

# UNITING NEWSLETTER

#TIME4UNITY  
#AM LE HAONTAHT

# IRELAND NUAHT

MAY  
BEALTAINE  
2020

## UNITED IRELAND PLAN IS NOW CRUCIAL

The Fine Gael/Fianna Fáil Framework Document is incoherent, dishonest and devoid of detail.

It claims to address the critical issues of housing, health and Irish unity but it is a faint echo of our general election manifesto; a document which provided costings and which the electorate supported.

Tellingly, the section entitled 'A Shared Island' is located at the end of the document.

The attempts to avoid using the word 'Ireland' are almost laughable. It's 'the State' or 'the island', it's 'a nation' and later 'a nation state'. Yet Fine Gael claim to be the United Ireland Party and Fianna Fáil the Republican Party!

There is a lot of rhetoric promising to deepen and strengthen already existing cross border bodies, to guard the Good Friday Agreement, to develop its potential.

It is now 22 years since the Agreement was signed. Instead of paying lip service, FF/FG should join us in demanding the realisation of the outstanding elements of the Agreement.

They must agitate for a Referendum on Unity.

Successive polls have indicated growing demand both north and south for Unity, the threshold has been met and a date for the unity referendums must be set.

The initiative from the Ireland's Future group demanding a Citizen's Assembly to plan for unity makes sense. It reflects current thinking in Ireland and across the world.

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael claim to support the Good Friday Agreement. They must then support the method it recommends to achieve reunification; referendums both north and south.

Yet there is no mention of that in all their empty talk about a shared future.

Sinn Féin is clear. We want to see a United Ireland. Covid 19 has already demonstrated the necessity of an all Ireland health service. The same could be applied to an all island economy, to education, to agriculture to the environment, to climate change, to justice and so on.

That must be the focus of the next Irish government.

## TÁ GÉARGHÁ ANOIS LE PLEAN D'ÉIRINN AONTAITHE

Tá creat cáipéise Fhine Gael / Fhianna Fáil doiléir, mímhacánta agus gann i sonraí. Maítear ann go dtabharfar aghaidh ar shaincheisteanna: tithíocht, sláinte agus aontacht na hÉireann, ach níl ann ach scáil an forógra toghcháin s'againne. Forógra ina raibh costáil ann agus ar thacaigh toghthóirí leis.

Ba shuntasach an mhír dár dteideal 'A Shared Island' bheith ar deireadh na cáipéise.

Is náireach na hiarrachtaí an focal 'Éire' a sheachaint ann. Is 'an Stát' nó 'an t-oileán', is 'an Náisiún' agus níos faide anonn 'náisiúntát' atá in úsáid sa cháipéis. Áfach, deir Fine Gael gurb ionann iad agus Páirtí Éire Aontaithe agus deir Fianna Fáil gurb iad an Páirtí Poblachtach.

Tá neart reitric atá ann sna gealltanais na comhlachtaí trasteorann a neartú agus a dhaingniú, Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a chosaint agus a cumas a fhorbairt. Táimid 22 bliain anois ó síníodh an comhaontú. Ba cheart do FF/FG tacú linn ag éileamh cur i gcrích na gceisteanna den Chomhaontú atá fós le réiteach, seachas béalghrá a thabhairt dó.

Caithfidh siad a bheith ag agóidíocht do reifreann ar Aontacht na hÉireann.

Léiríonn pobalbhreith i ndiaidh pobalbhreith an meáduip tagtha orthu siúd atá ag iarraidh Aontacht na hÉireann ó thuaidh agus theas. Baineadh an tairseach amach tá sé in am reifreann d'Aontacht a shocrú.

Luíonn ciall leis an tionscnamh ón dream; Ireland's Future, Tionól Saoránach a bhunú le bheith ag plé le ceist na haontachta. Léiríonn sé smaointeoireacht reatha in Éirinn agus ar fud an domhain.

Maíonn Fine Gael agus Fianna Fáil go dtacaíonn siad le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta Fagann siad nach mór dóibh tacú leis an mhodh a mholtar ann leis an aontacht a bhaint amach, is sin; reifrinn ó thuaidh agus theas Leoga, ní aon chaint faoi ina bhfocail dhíomhaoinne i dtodhchaí roinnt.

Tá Sinn Féin ríshoiléir. Ba mhaith linn Éire Athaontaithe a fheiceáil. Tá an géarghár seirbhís sláinte uile-Éireann a bheith againn léirithe ag an ghéarchéim COVID-19. Thiocfadh an oiread céanna a bheith i gceist leis an gheilleagar, an timpeallacht, athrú aeráide, an córas dlí, talmhaíocht ar bhonn uile-Éireann.

Caithfidh an chéad rialtas Éireann díriú air seo.

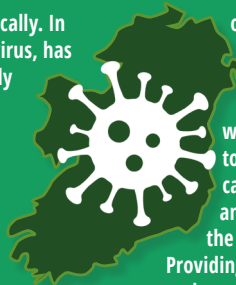
## COVID-19: ALL-IRELAND RESPONSE ESSENTIAL

Life has changed, suddenly and dramatically. In just a few weeks, Covid-19, the Coronavirus, has come to dominate all aspects of our daily lives. Our position is that an all-Ireland approach is essential to protect people from the virus.

It makes sense for those with responsibility for health and safety on our small island to work together. Covid-19 does not recognise Partition—and nor should those combatting it.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the HSE and the NHS was welcome - but precious time was lost, and people's health was jeopardised by its delay.

The most immediate priority is to mitigate the spread of the virus, protect citizens and ensure the safety of those working on the front line, including carers. Those



objectives can best be achieved through an all-Ireland strategy.

The sharing of information and resources will be crucial to our well-being in the coming weeks and months. And it will be essential too, when the virus abates that political leaders carefully coordinate the emergence of the North and South from the economic crisis created by the Coronavirus and Brexit.

Providing financial support for citizens, workers, and employers during this pandemic is critically important. The failure of the caretaker government to extend the Pandemic Unemployment Payment to workers from the North who were employed and paid taxes in the South is shameful and needs to be reversed.

Brexit brought the economic absurdity of partition

into view; Reunification is coming: the political and economic reintegration of our country is now the subject of serious and sustained debate.

This terrible virus must add impetus to that debate: it has shown the benefits of working together and the dangers of not doing so. And when we eventually emerge from this crisis, we will need to talk about the logic of an all-Ireland universal and free health system fit to serve the needs of all our people.

In her Easter address President of Sinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD, who was herself recovering from the virus, gave a strong message of hope:

Ní neart go cur le chéile, There is no strength without unity.

Inequality and division weakens society. It makes it vulnerable, economically and socially. We will fight to deliver the change for which the people voted. In Unity.

# REMEMBERING THE HUNGER STRIKERS



**Bobby Sands**  
5th MAY 1981

39 years ago, Óglach Bobby Sands died in the H Blocks of Long Kesh after 66 days on Hunger Strike. He was 27 years old. He had spent one third of his 27 years in prisons. He was never interviewed on television or radio and we only have a few photographs of him. The image of him which is known around the world was taken in Long Kesh on a smuggled camera when he was nineteen. There he is, long hair, open-neck shirt, red V-neck jumper, a big warm smile on his handsome face, never realising that in a few years' time he and his comrades would be plunged into a Thatcher-made hell. The intent of Thatcher and her Government in removing Special Category Status from the republican prisoners was to try to portray them and the cause they fought for as criminal. Bobby, a Belfast man, died on May 5th.



**Raymond McCreech**  
21st MAY 1981

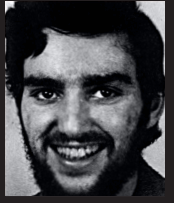


**Francis Hughes**  
12th MAY 1981

May 12th, one week later, Francis Hughes, aged 25, from County Derry, died.

May 21st Raymond McCreech, 24, from South Armagh and Patsy O'Hara, 23, from Derry, both died.

In the months that followed, six more prisoners died in a Hunger strike that is remembered around the world as a struggle for justice. Thatcher's criminalisation policy was broken.



**Patsy O'Hara**  
21st MAY 1981

## MAY 1916 - THE EXECUTION OF THE RISING LEADERS

May also marks the execution of the leaders of the 1916 Rising. Take time this May to remember the determination and selflessness, the dignity and courage of these heroes.

They fought for a different future, a better future. The Republic they all fought for is a nation where people are citizens, not subjects; where people have fundamental rights, not arbitrary privileges; where there is equality, not elitism; where there is unity, not partition and division.

We remember them all.



Pádraig Pearse Thomas J Clarke Joseph Mary Plunkett Edward Daly Michael O'Hanrahan William Pearse John MacBride James Connolly



Thomas MacDonagh Con Colbert Éamonn Ceannt Michael Mallin Seán Heuston Thomas Kent Seán MacDermott Roger Casement

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## GEARD IS FÉIDIR LEATSÁ A DHÉANAMH?

**Write to your elected representatives and ask that they publicly call for a date for referendums on Irish Unity.**

Scríobhaigí chuig bhur n-ionadaithe tofa agus iarraigí orthu dátaí ar mhaithe le reifrinn d'Éire Athaontaithe á n-éileamh go poiblí.

**Write to your regional paper on the growing support for a United Ireland and quote the Good Friday Agreement's mechanism for achieving it through referendums.**

Scríobhaigí chuig bhur nuachtán réigiúnach faoin mhéadú ar thacaíocht d'Éirinn Aontaithe. Luaigí an clásal i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta; aontacht a bhaint amach trí reifrinn.

**Use social media to:**

**Úsáidigí na Meáin Shóisialta le:**

- spread the word about the growing support for a United Ireland Scaipigí an scéal faoin mhéadú ar thacaíocht d'Éirinn Aontaithe
- Share articles and documents which discuss reunification Roinnigí ailt agus cáipéis atá ag plé le hathaontú
- Call for a date to be set for the referendums and start the work to win them. Iarraigí dátaí a bheith socraithe do na reifrinn agus tosaigí ar an obair leo a bhaint
- Use our political strength to build support and increase awareness of the logic of ending partition. Úsáidigí cumhacht polaitiúil s'againn le tacaíocht a chothú. Léirigí don phobal an loighic deireadh a chur leis an Chríochdheighilt.



We want to hear from you with your suggestions on building support and awareness for ending Partition. Please email [IrishUnity@sinnfein.ie](mailto:IrishUnity@sinnfein.ie)

Ba mhaith linn cloisteáil uait faoin cén dóigh tacaíocht a chothú agus feacht a thógáil go gcuirfead deireadh leis an Chríochdheighilt. Téigh i dteagmháil le [IrishUnity@sinnfein.ie](mailto:IrishUnity@sinnfein.ie)

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