** TICKETS HERE

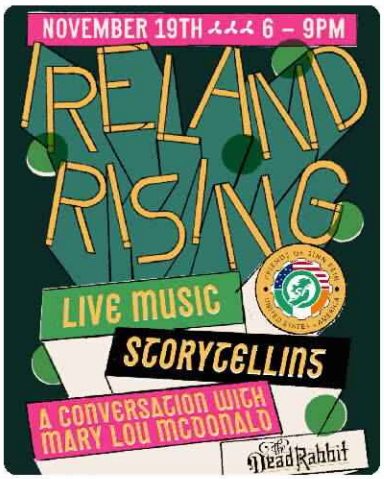
Later that day, she'll be at **The Dead Rabbit** for a special night of revolutionary chat, craic, ceol agus ól. Not to be missed by anyone interested in Ireland, past, present, and future. TICKETS HERE

On Friday, November 20, she will be at **Notre Dame University** for a public conversation with Colin Barr, the Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and professor of modern Irish history. No registration is required. More information here.

On Saturday, November 21, she will be in **Chicago** at the Irish American Heritage Center for an update on building a new and United Ireland. TICKETS HERE

Tickets and more information for all of these events are available by clicking the images below.







CALL FOR YOUR STORIES!

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celebrate the Seanchaí (Irish storytelling tradition) with live storytelling, poetry, spoken word, and musical performances hosted by Fintan Warfield.

We want to hear from you!

The theme of the night is, "Ní neart go cur le chéile" translated "There is no strength without unity."

Submit a story that is related to that theme, and you may be selected to share your story at the event!

Storyteller Submissions: Ireland Rising Storytelling event at the Dead Rabbit

---

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THIS SATURDAY: Irish Unity Education Webinar: Housing in a New and United Ireland

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guest Eoin Ó Broin TD! Free and open to all - join us for a discussion about housing in a new and united Ireland! REGISTER HERE



John Finucane in NY For AOH Annual Dinner Dance

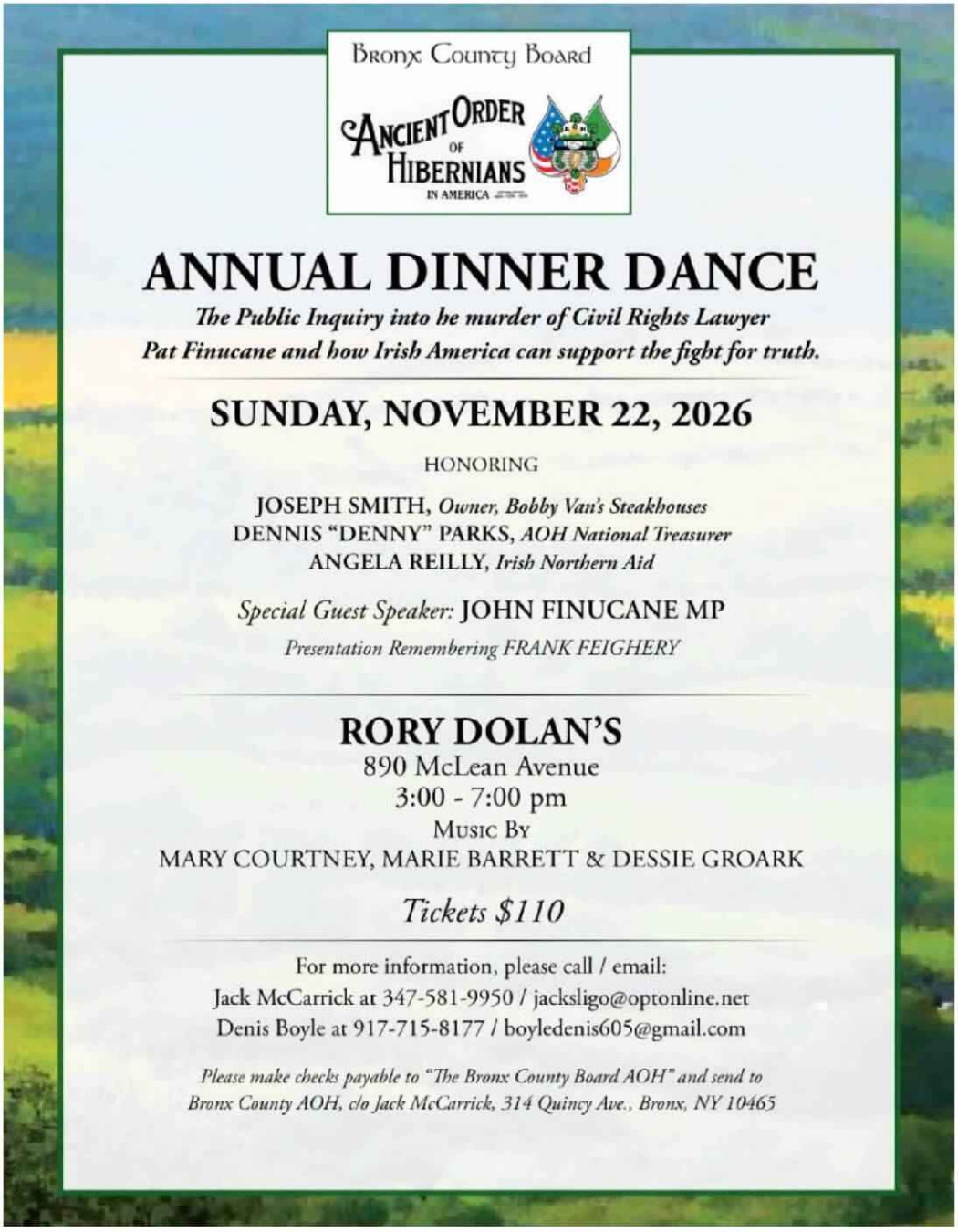
The Bronx AOH will be hosting their annual Dinner Dance on Sunday, November 22 at Rory Dolan's in Yonkers, NY.

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honor long time Friend of Sinn Féin and owner of Bobby Van's Steakhouse, Joseph Smith.

For tickets and more information, email Jack McCarrick at jacksligo@optonline.net or Denis Boyle at boyledenis605@gmail.com.



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Irish Government must not cooperate with British legacy structures that undermine accountability

Chairperson of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and Sinn Féin spokesperson on Justice, Matt Carthy TD, has urged the Minister for Justice to fully implement the recommendations of the Justice Committee's Pre-Legislative Scrutiny report on the General Scheme of the Legacy of the Troubles Bill 2026.

The report calls on the Irish Government to oppose proposed changes to British legacy legislation that could weaken accountability for Troubles-era cases, seeks to protect independent prosecutions and legacy inquests, ensure any cooperation with British legacy bodies is human rights compliant, and calls on the government to maintain Ireland's case before the European Court of Human Rights unless concerns about the legislation are fully addressed.

Teachta Carthy said, "This report is an important intervention on behalf of all those who continue to seek truth, justice and accountability in relation to legacy issues.

"The Committee heard evidence from victims' rights and legacy justice organisations, including Relatives for Justice and the Pat Finucane Centre and we listened.

"The report reflects extensive engagement with stakeholders, written submissions and detailed scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Legacy of the Troubles Bill 2026.

"The Committee is clear in its report that the Oireachtas must be satisfied that any legacy process for which cooperation is being provided does not weaken the principles underpinning the Good Friday Agreement, diminish accountability, or create a system that affords preferential treatment or any degree of impunity to former members of the British Army.

"A recurring theme throughout the evidence was the need to strengthen the rights of victims and families. The report recommends meaningful participation rights, including timely access to information, opportunities to provide evidence, and independent review mechanisms where information is withheld.

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including proposals that would require the consent of the British Attorney General before conflict-related prosecutions can proceed.

“We have also urged the Government to oppose any attempt to remove provision for legacy inquests. Inquests have been crucial in uncovering the truth and delivering accountability for many families and must be protected.

“Before cooperating with legacy mechanisms established under British legislation, the Government must satisfy itself that those mechanisms fully comply with human rights obligations and do not restrict effective investigations or weaken accountability.

“The Committee has also recommended that the Government maintain, and if necessary, actively pursue, its inter-State case before the European Court of Human Rights unless outstanding concerns are comprehensively addressed.

“I hope that the Minister for Justice will now take these recommendations on board and act on them.”

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Not in the gift of any British Prime Minister

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

British Prime Ministers show a particularly ill-informed arrogance toward Ireland. It is not new. In 1981, as the Hunger Strike ended and war raged in the streets, Margaret Thatcher claimed that the North was as British as her constituency of Finchley.

Before becoming Prime Minister, Andy Burnham spoke at the Alliance Party Conference and likened Belfast to any British northern industrial town. Last week, he returned to Belfast as Prime Minister and declared that talk of Irish Unity referendums was "off the table" and that talk of unity was divisive!

Sinn Féin leaders said the statement breached the Good Friday Agreement, as did political representatives across Ireland, the Co-Chair of the Congressional Friends of Ireland, Representative Richard Neal, and Representative Brendan Boyle.

Within hours, the clarifications began; the British Prime Minister supported the Agreement's provisions and said a unity referendum was not on his agenda "today". It was very much on the agenda of Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald, who led a party delegation including First Minister Michelle O'Neill and John Finucane to meet Andy Burnham.

The vast majority of people in the North and South endorsed the Good Friday Agreement, which enshrines in International law the right of the Irish People to national self-determination via referendums. That right is not in the gift of any British Prime Minister to take "off the table".

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alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given..."

The Agreement provides for the governments to call such referendums at any time and that a referendum in the North must be called if constitutional change is likely. No criteria must be met before a referendum can be called ie" without external impediment", but there is an (opaque) threshold beyond which one can no longer be refused.

Both governments continue to hide behind the nonsense that a threshold must be met before holding referendums, placing retaining the status quo at all costs over a commitment to democracy and the right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Burnham is an English unionist, viewing the North of Ireland as the same as Scotland and Wales, despite the relevant governments being led by pro-independence parties. The future constitutional position of Scotland and Wales rests with a predominantly English Government in Westminster. In Ireland, the right to self-determination is a matter of International Law and in the hands of the people.

It should not be a surprise or a shock to find out a British Prime Minister is a unionist. That is a political reality, and one we must recognise, challenge, and change. The reaction to his comments from across Ireland and the US moved their public position.

We, all who support the Good Friday Agreement and the people's right to self-determination, must act to secure unity referendums. That means political parties in Ireland, civic society and supporters in the US and Canada calling out both governments for their continued refusal to honour democracy and let the people have their say.

Andy Burnham is not the first to come to Ireland believing he can set the parameters of our future; seven British Prime Ministers have visited with that goal over the last ten years. Hopefully he will be the last.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

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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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WATCH: New Video Update

Sinn Féin Representative to North America Ciarán Quinn and Friends of Sinn Féin Executive Director Greg O'Loughlin discuss a recent decision about Garvaghy Rd, review events, in New York and Pittsburgh, and more.



Orange Order's true intention is to re-establish repeated unwanted parades on Garvaghy Road

Commenting on the Orange Order application to march down the Garvaghy Road, Sinn Féin councillor Catherine Nelson said, "The issue of unwanted Orange marches on the Garvaghy Road is closed.

"Today's announcement from the Orange Order reveals their true intention, which is to re-establish repeated unwanted parades on the Garvaghy Road.

"This march is steeped in a history of hate, sectarian violence, and murder.

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“The people of Garvaghy Road do not want this parade forced through their area. It is a non-starter.

READ FULL STORY HERE



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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.

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION HERE

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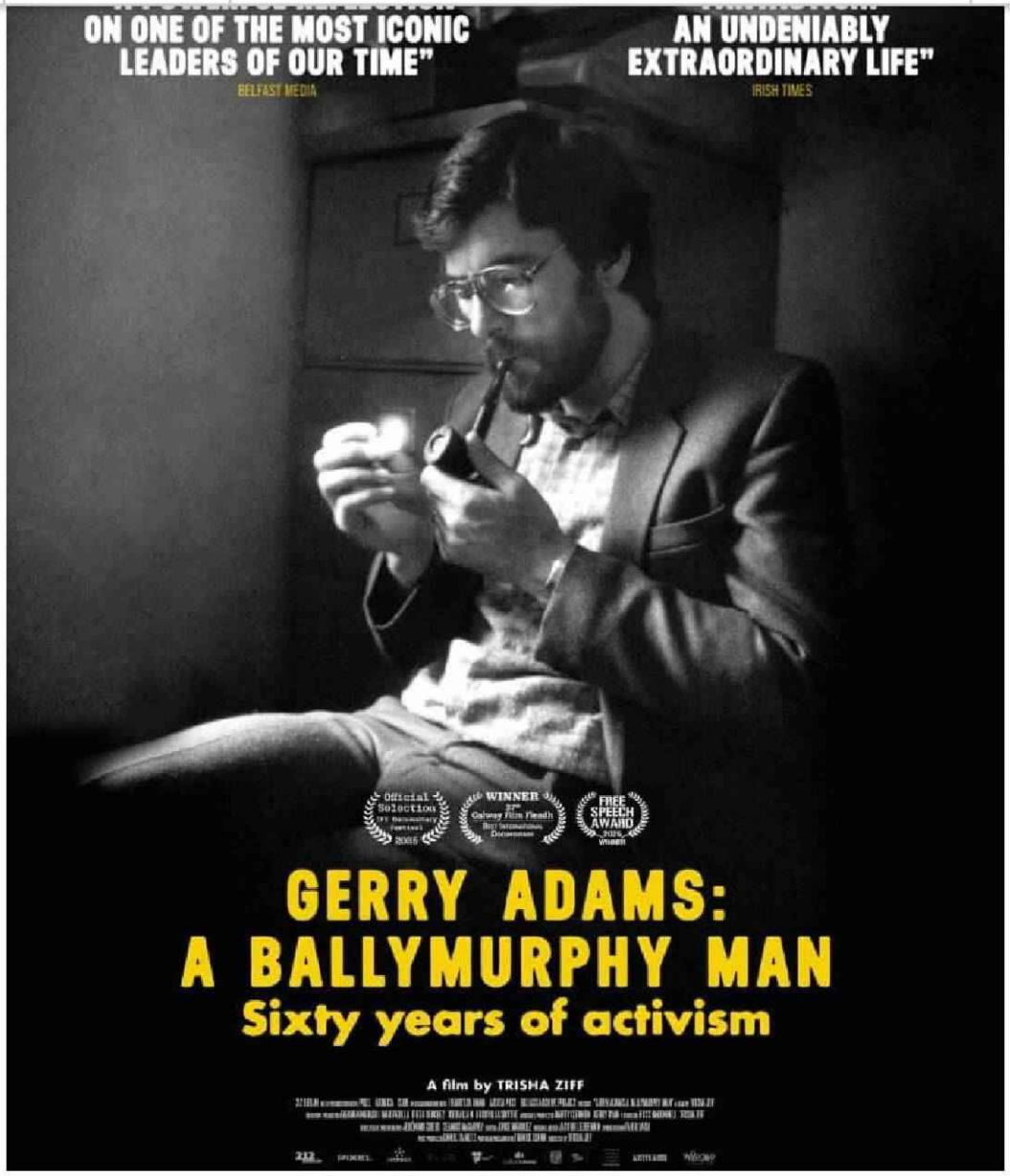


New York Screenings of 'Gerry Adams – A Ballymurphy Man'

'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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REGISTER NOW!

THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



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

Dig in, catch up, and get involved!

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The British Government, Irish Unionists, & Micheál Martin

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

Greetings from Ottawa. I am in Canada to update political representatives on developments in Ireland. This weekend I will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia to speak at an Irish Unity event. The links between Ireland and the East Coast of Canada are as fascinating as they are enduring. They are our closest neighbours to the West Coast of Ireland.

Earlier this week I was in New York planning and preparing for the a visit by Sinn President Mary Lou McDonald to New York and Chicago in late November. It is shaping up to be an exciting and innovative trip. Greg has added the information on those events in the newsletter and I hope you can one of them.

In New York and Ottawa one question kept being raised, “Why is an Taoiseach Micheál Martin so opposed to planning and preparing for Irish Unity?”

On different occasions he has answered that ending partition is “complicated,” that “now is not the time,” and was even quoted as saying that those raising the question of unity referendums was sending him “bananas.” He has proposed that reconciliation is a precursor for any unity referendum - an Orwellian world maintenance of division as an aid to reconciliation

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Shared Ireland unit is not a trojan horse for unity.

Micheál Martin's recent political achievements have been to return Fianna Fáil to power, first in keeping a Fine Gael to minority government in power and since 2020, sharing power with Fine Gael. The focus appears to be maintaining a political status quo. During that time the housing crisis has deepened, cost of living increased, and public services struggling and workers going on strike.

These two parties that have controlled government since the state was founded and are out of ideas and focus at maintaining power at all costs.

But the ground under Micheál Martin is narrowing. His partners in government, Fine Gael, are bringing forward their own proposals of Irish Unity in November. Sinn Féin - the largest party across all of Ireland - has continued to hold the Taoiseach to account for his refusal to engage in any meaningful way with the opportunity we now have to secure a united Ireland.

In the north, the SDLP, the party of John Hume, has called for planning and preparing for Unity as have all of the parties of the Opposition in the Dáil.

President Trump said he supported Irish Unity and when sitting beside the Taoiseach, said that Micheál was the guy to get it done. A couple of weeks ago, standing beside an Taoiseach, New York City Mayor Mamdani restated his support for Irish national self-determination and added that every know what 26 plus 6 equals.

The leader of Fianna Fáil, the current Taoiseach, now shares a common platform with the British Government and pro-partition Unionist parties in the North.

Last week the Taoiseach described partition as a "disaster" and made a reference to bringing forward some proposals at some time in the future. Whether this is a true change of heart or another stall to maintain an increasingly failing political status quo remains to be seen. Meanwhile the rest of us are moving ahead and working to create a new and united Ireland.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

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Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald in New York & Chicago in November

Later in November Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald will be in New York City, Notre Dame University, and Chicago.

On November 19th, she will be speaking at the Retail, Warehouse, and Department Store Union in **New York City.** **TICKETS HERE**

Later that day, she'll be at **The Dead Rabbit** for a special night of revolutionary chat, craic, ceol agus ól. Not to be missed by anyone interested in Ireland, past, present, and future. **TICKETS HERE**

On Friday, November 20, she will be at **Notre Dame University** for a public conversation with Colin Barr, the Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and professor of modern Irish history. No registration is required. More information here.

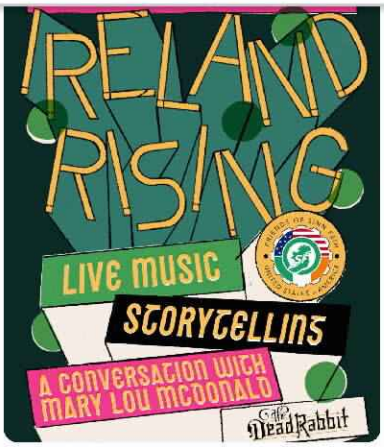
On Saturday, November 21, she will be in **Chicago** at the Irish American Heritage Center for an update on building a new and United Ireland. **TICKETS HERE**

Tickets and more information for all of these events are available by clicking the images below.

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John Finucane sends open letter to Conservative Party MP David Davis after dangerous and disgraceful comments

On October 20th, during a discussion in the House of Commons on the Government's Legacy Bill, Conservative Party MP David Davis spoke about what he called “IRA lawyers" and said that they were "more interested in drama than justice.”

John Finucane MP sent him a letter the following day, saying in part, "In January 1989, your Conservative colleague Douglas Hogg stood in Westminster and made similarly sinister 'IRA lawyers' remarks about solicitors. Less than four weeks later, my father, Pat Finucane, was murdered by loyalists acting in collusion with British state forces," John Finucane wrote to Davis.

"I was eight-years-old. I watched my father being shot dead in front of me, in our family home.”

Read the full letter below.

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House of Commons

John Finucane MP
North Belfast

John.finucane.mp@parliament.uk

David Davis MP
House of Commons
London

21 October 2026

Dear David,

I remember meeting you in a Belfast courtroom in 2019. I was representing a journalist arrested by the PSNI after exposing collusion in the Loughinisland massacre. You attended in support, speaking passionately about justice, accountability and the rule of law.

I listened then as you spoke of those principles. Yesterday, you demonstrated how little they appear to matter when it comes to Irish victims seeking accountability from the British state.

In January 1989, your Conservative colleague Douglas Hogg stood in Westminster and made similarly sinister IRA lawyer remarks about solicitors. Less than four weeks later, my father, Pat Finucane, was murdered by loyalists acting in collusion with British state forces.

I was eight years old. I watched my father being shot dead in front of me, in our family home.

I grew up without my father. I became a solicitor, following in his footsteps, because I believed, as he did, in the rule of law. In the right of every person to legal representation. In the right of victims to challenge the powerful, including the state itself.

And that is what makes your words so contemptible.

Would you dare speak about English solicitors in this way? Or do you believe Irish lawyers deserve less protection, less respect and fewer rights when they dare to challenge the British state?

The lawyers you seek to discredit are doing precisely what you once claimed to defend: using the law to hold power to account. They represent families who have endured murder, collusion, cover-ups and decades of obstruction.

We know where this language can lead. My family knows. Rosemary Nelson's family knows.

But we are not living in 1989. We are building a new Ireland founded on equality, rights and justice. We will not be intimidated, silenced or dragged backwards by the prejudices of British politicians.

Shame on you, David.

Withdraw your words. Apologise to my family, to Rosemary Nelson's family, and to the lawyers and victims whose pursuit of justice you have sought to discredit.

And have the decency to own the disgrace of what you said.

JOHN FINUCANE MP

CC: Speaker Lindsay Hoyle MP

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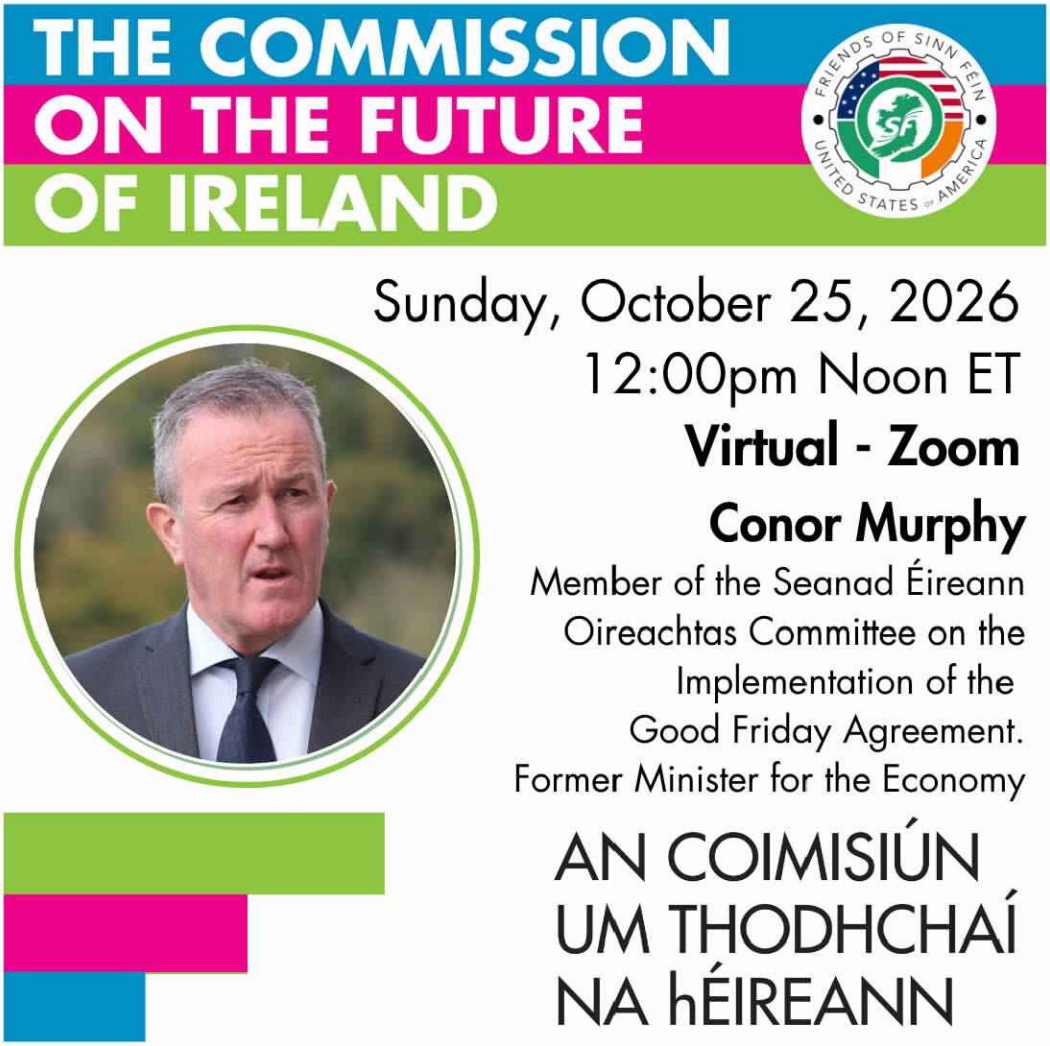
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People's Assembly for the Diaspora

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.

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.

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Éire Aontaithe Anois Long Sleeve Tee

Stay warm as the temps drop in this long sleeve tee that reads “Éire Aontaithe Anois” (United Ireland Now)

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Irish Unity Education Webinar: Housing in a New and United Ireland

Saturday, November 7 - 12:00noon ET - Irish Unity Education Webinar with special guest Eoin Ó Broin TD! Free and open to all - join us for a discussion about housing in a new and united Ireland! **REGISTER HERE**

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A Tipping Point?

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It seems that for all occasions there is an Oscar Wilde quote. I have developed a seething disregard for some political commentators. You know the type: those who mask cynicism and prejudice with a veneer of informed respectability. Oscar Wilde defined a cynic as someone “who knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing.”

Fine Gael, a party in the Government in Dublin, recently published a blueprint for Irish Unity. This was an informed and welcome development. It included a very lengthy economic appendix examining the cost and benefits of Irish Unity. There will always be a front-end cost to building anything. We normally call those investments. Pay now, reap the benefits later. In recognition of this, Fine Gael has recommended establishing an Irish Unity Sovereign Wealth Fund to meet those costs.

The economic appendix included a potential first-year cost ranging from €3 billion to €25 billion. A range so vast that it is meaningless. Drawing on Oscar’s definition, the cynics in the media latched onto the highest figure to claim the South could not afford the North. Following the logic that Ireland can only be defined by economic contribution, the Western Seaboard, the length of the Wild Atlantic Way, should be handed back to the British because it is a drain on the economy!

There is no ledger that defines what counties should or should not be part of Ireland.

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Northerners as “foreigners”. A mindset he wanted to challenge. As a Northerner living in Dublin, it is a reality I have experienced on many occasions.

I was born in Belfast, and I am an Irish Citizen, like my parents and grandparents. We found ourselves on the wrong side of an arbitrary border dividing our Island.

Partition never made economic sense. It has held up economic growth in the border counties and imposed costs on all of Ireland's trade and infrastructure development. The highest price has been paid in the north with economic decline. Economically, partition doesn’t work.

Ending partition and building a new Ireland is not only the righting of a historic wrong; it is also a project to unlock the Island's full economic power.

There are those who look at the costs and not the potential and opportunity. Within a few years of German reunification, the new economy had outgrown the sum of its two parts. Germany also demonstrates the need for balanced regional development and not the concentration of jobs and industry in one region. The benefits of unity must be enjoyed by all.

No economists will argue that partition makes economic sense. Yes, there will be a cost; yes, there will be a negotiation with the British, and the Irish job in that negotiation will be to reduce the costs and maximise the benefits.

The people of Ireland know the value of Irish unity outweighs the costs.

Have a great weekend and don’t let the cynics get you down.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald to visit Chicago on Saturday

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November 20, and Chicago on Saturday, November 21.

On Friday, November 20, she will be at **Notre Dame University** for a public conversation with Colin Barr, the Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and professor of modern Irish history. No registration is required. More information here.

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Markievicz Tee

"Dress suitably in short skirts and strong boots, leave your jewels in the bank and buy a revolver."
Constance Markievicz - October, 1915

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John Finucane in NY For AOH Annual Dinner Dance

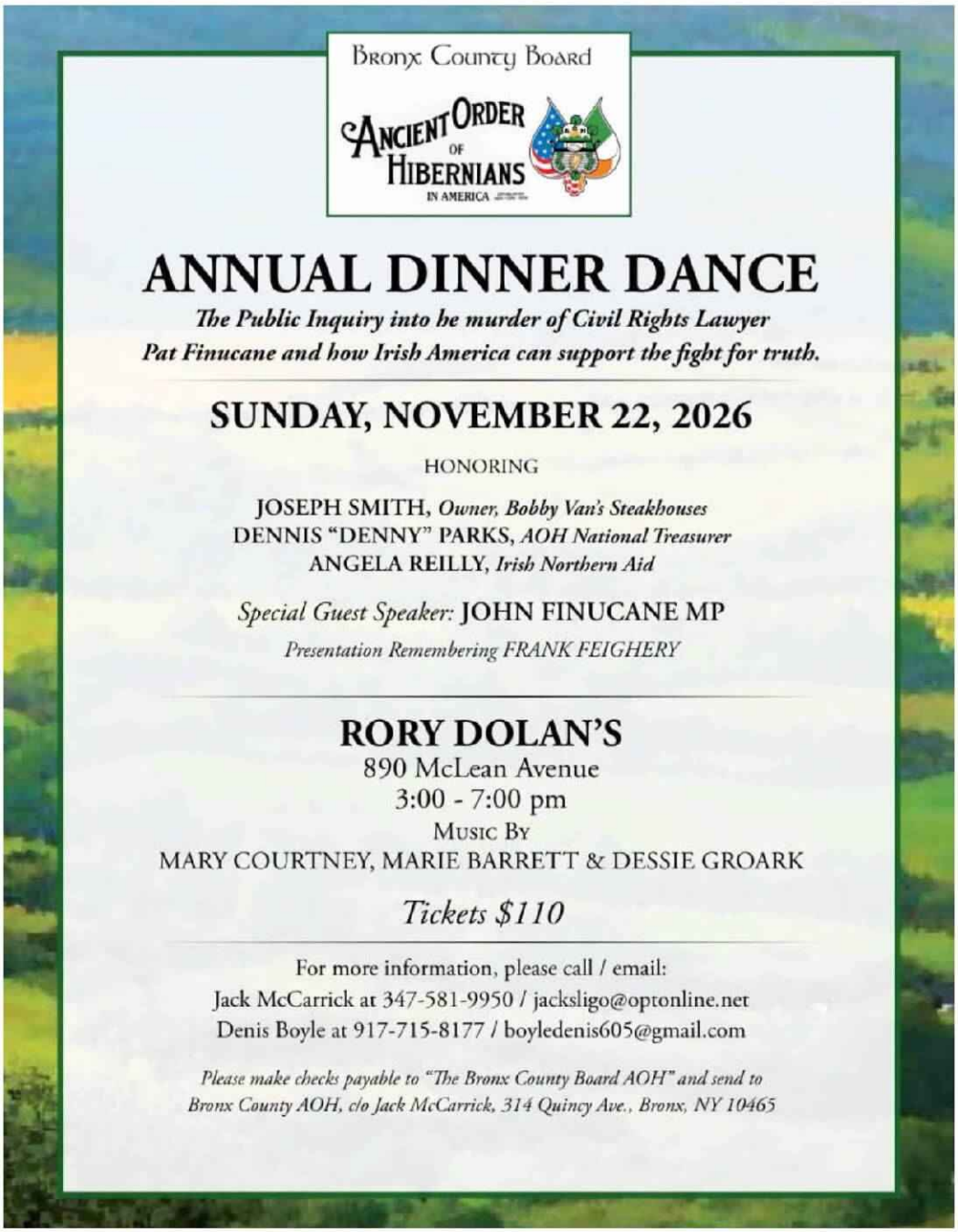
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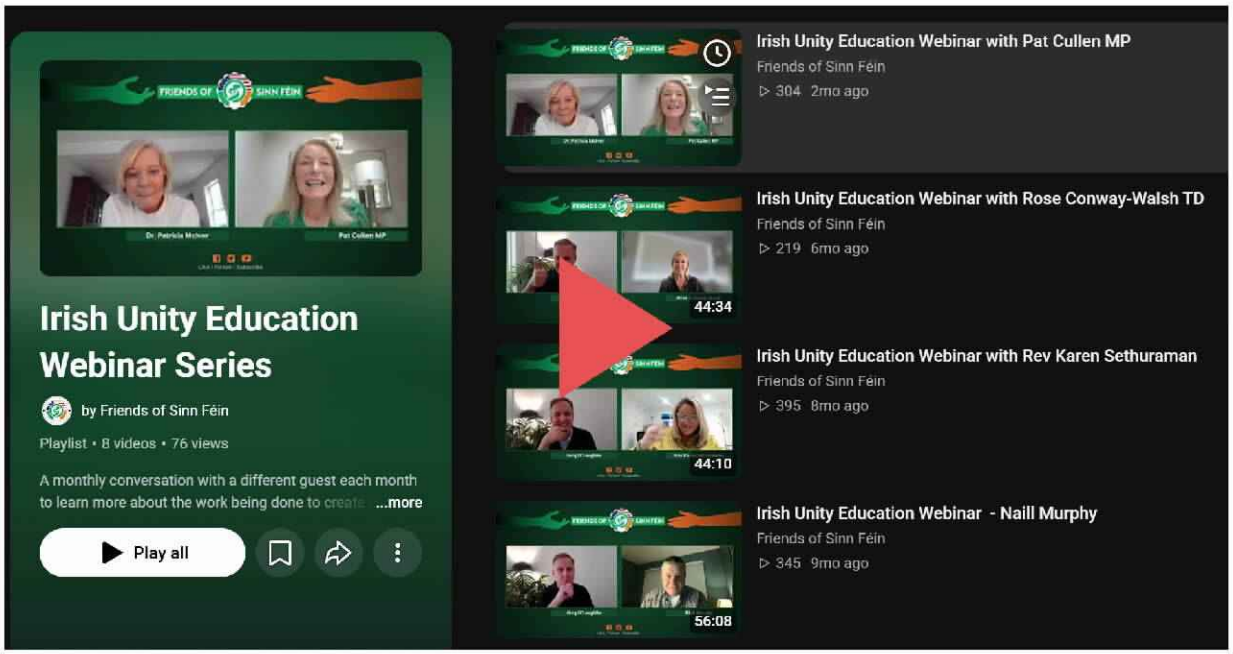
into the murder of his father, Civil Rights Lawyer Pat Finucane. The evening will also honor long time Friend of Sinn Féin and owner of Bobby Van's Steakhouse, Joseph Smith.

For tickets and more information, email Jack McCarrick at jacksligo@optonline.net or Denis Boyle at boyledenis605@gmail.com.



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Sinn Féin MEPs host Irish Unity Week in Brussels

Sinn Féin MEPs Kathleen Funchion and Lynn Boylan have called upon the Irish government to initiate structured engagement with European partners on the practical preparations required for a United Ireland.

The MEPs were speaking as they hosted ‘Irish Unity Week’ in the European Parliament, bringing together political representatives and activists to raise awareness on the prospect of a United Ireland within the EU.
The week aims to put Irish unity firmly on the European agenda through a series of political events, including an exhibition detailing the history of Ireland and our prospects for the future.
Ireland South MEP, Kathleen Funchion said, “We are delighted to be hosting Irish Unity Week here in Brussels. This initiative is about ensuring that people here are fully informed about the opportunities and practical considerations involved in reunification.
“These events are being held during Ireland’s Presidency of the EU Council. We believe the Presidency was a huge opportunity for the government to show leadership

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“However, Irish Unity has been completely absent as a topic at European-level during the Presidency.

“While Micheál Martin promotes EU enlargement for other countries, he has failed to use Ireland’s position to advance preparations needed for our own constitutional future.

“The European Union has already recognised that following reunification, north would automatically rejoin the EU. We now need to see what practical preparations need to be undertaken, and the Irish government must lead that work.

“Whilst we welcome recent discussion among government parties about plans for Irish unity, their words must be followed by concrete action.”

Dublin MEP, Lynn Boylan said:

“This week we have launched a major exhibition looking at the history of Ireland, and the future of a United Ireland in the EU. The exhibition was officially opened by former MEP Martina Anderson yesterday evening and is available to view in Spinelli 5G.

“Today we will also see the launch of significant new research by Professor Colin Harvey and Mark Bassett, Barrister-at-Law, on the concrete implications of Irish Unity for Ireland and the EU. The event will also include a political update from Declan Kearney MLA, National Chairperson of Sinn Féin.

“These events are all about moving the conversation beyond aspiration and into practical planning.

“We are delighted to have Irish Unity activists here in Brussels, from various backgrounds, to participate in the events and tell their stories.”

Dig in, catch up, and get involved!

Watch videos, interviews, webinars and more on our **YouTube Channel**.

Find all of social media platforms on our **Linktree here**.

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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Up North

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

My work takes me to different places and gives me opportunities to meet with interesting people. It is an honour to represent Sinn Féin, discuss political developments, and promote the cause of Irish Unity.

Last week I left New York for Ottawa, then on to Halifax, Nova Scotia. All New Yorkers believe that the world revolves around their city. A view shared by many New York Irish. They were interested in our work in Canada.

For decades, Canada has supported peace in Ireland politically and financially. In another lifetime, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, I was a community organiser in West Belfast. At the time, the British government politically vetted many projects and refused funding. Into this funding gap stepped the International Fund for Ireland, which was heavily supported by the US and Canadian governments, amongst others.

The IFI invested in economic and community development in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the North of Ireland and border counties. The fund continues to make a real change in the lives of communities.

Canadians have played a central role in some of the most challenging and sensitive aspects of our peace process.

General John de Chastelain, a former head of the Canadian Armed Forces and former Ambassador, was appointed co-chair alongside Senator George Mitchell in the

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Judge Corry, a former Canadian Supreme Court judge, was appointed in 2001 to investigate claims that state forces had colluded in six cases. The subsequent investigation recommended a series of public inquiries. The last of these inquiries, into the killing of Human Rights Attorney Pat Finucane, is now only getting underway after years of stalling and opposition by successive British Governments.

In our peace process, Canada has been seen to be a fair and respected arbiter.

In Ottawa, I, along with colleagues in Friends of Sinn Féin Canada, met with all four major political parties in the federal government to discuss the political developments. I was mindful that my last visit to Ottawa was two years ago. Then Sinn Féin and a number of civic society groups were calling for planning and preparation for unity.

This call has grown louder over the past two years and is the subject of academic research and publications. Sinn Féin is now joined by all other political parties across Ireland calling for preparation for unity referendums. Only Fianna Fáil and the Unionist parties are outside of this consensus.

In Ottawa and Halifax, I also met with Irish Canadian communities. It was engaging and informative. Canada was the first port of entry for many of the Irish who would fan out across its states and down into the US. Irish involvement in Canada is fascinating, from those escaping the penal laws and landing in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, to the famine Irish in Quebec, to former Fenians who helped drive Canadian Confederation in part as a reaction to US Fenians seeking to invade Canada !

There are many differences between Canada and the US, not least politically at this time, but all those I met in New York, Ottawa, and Halifax shared the hope of building a better, new, and United Ireland.

Many thanks to all those I met along the way and made the trip so successful. Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán
Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald in New York & Chicago in November

Later in November Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald will be in New York City, Notre Dame University, and Chicago.

On November 19th, she will be speaking at the Retail, Warehouse, & Department Store Union in **New York City.** TICKETS HERE

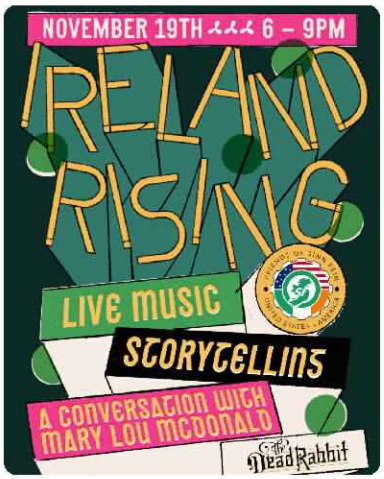
Later that day, she'll be at **The Dead Rabbit** for a special night of revolutionary chat, craic, ceol agus ól. Not to be missed by anyone interested in Ireland, past, present, and future. **TICKETS HERE**

On Friday, November 20, she will be at **Notre Dame University** for a public conversation with Colin Barr, the Director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and professor of modern Irish history. No registration is required. More information here.

On Saturday, November 21, she will be in **Chicago** at the Irish American Heritage Center for an update on building a new and United Ireland. **TICKETS HERE**

Tickets and more information for all of these events are available by clicking the images below.







CALL FOR YOUR STORIES!

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word, and musical performances hosted by Fintan Warfield.

We want to hear from you!

The theme of the night is, "Ní neart go cur le chéile" translated "There is no strength without unity."

Submit a story that is related to that theme, and you may be selected to share your story at the event!

Storyteller Submissions: Ireland Rising Storytelling event at the Dead Rabbit

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Michelle O'Neill responds to DUP blocking her representation at Economic Forum

"The deputy First Minister has decided to block representation from here at a major political event, which would include meeting with the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, and the British Prime Minister.

"It is for the people to decide who represents them as First Minister. Not the DUP."

Later in on Thursday, she added, ""The comments of DUP leader Gavin Robinson today were arrogant and supremacist.

"The DUP is consumed with their own internal leadership troubles and divisions. They are in turmoil.

"The days of domination and supremacy are over.

"The days of treating people like second class citizens are over.

"There will be no going back.

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"I, as First Minister, will be at the Assembly on Monday morning, along with Sinn Féin's Ministers, to continue our work.

"We will keep showing up every day for people."

The deputy First Minister has decided to block representation from here at a major political event, which would include meeting with the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales, and the British Prime Minister.

The Economic Forum is taking place tomorrow in Glasgow, and this reckless and irresponsible approach of Emma Little-Pengelly means the people of the north will not be represented.

This is a reactive stunt, driven by the DUP's own internal pressures and electoral problems.

The DUP are unable to embrace equality, respect Irish identity, and accept that a nationalist and republican now holds the office of First Minister.

The days of domination are over.

The days of treating people as second-class citizens are over.

It is for the people to decide who represents them as First Minister. Not the DUP.

I have contacted the British Secretary of State and made my position absolutely clear.

As First Minister, I will continue to protect peace and progress, and to represent all our people.

My focus is on delivering fair pay for public sector workers, securing fair funding for our public services, and creating better opportunities for people across every community.

Michelle O'Neill
MICHELLE O'NEILL

Friends of Sinn Féin Store: OPEN

T-shirts, totes, mugs, and more! All made in the USA and printed by Union Labor.

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Bobby Sands Long Sleeve Tee

"Our Revenge Will Be The Laughter Of Our Children" Bobby Sands

View

Irish Unity Education Webinar: Housing in a New and United Ireland

Saturday, November 7 - 12:00noon ET - Irish Unity Education Webinar with special guest Eoin Ó Broin TD! Free and open to all - join us for a discussion about housing in a new and united Ireland! **REGISTER HERE**

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High Court rules that ban on Orange Order parade on the Garvaghy Road was lawful

Parades Commission Does Not Approve Loyal Order March Down Lower Ormeau Road

Earlier this week, the British High Court ruled that Chris Bryant's band on the Orange Order's parade on Garvaghy Road as lawful. In response, Sinn Féin Councillor

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“Sinn Féin is proud to have stood with the residents of the Garvaghy Road to protect 28 years of peace and progress.

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

“Everyone must be able to live their lives free from sectarian harassment and intimidation.

“The community of the Garvaghy Road must now be left to live in peace. They have already suffered enormously, not just in recent weeks but over many decades.

“Sinn Féin is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with them.

Sinn Féin MLA Deirdre Hargey has said this week’s decision not to allow a loyal order march down the lower Ormeau Road is the right one.

Speaking after the Parades Commission announced the determination, the South Belfast MLA said, “Today’s decision is the correct one, and I am glad the Parades Commission has reached this conclusion.

“There was never any basis or justification for taking the community of the lower Ormeau Road back 27 years.

“The sectarian harassment, violence and murder visited upon these residents in the past will never be allowed to happen again.

“Sinn Féin will continue to stand fully with the lower Ormeau Road community.

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