

# UNITY NEWS

NUAHT NA HAONTACHTA

#TIME4UNITY  
#AM LE HAONTACHT

JANUARY Eanáir 2025

SAVE THE DATE | SÁBHÁIL AN DÁTA

ABAIR LEAT  
HAVE YOUR SAY  
HAE YER SPAKE  
THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE

## MID ULSTER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Sinn Féin's commission on the Future of Ireland is hosting the **Mid Ulster People's Assembly Wednesday 26th February, 7pm Seamus Heaney Homeplace, Bellaghy.**

This event will be the 22nd such public event held by the Commission in the last two years. The meeting will have an independent chairperson and panel. These will be announced later however we are excited to announce First Minister Michelle O'Neill will be our guest speaker.

The aim of the People's Assembly is to provide a space in which citizens can have their say on future constitutional arrangements; on political and democratic structures and governance; on identity and culture; on the role of the Irish government in the setting up a Citizens' Assembly and of the Irish and British governments in setting a date for the holding of the unity referendum provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

The conversation on the future shape of the New Ireland is increasing. It is the most important public conversation of our lifetimes. Many citizens are looking for an alternative to the failed partitionist system that has existed for 100 years.

Under the broad title - 'Have your Say – The New Ireland is for Everyone' – The Commission on the Future of Ireland invites citizens to contribute to this important conversation.

The Commission is specifically inviting the people of Mid Ulster; members of the unionist and PUL community, business representatives, community groups, organisations, NGOs, sectoral representatives, ethnic minorities and all those interested in the future, to join us in the Seamus Heaney Centre on 26 February for a discussion on the future shape of the island of Ireland.



Tickets are available from: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mid-ulster-peoples-assembly-tickets-1216722161739?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mid-ulster-peoples-assembly-tickets-1216722161739?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1)

# IRISH UNITY: WASHINGTON

This week Friends of Sinn Féin in the USA organised a public discussion on Irish Unity and the role of Irish America and the USA in achieving that objective. This is part of a series of events. The next one is in Rockland, New York on the 30th of January.

The American events – and those in Canada that will come later – are mirrored on the People’s Assemblies organised by Sinn Féin’s Commission on the Future of Ireland. They are intended to engage with the diaspora and others in North America and to help inform the work of the Commission and of Sinn Féin.

The Washington event was packed out with people from the Irish-American community coming together to discuss their role in securing Irish unity.

The meeting was addressed by North Belfast MP John Finucane

Speaking at the event, John Finucane MP said,

“We stand on the cusp of an incredible opportunity: the chance to see a free and united Ireland in our lifetime.

“The Good Friday Agreement provides the pathway to unity through democratic referendums, North and South. The unionist majority in the North is gone, and the conversation about Irish unity is alive in every corner of society. Sinn Féin leads the government in the North, and change is within reach.

“But opportunity demands action. The Irish government must prepare for unity with clear plans and a vision for a shared, inclusive future. Irish America’s voice remains vital. You have the power to push for progress, just as you did during the peace process and in defending the Good Friday Agreement after Brexit.

“If you support the Good Friday Agreement, you support the right to democratic referendums. Together, we can secure and win them.

“There will be no united Ireland without you. Let’s make it happen.”



# Trade Unions Uniting Ireland – Jim Gibney



Ireland was in the grip of one of its worst winter cold spells for decades. Most of the country had ground to a stand-still as sub-zero temperatures caused havoc to every aspect of people's lives. People were being advised to stay at home and to only travel if necessary.

It was the first week of the first month of the new year.

'Ireland's Future', IF, took the bold step to organise and not to cancel its first sectoral event, 'Ireland's Future and the Labour Movement, Building on Motion Seven' in the Thomas Davis Hub outside Newry.

Its boldness was rewarded by those who turned out for the event in large numbers and the quality of those attending and the debate that took place.

Previous and current leaders of the Irish trade union movement at national, regional and local level turned out for the meeting – their experience and age profile traversed two generations of activism.

'The Cause of Ireland is the Cause of Labour' is one of James Connolly's best-known pamphlets and best articulates the relationship between Irish unity and independence and the organised Irish working class.

It was the cause of Ireland and the cause of Labour and the desire to unite both that filled the Davis Hall with trade union activists and others. Solicitor and leading member of Ireland's Future, Niall Murphy and economist and researcher with the Economic and Social Research Institute Professor Seamus McGuinness set the

scene for the general discussion among those at the meeting.

Niall Murphy described 2024 as a very busy year for IF – a year that saw it launch its Ireland 2030 document, with its proposed timetable of events to take us from now until 2030 – the suggested referendum year. A year when it held a remarkable event at the SSE Arena where former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar called on the Irish government to work for Irish unity rather than see it as a mere aspiration. And where Wallace Thompson – a close friend and colleague of Ian Paisley senior, who help set up the DUP and is a senior member of the Free Presbyterian Church called on unionists to engage in the constitutional debate.

Professor McGuinness presented the most recent report by the Economic and Social Research Institute and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research into the development of a macroeconomic modelling tool for the north's economy. The model will provide new insights into the north's economy and how it will benefit from the all-Ireland economy, economic links across these islands and internationally, The new model was in keeping with the trade union movement's document 'No Going Back' with its new economic model focusing on an all-Ireland economy; a progressive all-Ireland taxation system and putting in place the steps to improve productivity at an all-Ireland level.

The document equipped trade unionists with the information they need to be involved in the constitutional debate about

Ireland's future. The meeting discussed the impact of partition on the working class, the trade union movement and the importance of the Good Friday Agreement and its all-Ireland framework and the central importance of conversations among trade unionist about the benefits of economic and social rights now and in a new united Ireland.

The trade union movement is uniquely placed to lead the debate among trade unionists and others about future constitutional change because it is structured on an all-Ireland basis. This is of particular importance when it comes to speaking with trade unionists from a unionist and Protestant background. The experience of trade unionists especially from the north shows that the best way of dealing with difficult topics is to bring people together in rooms and discuss the differences.

The turn out and the content of the debate in the Davis Hall meeting confirmed for me that the issue of constitutional change and a new Ireland is of huge importance to the trade union movement, and it has a leadership role in creating a vision of a new society for it and for working class people across Ireland now and in a new and independent Ireland.



# Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht

# CHARLIE KERINS BY DAITHÍ FITZGERALD

Sinn Féin members and supporters gathered in Tralee to commemorate the life and legacy of local hero Charlie Kerins and to reaffirm their commitment to the cause of a united, free, and just Ireland. They honored the sacrifice of Kerins whilst recognising the need for transformative change in Irish society.



Kerins is one of Ireland's bravest sons, Charlie Kerins, a man whose courage, conviction, and sacrifice continue to inspire new generations of Irish republicans.

Executed in 1944 by the free state, his name is etched into the history of Tralee and into the collective memory of a people who will never settle for anything less than full sovereignty and freedom for our island. He lived and died for the ideals of equality, justice, and freedom. The Proclamation of 1916 remains our blueprint, but the work remains unfinished. It is our task—our duty—to complete it.

Those assembled were addressed by SF activist-Daithí Fitzgerald,

"Irish unity is no longer a distant dream; it is a tangible and achievable goal within our lifetime.

"But the cause of Irish unity belongs to all who dream of a free Ireland.

"Charlie Kerins gave his life not for a single party or ideology but for the people of Ireland. A united Ireland must also be a fair Ireland—one that prioritises housing, healthcare, education, and economic justice.

"We are closer than ever to achieving our goal, but we must remain vigilant and determined.

"The forces of conservatism and division will not relent easily, but we know that change is possible because we see it happening every day—in our communities, in our elections, and in the hearts of our people.

"Let us honour Charlie Kerins not just with words but with action. Together, we will build the republic he dreamed of—a republic where every person can live with dignity, opportunity, and hope."



#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**

# WHAT CAN YOU DO?

## CEARD IS FEIDIR LEATSA A DHEANAMH?



After the election, there is a need for local activism on the unity issue, particularly on the party's demand for the Irish government to establish a Citizens' Assembly to plan for our future and the demand for a unity referendum as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

Areas should use these suggestions as ways of promoting the unity message locally and ensure consciousness raising initiatives are key to local work plans. Leaflet designs & graphics will be available for areas to use. Contact [irish.unity@sinnfein.ie](mailto:irish.unity@sinnfein.ie) for more information

### ENGAGEMENT

Create momentum locally by engaging with local communities & civic society on the need for a Citizens' Assembly & Irish Unity i.e. GAA clubs, community groups, businesses etc.  
Stalls with petitions/ leaflets etc.  
Unity themed public meetings  
On the ground campaigning  
Using social media to promote the benefits of unity

### CRANN NA SAOIRSE

*'This tree will grow tall in a free & united Ireland'*  
Areas should plant Crann na Saoirse. Some have been planted in memory of comrades and others as a reminder of the key importance of Irish Unity to the future freedom and prosperity of the Irish people. Initiatives such as these are an opportunity to create a talking point on Irish Unity and the role communities throughout the world can play. Coille na Saoirse should also be explored in suitable areas.



LIMERICK ACTIVISTS 5K WALK FOR UNITY

### OTHER

Promotion of UI literature and publications  
Organise a mountain climb  
Day of action to be scheduled  
Continue twinning initiative & explore opportunities from this  
Increase visibility- explore opportunities for graffiti, billboards, paintings etc in local areas  
Promote Unity News & Éire Nua with membership

### YOUTH

Host Irish Unity themed events/ talks etc. in the universities  
Engage with schools & youth clubs



DUBLIN ACTIVISTS AT THE KEVIN COEN COMMEMORATION IN SLIGO

### ELECTIONS & PARTY EVENTS

Props/ banners at conventions  
Key speeches at the Ard Fheis

BELFAST ACTIVISTS WALK FOR UNITY





The new Irish Government was established last week, Sinn Féin MEP Kathleen Funchion has expressed disappointment that the negotiations between FG, FF and independent TDs did not take the issue of Irish Unity Seriously.

MEP Funchion said that the conversation around Irish Unity is an active one, and that any future government must ensure it keeps up.

MEP Funchion said:

“The conversation around Irish Unity is taking place across the island of Ireland in both private and public forums. It dissappointing that the programme for government does not take this into account.

“The new government should take two very practical steps to ensure it keeps up with the discussion on Irish reunification. In the first instance, the new government should appoint a Minister of State for Reunification. In addition to this, the new government should establish a Citizens’ Assembly on our constitutional future.

“These are two very basic and practical steps that can help ensure the necessary planning and preparations are put in place to ensure that any future referendum on Irish Reunification is a fact based campaign, void of any misinformation. As a Sinn Féin MEP, I will continue to work with EU officials and other MEPs to ensure that the European Union is prepared to assist in the transition from partition to Unity.”

# Unity Offers the Best Hope



As we enter 2025 it is clear that across Ireland there is a growing sense that Irish Unity offers the best future for all our people. The conversation on unity is already well underway in towns and villages right across the 32 counties.

There needs to be a structured, national conversation among the citizens of Ireland and beyond on the future of our island.

People living in Derry and Donegal know all too well that partition clearly hasn't worked.

This is an important time in the shaping of Ireland's future. It is an exciting and positive time, full of potential. Irish Unity is about opportunity.

The social and economic opportunities are immense. The potential of improving our economy, transforming our healthcare services and enhancing the prosperity of the entire island would be unlocked. That includes the transformation of public services - healthcare, education

and social protection.

Why should someone living in Letterkenny have to travel to Galway or Dublin for services when they could be seen in Derry if we worked on an All Ireland model.

We need to maximise the potential of the all island economy – business, infrastructure, agriculture, skills/research, renewable energy. It also needs to include matters of culture, rights and identity in a new Ireland. A referendum on Irish Unity is achievable and winnable. It's time to set a date for the referendum and to let the people have their say.

Locally we need a mature and respectful conversation about constitutional change. It's a conversation that should be approached with optimism, ambition and a real sense of opportunity.

The conversation must be inclusive. It must recognise that people hold different and competing views about the future.

Irish Unity is now a do-able project. The debate on unity has already begun; now people want more than words; they want action.

Let's all join the debate in the times ahead.

**Submitted by,**

**Martin McGuinness Cumann Bogsida, Derry.**

# Rose Conway-Walsh welcomes vital and game changing tool for the development of economic policy across the island



Sinn Féin spokesperson on Public Expenditure and Reform, Rose Conway-Walsh TD, has said that the development by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIERSR) of a macroeconomic modelling tool for the north of Ireland is a significant contribution to the ongoing discussion on constitutional change.

Teachta Conway-Walsh said:

“This model will enable economic forecasting on the potential effects of economic policies, shocks, and opportunities on the economy in the north, across the island, in Britain and internationally. It will provide for greater integration between productivity, education, and investment.

“There are extremely valuable insights to be gleaned from this tool across a wide range of scenarios such as the wider effects of increased fiscal devolution to the Executive in the north or the effects on the northern economy of continued growth in the economy in the south.

“This is the first time that this type of data can be interrogated on an all-island basis, and it will prove vital for the development of economic policy on the island. I would urge the incoming government to use this tool to ensure that all economic policies pursued will impact positively across the country.

“The Executive in the north, although significantly hampered by the lack of devolved fiscal powers and the limitations of the block grant, will also be better able to target economic interventions to ensure positive all island results.

“I am delighted that IBEC supported this work and I think it is far-sighted of the management team in IBEC to come on board with this project. I have no doubt that there will be very useful applications of this data for businesses across the island.

“The launch of the report on this macroeconomic model, combined with the ongoing Perspectives on Constitutional Change workstream of the Good Friday Agreement Committee, will be of major significance in the time ahead as potential constitutional change is further discussed.

“This model will help to demonstrate in a practical way how economic changes across the island could impact on businesses, families, and workers. I hope that this will contribute to enhanced discussion at a grassroots level of the opportunities presented by greater economic harmonisation and working together across the island.

“I look forward to seeing this research and the extensions of the model across the various sectors used in policy formation and evidenced based forecasting. I commend the ESRI, NIERS and IBEC for their work on this project.”

# UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP

## Leo Varadkar to speak at Ireland's Future Dinner in Philadelphia.

Ireland's Future has announced that former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar will be its keynote speaker at a gala dinner in Philadelphia this coming April. See full statement here: <https://irelandsfuture.com/2025/01/26/usa-gala-dinner/>



## Belfast Women's Assembly Winter Newsletter.

The Belfast Women's Assembly have published their winter newsletter, See full Newsletter here: [file:/Downloads/belfast%20women%E2%80%99s%20assembly%20winter%20newsletter-%20\(3\).pdf](file:/Downloads/belfast%20women%E2%80%99s%20assembly%20winter%20newsletter-%20(3).pdf)

## Conor Murphy demands action on Presidential voting rights for Irish citizens in the North and the diaspora

Sinn Féin Seanad candidate Conor Murphy has called on the incoming government to end the denial of voting rights in presidential elections for Irish citizens outside the state, including those in the North of Ireland and the diaspora overseas. See full article here: <https://vote.sinnfein.ie/conor-murphy-demands-action-on-presidential-voting-rights-for-irish-citizens-in-the-north-and-the-diaspora/>



## Beyond unionism and nationalism: do the 'neithers' want a border poll and a United Ireland?

New research in the latest Irish Political Studies journal on attitudes to holding a border poll and how they might vote when held. See full study here <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07907184.2024.2397342#d1e1033>

## Harris 'does not expect' poll on Irish unity in this decade.

Tánaiste Simon Harris has said he does not expect there will be a poll on Irish unity within this decade. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/harris-does-not-expect-poll-on-irish-unity-in-this-decade/a656533344.html>



## Simon Harris' comments on Irish Unity deeply disappointing – Matt Carthy TD

"Many people will be deeply disappointed by the comments of the Tánaiste and Fine Gael leader, Simon Harris, that Irish Unity is not a priority for him. Irish Unity isn't something that can be dismissed in this way. This has to be a priority for the Irish government." See full statement here: <https://vote.sinnfein.ie/simon-harris-comments-on-irish-unity-deeply-disappointing-matt-carthy-td/>

# Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht



# I mo thuairim féin

## Shónagh Ní Rallaigh: An Ghaeilge in Éirinn Aontaithe: Teanga Bheo do Chách



Mar iar-mhúinteoir i nGaelscoil i gCill Dara, tá taithí agam ar conas is féidir lenár dteanga dúchais deighiltí pobail a thrasnú. Agus an deascéal ná nach bhfuil Cill Dara amháin ag baint tairbhe as an muinín nua atá sa Ghaeilge.

I nÉirinn Aontaithe, is féidir leis an teanga a bheith níos mó ná coincheap polaitiúil – is féidir léi a bheith mar chuid de thuras cultúrtha i dtreo tuisceana frithpháirtigh.

Tá Linda Ervine, ó Oirthear Bhéal Feirste agus bean chéile iar-cheannaire an PUP, Brian Ervine, mar shampla den chur chuige seo. Mar bhainisteoir ar Turas, tionscadal chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ina ceantar, léiríonn sí conas is féidir leis an nGaeilge teorainneacha polaitiúla a thrasnú. Trí ranganna Gaeilge a thairiscint i gceantair Protastúnacha, tugann sí dúshlán don scéal stairiúil go mbaineann an Ghaeilge le pobail náisiúnacha amháin.

Tá ‘Scoil na Seolta’, a bhunaigh Ervine in 2021, ar tí scoil bhunscoile a bheith in éineacht léi go luath. Léiríonn na cláir seo gur féidir leis an nGaeilge a bheith ina huirlis cumarsáide agus cruthaitheachta, seachas arm polaitiúil.

Go stairiúil, bhí an Ghaeilge á labhairt ag Protastúnaigh agus Caitlicigh araon. Ceanglaíonn obair Linda daoine arís le hoidhreacht chultúrtha a bhí ann i bhfad roimh scoileanna nua-aimseartha.

Cé go bhfuil frithbheartaíocht ann fós – go háirithe ó pháirtithe cosúil leis an DUP a leanann orthu ag cur an Ghaeilge i láthair mar rud deighilteach – tá grúpaí cultúrtha cosúil le Kneecap ag athshamhlú na Gaeilge mar theanga chomhaimseartha, ag mealladh daoine óga trí léirithe nuálaíochta.

Ní hé aidhm na Gaeilge, féiniúlachtaí a scríosadh – ach iad a cheiliúradh. Léiríonn sí deis meas agus mothú oidhreachta roinnte a thógáil ar fud na bpobail.

Beidh gá le díospóireacht leanúnach agus oscailte chun ár n-éagsúlacht chultúrtha a fheiceáil mar láidreacht. Trí an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn mar theanga do chách, is féidir linn spásanna fíor-dhlúthpháirtíochta a cruthú.

Tá an turas i dtreo aontacht na hÉireann casta, ach is féidir leis an teanga a bheith mar dhroichead cumhachtach.

# Sinn Féin invites leaders to conversation on unity - Declan Kearney MLA



Sinn Féin National Party Chairperson Declan Kearney MLA has written to all party political leaders on the island of Ireland inviting them to meet with Sinn Féin to discuss future constitutional change and the shape of a new Ireland.

Speaking after the publication of Sinn Féin's report on the Commission on the Future of Ireland, Kearney emphasised the importance of collective political involvement:

"The Commission on the Future of Ireland, established by Sinn Féin in July 2022, was created to facilitate grassroots consultation and provide a platform for people to express their views on the opportunities and benefits of Irish unity.

"Over the past year, the Commission has made significant progress through People's Assemblies and sectoral events held across the is-

land and internationally. These initiatives have been instrumental in fostering a positive and inclusive dialogue on constitutional change. The level of discussion on this issue today is unprecedented, and there is now a cross party political consensus on the need to plan and prepare for Irish unity.

"However, achieving this goal requires collective leadership. That is why I have written directly to leaders of political parties, urging them to meet with Sinn Féin and take part in this vital conversation. This is not a challenge for one party or one perspective—it is an opportunity for all parties to engage, contribute, and shape the future of our shared island.

"The all-party Oireachtas committee on the Good Friday Agreement published a detailed report last July which called on the Irish government to begin planning for IrishUnity. The Irish and British governments have a crucial role to play. It is time for them to begin planning for constitutional change and a new and united Ireland."



**THE NEW EDITION OF ÉIRE NUA WILL BE AVAILABLE IN FEBRUARY, AN ONLINE MAGAZINE WHICH FOCUSES ON ISSUES RELATING TO IRISH UNITY.**



## RESOURCE FOR ACTIVISTS

All of the recent articles and significant contributions on the United Ireland theme are available on the Sinn Féin website. Log in to [www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity](http://www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity) for all of the news on uniting Ireland.



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[irish.unity@sinnfein.ie](mailto:irish.unity@sinnfein.ie)