

SINN FÉIN ASSEMBLY MANIFESTO 2017





**STANDING UP FOR
EQUALITY, RESPECT
AND INTEGRITY**

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FOREWORD

FROM MICHELLE O'NEILL

A Chara,

No one has worked harder than Martin McGuinness to establish and maintain political institutions that deliver for all. Institutions that promote the cause of reconciliation and treat people with equality and respect.

The hope and hard work of Martin McGuinness was undermined by the actions of a Tory government that failed to honour its commitments and is imposing austerity and Brexit against the will of the people. The DUP stand with the Tories.

The arrogance and disrespect of the DUP to sections of the community damaged the institutions. On the back of the financial scandals of NAMA and Red Sky, RHI became the tipping point.

Martin McGuinness called time on all of this. There is no going back to the failure of the past.

In this election Sinn Féin are standing up for equality, integrity and respect. This also means dealing with the challenges of legacy.

We are moving forward to a society where there is zero tolerance of racism, sectarianism and homophobia. A society where your identity is embraced and celebrated.

We are about a new way of working within the institutions, ensuring they deliver for all our people on the basis of equality and respect.

We are for a new, united and agreed Ireland.

You have an opportunity to stand with us. To stand for change.

There are some who want to sectarianise this election, to fight old battles, to halt progress.

Their time is over. This is your time.

Last May we set out our agenda for the Departments. We stand by that manifesto and have included a summary of its contents.

What we win together in this election, we win for all.



MICHELLE O'NEILL

PARTY LEADER IN THE NORTH





**AG SEASAMH AR SON
COMHIONANNAIS, MEASA
AGUS IONRACAIS**

INTRODUCTION

FROM GERRY ADAMS

A chara,

Sinn Féin stands on our record.

With an increasing mandate across the island of Ireland, we have managed to bring about positive change and deliver for citizens.

Sinn Féin leads the opposition in the Dáil and we have played a consistent role in the Assembly, however the actions of the DUP have undermined the political institutions.

The people need and deserve effective representation which delivers for them in their daily lives.

This means that the Good Friday Agreement principles of equality, respect, parity of esteem, and fairness must be implemented and the Irish and British governments must fulfil their obligations.

The recent admission by the Taoiseach that there remain outstanding elements of the Agreement is not acceptable.

The Irish government needs to act as co-equal guarantors of your rights.

This election gives you the opportunity to send that message loud and clear.

Sinn Féin will hold them to account.

Sinn Féin will also stand against Brexit and the threat it poses to the economy of the island and to the all-island architecture of the Good Friday Agreement.

Sinn Féin proposes a special designated status for the north within the European Union that ensures Ireland is protected.

Sinn Féin are for public services. We are for people having their due rights and entitlements. We are for the unity of the people of this country.

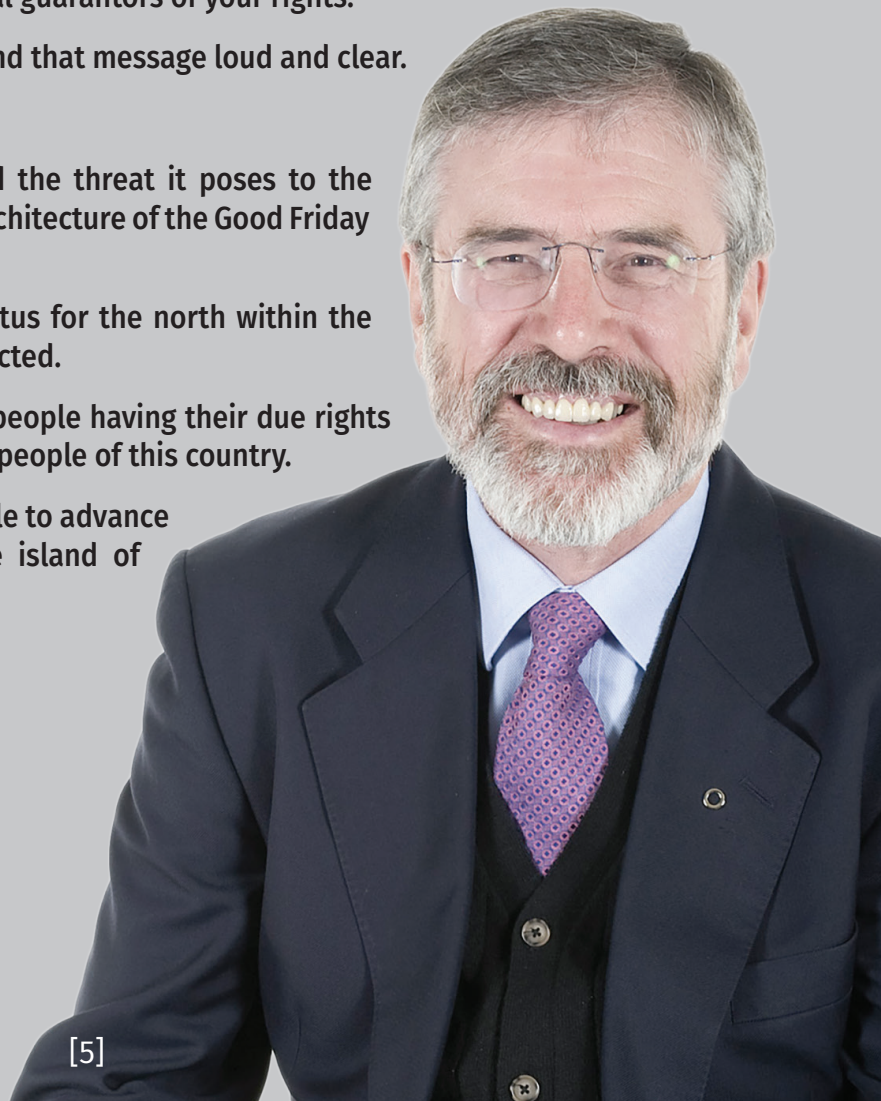
And on March 2nd we need every vote possible to advance our agenda for positive change across the island of Ireland.

Bí gí linn, vótáil Sinn Féin.

Is mise le meas,



GERRY ADAMS TD
Sinn Féin President



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF 2016 ASSEMBLY MANIFESTO

SINN FÉIN'S MAY 2016 MANIFESTO FOCUSED ON A 10 POINT PROGRAMME


1. Health – £1 billion additional health spending;
2. Economy – 50,000 new jobs;
3. Housing – 10,000 new social and affordable homes;
4. Welfare – £500 million to help those in need;
5. Education – Increase to £525 million spend on Childcare and Early Child Development Initiatives;
6. Infrastructure – £6 billion to improve roads, transport and public services;
7. Rural - Extend fast-speed broadband to rural communities;
8. Tackling Crime – ring-fence funding for front line policing;
9. Equality – promote equality measures for all people and all communities
10. Building the momentum towards Irish Unity

This Programme will deliver growth in the Economy, provision of proper Public Services and ensure the promotion of Equality and Inclusion. In the new mandate, we will continue to deliver this programme.

Our policies on health, education, employment, infrastructure, children and young people, older people and those denied their basic human rights were all designed to ensure that we improved the quality of people's lives.

In addition to the extra £1 billion of health spending we are committed to investing additional funding so we can deliver on the Bengoa Report and the vision that Michelle O'Neill, the Health Minister, has set out.

In addition to the £6 billion to improve our infrastructure, including the A5, A6 and Narrow Water Bridge, we are ensuring that it is used to address regional imbalances, so as jobs and prosperity are spread across our cities and towns.



Sinn Féin's May 2016 Manifesto
can be read at
www.sinnfein.ie/contents/43354

INTEGRITY IN GOVERNMENT

Sinn Féin believes in accountable and transparent government. That means zero tolerance of corruption, malpractice and waste. To maintain public confidence, all allegations of corruption must be investigated with those responsible held to account.

The DUP's handling of the RHI scandal has undermined public confidence and will potentially cost the taxpayer £500 million. This follows the other financial scandals associated with the DUP, Red Sky and NAMA.

A credible investigation into the RHI scandal was not possible while Arlene Foster remained in post as First Minister, given that she was the Minister responsible for the scheme's development.

Investigating allegations of corruption or the abuse of public finances is not an orange or green issue. This is about allegations of incompetence and corruption. That is why Sinn Féin Finance Minister, Máirtín Ó Muilleoir has launched an Independent Public Inquiry.

The abuse of public funds means the finances needed to deliver health services, housing, education or welfare supports is at risk.

The waste of public money in the RHI scheme exacerbates the already challenging financial environment due to the Tory austerity agenda. To offset the worst of those excesses the Executive must have control of the economic and fiscal powers in order to protect the most vulnerable, to grow the economy and invest in our young people.

SINN FÉIN'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Full implementation of RHI inquiry recommendations;
- Publication of party political donations;
- Devolution of fiscal and taxation powers;
- Introduction of a register of lobbyists;
- Roll-out of public education and awareness campaign on whistleblowing;
- Transparency in government and public life.

FORWARD

THE INSTITUTIONS CAN ONLY WORK IF POLITICAL LEADERS CONTINUOUSLY PROMOTE THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP GOVERNMENT AND AN EQUAL SOCIETY.

MOVING FORWARD

There can be no return to the status quo. That means that all parties in government must uphold the principles of respect, power sharing and parity of esteem. Sinn Féin in the power-sharing Executive will exercise our democratic mandate to deliver a new politics, a progressive politics that delivers for all citizens.

Partnership government has collapsed under allegations of corruption and malpractice.

The Irish and British governments, and especially the British Government, have failed in their responsibilities as joint and co-equal guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement.

Unionist majority rule and direct rule failed because they did not have the consent of the people. The strength of the Sinn Féin mandate has ensured that those days are gone.

The institutions can only work if political leaders continuously promote the fundamental principles of partnership government and an equal society. The DUP has refused to adhere to the principles of the Good Friday Agreement, equality of treatment, parity of esteem and mutual respect for all citizens.

In any future negotiations Sinn Féin will uphold our democratic mandate and give full expression to the rights and entitlements of all sections of the electorate regardless of national identity, political allegiance, religious belief or none, sexual orientation, gender, class, disability, age, geography, or ethnic origin.

SINN FÉIN PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- The two governments must honour and implement the Agreements in full;
- Ensuring that resource decisions are based on objective need.

The people of the North voted to remain in the European Union. The Tory government are seeking to impose Brexit on Ireland. The DUP stand with them and not with the people, or our economic interests.

Sinn Féin will defend that democratic mandate and the rights of citizens.

Sinn Féin believe that the only credible approach is for a designated special status for the north within the EU that will uphold the democratic vote of citizens, but will also ensure that the frontier between the EU and Britain will not be on the island of Ireland.

Brexit undermines the integrity and status of the Good Friday Agreement and the political institutions. It will be bad for our economy, our people and our public services.

The north must continue to have free movement of our people, goods, and services on a north/south basis, and between the other member states of the EU enabling us to benefit from the biggest trading bloc in the world.

The north receives agriculture and fisheries funding, structural and investment funds and peace funding from the EU. These economic benefits must be continued.

Sinn Féin is totally opposed to an EU frontier across Ireland. Trade tariffs, physical checks or border passport controls are unacceptable.

Sinn Féin will work to ensure the Irish government acts in the national interest to make achieving designated special status within the EU an objective of the Brexit negotiations.

SINN FÉIN'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- Securing designated special status for the north;
- Free movement of people, goods and services.

BREXIT

THE NORTH MUST CONTINUE TO HAVE FREE MOVEMENT OF OUR PEOPLE, GOODS, AND SERVICES ON A NORTH/SOUTH BASIS, AND BETWEEN THE OTHER MEMBER STATES OF THE EU ENABLING US TO BENEFIT FROM THE BIGGEST TRADING BLOC IN THE WORLD.

Sinn Féin's case to achieve Designated Special Status can be read at www.sinnfein.ie/brexit

EQUALITY & RESPECT

**SINN FÉIN IS
COMMITTED TO
GUARANTEEING
RELIGIOUS AND
CIVIL LIBERTY,
EQUAL RIGHTS
AND EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ALL
CITIZENS.**

A commitment to equality, parity of esteem and respect must guide any re-establishment of the political institutions. These were the principles and values which the people voted for in the Good Friday Agreement.

This will require a step change in the behaviour and attitude of the DUP. It will also require a step change in the approach of the Irish and British governments who are failing to fulfil their duties as co-guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement.

Sinn Féin is committed to guaranteeing religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities for all citizens. There can be no place for sectarianism, racism and misogyny in our institutions and our society.

Peoples sexual orientation must be respected and accommodated. The rights of the transgender community must also be respected.

Sinn Féin is committed to mainstreaming equality in all aspects of political and public life. This will include putting in place the necessary legislation to safeguard everyone's equality and human rights.

SINN FÉIN'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- A Bill of Rights;
- An anti-poverty strategy;
- Gender equality;
- Acht na Gaeilge;
- Marriage equality;
- Strengthening disability legislation;
- Strengthening racial discrimination legislation;
- An Anti-Sectarian Charter.

UNITY

SINN FÉIN'S
OBJECTIVE IS A
NEW AND
UNITED IRELAND
- AN AGREED
IRELAND.



UNITY

Partition has been a disaster for Ireland. It has failed the people of the north and south. It has failed unionists. It has failed nationalists. It has divided our people, our economies and our systems of government. Ending partition has now taken on a new imperative following the EU referendum. Brexit is a game changer.

Now is the time to look to the future, to begin to debate and plan the type of Ireland in which we can all live and prosper.

The Good Friday Agreement, which was supported by people right across the island, paved the way for greater all-Ireland co-operation through all island bodies and, ultimately, for reunification by peaceful and democratic means. Sinn Féin will ensure that the Irish government, as a co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement, upholds the rights of all Irish citizens, whether they live in Cork or Derry.

A New and United Ireland will be multi-cultural, pluralist, inclusive and accommodating to all our people in all their diversity. The Orange tradition and the British identity of many people in the north must be constitutionally protected in a new agreed, United Ireland.

SINN FÉIN'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- An island wide referendum on Irish unity;
- Presidential voting rights for citizens in the north;
- Greater development of the all-Ireland economy;
- Sharing/integration of health and other public services

Sinn Féin's
Towards a New Republic
can be read at
www.sinnfein.ie/contents/36068

ENGAGING WITH THE LEGACY OF THE PAST

WE UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF ALL VICTIMS TO INFORMATION, FULL DISCLOSURE AND TRUTH.

Engaging with the legacy of the past remains one of the outstanding challenges of the peace process. Sinn Féin acknowledges the grief associated with every life lost in the conflict. There can be no hierarchy of victimhood; all harm and loss must be acknowledged. We are committed to delivering equality of provision for all Victims and Survivors.

Sinn Féin is committed to the human rights compliant implementation of the Stormont House Agreement legacy mechanisms. We uphold the rights of all victims to information, full disclosure and truth. The British government's use of 'national security' to block any independent investigation into their conflict policies and actions is not acceptable. They fear accountability.

Sinn Féin will not tolerate attempts by the British governments to give immunity to state forces and their surrogates in the unionist death squads. The British government were actively involved in the conflict. They were not neutral.

Sinn Féin remains totally committed to engaging with the key challenges of truth, justice, acknowledgement and healing. We are committed to pursuing reconciliation. We are committed to building a future where we move beyond historical antagonisms of the past. As part of that process we are committed to adopting the UN gender approaches to post conflict situations.

SINN FÉIN'S PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- The implementation of the legacy mechanisms agreed in the Stormont House Agreement (2014);
- The immediate resourcing and commencement of the Lord Chief Justice's five year Legacy Inquest Plan;
- Opposition to partisan immunity for British state forces