



## Ard Fheis Clár 2019

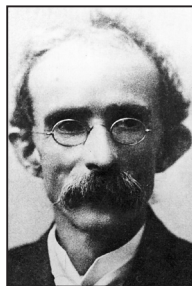
### Millennium Forum, Derry

#### FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER

- 4.30pm** Registration
- 6.00pm** Opening address: Elisha McCallion MP
- 6.15pm** Keynote Address: Michelle O'Neill MLA
- 6.30pm** Planning for Irish Unity – **Motions 1-10 page 5**  
Reconciliation and legacy
- 7pm** Keynote Address: Pearse Doherty TD
- 7.15pm** Giving Workers and Families a break – **Motions 11-18 page 7**  
All-Ireland Health Service – **Motions 19-34 page 10**  
Disability - Making Rights Real – **Motions 35-39 page 13**
- 7.30pm** Keynote Address: Elisha McCallion MP
- 8pm** Standing up for Rural Communities – **Motions 40-55 page 15**
- 8.30pm** Party Development – **Motions 56-71 page 18**
- 9pm** Close

#### SATURDAY 16th NOVEMBER

- 9am** Registration
- 10am** Transport – **Motions 72-78 page 20**
- 11am** Live session – Keynote Speeches carried Live by RTE
- 1pm** Lunch
- 2pm** Housing – **Motions 79-86 page 21**
- 3pm** Government for the people – **Motions 87-93 page 22**
- 3.45pm** Workers Rights and tax justice – **Motions 94-110 page 25**
- 4.40pm** Tackling Climate Breakdown -  
A Green New deal for Ireland – **Motions 111-129 page 29**
- 5.15pm** Standing with communities against crime – **Motions 130-145 page 33**
- 6pm** Tea
- 6.30pm** Equality and Rights for all – **Motion 146 page 36**  
Irish Language Rights – **Motions 147-156 page 37**
- 7pm** Brexit and International Solidarity – **Motions 157-166 page 39**
- 8pm** Presentation by the Martin McGuinness Foundation
- 8.10pm** Announcement of Results of Ard Chomhairle  
and National Officer Board Elections
- 8.30pm** Presidential Address by Mary Lou McDonald TD  
- Introduced by Elisha McCallion MP
- 9pm** Close



**POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN.**  
**THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**IRISH REPUBLIC**  
**TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades in arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien Government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline, and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government:

**THOMAS J. CLARKE**

**SEAN Mac DIARMADA**

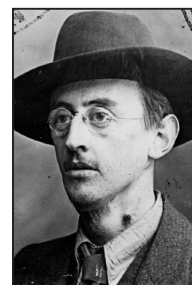
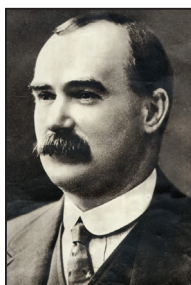
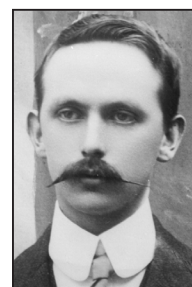
**P. H. PEARSE**

**JAMES CONNOLLY**

**THOMAS MacDONAGH**

**EAMONN CEANNT**

**JOSEPH PLUNKETT**



## STANDING ORDERS

1. Standing Orders shall be adopted at the commencement of each Ard Fheis.
2. A Steering Committee and at least four tellers shall be approved by the Ard Fheis at the commencement of each Ard Fheis. Delegates or persons nominated for officership or membership of the Ard Chomhairle shall not be eligible to act as Tellers.
3. The length of time allocated to each section and therefore the timetable of the Ard Fheis will be determined in advance of the Ard Fheis by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee in consultation with the Ard Fheis Committee. The timetable and list of Chairperson (s) for Ard Fheis shall be adopted by the Ard Fheis at its commencement.
4. The Steering Committee will determine the length of time to be allocated to speakers prior to the beginning of each section of the Ard Fheis. The Steering Committee shall ensure that preference be given to the proposers of motions and amendments being taken in each section.
5. During debates priority will be given to properly nominated and accredited delegates. The Steering Committee may, at its discretion, allow for properly affiliated party members who are not delegates to speak provided there are no delegates waiting to speak at the time. The Steering Committee at its discretion may permit visitors accredited by the Ard Chomhairle to address the Ard Fheis for a specified time. Those addressing the Ard Fheis must when speaking give their names and the name of the body and area they are representing.
6. On the motion being moved "that the question be put" the Chairperson shall have no option but to put that motion to a vote of the delegates present. In the event of the motion being carried, the Chairperson, after allowing time as allocated by the Steering Committee under Standing Order 4 to the proposer of the motion or any amendment/ addendum under discussion, shall have no option but to put the resolution or amendment to a vote.
7. Emergency Motions (i.e. resolutions referring to events or decisions which emerged after the deadline for submission of motions) must be handed in writing to the Ard Fheis Committee at Head Office not less than 7 days before the scheduled start of the Ard Fheis. Emergency resolutions shall be accepted at the discretion of the Steering Committee.
8. Other Emergency Motions or Emergency Amendments (resolutions referring to events which occur while the Ard Fheis is in session) may only be put to the Ard Fheis at the discretion of the Steering Committee and shall require the suspension of Standing Orders to allow the adoption of the resolution onto the Ard Fheis Clár.
9. 'Points of Order' will be allowed at the discretion of the Chairperson and shall be limited to 30 seconds.
10. The Ruling of the Chairperson must be accepted at all times. A challenge to the decision of the Chairperson requires the suspension of Standing Orders in order that a motion of no confidence in the Chair is taken.
11. A motion for the suspension of Standing Orders must be submitted in writing to the Steering Committee outlining the reason for such a motion before that motion can be put to the floor. The length of time given to the discussion of such a motion will be at the discretion of the Steering Committee. A vote to suspend Standing Orders requires a two-thirds majority of delegates present in the hall. Standing Orders must be reinstated again by two-thirds of the delegates present in the hall when the reason for the suspension has been dealt with before the Ard Fheis can proceed. Standing Orders must be suspended at the commencement of the Ard Fheis to allow the adoption onto the Ard Fheis Clár, Emergency Motions, Amendments and Addenda as indicated to the delegates by the Steering Committee.

## SANAS DON ARD FHEIS (GLOSSARY OF TERMS)

**An féidir le teachtaí dul isteach sa halla anois chun ullmhú vótáil ar na rúin...**

Can delegates please enter the hall and prepare to vote on motions.....

**An féidir leis na háiritheoirí cinntiú go bhfuil siad san áit ceart don vóta**

Can tellers ensure that they are in position for the vote.

**I bhfábhar** / those in favour.

**In aghaidh** / those against

**Tá sé glactha** / the motion is passed

**Tá sé cailte** / the motion is lost

**An féidir le daoine a gcartaí a chur in airde?** / Could delegates indicate clearly with their cards?

**Rúin Éigeandála** / Addenda / **Aguisíní** (Emergency Motions/Addenda/Amendments)

**Áiritheoirí** (Tellers)

**An bhfuil moltóir agam don liosta?** / Is there a proposer for the list?

**An bhfuil cuiditheoir agam?** / Is there a seconder?

**Orduithe Seasta** (Standing Orders)

**Spreagaitheasc** (Keynote Address)

**Aoichainteoirí** (guest speakers)

**Áistarraingíodh na rúin....** / Motions ..... are withdrawn

**Anois beidh aoichainteoir idirnáisúnta /** We will now have an international speaker

**Tá an Ard Fheis chun tosnú, tá mé ag gaoch ar teachtaí, baill Ard Chomhairle agus cuairteoirí suíocháin a ghlacadh san halla.**

The Ard Fheis is about to start, can I call on delegates, Ard Chomhairle members and visitors to come into the main hall, so that the debate can begin on time.

**Tá mé ag iarraidh anois ar teachtaí a bhfuil sé de rún acú labhairt sa roinn seo den Ard Fheis chun scuaine a dhéanamh ar thaobh an phóidiam anseo.**

I am now calling for speakers. Could delegates who wish to address this section of the Ard Fheis please form a queue near the podium.

**Tá córas aistriúcháin comhuaineach ar fáil do dhuine ar bith atá ag iarraidh éisteacht leis an mhéid atá á rá as Gaeilge. Feicfidh sibh na cluaisíní ansin ar an taobh**

Simultaneous translation will be done of speeches in Irish. Headphones are available at the side of the hall for those who have difficulty understanding our national language.

**Tá an díospóireacht oscailte. Ba mhaith liom ciúnas sa halla.**

The debate is now open, quiet in the hall please.

**An féidir leis an Choiste Stiúrtha an teachta deireanach a ainmniú agus an féidir le daoine bheith comair.**

Could the Steering Committee identify the last speaker in this section and could speakers please be brief.

**Sin deireadh leis an roinn seo den Ard Fheis ar ....**

That completes the ..... section of the Ard Fheis.

**Beidh an céad roinn eile ar .....**

The next section deals with motions on .....

## Planning for Irish Unity

1. This Ard Fheis reaffirms our commitment to the ending of partition and the establishment of a new, agreed and united Ireland, firmly rooted in the republican values of equality, fraternity and liberty.

This Ard Fheis welcomes the discourse on Irish unity which has moved centre stage, particularly in light of Brexit and the fact that Irish unity provides the ultimate solution to the hugely negative impact of Brexit on Ireland. It is further welcomed that contributions to this debate come from an increasing broad section of Irish and international perspectives. This Ard Fheis particularly welcomes the variety of economic and academic work now underway and recognises the contribution of this to the ever-growing debate.

This Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to immediately plan for Irish unity. This involves establishing a representative, all-Ireland citizen's forum to debate, consult and plan for Irish unity.

Further calls on the Irish Government to establish an Oireachtas Committee to plan for Irish unity and for the Government to bring forward a Green Paper on this.

This Ard Fheis calls on the British Government to set out, in clear and unambiguous terms, the circumstance in which a British Secretary of State will call a referendum on Irish unity.

This Ard Fheis commends the numerous civic society initiatives underway, particularly those focused on the constitutional future of the island, and calls on the incoming Ard Chomhairle to develop and present its view on the process which will lead to Irish unity, detailing the steps that should be undertaken in advance of a referendum and immediately following.

Furthermore, this Ard Fheis calls for the Ard Chomhairle Sub-Committee on Irish Unity to roll out the development of thematic policy papers across a broad policy spectrum, which presents the benefits of all-Ireland cooperation and Irish unity.

*Ard Chomhairle*

2. This Ard Fheis recognises that the economic benefits of Irish Unity, augmented by economic support from the European Union, can deliver a Unity Dividend that must be used to improve the lives of the people of Ireland.

This Ard Fheis further recognises that November 9th marked the 30th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the process that rapidly led to German reunification.

This Ard Fheis calls therefore on the Irish Government to begin discussions with the European Union in relation to securing substantial financial and political support for Irish reunification, as was provided for in the case of Germany.

This Ard Fheis recognises the role of Europe, America and Canada in protecting the Good Friday Agreement from the consequences of Brexit and acknowledges Europe, America and Canada's input and influence in this essential effort. This Ard Fheis calls on the Ard Chomhairle to initiate an international campaign aimed at building support for the calling of a unity referendum as laid out in the Good Friday Agreement.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Sean Martin/Sean Tracey Cumann (Short Strand)*

*Mairead Farrell Cumann (Moynehall)*

3. This Ard Fheis recognises that:
  - partition is detrimental to the social and economic future of this island;
  - British jurisdiction over the north of Ireland means that the interests of the people living in the North are superseded by the interests of the British government;
  - people living in the North of Ireland voted to remain in the EU;
  - the British Government plan to withdraw from the European Union has prompted intensive discussion on the constitutional future of the North of Ireland;
  - the proposal of a United Ireland is now a being discussed by people from all backgrounds;
  - the Good Friday Agreement provides the mechanism for a referendum on Irish Unity to be held on both sides of the border.

Therefore this Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government:

- to research and publish a Green Paper on Irish Unity;
- to demand that the British Secretary of State fix a date for a referendum on Irish Unity.

*Louth Comhairle Ceantair*

4. This Ard Fheis notes the changed political circumstances in Ireland, and the potential for constitutional and political change and a new national democracy being established.

As Irish republicans in the tradition of Wolfe Tone, and United Irish men and women, we recognise that a real Republic will only be achieved when all the people of Ireland are content that a new Ireland will be inclusive of our diverse traditions and identities and that the rights of each citizen will be guaranteed.

All our citizens must have an equal stake in the development of a new Ireland.

In acknowledging the pain and suffering experienced by the people of Ireland due to centuries of conflict and division as a result of colonialism, sectarianism, inequality and partition, Sinn Féin believes that full reconciliation and healing among our people will only be achieved through a reconciliation process which is institutionalised and mainstreamed throughout Irish society.

To that end, this Ard Fheis adopts the new policy document "Inclusion and Reconciliation in a New Ireland" as a further contribution by Sinn Féin towards the aim of achieving reconciliation and lasting peace in an agreed, united Ireland"

*Ard Chomhairle*

5. This Ard Fheis demands that the British Government:

- implements the legacy mechanisms agreed by the main parties and both governments in Stormont House in December 2014 in a human rights compliant manner and are afforded adequate resources;
- fully resources the Lord Chief Justice's 5-year plan to clear the backlog in legacy inquests and ensures that the Coroner receives full co-operation from both the PSNI and the MoD in terms of full disclosure in a timely manner and the required assistance in locating potential witnesses and suspects;
- ensures the provision of adequate resources to the Office of the Police Ombudsman to allow it to complete outstanding legacy investigations in advance of the HIU becoming fully operational;
- ensures that the Regional Trauma Network reflects the policy intent of the model outlined in the Stormont House Agreement, thus respecting the principles of choice and need, be victim centred and be informed and shaped by the existing NGO networks practice;
- facilitates and funds a pension for ALL those who have suffered serious physical or psychological injuries as a result of the conflict, in line with the current definition of a victim as outlined in the Victims and Survivors Order [ NI] 2006;
- ensures that the current legal definition of a victim, as outlined above, remains unchanged.

*Six County Cúige*

6. This Ard Fheis recognises that:

- Seamus Ludlow was murdered near his home at Thistle Cross, Mountpleasant, Dundalk on 2nd May 1976. The investigation into the murder conducted by An Garda Síochána was totally inadequate. Suspects identified by the RUC in 1979 have never been questioned by An Garda Síochána. He killing and subsequent investigation were referred to the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence & Women's Rights;
- the Report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the Murder of Seamus Ludlow (Barron Report) was published in March 2006;
- the Report called on the Irish Government to establish two further Commissions of Investigation into the failures in the Garda investigation and into the retention of documents pertaining to this

case by An Garda Síochána, the Department of Justice and other Government Departments;

- the Government has refused to establish these Commissions of Investigation.

This Ard Fheis commends the family of Seamus Ludlow who have campaigned for over 40 years for truth and justice for Seamus. This Ard Fheis recognises the efforts of Teachta Dala for Louth Gerry Adams in raising awareness of this case through the Oireachtas, and through local campaigning

Therefore this Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to establish the Commissions of Investigation recommended by the 2006 Report of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the murder of Seamus Ludlow (Barron Report) to the Joint Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence & Women's Rights.

*Louth Comhairle Ceantair*

7. This Ard Fheis pledges full support for the O'Hagan family in their calls for an inquiry to establish the truth about the murder of Kathleen in front of her children 25 years ago.

*Omagh Comhairle Ceantair*

8. This Ard Fheis recognizes that flags and banners are often used to cause hurt, to create fear and to divide communities.

This Ard Fheis affirms its support for those affected by such displays, including families hurt and distressed by flags and banners in support of 'Soldier F'.

This Ard Fheis calls for the effective use of existing powers, and the adoption of new powers where necessary, to:

- prohibit the display of paramilitary flags and banners, secure their immediate removal and prosecute those guilty of erecting them;
- prohibit the display of other intimidatory flags and banners, secure their immediate removal and prosecute those guilty of erecting them;
- create an effective system for the regulation of flags and banners on public property which requires permission to be sought and which allows those affected to have their views heard and respected on all relevant issues.

*South & East Belfast Comhairle Ceantair*

9. This Ard Fheis condemns the policy of pursuing, arresting and charging republican activists with involvement in the armed struggle for Irish freedom. If the conflict is over and the Peace Process is to have any meaning former combatants should not be pursued and charged, and extradition proceedings against people such as John Downey should be dropped.

*North Clare Cumann*

10. This Ard Fheis:

- sends its solidarity to John Downey and his family at this time;
- notes, that the extradition request from the British Authorities was vindictive and in bad faith, and is an attempt to overturn due process. It follows a campaign to introduce an amnesty for British soldiers at a time when the spotlight is on them for their actions;
- recognises that Sinn Féin will continue to support John and his family through this distressing time.

*Michael Moran Cumann (Tuam)*

## **Giving workers and families a break**

11. This Ard Fheis:

- notes that many workers and families have not gained from the economic recovery in the 26 Counties or from increases in productivity over recent years. A rise in the cost of living has left them with reduced disposable incomes;
- recognises that failures in housing policy, in childcare and in health are putting people under increased financial pressure as rents have skyrocketed, childcare is amongst the most expensive in Europe and people are increasingly forced to pay for private healthcare due to the inability access services in a timely manner in the public system;

- recognises that banks and insurance companies have been given free rein to rip people off for far too long.

Commends Sinn Féin's plan to give workers and families a break in 2020 by:

- helping renters by introducing an emergency freeze on rents and bringing in rent relief which would save them the equivalent of one month's rent each year;
- helping families by reducing the cost of childcare by an average of €100 a month per child;
- providing two free GP visits for every person without a medical card – so nobody delays going to the doctor because they are worried about the cost;
- ensuring there is no carbon tax increase;
- ending the insurance rip-off;
- investing an additional €300 million to give people with disabilities and their families a break;
- introducing free travel for 5 to 18 year olds on public transport;
- strengthening the ability of unions to negotiate improved terms and conditions on behalf of their members;
- introducing a living wage.

*Ard Chomhairle*

12. This Ard Fheis:

- re-affirms our opposition to, and calls for the reversal of, the cruel Tory "Welfare Reform", which in the form of Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and the Bedroom Tax has caused untold economic hardship for the least well off in society;
- recognises that the Mitigation measures Sinn Féin ensured were included in the Fresh Start Agreement has protected working families and the vulnerable from the worst excesses from Tory austerity;
- acknowledges the range of reports published this year which highlight the serious risk of greater hardship for many within our community, if Welfare Mitigations do not continue beyond March 2020, including, "Welfare Reform: Mitigations on a Cliff Edge"; "Cliff Edge Coalition NI," "NIAO: Welfare Reforms in NI.";
- supports the need to continue Welfare Mitigations beyond March 2020; and
- calls on the Department for Communities to take all steps necessary to ensure the Mitigations Scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our community.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Jim McGinn Cumann (Strabane)*

*Tom Flatley Cumann (Enniskillen)*

*Strabane Comhairle Ceantair*

13. This Ard Fheis mandates any future government of which Sinn Féin is part of, to introduce policy aimed at addressing the issue of holiday hunger on the island of Ireland, when children are off school and are no longer in receipt of free school meals, and also calls on all future governments on the island of Ireland to implement this policy.

*Derry City Comhairle Ceantair*

14. This Ard Fheis recognises that individuals, businesses, and community groups are being negatively impacted by the escalating crisis in the insurance industry. We welcome the work done by Pearse Doherty in exposing how insurance companies are ripping off their own customers through dual pricing and inflated premiums.

This Ard Fheis believes that there is a need for fundamental reforms of the sector, including; increased transparency of the insurance industry, greater protections for consumers, the regulation and banning of unfair pricing by insurers, the removal of existing Irish government levies on insurance premiums to reduce costs for consumers, and the need for state intervention to address market failures in the sector.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Limerick County Comhairle Ceantair*

*Duffy Downey Sinn Féin Cumann, Dundalk*



15. This Ard Fheis notes that cancer patients in the 26 Counties are currently paying up to and beyond €70 per week on parking charges. This is a huge financial strain on cancer patients and their families. A recent survey found that several hospitals are charging well over €10 per day parking charges.

This Ard Fheis considers hospital parking charges to be an unfair burden on people who are sick or have disabilities and who already face significant additional costs arising from their medical care and associated loss or reduction of income. This Ard Fheis therefore calls for the abolition of hospital parking charges.

*George Plant Cumann (Clonmel)*

16. This Ard Fheis recognises:

- the essential role of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) professionals;
- that research shows that the most formative period for children is in their earliest months and years and that development from the pre-natal period to age 4 is a reliable indicator for a child's later outcomes;
- that 94% of ECEC professionals struggle to make ends meet and 51% are actively looking for a new job;
- that Early Years Educators earn on average just €11.18 per hour; thousands earn just over the minimum wage of €9.80;
- that should the low pay crisis continue, quality for children will be affected negatively and the sustainability of services will be impacted;
- that demand for high quality ECEC places by parents is not being met by supply;
- that parents are paying extortionate fees in urban areas for limited crèche places of variable quality;
- that the high cost of childcare is squeezing women out of the workforce and preventing women from returning to work;
- that as it stands, the market model for the ECEC/Childcare sector in this State risks being reduced to business designed solely for profit;
- that oversight and administration of the sector is fragmented with early years' service providers liaising with three separate agencies – the Department of Education and Skills, Tusla, and Pobal – in relation to inspections, funding, and quality assurance.

This Ard Fheis therefore, calls for

- increased investment into the ECEC sector;
- a dedicated early years and school-age agency with responsibility for all aspects of funding, oversight, planning, and administration to be established that would provide up-to-date, detailed, and real-time information for parents such as inspection reports, thus improving transparency and accountability in the sector;
- the ECEC/Childcare sector to be treated as a public service and for proper recognition of its workforce with the introduction of pay scales, that reflect years of service and qualifications – whether that be through university degrees or through continued professional development;
- all future ECEC policy to recognise Early Childhood Education and Care as a distinct phase, with unique learning and developmental requirements and not merely immediate care needs;
- all policy in the ECEC sector to be child-centred and quality focused, not driven solely by the labour market and economy.

*26 County Parliamentary Team  
Mairéad Farrell Cumann (City Central Ward)*

17. This Ard Fheis recognises:

- that the cost of education in 2019 is indicative of a system that no longer offers students a 'free education';
- that the cost of Higher Education in particular is a barrier to students wishing to pursue their education further beyond their Leaving Certificate;
- the exorbitant costs that working families face in sending children back to school each autumn;

- that these costs are not sustainable nor fair, and result in families accruing unmanageable amounts of debt.

Calls for:

- back to School Costs to be addressed in the immediate by the granting of a Back to School Child Benefit Bonus payment in July of each year;
- the introduction of generic/non-crested uniforms;
- the expansion of the School Books Scheme;
- an end to the compulsory nature of 'voluntary contributions', coupled with significant increases in capitation schools receive;
- the abolishing of all third-levels fees, coupled with increases in funding to Third-Level institutions;
- make school transport free for all students at both primary level and second level.

Commends:

- the continued work of our education spokespersons north and south in their endeavour to make education fairer, affordable, accessible and of the highest quality.

*26 County Parliamentary Team  
Liam Ryan Cumann (Athlone)*

18. This Ard Fheis calls on Education Authorities and Schools across the Country to assess the possibility of the introduction of standardised school uniforms with individual school badge branding, in order to deal with back to school poverty and attendant absenteeism.

*Tommy Donaghy Cumann*

## All-Ireland Health Service

19. This Ard Fheis notes:

- the health service in the 26 Counties is in a state of crisis. That this crisis has been compounded by freezes and cuts to vital services, particularly for older persons, disability services and mental health;
- that many GP practices are closed to new patients, dozens of communities are now without a GP, with waiting lists in many areas for appointments;
- that the numbers of patients that are on trolleys are the highest they've ever been;
- that outpatient waiting lists are the highest since records began;
- that home help hours have been frozen or cut and waiting lists have skyrocketed;
- that the failure to prioritise and resource suicide prevention means a shamefully high number of suicides amongst both children and adults continue to devastate families and communities;
- a lack of universal care, in particular primary care, means families, and workers, and young people are crippled with out of pocket health expenses;
- that recruitment and retention crises pervade the health service at almost every level, yet the HSE and the Fine Gael government have implemented an effective recruitment ban;
- the great work of the health staff is constantly undermined by the mismanagement and incompetence of those running the health service and this is affecting morale;
- the health service is in a worse condition now than when Fine Gael took charge in 2011;
- that if serious changes are not forthcoming, then the health service could very well collapse under the sheer weight of mismanagement and incompetence from the Minister and the HSE.

This Ard Fheis further recognises that:

- it is over two years since cross-party consensus produced the Sláintecare report - a 10 year blueprint for health and social care reform in the 26 Counties. This report offers the opportunity to make history;
- if we want a health service that people can celebrate and embrace,

then it is up to us to give them something to embrace. Sláintecare has the potential to be that;

- likewise in the Six Counties the Bengoa Report charts the route to a sustainable, worldclass health service to be co-designed by stakeholders including healthcare workers and service users;
- across the island, we must invest in health care, we must invest in our frontline staff and we must invest in infrastructure to deliver a health system that is truly free at the point of use and available to everyone when they need it, based on need, not ability to pay;
- the delivery of just such an All-Ireland National Health Service is at the core of our vision for a United Ireland.

*Ard Chomhairle*

20. This Ard Fheis recognises the immense public service delivered by nurses in Ireland and calls on the Irish Government to:

- deliver on the commitments in the recent agreement with the INMO;
- begin an immediate campaign to understand and address the recruitment and retention crisis in nursing;
- implement Sláintecare to allow nurses provide care in a universal, single-tier health service.

*Thomas Ashe Cumann (Ashbourne)*

21. That this Ard Fheis commends the campaign by Marie Curie and the Motor Neurone Disease Association to reform the rules governing fast-track access to social security benefits for people with terminal illnesses;

- agrees that the six month rule associated with prognosis should be scrapped and a fairer definition based on the judgement of medical professionals introduced;
- and calls on the British Government and the Department for Communities to address this issue as a matter of urgency to ensure that people with a terminal diagnosis do not have to face traumatic and unnecessary delays in accessing their entitlements.

*Upper Falls CC*

22. This Ard Fheis:

- recognises access to medicines as a fundamental right;
- understands that significant public finances support medicines research and development;
- believes the current model of medicines development and commercialisation, where life-saving and life-extending medicines are often denied to the very patients who need them, is egregious;
- extends solidarity to those individuals and families, at home and abroad, delayed or denied access to medicines on the basis of cost alone;
- commits in Government to working with others to explore and deliver an alternative model of medicines development which puts the citizen, rather than profit motive, at its heart.

*Thomas Ashe Cumann (Ashbourne)*

23. This Ard Fheis notes that despite the changes and advances in health care, young men's health needs have oftentimes been forgotten. It is crucial that young men take care of their health and take a stake in their physical and mental wellbeing. To do that it is important that they are informed and educated about what is best for their health, and that the health services have the right services in place to respond to the needs of young men.

For a variety of reasons some young men may not be aware of their different health needs and may struggle to know how and where to access services.

We must ensure services are readily available and responsive to the needs of young men, whether that is cancer care services, sexual health services, drug, alcohol, and gambling addiction services, or even the provision of sports and fitness facilities.

To do that, the health services, politicians, policy-makers, and society needs

to recognise the health needs of young men and make sure services meet their needs.

This Ard Fheis calls on the health services, north and south, to implement dedicated young men's health strategies.

*26 County Parliamentary Team*

24. This Ard Fheis recommends that the Irish Government immediately establish a Hub (Healthcare workers, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Counsellors, Genealogists and all other relevant professionals) to address the current survivors and relatives of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home.

*Michael Moran Cumann (Tuam)*

25. This Ard Fheis acknowledges the need for the introduction of soft opt-out organ donation legislation here on the island of Ireland and calls for an all-Ireland strategy to be developed around increasing support for it, raising awareness and advocating for legislative change".

*Greater Ballymurphy Martyrs Cumann*

26. This Ard Fheis acknowledges the important role that organ donations make to transforming people's lives.

Further acknowledges the dilemma faced by families when asked to consent to organ donation. This is particularly the case where there is a discussion around the cessation of life support and organ donation is being discussed.

Families might perceive a conflict of interest where intensive care staff decide to withdraw life support and their fear that such a decision could be influenced by a desire to harvest organs.

In order to support both families and medical staff this Ard Fheis calls for the placement of transplant coordinators, with appropriate training, to carry out the engagement with families where organ transplantation is to be considered.

*Óglach Dale Moore Cumann (Galliagh)*

27. This Ard Fheis notes the publication of Protect Life 2 Suicide Prevention strategy in the Six Counties and the need for greater resourcing of services North and South to ensure that mental health can be properly treated outside of office hours.

To that end, calls for a 24/7 service to be implemented, suicide assessment nurses for all A&E departments and for all people presenting with a mental health issue to be treated with dignity.

Recognising the need for all departments to work together to prevent suicide and promote good mental health, supports a minister with responsibility for loneliness and social isolation, as recommended by the all-Ireland taskforce on loneliness.

Also calls for a bespoke intervention that will focus on inter-generational trauma, resilience building and recognise the impact of the political conflict on communities in an effort to stem the increasing numbers of suicides.

Noting that we lose a disproportionately high number of Travellers to suicide each year, calls for a targeted approach for the Traveller community, fully informed by culturally appropriate approaches and support.

*Poleglass Cumann*

*Tommy Kavanagh Cumann (The Commons/Ballingarry)*

*North Belfast Comhairle Ceantair*

*Cumann Mháirtirigh Lóiste Na Móna (Turf Lodge)*

*Liam Ryan Cumann (Athlone)*

28. This Ard Fheis recognises that:

- in 2008 the Irish Government approved the development of a Primary Care Centre in Dundalk;
- over a decade later this key piece of health infrastructure has not been delivered.

Therefore this Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to;

- deliver a Primary Care Centre in Dundalk which would act as a 'one stop shop' for all community healthcare needs;
- ensure that this Primary Care Centre would contain all community based healthcare provisions such as GP, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, home help, nursing, social work, mental health and disability services.

*Louth Comhairle Ceantair*

29. This Ard Fheis:
- continues to support a moratorium on the use of vaginal mesh implants in line with international human rights obligations to protect, as well as promote health;
  - commends the work of the mesh campaign groups in Ireland and the bravery of all of those people who have spoken up about their experiences;
  - calls on health departments, in both jurisdictions, to invest in the necessary expertise to ensure women damaged by mesh can access treatment including full surgical removals on the island of Ireland.
- Colin Comhairle Ceantair*
30. This Ard Fheis:
- calls for universities and colleges across Ireland to facilitate sexual consent training for Staff and Students;
  - notes the recent survey conducted by the National Union of Students-Union of Students (NUS-USI) in Ireland, which found that 28% of respondents had experienced unwanted sexual behaviour during their studies;
  - calls for on campus Sexual Consent awareness and training to encourage a much needed conversation and culture change on the issue of consent.
- Coleraine Comhairle Ceantair*
31. This Ard Fheis officially endorses the Mid-West Hospital Campaign, which was formed in response to the crisis at University Hospital Limerick where patients lives are being put at risk in the current overcrowded conditions.
- The Midwest Hospital Campaign is calling for an end to the overcrowding at UHL, reversal of the cuts to services in our public hospitals, better conditions for patients and health workers as well as the reopening of local A&E's at Ennis, Nenagh and St John's hospitals.
- North Clare Cumann*
32. This Ard Fheis highlights the huge amount of funding that is poured into private nursing/rehabilitation centres rather than into public rehabilitation hospitals. This Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to use this money to provide more public rehabilitation beds.
- Smith/Savage Cumann (Castleknock)*
33. This Ard Fheis acknowledges the role Home Carers play in our healthcare system and acknowledges that the current system is heavily dependent upon the continuing supply of home carers and call on this Ard Fheis to place the role of Carers at the centre of any Health Care Policy by ensuring a decent income and home support structures, which enable the sick, and elderly in need of care to remain in their own homes. The current practice of financially favouring the Nursing Home model is bad for society and inequitable towards those who care for their relatives in their own home.
- McCabe/Quigley Cumann (Ballymun)*
34. This Ard Fheis commends the courage and determination of patients and their families who campaign for truth, accountability and transparency within the Health and Social Care system.
- This Ard Fheis supports the call from families and carers of patients within Muckamore Abbey Hospital for an independent inquiry into the allegations of abuse.
- Six County Cúige*

## Disability - Making Rights Real

35. This Ard Fheis notes that:
- despite the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Irish Government in 2018, the rights contained within it have not been delivered to people with disabilities;
  - the Irish Government refused to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UNCPRD therefore giving no means to people with disabilities, their families, their advocates or NGO's to challenge the Irish Government on their failure of delivery;

- the funding crisis which is widespread across disability service providers across the state and the impact which this lack of funding is having on services.

Agrees that:

- Sinn Féin will continue to strongly advocate on behalf of all people with disabilities to ensure that equal rights will be afforded;
- Deputy Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin should be recognised for his years of dedication in championing the cause of equality and rights for all people with disabilities.

Calls on:

- Sinn Féin to work with all progressive groups and deliver true equality for all people with disabilities;
- the Irish Government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD without any further delay;
- Sinn Féin to lead the way in promoting independence, choice and autonomy for all people with disabilities living in Ireland.

*26 County Parliamentary Team*

*Robert Emmet/Joe Clarke Cumann (Inchicore/SWIC)*

36. This Ard Fheis;

- recognises that there are delays and inefficiencies in many children's journeys through the Education Authorities statementing process for Special Educational Needs;
- understands that these delays are causing great distress and uncertainty for parents and families;
- notes a 12% annual rise in the rate of school children with autism in the North; is concerned by a distinct lack of autism specific training available to school staff and include autism training modules in our teaching colleges;
- is concerned that the North's Education Authority exceeded its budget in the last financial year by £17 million; notes that £12m of that overspend was needed to provide for Special Educational Needs (SEN).

This Ard Fheis calls on

- the British Government to recognise the increasing demand for SEN services and to allocate sufficient resources to meet this need and;
- the Education Authority to initiate an independent audit of its current Special Educational Needs practices in order to reduce waiting times.

*Six County Parliamentary Team*

*East Tyrone CC*

*Falls CC*

*Óglach Ethel Lynch Cumann (Derry)*

37. This Ard Fheis calls for greater priority to be given to inclusion and provision for children and young people with special educational needs both within the formal school system and across wider social settings.

In terms of formal education, we recognise that the delays and inefficiencies in the statementing process in the Six Counties, and in assessments of needs in the 26 Counties, cause huge distress for families and call on the Education Authority to initiate an independent audit of its current Special Educational Needs practices in order to reduce waiting times. We condemn the inadequacy of resources allocated to assess and meet the needs of children in a timely manner and call for much greater investment in this area.

We propose that it be mandatory that all teachers registered with the Teaching Council engage in and acquire a recognised qualification in relation to Special Educational Needs; a module on Special Educational Needs be incorporated into the current teaching degree and Postgraduate Diploma in Education and that it be part of the inspection before qualification; and this training must include autism training.

The state's efforts must extend beyond the school setting and promote wider inclusion. It is critical that children and young people with SEN have support during term and non-term time. Such support examples may include, summer play schemes, weekend and wellbeing activities.

In furtherance of outcomes play, sport and community facilities must be

relevant, safe and engaging for children with a diverse range of needs, rather than simply being physically accessible.

This motion proposes policy development specifically targeted to ensure best fit tailored solutions to meet family needs year-round, at times of acute vulnerability and in all arenas where a child with SEN can flourish equally.

*Cathal Brugha/Kevin Lynch Cumann (Waterford City)*

38. This Ard Fheis recognises the importance of the Sinn Féin Dáil motion on World Autism Day April 2nd 2019, supported by all other elected political groupings in the Dáil, that called for the establishment of an all-party Oireachtas Committee to develop and publish an Autism Empowerment Strategy (AES)

This Ard Fheis therefore calls on;

- Sinn Féin to continue efforts to establish the above committee and to ensure that an Autism Empowerment Strategy (AES) is published and developed, with its implementation monitored closely;
- Sinn Féin to include a commitment to jointly develop an AES in the next 26 County General Election manifesto.

*Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair*

39. This Ard Fheis demands the reinstatement of the Rehabilitative Training Allowance payment of €31.80 per week for all qualifying students with a physical or intellectual disability and that this payment be dated from the commencement of their courses in September and be renewed annually and continued for all new entrants each year as an essential support in their preparation for a worklife and for their personal development, self worth and fulfilment.

*O'Hanlon/McMahon/Lynagh Cumann (Monaghan Town)*

## Standing up for Rural Communities

40. This Ard Fheis notes that rural communities have suffered disproportionately as a result of the failed policies of successive Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments. That investment, strategy and vision have been lacking resulting in poor provision of public services, the lack of infrastructure development necessary to create sustainable employment and that agriculture policies have undermined the Irish family farm model which is so important to Irish rural life.

This Ard Fheis commits that Sinn Féin will work for a radical regional development strategy that will revitalise rural communities by:

- rural proofing all legislation to ensure that public policy supports rather than hinders rural development;
- empowering local government to ensure that decisions affecting rural communities are made as close to those communities as possible;
- targeting public investment across the regions and directly into rural communities to ensure balanced job creation opportunities. This investment will include funding towards roads and public transport, including ambitious rail network development; telecommunications, including universal provision of high-speed broadband; modern water and waste water services;
- providing for the restoration, maintenance and development of local service amenities including Post offices, schools and Garda Stations;
- ensuring that rural communities have equal access to healthcare by developing GP and other primary care healthcare throughout the state, alongside well resourced local hospitals;
- providing adequate access to school bus services for all who need it; ensuring the provision of affordable childcare facilities in rural communities;
- investing in public, principally local authority, housing in rural communities;
- redirecting funding, such as that provided under the Leader scheme, to community-led structures and increasing grant-aid opportunities to local community, sports and voluntary organisations;
- working to reform the Common Agriculture Policy to ensure that

farm payments are directed to those family farms that need them most, that farm payments be redistributed to ensure that smaller, sustainable family farms receive their fair share and ending the inequalities that see larger, corporate farm enterprises receiving exorbitant payments at the expense of most farmers;

- developing a comprehensive agriculture policy to support sustainable family farming; ensuring that necessary supports are directed to young farmers and promoting organic and mixed-used farming while protecting the key indigenous sectors such as natural, grass-fed beef production;
- opposing EU trade deals, such as that with the Mercosur trading bloc, that will disproportionately and negatively impact on rural economies.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Fermanagh Comhairle Ceantair*

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

41. This Ard Fheis notes that:

- the beef sector is controlled and run in a cartel-like manner by very powerful processors
- beef and suckler farmers are at their wits' end, experiencing a severe income crisis, under significant financial stress, and struggling to maintain their livelihoods;
- farmers' dependency on direct payments under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for their livelihoods, with average suckler incomes in the region of €8,000 according to Teagasc;
- half of all Irish beef exports go to the British market, and that a no-deal Brexit represents an existential threat to the viability of beef farming;
- the Irish Government did not build sufficient support with European counterparts at European Union (EU) level to prevent increased access of 99,000 tonnes of beef from Mercosur countries in the draft trade agreement.

calls for:

- farmers to be supported with financial and technical support in their attempts to collectivise through the establishment of Producer Organisations (POs)
- the establishment of a beef transparency market index which requires processors to publish daily price reports;
- alliances to be built across Europe to block Mercosur;
- an examination of the introduction of a farmer's charter, which processors and retailers would have to comply with if they wish to avail of Bord Bia's Quality Assurance logo.

*26 County Parliamentary Team*

42. This Ard Fheis, in the event of an EU-Mercosur Trade Deal being agreed and enacted calls on;

- hoteliers, bar & restaurant owners and all those in the Irish hospitality sector to refuse to handle beef imported from the Mercosur trading bloc states of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay due to the irreparable damage that these beef imports will do to the beef sector in Ireland as well as the negative health and environmental impact that the production of this beef entails;
- the public to boycott businesses who handle beef imported from Mercosur trading bloc countries.

*Galway Comhairle Ceantair*

43. This Ard Fheis recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local beef industry is in a state of crisis due to unprecedented low farm gate prices.

This Ard Fheis also appreciates the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and the food service industry.



This Ard Fheis calls on the British and Irish governments to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit. We further call on government departments and local government authorities to take a lead by proactively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible.

*Six County Parliamentary Team*

44. This Ard Fheis supports a better financial return for farmers on the labour involved in raising and nurturing high quality Irish cattle that would ensure genuine equality between farmer, processor and retailer.

*Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair  
Erris Cumann*

45. This Ard Fheis demands rigorous regulation in the food producing industry where the producer is squeezed by both retailers/multiples and processors.

*Limerick County Comhairle Ceantair*

46. This Ard Fheis commends the beef farmers who held pickets at meat processing plants and marts across the state in protest against the unequal treatment of farmers within the beef sector.

*Roscommon Comhairle Ceantair  
Noel McCann Cumann (Ballinasloe)*

47. This Ard Fheis:
- recognises the value of a Rural Parliament model already employed in Finland, Sweden and Scotland and is a mechanism deployed for raising rural issues;
  - calls for the setting up of a working group to take forward the initiative of an all-Ireland Agriculture and rural parliament and report back on progress before the next Ard Fheis.

*Fergal O'Hanlon Cumann (Brookeborough)*

48. This Ard Fheis recognising the importance of the Rural Needs Act 2016 brought in by former DARD Minister Michelle O'Neill MLA; calls on the Ard Fheis to support this duty being extended to a wider range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations and internalised within decision-making processes of Sinn Féin.

*Fergal O'Hanlon Cumann (Brookeborough)*

49. On this, the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Shannon Erne Waterway, that this Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to progress the reopening of the Ulster Canal - the missing link in Ireland's inland waterways. This South Ulster cross border project, committed to by the North South Ministerial Council in 2007, has the potential to regenerate a region neglected by Government since partition.

*Tony Ahern Cumann (Clones)*

50. This Ard Fheis notes that:
- the Mid-West region has suffered heavily in the downturn including with the winddown of Moneypoint Power Station and the soon closing of Roche in Clarecastle Co. Clare;
  - another key economic driver in the region is Shannon Airport/SAA Group. Shannon Airport was separated from the Dublin Airport Authority in 2013 on the back of a Fianna Fáil policy enacted by a Fine Gael/Labour Government, something opposed by Sinn Féin and the Trade Union movement opposed this as they knew Shannon Airport could not compete with the dominant Dublin Airport and its catchment area;
  - the Fine Gael/Labour business plan has failed miserably so real change is needed to create the growth in business and passenger numbers. Shannon Airport/SAA Group and the surrounding industries are vital to the Mid-West and central government must do more to facilitate growth and sustainability.

This Ard Fheis calls on Sinn Féin to revisit the separation of the State Airports and

understanding the importance of Shannon to the Mid-West we will investigate the option of reuniting Shannon with Dublin and Cork with a company policy that along with aviation and business growth there will be a commitment to regional aviation growth across the 3 Airports. Shannon Airport is vital to the Mid-West region as a gateway for industry and tourism and to ensure regional development we commit to the successful future of Shannon Airport.

*Peadar Clancy/Mairéad Farrell Cumann (Ennis)*

51. This Ard Fheis fully supports the current efforts toward developing a long overdue Growth Deal for the region covering the Councils areas of Mid Ulster, Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

*Loughshore Martyrs Cumann (Ardboe)*

52. This Ard Fheis calls for new measures to be introduced to help support indigenous Irish enterprises, particularly in regional and rural Ireland, as outlined in Sinn Féin's document "Rebalancing Irish Industrial strategy by Supporting and Growing Indigenous Irish Businesses" This will help grow our domestic businesses, support workers and bring balance to industrial strategy.

*Patrick Sheehy Cumann (Limerick city West)*

53. This Ard Fheis recognises the historic underfunding of the A4/N16 Road between Ballygawley and Sligo. This Ard Fheis calls on extra funding to be invested to upgrade this road to make it a true 'Gateway to the West' including extra funding for the Enniskillen by-pass scheme.

*Fermanagh Comhairle Ceantair*

54. This Ard Fheis:

- recognises the enormous potential of our marine resources and their importance for the long-term viability of coastal communities;
- recognises the importance of developing innovation and excellence to drive the diversification and development of environmentally, sustainable aquaculture, value adding processes, research and other marine industries and calls for and supports the prioritisation of the proposed development of Páirc na Mara, Cill Ciaráin, Co Galway;
- recognises the potential of the seaweed industry for coastal communities and calls for a State Agency to be tasked with investment in and development of the seaweed harvesting industry, with proper regard for traditional harvesting rights and in a sustainable manner for the benefit of local communities.

*Cumann Mháirtín Uí Chadhain (South Connemara)*

55. This Ard Fheis commends the efforts of grassroots campaign groups around our coast like Save Ballyness Bay in opposing massive, disruptive industrial aquaculture developments in wholly unsuitable locations, in the case of Baile an Easa in the middle of both a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area. This Ard Fheis further condemns the lack of public consultation, an international obligation of the state under the Aarhus Convention, with notices published in a newspaper with no circulation in the affected areas.

*Cloughaneel/Falcarragh Cumann*

## Party Development

56. This Ard Fheis calls on the Ard Chomhairle to consider the establishment of the position of a Youth Liaison and Outreach organiser whose role is to outreach, liaise with and provide structured planning to support the political development of young activists in post primary education, third level institutions and colleges and Ógra Shinn Féin and to provide a detailed plan and quarterly reporting to the Ard Chomhairle

*Casement/Markievicz Cumann (Stillorgan)*

57. This Ard Fheis is of the view that the Ard Chomhairle should meet bi-monthly with the Comhairle Ceantair Chairpersons. Chairpersons would not have voting rights or executive positions at these meetings but would feedback local and organisational issues back to the Ard Chomhairle.

*Gallagher/Foy Cumann (Drumconrath)*

58. This Ard Fheis, mandates the incoming Ard Chomhairle to instigate a party wide consultation and review of the current method of election to the posts of party President and party Vice President and report back prior to the 2020 Ard Fheis.  
*Robert Byrne Cumann (Limerick City East)*
59. This Ard Fheis calls on the Ard Chomhairle to establish, drawing upon expertise across the party organisation, a sub-committee in order to develop an ideological statement which would specify Sinn Féin's concept of democratic socialism as laid own as an aim in the party constitution.  
*Robert Emmet Cumann (Rathgar/Rathmines)*
60. This Ard Fheis calls for a full review, by the Ard Chomhairle, of the means by which gender quotas are designated in party selection of candidates for election.  
*Donegal Town Cumann  
Cumann Piarais McCan (Cashel)  
Tipperary Comhairle Ceantair*
61. This Ard Fheis acknowledges that Sinn Féin is not a Parliamentary led Party but rather is led by the Ard Chomhairle representing the broad diverse nature of the party. We further acknowledge the importance of the involvement in the leadership of both elected and non-elected activists.  
We call on the incoming Ard Chomhairle to review the make-up of the Ard Chomhairle and make recommendations to ensure that both elected and non-elected activists are adequately represented on the Ard Chomhairle.  
*Derry City Comhairle Ceantair*
62. This Ard Fheis mandates the incoming Ard Chomhairle to organise two policy forums during the year as a means to ensuring that policy papers coming to the Ard Fheis have been widely discussed throughout the party and have achieved maximum support.  
*East Tyrone Comhairle Ceantair*
63. This Ard Fheis recognises the conclusions and recommendations of the recent Councillor's Consultation report and requests that a timeline for the implementation of all recommendations is finalized and published within 30 days of the completion of this Ard Fheis.  
*Keating/Sands Cumann (Comeragh)*
64. This Ard Fheis asked the incoming Ard Chomhairle to review the current membership structure and level of the party membership fee and how it is used by the party nationally and regionally.  
*Galway Comhairle Ceantair  
Cumann Caisleán Nua Thiar*
65. This Ard Fheis:
- notes that the franchise for Westminster, local government elections and referendums in the Six Counties is a matter reserved to the British Parliament at this time;
  - that Sinn Féin has a longstanding policy in favour of lowering the voting age to 16 in elections, both north and south;
  - further recognises the need to introduce changes to the archaic electoral procedures necessary in the North in order to maximise voter registration;
  - mandates the establishment of an Ard Chomhairle Working Group comprising Sinn Féin elected members from within the Oireachtas, Assembly, Westminster, Local Government and those responsible for election preparation to take forward this campaign to lower the voting age and for changes to electoral registration procedures as stated above.  
*Joe Cahill Cumann (Lower Andersonstown)*
66. This Ard Fheis congratulates all those involved in the production and sales

of the new An Phoblacht magazine which has been highly successful over the last twelve months and commits to continuing with the quarterly magazine for 2020. We encourage all party structures and members to continue to support An Phoblacht and to take a subscription to the magazine for the coming year.

*Ard Chomhairle*

67. This Ard Fheis:
- calls for the restoration of An Phoblacht/Republican News in the original format as a monthly newsheet;
  - calls on An Phoblacht to ensure adequate coverage is given to issues affecting rural Ireland;
  - recommends that every county in Ireland has an appointed person who is tasked with sending photos and reports to An Phoblacht on a regular basis.
- Patrick Conroy Cumann (Castlerea)*
68. This Ard Fheis:
- acknowledges the sacrifice and courage of our patriot dead, whose memory is honoured in the naming of Sinn Féin cumainn;
  - agrees that an intrinsic part of the party's education and induction programme should be to remember the sacrifice of our patriot dead and the role they played in the Republican struggle;
  - authorises the chairs of all cumainn to ensure the story of the patriot/s for whom cumainn are named is formally explained and discussed with new and existing members in order to ensure the legacy of the Republican struggle is preserved for this and future generations.
- Leo Casey/Matt Devlin Cumann (Ballymahon)*
69. This Ard Fheis calls on the Ard Chomhairle to consider whether future party Ard Fheiseanna can be held on a Saturday and a Sunday.
- Joe McDonnell Cumann (Drumkeeran)*
70. That this Ard Fheis calls on the incoming Ard Chomhairle to provide training opportunities on Social Media/Website/Communications capabilities for Cumainn/ Cúige/Comhairle Ceantair. The need for structured Communications and the use of IT tools in getting the Sinn Féin message across to our voting base and the wider public cannot be emphasised enough.
- Logue/Marley Cumann (Crumlin)*
71. **Amendment to Party Rules section 7a: Amend to read**  
All **young** members of Sinn Féin **under the age of 26 are members of Ógra Shinn Féin and** shall be encouraged to participate in the advancement of the work of Ógra Shinn Féin."

*National Youth Committee*

## Transport

72. This Ard Fheis calls for the immediate commencement of Phase 3 of the Derry-Coleraine Railway Line and the scoping of the Derry to Sligo Western Railway Route.
- Limavady Comhairle Ceantair*
73. This Ard Fheis supports and encourages the wide use of electric scooters and electric bikes in urban areas as a way of quickly cutting carbon emissions and also easing traffic congestion, by giving an alternative to the use of private fossil fuel cars.
- Charlie McGlade Cumann (Drimnagh)*
74. This Ard Fheis notes the commitment that a National Driving Licence Service (NDLS) Centre will be located within 50 km of each citizen in the State and calls on the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport ensures that this commitment is honoured.
- Carndonagh/Malin Cumann*
75. Recognising Navan as the largest town in Ireland not served by rail, this Ard Fheis commits to expediting the delivering the Dunboyne to Navan rail line, serving commuters in Dunshaughlin, Ashbourne, Ratoath and further north in Kells, and in Government would immediately initiate a full review of the project, including route selection.

*Meath Comhairle Ceantair*

76. This Ard Fheis recognises the importance of developing and strengthening our all Ireland infrastructure to ease connectivity north, south, east and west across the country. This Ard Fheis believes that central to this is the development of a faster and more frequent rail network that links up our major cities. Given the importance of the eastern economic corridor to the all island economy we commit the party to supporting these plans and developing the rail link between Belfast and Dublin. We also call for the development and advancement of improved connections to other cities on the island such as Derry and Cork.

*Pat Mc Geown Cumann (Beechmount)*

77. This Ard Fheis notes the significant social, economic and health benefits of new Greenways being created across our island and reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the north's 620-mile Greenway network and the implementation of Greenways in areas ready for their development such as Carryduff.

*Samuel Neilson/Bridget Hanna Cumann (Castelereagh South)*

78. Sinn Féin calls for a complete ban on running or racing of horses on public roads, unless it is licensed, regulated and covered by insurance. This applies to a horse drawing a cart or sulky or ridden.

*Cathal Brugha/Kevin Lynch Cumann (Waterford City)*

## Housing

79. This Ard Fheis reaffirms Sinn Féin's commitment to:
- large scale investment in public housing on public land to meet social and affordable housing need;
  - regulation of the private rental and owner occupier markets to ensure working people and families have access to secure and affordable accommodation;
  - double capital investment in public housing in the 26 Counties to double the output of social and affordable housing in 2020;
  - empower local authorities to develop large scale mixed income and mixed use communities with social, cost rental and affordable purchase homes;
  - introduce an emergency three year rent freeze and provide a tax relief worth one month's rent for renters in the 26 Counties;
  - introduce the Focus Ireland Amendment as a preventative measure to reduce the number of families and individuals presenting as homeless while increasing the supply of housing first homes to reduce the number of people in emergency accommodation;
  - hold a referendum to enshrine the right to housing into the Irish Constitution;
  - ensure that public land is used for public housing and oppose the sale or transfer of public land to private developers to deliver overpriced open market housing.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Drumm/Doherty/Clarke Cumann*

80. This Ard Fheis condemns the British Government's failure to recognise the unique and historic discrimination that led to the transfer of responsibility for the provision of and allocation of social housing from local councils to the Housing Executive and calls for access to public borrowing for the Housing Executive to meet the levels of supply of social housing to be delivered on an objective need basis.

*North Belfast Comhairle Ceantair*

81. This Ard Fheis calls for an immediate review of the HAP (Housing Assistance Programme) scheme with a view to creating a programme that is fit for purpose. HAP is not meeting the social housing needs in Ireland. 50,000 people are currently using the programme with a budget allocation of €500million for 2020. Countless others are not able to avail of it due to the lack of private

rental properties available. Rental limits applied to the programme are out of date and would need constant review to stay current with market needs which is not in place.

People using HAP are receiving a portion of their rent and are required to pay a further supplement to local county councils despite the admittance to the program is based on being a low-income family.

Admittance to HAP then removes the user from the social housing list. This should not be the case as the individual is in private rented accommodation and can be evicted at any time.

*James Connolly Cumann (Cahir)*

82. This Ard Fheis seeks an immediate review of planning policy FLD5 in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of reservoirs. We are aware of large social housing developments that have not proceeded due to the restrictions of this policy.

*Pól Kinsella Cumann (Northlands)*

83. This Ard Fheis notes significant land discrepancies and inconsistencies that have arisen since the commencement by the Property Registration Authority of Ireland (PRAI) and previously the Land Registry of digitalised mapping and demands that the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government initiates an immediate review and investigation of anomalies, conflicts and irregularities resulting from this digitalised system and further demands that all efforts of the Department and the PRAI are set in motion to explore and resolve land register anomalies and assure land owners that digital mapping results are aligned and in keeping with Ordnance Survey maps

*Cumann an Máighe*

84. This Ard Fheis condemns the existing Direct Provision system and calls for an judicial enquiry into the current system and to set up a new system to fully integrate asylum seekers into Irish society.

*Keating/Sands Cumann (Comeragh)*

85. This Ard Fheis has, since the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, seen a welcome increase in the number of tourists across the North of Ireland. This in turn has brought money into areas as well as job growth in and around that industry. However, there is a dark downside to this influx and that is the rise of AirBNB's especially in and around Belfast city centre. This is problematic in that local people are seeing houses being bought up by developers leaving them without homes. We need to address this issue now and curtail the growth of AirBNB properties. We must ensure there is a balance struck between jobs and homes. One cannot outweigh the other.

*Samuel Neilson/Bridget Hanna Cumann (Castelereagh South)*

86. This Ard Fheis calls for a Social Housing Development Programme that will tackle the systemic inequality in housing delivery in North Belfast.

*O'Hanlon/McCusker Cumann (New Lodge)*

## Government for the people

87. This Ard Fheis:

- acknowledges that it is almost three years since the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement collapsed in 2017 as a result of financial scandal, discrimination against sections of society and a lack of respect for Irish national identity within the Executive and Assembly by the DUP;
- notes that the Talks process established by the Irish and British Governments on 7 May 2019 following the brutal and tragic killing of journalist Lyra McKee in Derry has yet to produce a successful outcome;
- recognises that the resistance by both the DUP and British Tory Government to advancing equality and human rights guarantees in law for all citizens, and minority sections of society, is the cause

- of those institutions having not yet being restored;
- further recognises that the DUP/Tory party Confidence and Supply arrangement at Westminster is impeding political progress and social reform, and has eroded any pretence of the British Governments rigorous impartiality;
- acknowledges that it would be untenable if an acceptable resolution cannot be found, and therefore this Ard Fheis mandates the party negotiators to continue dialogue with the British and Irish Governments and other parties, in order to seek a fair and just agreement which restores power-sharing on the basis of equality, respect and integrity.

*Ard Chomhairle*

88. This Ard Fheis

Recognises that fundamental change in our society will only be brought about by the leading participation in government of a republican party committed to delivering it. Sinn Féin is therefore committed to being in government, north and south, and affecting the change required in order to deliver a United Ireland that is fair, equal and prosperous.

Further recognises that the best mechanism to deliver a progressive, republican government is by being the largest party in that government and it remains our objective to maximise support for Sinn Féin candidates, to build our party organisation and to ensure we have strong roots in the communities we represent in order to be in a position to lead any government we participate in.

Commits that our party will not enter into a coalition arrangement unless a programme of Government is agreed upon which commits to far reaching change, including:

- Progress towards a United Ireland;
- Delivery of a large scale public housing programme, led by local authorities;
- Investing in public services and the creation of a universal health-care system free at the point of delivery;
- Fundamental reform of the taxation system, ensuring that the burden is on those with the ability and means to pay; ensuring that the wealthiest individuals and corporations pay their fair share of tax;
- Concrete measures to end the rip-off of Irish workers and families, particular with regard to rents, mortgages, insurance premiums, childcare and transport.

This Ard Fheis reaffirm any decision relating to entering government will only be made by a special Sinn Féin Ard Fheis.

*Joe McDonnell Cumann (Drumkeeran)  
National Youth Committee  
Brett/McLoughlin Cumann (Mid Tipp)*

89. Our party activists are deep rooted within communities across the island and our community activists have done great work over the years. Our party has worked hard for years for the empowerment of the urban disenfranchised and the rural poor. This makes us quite unique so we need to keep that status. It would be catastrophic to leave all this work go by the wayside for the sake of power. Our aim as a party is to achieve a 32 County Socialist Republic. We are a left wing party who would like to implement Republican Socialist changes if in power. If a Socialist programme for government was to be agreed then we would have to work alone or with like minded parties. Therefore this Ard Fheis would like to implement a policy going forward that Sinn Féin will only enter a coalition as the largest party.

*West Cork Comhairle Ceantair*

90. This Ard Fheis acknowledges the recent attempt to instigate a discussion around building support for a broad left alliance before the next general election in the 26 counties.

This Ard Fheis agrees that Sinn Féin should support such efforts and will wholeheartedly engage in any such discussions.

*Devlin/Plunkett/Rathfarnham Cumann (Templeogue/Terenure/Rathfarnham)*

91. This Ard Fheis commits the party to develop, build and lead a coalition of left of centre parties and social movements for a socialist economic programme with dynamic green industrial policies to provide for an alternative left government to take power at the next elections in the 26 Counties.

This Ard Fheis urges co-operation with other left of centre parties and social movements to advance above policy objectives and to address rural deprivations and ensure fairness and equality of opportunity for all citizens on the island.

This Ard Fheis commends our Constitution's objective, namely to establish a 'Democratic Socialist Republic' via the means of 'advancing an all-Ireland agenda which realises the centrality of equality and human rights, participatory engagement and economic democracy'.

Ard Fheis recognises that the tweedledum and the tweedledee policies of Fine Gael and Fianna Fail and the austerity policies of the Tories have failed.

This Ard Fheis asserts that Sinn Féin is the party of aspiration and fundamental change for the overwhelming number of our citizens with its policy mix of economic growth, job creation, tax and income redistributions, climate change, investment in infrastructure and public services that provide for first class health provision, educational opportunities and social services for the many and not just the few.

This Ard Fheis commits that future manifestos reflect a full throated socialist appeal to achieve social and economic democracy for all citizens and to bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families.

*Mairead Farrell Cumann (Moynehall)*

92. That this Ard Fheis:
- acknowledges that since partition successive Irish governments have reneged on a host of election promises to the people and have consequently created a culture of apathy and disenfranchisement among the electorate.
  - calls on party representatives to use all available media opportunities to highlight the appalling record of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour and Greens in government in the 26 Counties since partition with the intention of presenting a clear picture for voters and highlighting how we can learn from past mistakes;
  - calls on the Ard Chomhairle to develop a strategy paper on how best to challenge and expose the opportunist and reactionary politics of Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, Labour and Greens;
  - calls on party representatives to use all available media opportunities to contextualise the most recent period of conflict in Ireland and defend the republican position in this regard. The media narrative in the 26 Counties, in particular, has distorted the view of many citizens about the cause and course of this conflict. If it goes unchallenged it poses serious difficulties to the future political development of Irish republicanism.

*Patrick Conroy Cumann (Castlereah)*

93. That this Ard Fheis:
- recognises the apathy and distrust that exists among the voting public due in part to false election promises and the failure to deliver on commitments contained in Programme for Government within the 26 counties and
  - calls for the establishment of a committee in Leinster House that would be tasked with analysing progress on objectives contained in the Programme for Government with a view to ensuring greater accountability.

*Hurson/Quirke Cumann (City West Ward)*



## Workers rights and public finances

94. This Ard Fheis:

- endorses the party's recently published policies 'Sinn Féin and the Living Wage' in the 26 Counties and 'Towards a New Employment Model' in the 6 Counties, both of which set out proposals to tackle low pay and insecure work;
- fully supports the Sinn Féin Tips Bill, which will protect worker's tips from theft by unscrupulous employers;
- given the potential benefits of a four-day working week, without a reduction in income, for work-life balance, social benefits and for carbon emission levels, this Ard Fheis calls on the party to establish an All-Ireland Working Group to work with the Trade Union Movement and others to explore the possibility and practicality of moving to a 4-day working week and report back to the Ard Chomhairle on the matter in a timely manner;
- also notes the low number of public holidays available to Irish workers, by comparable international standards, and calls for the introduction of more public holidays on an islandwide basis.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Meath Comhairle Ceantair*

*Robert Emmet/Joe Clarke Cumann (Inchicore/SWIC)*

*Midlands North West Cúige*

95. This Ard Fheis:

- stands firmly with workers impacted by Brexit; will not tolerate a roll back of workers' rights and freedoms by the British Government post Brexit and will defend Workers Rights which are enshrined in EU Law;
- recognises that many European directives have had a positive impact in the fight for workers rights, including, equal pay for women, maternity leave, agency worker protection and health and safety legislation.

Therefore, this Ard Fheis:

- demands that the Irish and British Governments ensure that these European rights that benefit working families, women workers, those with disabilities and migrant workers, are protected at all costs;
- supports the protection of equivalence for Agency Workers with the Working Time Directive;
- is committed to ensuring that workers are guaranteed future rights set out in EU Law, including the Work Life Balance Directive which will provide much needed support for working carers and we are committed to ensuring these rights apply as a minimum across our island.

*Six County Parliamentary Team*

*Tom Flatley Cumann (Enniskillen)*

96. This Ard Fheis:

- stands firmly with our young people who are being exploited in terms of pay and conditions due to their age;
- notes the current minimum wage in the 6 Counties varies from £8.21 to £4.35 depending on a workers age, while in the 26 counties the rate varies from €9.80 to €6.86;
- is opposed to this discriminatory practice where workers aged 18-20, 21-24 and over 25's are all given different minimum wage rates based on their age despite performing identical roles and often having the same qualifications and working hours;
- commends the "Towards a New Employment Model" and "Sinn Féin and the Living Wage" policy documents.
- condemns the increasing prevalence of exploitative Zero Hours Contracts and precarious work for young workers and unambiguously restates our commitment to abolishing these practices;
- calls for the Real Living Wage of £10.00/€12.30 an hour to be awarded as the minimum standard of pay for workers across the island with legal exemptions only for those employers that open their books and demonstrate inability to pay.

*National Youth Committee*

*Clancy/O'Callaghan Cumann (Limerick City North)*

97. This Ard Fheis believes that we can build a society in which childcare is the equal responsibility of both men and women, allowing mothers and fathers the same rights and removing barriers to employment for new parents. We call for the Department of Communities to introduce a Gender Equality Strategy in the north, which would deal with parental rights, the pay gap, and increased participation of women in public life.

*Brian Keenan Cumann (Ballinascreen)*

98. This Ard Fheis agrees that all Sinn Féin elected members will ensure that when planning permission is sought from Local authorities or Bord Pleanála, the issue of bogus self-employment should be prioritised with the developer. This practice is now widespread within the construction industry.

*Doyle/French/Reilly Cumann (South Navan)*

99. This Ard Fheis recognises that the 26 Counties has among the highest levels of poverty, deprivation and economic inequality in the EU. More than 700,000 people live in poverty of which over 260,000 are children. Worryingly, more than 100,000 adults living in poverty are at work. Ireland has amongst the highest prevalence of low paid jobs in the EU, and more than 108,000 workers declare themselves as “underemployed”.

One of the main causes of these statistics is that the 26 Counties has among the most regressive trade union rights in the EU, with no right to collective bargaining, which is recognised as a human right according to the universal declaration on human rights, the convention on human rights, the European Convention on human rights and the charter of fundamental rights of the European Union.

This Ard Fheis instruct the party to engage with the progressive trade unions in order to abolish the 1990 Industrial Relations Act and replace it with a Fair Work Act. This act should make it easier for workers to join trade unions, be represented by that trade union and it should make it easier to take industrial action. As employers all across the country refuse to engage in the voluntarist industrial relations model – including Tesco, Dunnes, Paddy Powers, Lloyds pharmacy TK Maxx, KBC bank, among others it’s time for a new industrial relations system which allows workers an effective voice.

*Wicklow Comhairle Ceantair  
Limerick City Comhairle Ceantair*

100. This Ard Fheis sends our full support to the Trade Union movement and to all workers who are on strike or in industrial disputes. This party supports the nationalisation of resources used by the public such as water, transport, education and health as well as the development of workers co-operatives and a living wage. Therefore going forward our public representatives should be mandated to join picket lines in strikes agreed by trade unions and workers. We do not want to become a populist party that will support one set of workers over another, therefore we need to mobilise for every workplace dispute to side with the employees in need.

*West Cork Comhairle Ceantair*

101. This Ard Fheis reiterates Sinn Féin’s commitment to the future of public broadcasting in the Irish State, and that this includes:

- a viable and socially equitable funding model;
- a commitment to the regional imprint of RTÉ and its studios outside Dublin;
- a commitment to the independence of RTÉ programming and editorial decisions from any ministerial or governmental control;
- a commitment to the Irish language and the future security of TG4 and Radio na Gaeltachta as key elements of the Irish public broadcasting model;
- a commitment to community broadcasting;
- the development of public broadcasting and regional radio stations.

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

102. This Ard Fheis recognises that Irish Water PLC is a corporate vehicle created to lead the 26 Counties into a total Water Charges regime and ultimately the privatisation of our water services as dictated by European Competition Law.
- Therefore this Ard Fheis agrees that Sinn Féin in Government will actively work over a five year governmental term to dismantle this corporate entity in its current form and re-administer control and responsibility for water services back to County Councils to ensure accountability to local people and local representatives and to allow local knowledge of workers to be best utilised.
- Sinn Féin will ensure that the relative funding diverted from Irish Water PLC will be allocated to the County Councils and that new legislation will be enacted to ensure that this funding is spent on water infrastructure only.
- This Ard Fheis also agrees that Sinn Féin in Government within the first year of a term will bring forward a constitutional referendum to enshrine the human right to water for household needs to all citizens in the 26 counties and to constitutionally protect our water services and water infrastructure from ever being sold or privatised by any future Irish government.
- Brett/McLoughlin Cumann (Mid Tipp)  
Mayo Comhairle Ceantair*
103. This Ard Fheis:
- recognises that several international studies have described the 26 Counties as an international tax haven that is used by multinational corporations to avoid paying billions of euro in taxes owed each year;
  - mandates Sinn Féin to adopt a stringent policy which will scrutinise and challenge multinational corporations and shell companies that are exploiting Ireland's facilitation of corporate tax avoidance;
  - commits a future Sinn Féin government to eliminating tax avoidance schemes utilised by multi-national corporations in this state.
- Midlands/North West  
Tipperary Comhairle Ceantair*
104. This Ard Fheis:
- believes in equality before the law including in tax affairs whether the taxpayer be a worker or a multinational.
  - notes the EU Commission has found that the State provided Apple with favourable treatment and has found that €13bn plus interest is repayable to the Irish people.
  - notes that Fine Gael with the support of Fianna Fáil is spending millions of the people's money in legal fees in appealing this case against the interests of the Irish people.
  - Sinn Féin calls on the government to drop the appeal and to plan for an investment programme if and when the monies are recouped and to continue to campaign on the matter.
- Crossan/McElhinney Cumann (Ballyconnell)*
105. This Ard Fheis maintains, in the interest of pursuing a democratic socialist republic, that Sinn Féin adopt a position to restructure majority state-owned banks as nationalised commercial and investment banks.
- Robert Emmet Cumann (Rathgar/Rathmines)*
106. This Ard Fheis calls for the protection and maintenance of ownership of valuable and essential resources such as energy, minerals and water in public hands, unless otherwise decided by referendum.
- Carrick-On-Shannon Cumann*
107. This Ard Fheis mandates the party, over the life-time of any Government in the 26 Counties it is a participant in, to ensure workers earning less than €80,000 are taken out of the USC net.
- Markievicz/Tadhg Barry Cumann (North West/Central Wards)*

108. This Ard Fheis calls for the implementation of a human rights based approach to citizens entitlements in taxation, social protection, education, medical and all other services. The current practice of leaving it to the individual or an elected representative to source their entitlements is disempowering, grossly inequitable and unfair to citizens.

*McCabe/Quigley Cumann (Ballymun)*

109. This Ard Fheis considers the Local Property Tax to be a totally unjust tax which will only increase and increase. We are committed to its abolition. Where possible, Sinn Féin councillors have reduced the LPT by the maximum of 15% every year since 2014.

We note that the government have frozen the tax at 2013 prices but this cannot go on forever and big increases are inevitable unless it's scrapped. Abolishing the LPT would save 1.9 million homeowners an average of €278 per year.

Sinn Féin propose to give families a break by relieving them of the unfair LPT, while at the same time replacing funding to local councils to ensure that the funds they need to deliver for communities are not reduced.

*Wexford Comhairle Ceantair*

110. This Ard Fheis rejects any moves to lower corporation tax across the island of Ireland and mandates the Ard Chomhairle to investigate other ways of creating sustainable and fair employment in line with the goals of the 'Inclusive and Sustainable Growth' policy document, rather than lowering corporation tax.

*National Youth Committee*

## Tackling Climate Breakdown - A Green New deal for Ireland

111. This Ard Fheis reaffirms:

- It's commitment to a Just Transition: a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy; approaching production and consumption cycles holistically and waste-free; ensuring that the transition itself is just and equitable; redressing past harms and creating new relationships of power for the future through reparations; and acknowledging that if the process of transition is not just, the outcome will never be;
- It's belief that dialogue with the Trade Union movement, local communities, and civil society groups is essential to a Just Transition and must form a central part of the overall process;
- It's commitment to a Just Transition for workers at Bord na Móna and Moneypoint Power Station, as well as their communities;
- its belief that at the heart of a Just Transition is agency for local communities and workers, and that in the absence of such agency a Just Transition is not possible.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

112. This Ard Fheis:

- acknowledges that we face a climate crisis that requires our immediate attention;
- fully recognises the severity of climate change;
- commits to developing and advocating radical alternatives to tackle climate change;
- acknowledges that residential buildings output 30% of total CO2 emissions across the country.
- notes that high energy efficiency targets in new builds are seen as an aspiration rather than a requirement for developers;
- believes ensuring energy efficiency of building can make an important contribution the fight against climate change and also in terms of combating fuel poverty.

This Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of:

- an All-Ireland Climate Crisis Group within the party with the objective

of developing recommendations and advocating for an All-Ireland Climate Change Act;

- calls for an All-Ireland Climate Change Act;
- calls on all planning authorities to bring forward clear carbon neutral energy efficiency requirements for all new developments making it an important part of the planning process that developers must abide by.

*Six County Cúige*

*Winifred Carney Cumann (Bangor)*

113. This Ard Fheis reaffirms Sinn Féin's commitment to climate action through climate justice, a process that:

- respects and protects human rights;
- supports the right to sustainable development;
- shares benefits and burdens equitably;
- ensures that decisions on climate change are participatory, transparent and accountable;
- gives privilege to the need for equality and equity in terms of gender, class, and race;
- harnesses the transformative power of education for climate stewardship;
- constructs effective partnerships to secure climate justice.

That this includes (but is not limited to) the following:

- public transport;
- renewable energy;
- afforestation;
- agriculture;
- housing;
- business and jobs;
- regional development and infrastructure;
- green finance, banking and credit.

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

114. This Ard Fheis calls out the green washing of the Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil Austerity-Neoliberal agenda and reaffirms Sinn Féin's opposition to an increase in the carbon tax until the State's public transport and environmentally-sustainable home heating systems are of such scale to present viable alternatives for behavioural change; it's commitment to a policy of progressive taxation and credit finance for green investment; and it's belief that such an approach the most equitable way to meet the costs of climate action.

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

*Peadar Clancy/Mairéad Farrell Cumann (Ennis)*

115. This Ard Fheis reiterates Sinn Féin's commitment to the remunicipalisation of domestic waste in the 26 Counties, as outlined in the discussion document Public Waste Management, and that this includes:

- putting waste collection back under the control of local authorities;
- calling on the Joint Committee on Communication, Climate Action and Change to undertake a series of hearings that will look at pathways to remunicipalisation;
- greater employment and contract protections for waste disposal workers;
- introduction of a franchise model of waste collection as a first step, so that councils can insist on standards of delivery including affordable prices for households and waiver schemes;
- end the 'side by side' waste collection system;
- increasing the number of recycling centres and the range of items accepted;
- more public and recycling bins including dog litter bins;
- legislation to establish an independent regulator to oversee the domestic waste collection industry.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Waterford Comhairle Ceantair*

116. This Ard Fheis, acknowledging the findings of the 2018 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, recognises the necessity of developing a radical response to the climate crisis. Therefore, this Ard Fheis calls for a Green New Deal for the island of Ireland as part of the effort to keep global average temperature rises below 1.5°C, this will include:

- achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050;
- an extensive programme of investment in renewable energies, with 80% of the island's energy supply to be generated from clean, renewable energy by 2030;
- an overhaul of the island's transportation sector with the aim of completely eliminating pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from it, through:
  - (i) the prioritisation of (green) public transport over private-car usage; and
  - (ii) free or low-cost access to (green) public transport for all;
- a state-led programme of employment, providing thousands of jobs which are crucial to solving the climate crisis, in order to:
  - (i) ensure a just transition for workers; and
  - (ii) end unemployment;
- a recognition that all of the above must take place under alternative forms of ownership which expand public, democratic ownership of the economy.

*Watters Brothers Cumann (Dundalk Central)*

117. This Ard Fheis recognises:

- the mass tree felling taking place across the island on healthy trees;
- high number of illegal tree cutting incidents taking place inside the annual bird nesting ban period;
- the improper tree cutting techniques used by state bodies & private contractors which are endangering tree health & public safety;
- the low number of wildlife legislation breaches being sufficiently investigated and acted upon;
- the inadequate wildlife legislation currently in place.

Therefore, this Ard Fheis calls for Sinn Féin to actively and publicly criticise any such works across the island and propose new legislation/amendments to the both Wildlife acts in the north and south to:

- provide clearer terms as to what qualifies as a breach of existing legislation;
- only allow felling of public trees where there is a serious safety risk proven by a qualified Arboriculturalist and there is no alternative solution;
- limit cutting during ban period to realistic health and safety reasons only;
- include stricter penalties (fines & sentences) for any breaches;
- give greater powers for wildlife rangers & police officers to hold those breaching the Wildlife acts responsible for their actions;
- introduce an Arboriculturalist certification requirement for all tree work contractors and public bodies (for any workers carrying out such works) and strict penalties for non-compliance;
- give powers to wildlife rangers or a new oversight body to check proper Arboriculturalist methods are being used.

*Barnes/McCormack Cumann*

118. Recognising the importance of protecting our natural heritage and the environment for future generations this Ard Fheis asserts:

- the regulatory framework for all mineral licensing should be reviewed and amended with any future licensing system ensuring the highest standards of environmental protection;
- there should be a moratorium on the granting of any new (or renewal of existing) prospecting licences for precious minerals until the regulatory framework for licensing has been reviewed and amended;
- the use of cyanide in mining should be banned due to its detrimental environmental and health implications;

- revenue generated from mineral prospecting and/or development must guarantee benefit to the funding of public services in Ireland including adequate benefit to the local communities affected;
- our opposition to private gold mining companies being given permission to operate in Ireland, and that control of precious minerals in the north should be transferred from the Crown Estate to the Executive.

*Six County Cúige  
Limavady Comhairle Ceantair  
Cumann Mháirtín Uí Chadhain (South Connemara)*

119. This Ard Fheis reaffirms its total opposition to fracking, both onshore and offshore, on the island of Ireland and in its territorial waters
- Joe McManus Cumann (Garrison)  
Coalisland/Clonoe Martyrs Cumann*

120. This Ard Fheis recognises the health and environmental concerns with regards to the rollout of 5G. While we support improved broadband provision, particularly in rural areas, public health and well-being is paramount.

Therefore, this Ard Fheis calls for:

- A full governmental review to establish independent facts about the possible health impact of 5G on human health and the environment.
- Government to provide health warnings where applicable to citizens on such technologies.

*Barnes/McCormack Cumann  
Sligo Comhairle Ceantair*

121. In light of published scientific research worldwide, indicating the dangers of 5G Technology to humans and the environment, this Ard Fheis calls for the postponement of the roll out of 5G technology until more evidence is available regarding its safety.

We in Sinn Féin have a social responsibility to protect the public and environment from harm. Peer reviewed studies have clearly demonstrated the damage to humans from electromagnetic fields (EMFs). The Council of Europe has set levels above which there is a potential risk to health. 4G operates within these standards whereas 5G operates at levels 5 times higher than the maximum allowed by the Council of Europe. 5G has not been tested on humans. As the 5G signal does not travel easily, masts will be placed in virtually every street rather than on limited elevated sites. Opposing US Senate bill 637 on the 29th May 2018, Senator Patrick Colbeck stated that, in young children the blood brain barrier is not developed enough to prevent damage from the radiation emitted from 5G towers. This will increase the risk of brain tumours and other harmful effects.

Dr Ronald Melnick PHD, senior scientist for 28 years with the National Institute of Health Maryland, led the design of the National Toxicity Programme (NTP). He stated the NTP studies not only found cell phone radiation increased tumours in the heart and brain, but also induced heart damage and DNA damage in the brain cells of rats & mice. 5G installation also damages the environment. The removal of trees often occurs before masts are erected to allow easy transmission. There have been reports of birds and bees dying after flying close to cell towers.

*Sheena Campbell Cumann (Rostrevor)*

122. This Ard Fheis calls on all Sinn Féin local election directorates to consider a phased reduction in the use of harmful, unrecyclable election posters and cable ties. In an ever changing Irish society, and as Irish Republicans, we should endeavour to do all we can to help tackle bad practice in relation to our local environment and help promote more eco-friendly alternatives. It is our belief that Sinn Féin can lead the way on this issue and encourage other political parties and election candidates to follow suit.

*Cumann Mhic Leannain agus Mhic Bradaigh  
Ladybrook and Riverdale Cumann  
Marie Wright Cumann (Balmoral)  
Tommy Donaghy Cumann*

123. Given the increased need for action on climate and our environment both nationally and globally, we believe that the party needs to be more active and visible on these issues. Therefore this Ard Fheis calls on:
- each Comhairle Ceantair set up a Green committee to focus on community projects which should aim to reduce single use plastics and tackle climate issues at a community level.
  - the Ard Chomhairle to investigate ways that Sinn Féin and it's members can reduce our carbon footprint.

*Watters Brothers Cumann (Dundalk Central)*

*Julie Dougan Cumann (Portadown)*

*Sheena Campbell Cumann (Rostrevor)*

124. This Ard Fheis calls for Sitka Spruce conifers to be classified in Ireland as an invasive alien species, and to be delisted as an eligible species for all future government and/or EU subsidies and new plantation licenses. We further call for new subsidies for the conversion of clear-felled conifer lands, and an increase in subsidies for the planting and management of native broadleaf plantations and/or diversification into other carbon storage activities.

*MacDiarmada/Gilgunn Cumann (Manorhamilton)*

125. This Ard Fheis supports the Global Plan for Nature (50% of the planet must be left wild) and the international campaign to make Ecocide a crime against humanity. And, as a practical expression of these commitments will work in partnership with those working for climate change adaptations, which are inevitably 'sold not bought'.

Appropriate adaptation needs to be advertised and marketed on foot of evidence based research. Action research into the design of low impact living in peri-urban (urban/rural transition) zones on county borders addresses several key areas at once; housing, energy; food security and social enterprise.

Cloughjordan ecovillage in Co. Tipperary, has the lowest carbon footprint in Ireland. Yet, despite the climate change challenges facing this country, it is still the only settlement of its type, to date. Enriched Earth Ecovillage will be the second. Land has been acquired.

Sinn Féin could lead the way engaging in local partnerships to explore the feasibility of developing ecovillages throughout the country.

The scientific research needs to be implemented. The barriers are socio-economic and political. Ecovillages offer a viable alternative to unsustainable models of developer-led, speculative boom and bust housing. Ecovillages are potentially centres of learning, places of pilgrimage, sites of transformation and innovation.

Permaculture is the ethical foundation of sustainability, earthcare, peoplecare and fairshare. This regenerative culture is inspirational. Holistic land management, landscape restoration and regenerative agriculture is a healthy response to industrialisation of agriculture. Land is sacred not a tradeable commodity.

*Black/Ryan Cumann (Lucan)*

126. This Ard Fheis supports the establishment of municipal hydrokinetic power generating systems, publicly owned and operated by local authorities. Particular consideration should focus on using the water outflow from sewage treatment plants as the power source so as to prevent any environmental impact on fish stocks or ecosystems. This clean green energy can power municipal public lights and electric public transport, revolutionising energy providing in public ownership.

*Mairéad Farrell Cumann (City Central Ward)*

127. This Ard Fheis considers the internationally employed system of national accounts which measure economic activity to be grossly inadequate. This Ard Fheis calls for a cross party working group, with the aim of including green indicators in the accounts.

If economic growth is at the expense of the environment, measures should be put in place to counter act this damage, with a particular focus on air quality, water quality and biodiversity.



Focus should be directed at developing mechanisms that can assign quantifiable value to these issues and for these issues to be reflected in national accounts.

*Cork City Comhairle Ceantair*

128. This Ard Fheis, noting the link between non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and exposure to the glyphosates used in Ireland's most popular herbicide Roundup, and further noting the outright bans of the substance implemented in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Columbia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Kuwait and Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam, commends the move by Galway Council to halt their use of glyphosate-based herbicides and calls on all Councils to cease the liberal spraying of our roadsides and verges with these dangerous agrochemicals.

*Cloughaneel/Falcarragh Cumann*

129. This Ard Fheis believes that Sinn Féin members should not use balloon/lantern releases for marking any occasion, and should encourage community/campaign groups to find alternative ways of celebrating/commemorating. Balloons have a hugely negative impact on the environment, as well as causing suffering and death to wildlife and sealife.

*Martin McGuinness Cumann (Bogside)*

## Standing with Communities against crime

130. This Ard Fheis recognises the importance of people critically engaging with police on issues that affect their community.
- This engagement is crucial not only for accountability but also to ensure that policing:
- is responsive to the needs of the local community;
  - can support local innovation and initiatives;
  - adopts a community empowerment approach, particularly in disadvantaged communities;
  - can solve problems affecting public safety over the longer term rather than the police, alone, reacting in the short-term to incidents as they occur.

This Ard Fheis recognises the process of engagement underway at senior Party level with both An Garda Síochána and the PSNI. This process needs to be replicated and pro-actively pursued at all levels of Party structures. To be successful and constructive such a process demands that policing structures at local community level engage meaningfully with local communities and their representatives. Proactive critical engagement is absolutely essential to securing effective, accountable, democratic policing north and south.

*Six County Cúige*

131. This Ard Fheis recognises that:
- the drugs crisis is worsening across this island
  - in Louth drug related criminality and intimidation is having a devastating effect on communities
  - An Garda Síochána in Louth does not have the resources to effectively tackle drugs gangs
  - supports for people addicted to drugs are inadequate
- Therefore this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to:
- Develop and resource a multi-agency response to drugs
  - Provide An Garda Síochána with additional resources to counter drug gangs
  - Greater utilisation the Criminal Assets Bureau to seize proceeds of drug related crime
  - Support and resource services such as the Family Addiction Support Network in Dundalk

*Louth Comhairle Ceantair*

132. This Ard Fheis calls for the proceeds seized from illegal drugs activity and other such criminal activity including monies, assets etc seized by CAB should be ring-fenced and directed to those groups and organisation working with the community in those areas affected by the drugs trade to help combat the drugs problem and the further development of youth diversion programmes.

*Margaret Skinnider Cumann (Ballygall/Drumcondra)*

133. This Ard Fheis recognises that:
- communities across Ireland are under siege from criminals and anti-social elements on a daily basis;
  - Sinn Féin has never shied away from standing with communities against this minority;
  - the Establishment, through it's neglect of, and disconnect from the needs of communities have allowed such anti-community elements to run riot – only paying heed to the situation when it has escalated to murder on the streets and when the TV cameras are present.

The Ard Fheis commits Sinn Féin to continue to stand with communities against criminal and anti-social elements, and to continue to press for:

- the full and speedy implementation of Sentencing Guidelines recently secured in legislation by the Sinn Féin Oireachtas team to ensure adequate, consistent and transparent sentencing;
- the recruitment of the maximum number of Gardaí each year to increase the numbers to 15,000;
- more Community Gardaí to liaise with communities and a more proactive response from Gardaí to community concerns;
- more resources for CAB to tackle the crime bosses flooding communities with drugs;
- a rural crime taskforce for every rural Garda Division to work on a cross border basis where required.

*Healy/Howard Cumann, Cabra*

134. This Ard Fheis calls on the Garda Commissioner to withdraw restructuring proposals which would merge Louth Garda division with the Cavan-Monaghan Division and which would reduce the number of Superintendents across Louth and Cavan-Monaghan from 7 to 3.

*Louth Comhairle Ceantair*

135. This Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a classification of drugs and the non-recording of a drugs offence for a person under the age of 16.

This Ard Fheis supports firstly, a classification of drugs for example A, B, C as such a classification does not currently exist in the 26 Counties. Secondly, with this classification of drugs in place this Ard Fheis would then support the implementation of mechanisms including legislation which would allow for the non-recording of a drugs offence for a person under the age of 16 if the quantity of drugs is of a specified amount and proved to be for personal use and that person has not been caught in possession of drugs on more than three occasions.

*Clarke/Smith/Doherty Cumann (Finglas)*

136. This Ard Fheis calls for the introduction of Drug-free zones which are clearly marked with signage delineating an area having a radius of 300m of any school, public or private. The selling, purchasing, manufacturing, delivery of drugs or possession with intent to sell drugs in Drug Free Zones will result in increased penalties.

*Clarke/Smith/Doherty Cumann (Finglas)*

137. The establishment of early intervention programmes with regard to substance misuse in schools This Ard Fheis calls for the establishment of a programme of early intervention through educational programmes for young people educating them about the effects of drugs and substance misuse in their communities. Such programmes should be available in all schools and third level institutions beginning at Primary level.

*Margaret Skinnider Cumann (Ballygall/Drumcondra)*

138. This Ard Fheis:
- notes the impact that drug abuse/addiction has on individuals, families and communities across Ireland;
  - acknowledges the work carried out by existing services relating to drug abuse and services addressing underlying issues eg poor mental health; illness; trauma; social isolation;
  - notes the weaknesses that exist within current services and gaps in the system across all sectors, including in the health and justice systems;
  - calls for a toolkit for representatives and local activists to:
    - gain a broad understanding of drug issues;
    - have knowledge of where to signpost people for expert help;
    - to know where to target campaign in improving the provision of addiction/support services for those misusing drugs;
    - to know how to report drug related crime and drug-dealing, and ensure that information is acted on.
- Colin Comhairle Ceantair*
139. This Ard Fheis notes urban areas throughout Ireland are dealing with an increased volume of needles found on streets in inner city and surrounding communities. The safety ramifications for neighbourhoods and those who are vulnerable are obvious. We have a duty of care to citizens, including assisting all people in fulfilling their ambitions unhindered by concerns for neighbourhood safety or a lack of support and facilities including limited safe play sites and those which do exist are prone to becoming hot spots for damaging activity.
- This motion seeks a report and action plan to baseline contemporary challenges, emerging trends and explore innovative existing good practice nationally and globally. Ultimately the goal is to find solutions to support all people to feel safe, achieve their aspirations and be underpinned by a solid societal safety net.
- Falls Comhairle Ceantair*
140. This Ard Fheis recognises that the drugs problem is escalating throughout Ireland, and that those people addicted to drugs such as heroin and cocaine, for a whole host of reasons such as poverty, mental health issues etc, are now openly injecting on our streets and city centres with only very limited resources in place to support them.
- We call on this Ard Fheis to support the implementation of supervised safe centres for users so that they can use in a safe environment whilst also receiving the most up to date advice and help with their issues.
- South & East Belfast Comhairle Ceantair*
141. This Ard Fheis:
- notes the spectacular failure of the criminalisation of drugs in dealing with addiction;
  - notes the party position of “reserving prison places for violent offenders”;
  - recognises the success that the ‘Portuguese model’ of decriminalisation and healthcare as a means of treating addiction has had in reducing new HIV infections and levels of drug dependency in their jurisdiction;
  - advocates that the party should forward the Portuguese model as a means of dealing with the tragedy of drug dependency and addiction across Ireland.
- National Youth Committee*
142. This Ard Fheis commends the work carried out by the party in driving change to domestic abuse legislation in the 6 Counties which includes the introduction of a new domestic violence offence against coercive behaviour and control; believes that legislation must include controlling and coercive behaviour that amounts to psychological, emotional or financial abuse, as well as behaviour which is physically violent, threatening or intimidating.

This Ard Fheis also notes the progress of the Domestic Abuse Bill in Westminster, which was introduced on 16 July 2019 and which would create a new domestic abuse offence for the north, reflecting the provisions set out above.

Therefore, this Ard Fheis calls for legislation for new domestic abuse offences for the north, reflecting the provisions set out above.

*Six County Parliamentary Team*

143. This Ard Fheis calls on Sinn Féin elected representatives to work for a more gender balanced approach to domestic violence, to recognise that there is a growing problem of domestic violence by women and/or men against men in relationships and to campaign for more support services for men in this situation.

*O'Malley/Russell Cumann (North East Inner City)*

144. This Ard Fheis seeks to implement the "Right to Ask" scheme, currently in operation in the 6 counties, across the entire island of Ireland. This scheme involves creating a national register of those convicted of domestic violence or abuse. It will allow individuals to confidentially ask the Gardai to check if their partner, or the partner of someone they know, has a history of domestic abuse.

Furthermore this Ard Fheis seeks to implement the "Power to Tell" scheme currently in operation in the 6 Counties, across the entire island of Ireland. In the event that Gardai are given information about an individual's safety, they can conduct a check of the domestic abuse conviction register on their systems, and decide whether they need to tell the individual about their partner's history of domestic abuse. If initial checks show that the individual is in immediate danger, Gardai must inform the individual as soon as possible.

The schemes should be a carbon copy of those in operation in the 6 Counties, which allow for individuals to be made aware of any potential risk of domestic abuse posed to them or someone they know, by the relevant individuals partner.

The schemes also put in place support systems to assist in removing an individual, if they wish, from the situation safely where serious risk is posed. Citizens and residents across all 32 counties should be entitled to this information regardless of which jurisdiction they reside in.

*Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde (Moyville/Greencastle)*

145. This Ard Fheis seeks to allow details of convictions of domestic violence or abuse, or any conviction relevant to the welfare of children, regardless of whether the convictions occurred in the 6 Counties or the 26 Counties, admissible as evidence in Family Law proceedings in both jurisdictions, particularly in cases involving access to children.

*Antoine Mac Giolla Bhrighde (Moyville/Greencastle)*

## Equality and rights

146. This Ard Fheis notes that:

- the Irish President signed into law on December 24th 2017 recognition of Irish Sign Language making it the third official language of the Irish State;
- progress in terms of resourcing, educating and mainstreaming ISL has been slow;
- the Irish Deaf Society was forced to curtail certain services during 2019 due to funding cuts imposed by Government.

Calls on;

- Sinn Féin to continue to lobby the Government to adequately fund a comprehensive Irish Sign Language strategy;
- Sinn Féin to maintain it's support for the funding requirements of the Irish Deaf Society and other deaf advocacy organisations who provide important services to the deaf community and promote the mainstreaming of ISL.

*Monaghan Comhairle Ceantair*

## Irish Language Rights

147. This Ard Fheis will make a determination for the party to implement the policy of Gaelicising the party (Gaelú Shinn Féin), as was adopted at the 2016 Ard Fheis.

To bring this about:

- a Sinn Féin Slógadh shall be organised every year;
- workplans and objectives will be organised together for Sinn Féin members to promote Irish in the County Councils;
- Sinn Féin shall support the establishment of Irish language quarters in cities;
- half of the written material in every leaflet and newsletter published nationally by Sinn Féin shall be in Irish;
- bilingual posters shall be used, with both languages on an equal footing, in periods of elections;
- information sent out from Head Office and the Press Office to the cumainn, the Comhairlí Ceantair, the Cúigí, shall be on a bilingual basis.

*Dublin Cúige*

148. This Ard Fheis proposes that the party implement a policy of 'positive selection' ensuring that there should be a quota of 10% of Gaeilgeoirí in every institution the length of the country where Sinn Féin has elected representation; An Dáil, An Seanad, The Assembly and local councils. We propose this is also implemented within internal party structures, in particular the Ard Chomhairle. We ask that this be looked at and understood with the context and strength of the party in individual areas.

*Greater Ballymurphy Martyrs Cumann*

149. This Ard Fheis recognises and commends the trojan work that has been carried out by Sinn Féin Councillors and activists across the 6 Counties in the promotion of the Irish language, and in particular in relation to the hard work in securing the erection of bilingual street signage.

This Ard Fheis also recognises the inconsistencies across different councils regarding their policies on securing bilingual street signs. Whilst some councils have attempted to promote the language, others have attempted to bring forward policies banning Irish on all signage.

This Ard Fheis believes that bilingual street signs should be facilitated where there is demonstrable demand from local residents and that all councils should have a uniform policy which requires a simple majority (50% +1) of respondents to a council survey in order to grant a bilingual sign.

Therefore this Ard Fheis calls upon Sinn Féin councillors to work towards the potential streamlining of bilingual signage policy in their respective councils, and to continue to work with local activists and engage with local residents to erect bilingual signage where there is demand.

*Lenadoon Cumann*

150. This Ard Fheis acknowledges that there is a growing number of children being educated through Irish medium and calls on this Ard Fheis to support the need for approved services for children with special educational needs in the Irish medium sector.

*Coalisland/Clonoe Martyrs Cumann*

151. This Ard Fheis notes that Irish Medium is the fastest growing educational sector in the north. By 2021, there will be 7,220 children receiving education through the medium of Irish - a rise of 97.23 per cent from 2006.

This Ard Fheis further notes that many of our Gael Scoileanna are operating in sub-standard accommodation, many of which have been in so-called 'temporary' accommodation for over 20 years.

There are pressures specific to the Irish Medium sector including a lack of Irish speaking educational psychologists, a lack of Irish Medium curricular material and a lack of Irish speaking specialist subject teachers.

There continues to be an unacceptable lack of equality in services, assessment tools and assistance available for children, especially with Special

Educational Needs in Irish Medium Education as opposed to English Medium which must be addressed urgently. There are disgracefully still no Learning Support Centres provided for in the Irish Medium Sector. Parents should not have to choose between additional support needed for their child and Irish Medium Education.

This Ard Fheis calls on the Department of Education to:

- introduce an Irish Medium Education strategy to target and address the needs specific to the sector.
- proceed with immediate investment to improve the standard of accommodation used by Irish Medium schools.
- fully implement Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta's Area Planning Recommendation's for Irish Medium Primary Provision in Derry City.

*Pól Kinsella Cumann (Northlands)*

152. This Ard Fheis notes:

- the last Gender Equality Strategy in the 6 Counties expired in 2016;
- the patriarchal nature of society and current employment norms place the bulk of childcare with mothers, hurting both women and men, and ensuring that equivalence between mothers and fathers will never be achieved;
- that shared parental custody is not considered by housing bodies when allocating housing, often ensuring only one parent is eligible for housing help. This in turn can damage a parent's ability to have access to a safe and loving home for their child, and threaten their access rights;
- employment patterns contribute to the gender pay gap, currently sitting at 9.6% in the 6 Counties, and 14% in the most recent report in the 26 counties- 2016. Gender Pay Gap reporting will soon be implemented in the 26 Counties, as part of the 'Strategy for Women and Girls 2017-2020'. We need a similar approach in the north.

*Brian Keenan Cumann (Ballinascreen)*

153. This Ard Fheis recognises the importance of increasing female participation in sports, and commends the work different organisation such as the LGFA have undertaken to increase female participation within the gaelic games.

This Ard Fheis also acknowledges that more must be done to promote ladies participation in sport in order to create a parity between ladies and men's participation in sport. There is much to be celebrated about ladies' sport in Ireland although without enough coverage and promotion, this is often overlooked.

This Ard Fheis therefore calls upon the party to support the 20x20 initiative which has been established to shift Ireland's cultural perception of women's sport by 2020 with:

- a 20% increase in media coverage of women in sport
- a 20% increase in attendance at women's games and events, and;
- a 20% increase in female participation at all levels of sport.

*Lenadoon Cumann*

154. This Ard Fheis welcomes the publication of Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (Presidential Elections) bill 2019.

Recognises that:

- this referendum if passed will bring the Irish state into line with European norms by allowing citizens outside of the state a limited right to vote;
- by this limited extension of the vote we are telling our citizens in the North and recent emigrants that they are a valued part of the Irish nation and its future;
- recognises the heartbreak of parents and families left behind as generation after generation of Irish people have been forced to emigrate, including the most recent generation of young people forced out after the 2008 economic collapse;

- that this extension of limited voting rights is about strengthening the bond with our children and grandchildren who have emigrated, in the hope that someday they will come home;
- symbolically this is about righting a wrong for people who have been abandoned primarily Irish Citizens in the North and Irish emigrants.

Commends those who have campaigned on this issue to date and commits Sinn Féin to actively support the campaign for a Yes vote in the Presidential Voting Rights Referendum.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Sean Martin/Sean Tracey Cumann (Short Strand)*

*Mayo Comhairle Ceantair*

155. This Ard Fheis calls on the Irish Government to automatically register every citizen to vote at the age of 18 years old and to roll out education programmes on the importance of voting through secondary Schools, colleges and Community Centres. These programmes could be ran through our Local Authorities.

*Smith/Savage Cumann (Castleknock)*

156. This Ard Fheis calls on the incoming Ard Chomhairle to examine the benefits of introducing compulsory voting to ensure a more representative democracy and to report back to the party in advance of the next Ard Fheis.

*McGrath/O'Brien Cumann (East Waterford)*

*Logue/Marley Cumann (Crumlin)*

## International motions

157. This Ard Fheis sends solidarity greetings to the Palestinian people living under occupation or in exile. We share the deep scepticism of Palestinian representatives towards Donald Trump's proposed 'Deal of the Century' to resolve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Sinn Féin condemns:

- the US administration's decision to shut the Palestinian diplomatic office in Washington, cut aid to the Palestinian Authority and the side-lining of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees;
- the continuing Israeli colonisation of Palestinian land for the building of settlements and the ethnic cleansing of such territory by Israel of Palestinian residents;
- the threat by Israeli government leaders to annex Palestinian land in the West Bank and the further extension of Israel's borders;
- the brutal and inhumane siege of the Gaza strip by the Israeli military;
- the unjustified slaughter by the Israeli military of innocent and defenceless Palestinians including women, children, medical staff and journalists.

In support of the Palestinian people Sinn Féin demands that Israel:

- implements all outstanding UN resolutions and abides by international law;
- commences inclusive negotiations with all representatives of the Palestinian people based on their right to Statehood.

We also believe that agreement among all Palestinian political factions, with the aim of ending political divisions and developing strategic objectives, would advance the Palestinian cause.

The international community bears a heavy responsibility to establish a new initiative aimed at reigniting the Middle East peace process and ending the Palestinian people's nightmare.

*Ard Chomhairle*

158. This Ard Fheis condemns the Spanish State's prosecution of Catalan civil society activists, political activists, Members of Parliament, the Speaker of the Parliament, and Catalan Ministers.

We send solidarity greetings to all of the civic society activists and democratically elected political representatives who are being prosecuted because they support Catalan independence and self-determination. It calls

for the political prisoners to be released, those in exile to be allowed to return home, and for the extreme charges against them to be dropped.

Sinn Féin reiterates our recognition of the right of Catalans to self-determination and for Catalonia to decide its own future and urge the Spanish government to instead enter into internationally mediated negotiations with the Catalan government to find an acceptable path forward through inclusive dialogue.

*Ard Chomhairle*

*Gallagher/Foy Cumann (Drumconrath)*

*Traolach MacSuibhne Cumann (South West/Central Wards)*

159. This Ard Fheis notes that 2019 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

Sinn Féin salutes the heroic sacrifice of the Cuban people and recognise the inspirational successes of the revolution. We reiterate Sinn Féin's continued solidarity with Cuba and its people. This Ard Fheis urges the USA to unconditionally and fully lift its illegal blockade of Cuba, end its illegal occupation of Guantánamo Bay, and to normalise bilateral relations with Cuba in accordance with appropriate international standards.

*Ard Chomhairle*

160. This Ard Fheis notes that since the signing of the Colombian Peace Agreement in November 2016 at least 142 demobilised FARC members have been murdered and over 500 human rights defenders, community leaders, and political activists have been assassinated. These continued attacks and killings happen with impunity and severely threaten the Colombian peace process; calls on the Colombian government to ensure that human rights and the democratic process are respected, and for it to fully deliver its side of the peace agreement, and to bring the killers of these activists to justice.

We note with disappointment that some former FARC commanders and Peace Agreement negotiators have stated that they will resume an armed campaign and believe this to be a retrograde decision.

We condemn the renewed military actions of the Colombian government.

This Ard Fheis welcomes the restatement by representatives of the Cuban and Norwegian governments, which are guarantors to the 2016 Agreement, of their commitment to help to consolidate the peace process, and ensure the 2016 Agreement is embedded and fully implemented.

*Ard Chomhairle*

161. This Ard Fheis:

- recognises that Nicolás Maduro is the democratically elected President of Venezuela;
- rejects the Irish government announcement that it recognises Juan Guaidó as the President of Venezuela, despite the fact that a Presidential Election took place in May 2018 and Juan Guaidó got 0% of the votes, and this statement was a damaging recognition of an undemocratic coup;
- condemns the continued imposition of US and EU sanctions on Venezuela;
- recognises that domestic political divisions, disagreements and instability within Venezuela should be resolved through proper dialogue and negotiation;
- supports the initiatives to date by the international community to assist in the resolution of the ongoing crisis in Venezuela and urges increased positive efforts.

*Ard Chomhairle*

162. This Ard Fheis is committed to continuing to work for a radically reformed European Union which is fairer and more democratic. We want to see greater transparency, the militarisation agenda halted, social protections legally bolstered and powers returned to member states.

Among the changes this Ard Fheis wants to see are:

- enhanced national sovereignty;



- reform of the ECB and monetary policy that works for the people and an end to the Eurozone straitjacket;
- a Social Progress Protocol attached to the EU Treaty;
- the militarisation agenda halted and no EU money going to the Arms Industry;
- establishment of a robust strategy for decarbonising the economy before 2050 through investment in alternatives;
- an end to trade deals like Mercosur and fairer trade deals which respect member state sovereignty;
- protection of the family farm and the correction of current imbalances in CAP.

*Ard Chomhairle*

163. This Ard Fheis:

- notes the disastrous implications of a Tory/DUP Brexit has on the island of Ireland;
- recognises that whilst engagement with the EU is necessary and useful, its institutions and processes are in need of serious and immediate reform;
- reaffirms it's support for the policy of critical engagement with the EU.

*National Youth Committee*

164. This Ard Fheis reiterates Sinn Féin's opposition to Brexit and the entirely negative impact it will have on young people.

Brexit will: (i) create barriers for students accessing further and higher education institutions on a cross border basis; (ii) could end access to the Erasmus plus programme for young people in the north; (iii) potentially result in much higher fees for students studying cross border; and (iv) create a lack of clarity about the mutual recognition of qualifications, currently provided for in EU Directive 2005/36/EC.

This Ard Fheis calls for the impact on young people to be fully mitigated against to maintain the freedom to study and work on an all island; and further calls on the Irish government to take every action on its behalf to ensure the potential negative impact on young people are averted.

*Coleraine Comhairle Ceantair*

165. In the event of a 'hard border' post Brexit, this Ard Fheis urges all members of the general public to peacefully refuse to cooperate with any form of checkpoints or identification card checks at the border.

*Carndonagh/Malin Cumann*

166. This Ard Fheis:

- recognises that the Oireachtas Joint Committee on European Affairs discusses and issues reports on important EU laws but cannot change or amend them;
- calls for the establishment of a Leinster House Committee, similar to the EU Scrutiny Committee in the Danish Parliament, that could discuss and analyse proposed EU Laws before they are decided in Brussels and therefore influence the stand of 26 County ministers before the law is debated and enacted at European level.

*Mulvoy/Campbell/McGirr Cumann (City East Ward)*