



Sinn Féin

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

AUTUMN 2026



NO GOING BACK

**Garvaghy Road Residents
Coalition stop Orange
Order march being forced
through community**

On Friday 25th September, the Parade Commission determined that an unwanted Orange Order march through the Garvaghy Road community in Portadown, Co. Armagh could go ahead at 8am on Sunday 27th September.

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GERRY ADAMS: Irish unity sands are shifting at a quickening pace

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NO GOING BACK: Garvaghy Road residents stop Orange Order march being forced through community - continued from page 1

For 28 years the Garvaghy Road residents have lived in peace, free from the sectarian violence and murder that had surrounded this unwanted march during a parade dispute in the late 1990s.

During that period, 21 lives were lost to loyalist violence over the parade dispute.

The most horrendous of those murders were the deaths of three children, the Quinn brothers, who were murdered by a loyalist arson attack on their family home in the middle of the night.

Following the Parade Commission's determination, a legal challenge was lodged by the 'Garvaghy Road Residents' Coalition (GRRC)' that resulted in 3 separate legal hearings taking place over 13 hours late from Saturday 26th through into the early hours of Sunday 27th September. In response to the Parade Commission determination, Michelle O'Neill MLA reflected:

"There is no reasonable or logical basis for the Parades Commission's announcement that permission has been granted to force an unwanted Orange march through the Garvaghy Road community.

"For 28 years, the Garvaghy Road community has lived in peace, and the people of that community have been able to get on with their lives.

"28 years of peace was not a problem that required a solution.

"It was a peace that needed to be protected.

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

"People are absolutely dismayed".

With the Parade Commission's determination being up-held in the early hours of Sunday 27th September, the planned Orange Order march through the Garvaghy Road was blocked by anxious local residents and political representatives who had peacefully protested the march. Addressing media at the Garvaghy Road, Mary Lou McDonald TD announced:

"The people of the Garvaghy Road completely oppose an unwanted Orange march being forced through the heart of their community.

"We will not stand by while their right to live in peace is put at risk.

"Sinn Féin stands with the community and will stay on the ground in support of local residents."

After a peaceful stand-off with the PSNI that resulted in the Orange Order march being blocked from going ahead, a political impasse has emerged between the Orange Order and the GRRC.

With that, Sinn Féin's leaders met with the British Secretary of State, Chris Byrant MP, at Hillsborough Castle urging him to act to stop any unwanted sectarian march being forced through the Garvaghy Road.

In a separate engagement with An Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Sinn Féin leaders Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill made it clear that the Irish government must urgently press the British Prime Minister to stop this march.

In response to the situation and these political developments, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from



Sinn Féin leaders address media – Falls Rd, Belfast.



Sinn Féin leaders stand with Garvaghy Rd residents and supporters outside Belfast High Court.



Residents and supporters block the Garvaghy Road.



Ireland, Spain, Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, Catalonia, Euskal Herria, Galicia and Italy voiced their concerns against the Parade Commission determination.

In a letter to the British Secretary of State, the MEPs urged Chris Byrant MP to revoke the decision permitting the Orange Order walk to proceed down the Garvaghy Road.

At the same time, a bipartisan group of United States Congress people, the Congressional Friends of Ireland Caucus, have written to the British government imploring them to intervene and ban the Orange Order march.

The letter outlined that:

"We respectfully urge you to put a stop to this march.

"... As a guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, the United States has a vested interest in seeing the principles embodied in the accord upheld...."

Following these developments in an interview, Mary Lou McDonald TD has reaffirmed Sinn Féin's position: "The days of Unionist domination are over.

"The Irish and British governments have a responsibility to ensure that this community continues to live in peace, free from sectarian intimidation.

"The British Secretary of State can stop this sectarian march being forced down the Garvaghy Road.

"And that is what he must do.

"That is the way to restore peace and calm.

"That is the way to resolve this crisis."



Sinn Féin,
Plaid Cymru and
SNP leaders –
Cardiff, Wales

CARDIFF SUMMIT:

Leaders of Plaid Cymru, SNP and Sinn Féin agree MoU to build towards constitutional change

On 14th September, the leaders of Plaid Cymru, the SNP and Sinn Féin met in Cardiff, Wales to discuss strengthening co-operation and building towards constitutional change.

Ahead of the meeting, the Leader of Plaid Cymru Rhun Iirawerth, Leader of the Scottish National Party John Swinney, Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald and Sinn Féin Vice-President Michelle O'Neill agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the parties working constructively together.

THE MOU AFFIRMED COMMITMENT TO:

- ➔ **A stronger, fairer economy: Sharing ideas and experience on how to build productive, prosperous economies that create good jobs, tackle inequality and ensure that wealth and opportunity are spread more fairly. We reject Whitehall's broken economic model and will instead build economies which deliver social justice and reduce inequality across our nations.**
- ➔ **Expanding our own energy resources: Our vast resources of renewable energy, to bring down bills for families and businesses. The energy wealth of our nations should serve the needs of our people.**
- ➔ **Europe and international cooperation: Brexit has damaged our economies, and limited opportunities for our people. Europe is our common home, and we believe the future of our nations belongs in the European Union. We believe the future of our nations belong in the European Union. We want to work together to rebuild and strengthen those European relationships, creating greater opportunities for trade, investment, culture and cooperation.**
- ➔ **Our nations have the right to self-determination: No Westminster government has the right to block democracy or undermine the principle that our people will decide their own future.**

With this, the party leaders called on the British government to prepare, plan and facilitate constitutional change in Wales, Scotland and the north of Ireland.

Speaking to media after the meeting, Mary Lou McDonald said:

"Ireland, Scotland and Wales have different constitutional circumstances and histories.

"But there is an important democratic principle that we share – nations must have the right to shape their own future.

"Irish unity is no longer a distant aspiration.

"It is a serious contemporary political project, and the work of preparing for the new Ireland must happen now."

With that, Michelle O'Neill remarked:

"Partition has failed the island of Ireland, and the best interests of our people have never been served by those in Westminster.

"The election of three Nationalist First Ministers for the first time on these islands is a clear indication that people see that Westminster is not working for the people of the North, Scotland or Wales.

"Strengthening the relationships between the three parties and finding common ground will help us grow and create better opportunities for the workers, families and communities we represent."



Sinn Féin, Plaid Cymru and SNP leaders – Cardiff, Wales

IRISH UNITY SANDS ARE SHIFTING AT A QUICKENING PACE

Several weeks ago, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham MP sparked a furious debate over future constitutional change and Irish Unity with his crass comment that it was "off the table".

The unionist parties were delighted.

Fast forward two weeks and an endorsement of a united Ireland by US President Donald Trump has ignited another energetic conversation around the issue.

Speaking during his visit, President Trump, sitting beside An Taoise: "It would be a 'fantastic thing.'"

He repeated this several times over the following two days.

The unionist parties were not delighted.

President Trump's remarks are welcome, even though this column profoundly differs with him on many other matters, especially US foreign policy, including the genocide against the Palestinian people.



By Gerry Adams

President Trump's comments reflect broad north American sentiment and particularly that of Irish America towards Irish reunification.

Since the days of President Clinton, who played an important role in the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement, there has been a bi-partisan approach on Capitol Hill. Successive American administrations have reflected a more positive and progressive position on Ireland.

The demand for unity referendums and the conversation on a united Ireland received a further substantial boost when Sinn Féin's leaders travelled to Cardiff for a meeting with SNP leader John Swinney and Plaid Cymru leader Rhun ap Iorwerth.

This is a historic step by the leaders of the three nationalist and pro-independence parties, coming together in a shared desire to shape our own futures. However hard the British government seeks to down-

play the demand for the unity referendums the fact remains that they have no veto over this.

Which brings us to the nub of the matter.

Why should a British government facilitate unity referendums when Taoiseach Micheál Martin has set his face against this?

He has consistently refused to even consider planning for unity, a position that is at odds with his partner in government Fine Gael and all other parties in the Oireachtas, as well as many in his own party.

As Fianna Fáil celebrates its centenary, Mr Martin has turned his back on its founding aim of ending partition and reuniting the island.

The Irish government has to play a leadership role in this.

It must organise citizens' assemblies or forums to bring together the expertise that will allow for citizens and communities, especially those within the northern unionist and protestant section of our people, to hold an informed debate on future change.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin and US President Donald Trump – Dublin, Ireland



Michelle O'Neill MLA, Mary Lou McDonald TD and John Finucane MP

Israel is undermining the prospect of peace in Gaza

Writing in An Phoblacht, Sinn Féin MLA Declan Kearney has called for a 'step change' in international action to stop Israel's continued attempts at undermining the prospect of a durable peace process in Gaza.

The Party's National Chairperson reflects on the Israeli government dismissing plans to broker a peace plan:

"The Palestinians have demonstrated significant flexibility to make agreements throughout, notwithstanding bad faith by the Israelis, and their concerted attempts to destroy all agreements.

"The Israeli state is hell bent on opposing any attempt to build a durable peace process in Gaza.

"The US now has a decision to make. Whether it continues capitulating to Israeli racism and colonialism, or finally pulls Netanyahu into line, and forces him to accept the terms of this agreement.

"The denial of Palestinian national and human rights is the most totemic national democratic struggle of our modern era."

"Netanyahu and the Israeli right-wing are intent on trying to annihilate the Palestinian people, and fully colonising all of their lands. The Zionists believe this can be done because the full weight of global pressure against Israel has not been enforced.

"A step change in international action must be taken at every level.

"Reenergised diplomatic and political influence from governments in the global north and south, and by multilateral institutions is needed at this time to exert maximum boycott, divestment and sanction measures.

"The inaction of the EU is an absolute disgrace. The rhetorical



By Declan
Kearney MLA

opposition to the accelerating annexation must be matched with serious economic and political action.

"A single, global, anti-apartheid, anti-occupation campaign is now needed to properly coordinate international action. Global solidarity must speak with one voice, and act on the basis of shared strategy and objectives.

"Ultimately, it is for the Palestinian people to determine the future of their struggle and collective destiny.

"However, those of us from across the progressive, international political spectrum, and from within the national liberation tradition share responsibility to support our

Palestinian sisters and brothers, whatever way we can.

"Just as the Palestinians have nothing more to give, the international community must not delay.

"Palestine cannot wait."



Gaza, Palestine | Credit: United Nations News



Gazans queue to receive a hot meal
|Credit: United Nations News

**READ THE FULL
ARTICLE ON
AN PHOBLACHT
HERE:**





Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD

Alarming: Irish naval alliance talks with Britain and other NATO states

Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD has warned the Irish government must come clean over reported plans for closer naval cooperation with the British military.

This follows recent reports that high-level talks have been initiated regarding the Irish Defence Forces participating in a British-led 'Joint Expeditionary Force' (JEF-Plus) naval framework.

The Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs spokesperson remarked:

"Reports that the Irish government is engaged in negotiations to join the British led JEF-Plus naval partnership as an observer are very concerning.

"JEF-Plus is a British-led military framework involving nine other northern European states, all NATO members, with a strategic focus on the North Atlantic, Baltic and High North.

"If the Irish government intends to join the JEF-Plus arrangement, it must explain its intention.

"Sinn Féin supports a properly resourced and modern Defence Forces, capable of protecting while maintaining Irish military neutrality and foreign policy.

"The Irish government must now set out what it is proposing in relation to JEF-Plus, what discussions have taken place with the British government, and whether it intends to seek parliamentary approval before taking any further steps.

"The Irish people are entitled to know exactly what is being done in their name."

Ireland's Presidency of the EU comes at defining time for Europe and Ireland

On 1st July, Sinn Féin leaders Mary Lou McDonald TD and Michelle O'Neill MLA attended the official ceremony event in Dublin Castle to mark the commencement of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Speaking to press ahead of the event, Mary Lou McDonald TD said:

"Ireland's Presidency of the European Union comes at a defining moment for Europe and for Ireland.

"It provides an opportunity to show leadership, advance Ireland's national interests and help shape the future direction of the European Union.

"For Sinn Féin, there are three clear priorities:

- ➔ **Preparing for Irish unity.**
- ➔ **Standing up for workers, families, farmers and communities.**
- ➔ **Standing up for peace, international law and Ireland's military neutrality.**

"At a time when conflict is increasing and some seek to redefine the European Union through the prism of militarisation, Ireland's Presidency should instead champion dialogue, conflict resolution, humanitarian action and respect for international law.

"Ireland should use its Presidency to ensure that the distinctive and valuable contribution of militarily neutral member states is recognised and respected within the European Union.

"Ireland's Presidency should be defined by ambition, fairness and leadership.

"It should prepare responsibly for Ireland's constitutional future, stand with workers and families facing real economic pressures, and uphold the values of peace, democracy and international law.

"These are the priorities that Sinn Féin will champion throughout Ireland's Presidency."



Mary Lou McDonald TD & Michelle O'Neill MLA – Dublin Castle.

Pearse
Doherty
TD

HOUSING CRISIS:

Reducing affordable homes a slap in the face to ordinary workers

Pearse Doherty TD has said that Irish government plans to reduce the number of affordable homes is a slap in the face to ordinary workers. The Donegal TD was responding following reports that Housing Minister Browne's planned changes to the Land Development Agency, meaning that homes that would have been available to people through the so-called 'Affordable Purchase Scheme' would instead be sold on the private market at rip-off prices. He said:

"The Minister is planning to deliver fewer affordable homes.

"Does he not get that home ownership is collapsing because people can't afford to buy?"

"The so-called affordable homes were already far too expensive.

"Now the Minister wants homes that would have been made available to people through the Affordable Purchase Scheme to be sold on the private market at rip-off prices.

"The government last year failed to build even half of their target number of affordable homes.

"Instead of addressing this abject failure, his senseless plan will make the government even more likely to keep missing their affordable housing targets in the future.

"All that these changes will achieve is fewer affordable homes for workers and families."

Irish neutrality is under threat – but it must be maintained

On Saturday 5th September, Dáire Hughes MP travelled to Vienna, Austria to address the annual Volksstimmefest regarding European militarisation and the concept of a European army.

Following the event, the Newry and Armagh MP said:

"It was great to discuss areas of cooperation with different political parties from across Europe at Volksstimmefest 2026.

"Sinn Féin will continue to protect Irish military neutrality, resist EU militarisation, and defend our independent, non-aligned, sovereign foreign affairs and defence status."

You can find a Dáire Hughes full article on An Phoblacht here



Deirdre Hargey MLA & John Finucane MP

Sinn Féin meet British Secretary of State on legacy proposals

On 17th September, Sinn Féin MP John Finucane and Deirdre Hargey MLA met with the British Secretary of State, Chris Bryant MP, to discuss the British government's legacy proposals.

Speaking after the meeting, the North Belfast MP said:

"The Labour government proposals on legacy have been sitting on the table for far too long.

"We have made our concerns clear for many years; every delay prolongs the hurt experienced by families who have already waited far too long for truth and justice. "Every family is entitled to truth and justice, regardless of who was responsible for the death of their loved one.

"If the British government is serious about dealing with the past, it must stop designing legacy mechanisms around the demands of state forces and instead fulfil its obligations to victims and families in full compliance with international human rights standards.

"Sinn Féin will continue to stand with families and oppose any attempt to place British state forces beyond the reach of accountability."



Joanna Byrne TD

FAI must reflect on position of betrayal

Senator Joanna Byrne has said that the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) board must reflect on their betrayal of Irish football and the people of Palestine. The Sinn Féin spokesperson on Sport said: "The decision by the FAI to fulfil both 'Nations League' fixtures against Israel will be marked in history as a betrayal to the Palestinian people. "I applaud the decision of one player for taking the courageous stand of withdrawing from the squad entirely. "Sinn Féin and opposition parties in the Dáil had brought motions that would have empowered the FAI to make the right call; including, the Irish government covering any financial penalty the FAI may have incurred by refusing to play the games. "This is a dark period for Irish football. "The FAI have acted against the will of the Irish people, and they should hang their heads in shame."

45th National Hunger Strike Commemoration

On Sunday 30th August, the National Hunger Strike Commemoration took place in Ballina, Co. Mayo. The commemoration marked the 45th anniversary of the deaths of Bobby Sands, Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee and Mickey Devine, who died during the 1981 Hunger Strike in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh. The commemoration will also honour Mayo Hunger Strikers Jack McNeela, Michael Gaughan and Frank Stagg, together with all those who participated in Hunger Strikes throughout Irish history. Addressing the event, Michelle O'Neill said: "As we mark the 45th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strikes, we remember the immense courage and sacrifice of the hunger strikers throughout Ireland's long struggle for freedom. "The enormous crowds on the streets of Ballina today are a powerful testament to the enduring strength of their legacy and the place they continue to hold in the hearts of so many – their sacrifice will never be forgotten."



Michelle O'Neill pictured with Ógra Shinn Féin – Ballina, Co. Mayo

Ambassadors' briefing highlights extent of current crisis in Cuba

On 30th July, Sinn Féin held an online briefing for Party members on the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Cuba. The meeting featured live contributions from Cuban Ambassadors to Ireland and Britain, Bernardo Guanche & Ismara Vargas Walter, and a pre-recorded message from Dr Alex Carreras Pons, a Havana based clinician. Following the briefing which also reviewed the work of the Cuban Solidarity Forum in Ireland, Declan Kearney MLA said: "For over six-decades the Republic of Cuba has been systematically subjected to an illegal US blockade. "Since January 2026, the US has intensified economic, commercial and financial embargoes against Cuba. "Access to water, electricity, healthcare, and other essential services have all been impacted by serious fuel shortages. "Ambassador Vargas described this collective punishment of the Cuban people by the US administration as comparable to a silent genocide. "Cuba is renowned for its selfless commitment to global

humanity and medical internationalism – particularly its 'Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade' during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Now the Cuban people urgently need our support. "As a matter of urgency the US should now end its unjustified aggression and reopen diplomatic relations."



Ambassadors: H.E. Ismara Vargas Walter & H.E. Bernardo Guanche Hernandez



Gerry Kelly MLA

Kelly addresses Diyarbakir 'International Peace Conference'

On 11th July, Gerry Kelly MLA addressed the international conference 'Societal Peace Process in Türkiye and International Experiences' in Diyarbakir. The conference, organised by the 'Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality' and the 'Human Rights Association (İHD)', gathered Kurdish political and civic society representatives together to understand international experiences of conflict resolution and peace

building. Alongside representatives from Colombia and Euskal Herria, the North Belfast MLA outlined experiences and lessons learnt from the peace process in Ireland. Speaking after the conference, he said: "The 'Peace and Democratic Society' declaration made by Abdullah Öcalan on 27th February 2025, and the subsequent decision by the PKK to dissolve, illustrates

a paradigm shift in relations between Kurdish political representatives and the Government of Türkiye. "Sinn Féin is resolute in our conviction that Kurdish representatives and the Government of Türkiye should take advantage of this unprecedented opportunity. "However, to ensure an enduring peace process is developed, Kurdish leader Abdullah Öcalan must be immediately released."

Sinn Féin campaign underway to promote workers' rights

Declan Kearney MLA has announced that Sinn Féin is currently campaigning to inform workers and families of the benefits of the 'Good Jobs' Employment Rights bill. The Party's workers' rights spokesperson said: "In recent weeks Sinn Féin representatives and activists across the north have been highlighting how workers and their families will benefit from the Good Jobs Bill. "Despite opinion polls showing widespread community support for the 'Good Jobs' Employment Rights legislation, the DUP continue to block the Bill by refusing to allow it to leave the Executive and commence democratic scrutiny by the Assembly. "The DUP opposition is totally indefensible and stands in defiance of international expertise and best practice which demonstrates that legally protected workers' rights are central to developing a productive and fairer economy. "Regardless, Sinn Féin will continue to represent the interests of all workers by pressing forward with this transformative legislation."

SINN FÉIN'S
**GOOD
JOBS BILL**



**WILL STRENGTHEN
TRADE UNIONS
AND PROTECT
WORKERS' RIGHTS.**



John Finucane MP

British ban on illegal Israeli settlements, a step in the right direction

John Finucane MP has welcomed the announcement of a ban on imports by British Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband MP, from illegal Israeli settlements and the suspension of additional arms export licenses to Israel, as a step in the right direction. The North Belfast MP nevertheless added that comprehensive policy changes from the British government are still required: "This shift in British government policy is a step in the right direction; however, it arrives after a considerable and costly delay that is measured in innocent Palestinian lives.

"The proposed restrictions on illegal settlement-linked commerce, financing, and promotion is a significant move. "It brings Britain – in conjunction with France and Canada – into line with international partners that have either already banned goods or are in the process of doing so; including, the Irish government, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Norway. "We note that this announcement indicates that there will be a ban on imports from illegal settlements and sanctions on individuals and firms providing services to settlers. "This announcement must mark the beginning of a genuine process to end Israeli impunity and British complicity. "There have been too many false dawns. "The Palestinian people can wait no longer."

Fête de l'Humanité

On 11th September, Mary Lou McDonald TD attended and addressed a number of events with progressive voices from across the world at the Fête de l'Humanité in Paris, France.



Mary Lou McDonald TD

Louise O'Reilly tells TUC Congress that Irish Unity works

On 14th September, Louise O'Reilly TD addressed an Irish unity fringe meeting at the British Trade Union Congress (TUC) in Brighton. The Dublin Fingal West TD spoke on a panel with RMT General Secretary Eddie Dempsey, British Labour MP John McDonnell and historian Geoff Bell.



Louise O'Reilly TD



6th Annual Martin McGuinness Chieftains Walk, New York City

The annual Martin McGuinness Walk took place on 13th September in New York City to remember his legacy of leadership, peace and reconciliation.



Catalpa 150th Anniversary, New York City

To mark the 150th anniversary of the 1876 rescue of Fenian prisoners from Fremantle Prison in Western Australia by the American whaling ship Catalpa, events were organised across New York City this summer.

Manifiesta 2026

On 13th September, Declan Kearney travelled to Ostend to address a debate on "Europe Facing Militarisation" with representatives from Belgium, Germany, France & Austria.

