

# UNITY

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#AM LE HAONTACTH

# NEWS

JULY IÚIL 2020

## THIS IS NO GOVERNMENT FOR CHANGE NÍ RIALTAS É SEO AR SON ATHRAITHE

The Programme for Government 2020, the basis of the government formed by Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party, falls far short of the change that people voted for in the February general election.

A stark example is the section – Mission “A Shared Island” which fails to set out any plan or mission. This is a wasted opportunity to propose an inclusive process to plan for the future. Republicans and nationalists in all parties and none are angry and disappointed that the 2020 Programme for Government failed to even mention Irish Unity or a United Ireland. This impresses no one, including unionists in the North.

Sinn Féin is fully invested in and committed to the Good Friday Agreement. Successive governments played a role in negotiating this and subsequent agreements and can rightly claim ownership, with others, for the commitments contained in them.

Why then do the parties in this government refuse to implement the commitments they were part of shaping? The people of the island North and South voted for them and the coalition parties were among those that campaigned for that vote.

Article 3 ‘1’ of Bunreacht na hÉireann states;

*“It is the firm will of the Irish nation in harmony and friendship to unite all the people who share the territory of the island of Ireland, in all the diversity of their identities and traditions, recognising that a United Ireland shall be brought about only by peaceful means with the consent of the majority of the people, democratically expressed in both jurisdictions on the island ...”*

The Programme for Government does not fulfil this constitutional obligation.

Sinn Féin proposes the following steps be taken within 6 months;

- ➔ Establish a Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity.
- ➔ Convene an all-island representative Citizen’s Assembly or appropriate Forum to discuss and plan for Irish Unity.
- ➔ Publish a White Paper on Unity.
- ➔ Initiate a process to secure the referendum on Irish Unity as committed to in the Good Friday Agreement.

Civic society across the island has been calling in increasing numbers for a ‘new conversation’ about the future constitutional arrangements for the island of Ireland.

There is a legal and international obligation on an Irish government to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement. This means going beyond the rhetoric of the last two decades. It means delivering.

Tá Clár an Rialtais 2020, atá mar bhunchloch ag an rialtas atá bunaithe ag Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil agus an Comhaontas Glas, giota maith ar shiúl ón athrú ar vótáil muintir na hÉireann ar a shon in olltoghchán mhí Feabhra.

Sampla láidir is ea an chuid - Misean “Oileán Comhroinnte” nach ndéantar aon phlean ná misean a leagan amach ann. Is deis chaillte í seo próiseas uileghabhálach a mholadh chun pleanáil don toadhchá. Tá fearg agus díomá ar Phoblachtánaigh agus náisiúnaithe i ngach páirtí gur theip ar Chlár Rialtais 2020 fiú Aontacht na hÉireann nó Éire Aontaithe a lua. Ní théann sé seo i gcion ar dhuine ar bith, aontachtaithe sa Tuaisceart san áireamh.

Tá Sinn Féin infheistithe go hiomlán i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus tiomanta dó freisin. Bhí ról ag rialtas i ndiaidh rialtais san idirbheartaíocht ar a shon seo agus tá sé de cheart acu úinéireacht a mhaíomh, i dteannta le go leor eile, ar na héilimh atá istigh iontu.

Cén fáth, mar sin, a ndiúltaíonn na páirtithe atá sa rialtas seo na gealltanais a raibh baint acu lena múnú a chur i bhfeidhm? Vótáil muintir na hÉireann, thuaidh agus theas, ar a son agus bhí páirtithe na comhghuaillíochta ina measc siúd a chuaigh i mbun feachtasaíochta ar son an vóta sin.

*“Is í toil dhiongbháilte náisiún na hÉireann, go sítheach cairdiúil, na daoine go léir a chomhroinneann críoch oileán na hÉireann i bpáirt lena chéile, in éagsúlacht uile a bhféiniúlachtaí agus a dtraidisiún, a aontú, á aithint gur trí mhodhanna síochánta amháin le toiliú thromlach na ndaoine, á chur in iúl go daonlathach, sa dá dhlíse san oileán...”*

Ní chomhlíonann an Clár Rialtais an dualgas bunreachtúil seo.

Molann Sinn Féin na céimeanna seo a leanas sna 6 mhí atá amach romhainn:

- ➔ Comhchoiste Oireachtas a bhunú ar Aontacht na hÉireann
- ➔ Tionól Saoránach ionadaíoch uile-oileáin nó Fóram cuí a thionól chun Aontacht na hÉireann a phlé agus a phleanáil.
- ➔ Páipéar Bán ar Aontacht a fhoilsiú.
- ➔ Próiseas a thosú chun reifreann ar Aontacht na hÉireann a chinntiú de réir mar a gealladh i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta.

Tá an t-éileamh ar fud na hÉireann le haghaidh ‘comhrá nua’ faoi na socraithe bunreachtúla d’Éirinn ag méadú agus ag méadú.

Tá dualgas dlíthiúil agus idirnáisiúnta ar rialtas na hÉireann Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta a chur i bhfeidhm go hiomlán. Ciallaíonn sé seo níos mó ná an bholscaireacht atá ann le fiche bliain. Tá beart de réir briathair ag teastáil.

### THIS IS NOT WHAT PEOPLE VOTED FOR

### NÍOR VÓTÁIL DAOINE AR SON AN RIALTAIS SEO

# 'A LIFE IN STRUGGLE IS A LIFE WELL LIVED'



## REMEMBERING BOBBY STOREY

Bobby's own words, delivered no doubt with a smile, sums up his philosophy.

Big Bob was a stalwart of the republican struggle. Interned at the age of 17, he spent 20 years in prison.

His contribution to the cause of a free and independent Ireland was remarkable in the depth of its impact during his years behind bars, in his few years of freedom and when he was released in 1998.

Bobby Storey may not have lived to see Ireland united but his courage and his intellect, his commitment and his vision that it will be achieved have brought us much closer to that goal. We have lost a friend and a comrade who has inspired us all. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis .

# UNITING IRELAND: SINN FÉIN'S OUTREACH PROJECT

A series of online meetings with party membership was organised by the Uniting Ireland Project. Each engagement is hosted by a comhairle ceantair and addressed by a senior party member. They are open to all members within the comhairle ceantair area. Meetings have been held in Donegal, Mayo, Dublin Fingal, Meath, Monaghan and Waterford.

Activists in these areas are now working on local action plans.

**BELFAST**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Tuesday 7th July @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**MATT CARTHY TD**

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**MEATH**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Wednesday 1st July @ 8pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**EMMA SHEERIN MLA**

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**DUBLIN CENTRAL**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Wednesday 15th July @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**PAUL MASKEY MP**

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**GALWAY**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Wednesday 15th July @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**MARK WARD TD**

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**DERRY**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Thursday 9th July @ 7.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**MAIRÉAD FARRELL TD**

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**SLIGO**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Tuesday 7th July @ 8.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**LINDA DILLON MLA**

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**SOUTH DOWN**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Thursday 23rd July @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**CHRIS Mac MANUS MEP**

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**WATERFORD**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Thursday 2nd July @ 7pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**RUAIRÍ Ó MURCHÚ TD**

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**ROSCOMMON**

### UNITING IRELAND MEETING

▶ Developing a local action plan to help deliver Irish Unity

Thursday 16th July @ 8pm

GUEST SPEAKER:  
**DARREN O'ROURKE TD**

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# A DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY - THE NEW IRELAND

The Uniting Ireland Project has developed a page on the Sinn Féin website dedicated to Irish Unity. It will be shared with party members over the coming days before going live. The information on this page will be a useful resource in the campaign on Irish unity.





Ógra Shinn Féin hosted a zoom meeting on Irish Unity for its members. It was well attended with over 50 participants. There will be more online meetings for discussion and planning on the Irish unity campaign and the role that Ógra will play in it.

Ógra's digital campaign includes videos, graphics and their members views on Irish unity and what it means for them. The campaign has been received well on social media and it is clear that the desire for Irish Unity is growing among the youth of Ireland.

Ógra organised a bilateral discussion "2020: The End of the Union", with Plaid Ifanc (Plaid Cymru Youth) to discuss Irish Unity and Welsh Independence. It was live streamed on the Ógra Shinn Féin Facebook page on July 1st.

<https://www.facebook.com/OgraSF/videos/1866971616771904/>

## PLAID CYMRU CALLS FOR A REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE

"Brexit and the coronavirus are stoking the fires of Welsh nationalism" is the headline of an interview with Adam Price, leader of Plaid Cymru.

In spite of Wales voting to leave the EU, Price says there is a growing realisation that making their own decisions on how to deal with the virus has re-awaked a desire for independence and he believes that they will get a referendum by 2030.

## IRELAND'S FUTURE

The Single European Market, the Good Friday Agreement, demographic changes in the North, Brexit, EU membership, the Coronavirus and political pressure, are all factors shaping a national debate about a new and independent Ireland and provoking answers to some key questions: Is a united Ireland economically viable and can we afford an Irish national Health Service were the two featured recently in an online debate organised by the Ireland's Future group It brought three distinguished commentators together to answer these and other questions: leading trade unionist, Patricia Mc Keown and economists David Mc Williams and Paul Gosling. On the all-Ireland economy and health service the answer to affordability was a resounding Yes in the panel's opinion.

The panel concluded that it is the political will and a plan that is now needed, led by the Irish government and including all stakeholders, to move the debate on to affirmative action.

The group held a second panel discussion in June. Brexit: The Irish Protocol, which featured journalist Martina Devlin, RTE's Tony Connolly, the writer and broadcaster Brian Feeny and trade unionist Owen Reidy.

It was crystal ball gazing time for these experienced commentators unravelling the British government's plan or lack thereof. But infrastructure is needed for an EU scrutinised system of checks on goods at EU designated entry ports in Belfast, Larne and Warrenpoint to protect the integrity of the EU's single market, food safety, animal health and tax revenue on goods. The uncertainty is adding to the debate about a date for the referendum on Irish Unity and on membership of the EU for all of Ireland. The political turbulence generated by Brexit in 2016 continues apace and will do so for the foreseeable future.

## WEATHER DOES NOT STOP AT BORDERS!

Sinn Féin Senator Niall Ó Donghaile's recent engagement with Met Éireann has resulted in emergency weather alerts now being issued on an all-Ireland basis.

"Weather doesn't stop at borders and people need to be informed. I am pleased that Met Éireann has responded with this common sense approach. It is a welcome step in the right all-Ireland direction."



Senator Ó Donghaile, from Belfast's Short Stran, has been appointed leader of the Sinn Féin Senators in the Dáil and new Sinn Féin Senator Elisha McCallion from Derry adds to the all Ireland representation in the Senate.

