

# UNITY NEWS

#TIME4UNITY  
#AM LE HAONTACTH

NUAHT NA HAONTACTHA

APRIL AIBREÁN 2023



## ARMAGH / DOWN / LOUTH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

# A HUGE SUCCESS

Sinn Féin MLA Conor Murphy has said that the huge attendance at the recent Armagh Down & Louth People's Assembly demonstrates the level of interest in planning for a new and united Ireland.

Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald was in attendance and gave the opening address at the event.

Conor Murphy said:

"Over 300 people packed into the Carrickdale Hotel on Thursday past to attend the Armagh Down Louth Peoples' Assembly.

"This People's Assembly was an opportunity for citizens from the border region to have their say on the future of Ireland.

"The ill-effects of living under British rule are keenly felt in this area and the implications of Brexit casts a long shadow.

"So too does the British Government's Legacy Bill of Shame, and its mean spirited 'Borders and Nationalities Bill' which makes it mandatory for visitors travelling into the North from the South to firstly obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation.

"This is the latest threat from London to the people here particularly in this region."

The Carrickdale event was the fourth organised by Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland. It was chaired by Dr Conor Patterson of Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency. The panel



included; Reverend Karen Sethuraman; ICTU Assistant General Secretary Gerry Murphy; Mairéad McAlinden former CEO of the Southern Health & Social Care Trust and Aidan Browne of Dundalk's DkIt's Regional Development Centre.

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#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**



# Armagh - Down - Louth People's Assembly a huge success

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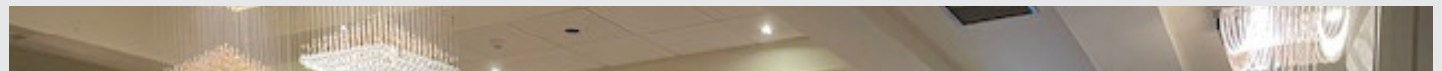
Conor Murphy continued;

"In addition to an excellent panel, the contributions from the audience were thoughtful, spirited, informed and very interesting."

In a wide ranging address Mary Lou spelt out the difficulties caused by partition and the opportunities which will be created by ending division. The Sinn Féin President extended the hand of friendship to Protestants and unionists when she said: "To those from the unionist culture I extend a sincere welcome – the new Ireland must be a warm house for all and your traditions and beliefs must be respected and cherished. I invite you especially to be part of the conversation and for us all to plan for the future together."

Mary Lou urged the Irish government to facilitate and support our changing country by establishing a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity. She said: "This is an exciting time for us all; filled with opportunity and hope for a better future. That's why we need to get it right. Our new constitutional national democracy will emerge from a phased transition and that is why planning and preparation should begin now. Grassroots communities should be involved at the beginning of that process, not at the end."

Speaking directly about the challenges facing the border region Mary Lou said: "Our shared challenge is to create a future which is warm and welcoming for everyone and where the potential prosperity of areas like this border region can be fully unlocked."



**CATCH UP ON  
COMMISSION  
EVENTS ON  
YOUTUBE**



**DONEGAL PEOPLES ASSEMBLY**- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUmR\\_pPnVt8&t=405s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUmR_pPnVt8&t=405s)

**MARY LOU MCDONALDS CONTRIBUTION  
AT THE ARMAGH DOWN LOU TH PEOPLE'S  
ASSEMBLY**- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP2OWkwK0\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HP2OWkwK0_U)



"This is an exciting time for us all; filled with opportunity and hope for a better future. That's why we need to get it right... Grassroots communities should be involved at the beginning of that process, not at the end."

**# Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht**





# NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN ATHLONE

This month Sinn Féin hosted a National Women's Conference in Athlone. The conference created a safe space for women to come together to learn about exciting projects the party are working on and to deepen understanding of issues faced by women throughout Ireland.

The main topics of discussion were Inclusive Advocacy, Delivering Safe Refuges and Preventing Abuse.

Women attending the event were also provided with literature on the Commission on the Future of Ireland and the importance of women having their voice heard.

Ba mhór le haimleas mhná na hÉireann í an Chríochdheighilt. Anois an t-am chun a bheith ag pleanáil agus ag obair chun Éire nua a chruthú ina mbeidh mná sábháilte.

Éire nua ina léirítear muinín i mná.

Éire nua ina gcaitear le mná go cothrom.

Is féidir leat d'uailmhianta, na rudaí a bhfuil tú ag dúil leo, nó aon ábhar imní ata ort a chur isteach i scríbhinn ag [www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland](http://www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland) nó trí ríomhphost a [churchuig.commission@sinnfein.ie](mailto:churchuig.commission@sinnfein.ie)

Glac páirt sa chomhrá ar Éire Nua amach anseo.



## CITIZENS ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN

Activists in Wicklow and Dublin Mid-West have been continuing the call for the Irish Government to establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity. Plan something for your area.

**Become active on the issue. Talk about it!**

#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**





# THIS IS THE RISING OF A NEW GENERATION

On Easter weekend thousands of republicans gathered all across Ireland, to remember those who have struggled for Irish freedom and to honour those who struck for freedom in Easter Week 1916 and in every generation since. Easter is an important time where republicans recommit ourselves to the cause of the independence, sovereignty and unity of Ireland and to a 32-County republic based on equality and social justice. Speaking in Dublin Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald said, "The Good Friday Agreement shows how much can be achieved when we act with common purpose. We have built the peace. Now, we look to write the next chapter - the reunification of Ireland. "I believe that we will see Unity referendums in the next decade. To win these referendums, and win them well, republicans will have to reach out, create space for others and build alliances right across society. "We want to create a nation home for all

our people, where the rights of everyone are protected and advanced. There is no room for trading one form of discrimination for another. We want an end to second class citizenship in all its forms. To build opportunities for everyone. "A new Ireland based on the vision of Tone, an enduring reconciliation and a real union between the Orange and the Green, and between every community on this island. I want to speak directly to Unionists, and to others who remain unconvinced of reunification. I ask you to join what is the most important discussion of our generation. This is your future too. "Your culture, your traditions, your history matter. Your voice, your opinions, and your ideas matter. Be part of what is an exciting, positive, and engaging discussion. "The very best forum for the Unity conversation is a Citizens' Assembly. It would be an inclusive forum for positive discussions on what a new, united Ireland would look like.

"Let me be very clear, if this government refuses to establish a Citizens' Assembly on Irish Unity, a Sinn Féin government will. "This is the rising of a new generation. A rising fuelled by the enduring values of the Irish people - community, compassion, togetherness, and kindness. We seek to build the Irish nation anew. To end partition in our time. To unite our people and our country. "The gravesides of our patriots are not monuments at which to stand and lament. Rather they are signposts to the future that we will achieve together. A nation is a living, breathing thing. "It pulses through the hopes of its people to endure, to continue, to reach its destiny, and we will not write the epitaphs of those who lie here until Ireland - united and free - takes its rightful place amongst the nations of the world. "That was the goal of Easter 1916. It is the goal now, and my friends, it will remain the goal until the day it is achieved."

#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht





# *An Cás a Dhéanamh ar son Aontacht na hÉireann san AE – Seoladh Bhaile Átha Cliath*

Tá FPE Shinn Féin do Lár na Tíre Thiar Thuaidh, Chris MacManus agus TD do Mhaigh Eo, Rose Conway-Walsh, le seoladh an doiciméid taighde nua a réachtáil – “An Cás a Dhéanamh ar son Aontacht na hÉireann san AE”. Beidh seoladh na tuarascála neamhspleách “An Cás a Dhéanamh ar son Aontacht na hÉireann san AE” leis an Ollamh Colin Harvey agus leis an Uas. Mark Bassett, Abhcóide Dlí, ar siúl in Oifig Idirchaidrimh Pharlaimint na hEorpa i mBaile Átha Cliath..

Dúirt Chris McManus:

“Mar Fheisire Eorpach a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar réigiúnteorann na hÉireann, ó pháirtí a bhfuil líon mór ionadaíthe tofa aige i dtuaisceart agus i ndeisceart na hÉireann, tá mé ag leanúint agus ag obair go dlúth ar an bplé maidir le Breatimeacht ó tháinig mé isteach sa Pharlaimint.

Tá sé mar phríomhthosaíocht agam Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus Éire a chosaint ó thionchair dhochracha an Bhreiteimeachta.”

“Agus muid ag ceiliúradh 25 bliain de Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, comhaontú stairiúil, creidim go bhfuil sé in am anois againn tabhairt faoin gcéad chaibidil eile. Is é sin pleanáil agus ullmhú don athaontú. Mar sin, tá lúcháir orm go mbeidhan tuarascáil neamhspleách ‘An Cás a Dhéanamh ar son Aontacht na hÉireann san AE’ á seoladh ag an Ollamh Colin Harvey agus ag an Uasal Mark Bassett, Abhcóide Dlí, in Oifig Idirchaidrimh Pharlaimint na hEorpa i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Dúirt an Teachta Rose Conway-Walsh:

“Is cuid bhunúsach de Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta naféidearthachtaí d’athaontú na hÉireann.”

“Tá gá le pleanáil agus ullmhúchán. Cuireann an tuarascáil seo go mór leis an obair sin.”

“Léirítear sa tuarascáil go bhfuil dearbhuithe reatha ón AE go mbeadh ballraíocht iomlán uathoibríoch ag Éirinn laistigh den AE má éiríonn le reifreann ar aon athaontú.”

“Déantar cás sa tuarascáil cás freisin go nglacadh an AE seasamh dearfach agus tacúil go follasach i dtreo athaontú na hÉireann mar go bhfuil ról gníomhach aige i gcur chun cinn na síochána agus an athmhuintearais trí chlár mhaoinithe an AE.

“Is ar Rialtas na hÉireann go fóill atá an fhreagracht pleanáil d’Aontacht na hÉireann. Mar sin féin, is féidir leis an AE páirtlárnach a ghlacadh i réimsí inniúlachta eisiacha nó comhroinnte faoi chonarthaí AE.”

**Ionad:** Oifig Idirchaidrimh Pharlaimint na hEorpa, 12-14 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach Baile Átha Cliath D02 W710  
**Dáta agus Am:** 12.30PM Dé hAoine 21 Aibreán

**#Time4Unity Am d’Aontacht**





# BREXIT FALLOUT IS DRIVING CONVERSATION ON IRISH UNITY - FINUCANE

The fallout from Brexit is intensifying the conversation on Irish unity, Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said. Mr Finucane said conversations were taking place now about increasing prosperity and this was woven through the discussion about a united Ireland. "There are those that I talk to that still feel aggrieved that their full European rights and citizenship have been stripped from them in a very undemocratic way because of Brexit and we know that the pathway back to full European reintegration is within the model of constitutional change. "So people are having this conversation and what I find interesting about it is that it very rarely comes down to identity politics. "People are asking about how we can have a better health system on the one island, how we can have a better education system, how we can increase and build prosperity, and all of that weaves through the conversation on Irish Unity."

# 'I WANT A NEW, BETTER, PROGRESSIVE UNITED IRELAND, ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION TO ENJOY' - ANDERSON

On April 6th Transform! Europe held a seminary with their partners across Europe on the 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The four speakers were Professor Colin Harvey QUB, Seán Byers Trademark Belfast, Heinz Bierbaum chair of the Rosa Luxembourg Foundation and Martina Anderson as SF Representative to Europe. During Martina's contribution she said:

"War is a terrible thing. Let's not pretend. But the challenge is how to come out of it, how to succeed in conflict resolution, that is what the GFA showed to the world, almost a template of how to pursue peace. "Conflicts have only been resolved by engaging with your enemies, negotiating a settlement, talking, and making space for the other. Generosity and all sides moving. "25 years ago, there was no guarantee of certainty. However, there was clearly the potential to arrive at a peace settlement and so the Good Friday Agreement was signed.

"It was the involvement of the international community, the EU, the USA, Canada, and commitments by the South Africans that helped give the push that was needed to advance Ireland's peace process.

"The Good Friday Agreement, gave us power-sharing institutions, a new beginning to policing, all Ireland political and economic institutions and it released political prisoners. But more importantly, it gave us the right to self-determination. For the first time since partition, Ireland could be reunited peacefully and democratically.

"However, the Democratic Unionist Party, opposed the GFA, and it campaigned and voted against it.

"The GFA was not a republican document, it was not a destination, it was a journey and for republicans a journey to a new and better united Ireland. It contained a commitment for Rights in addition to European Convention of Human Rights to be activated through a Bill of Rights.

"The Good Friday Agreement made provision for a welter of exciting proposals and commitments through which power could be shared, based primarily on reliance on a charter of equality and human rights and equality legislation



known as Section 75.

"A welter of exciting proposals and commitments – yes. And there is no doubt that we are now in a better place because of the GFA, and all credit to everyone who made that happen. Yet 25 years on, commitments are unrealised and we are in a political crisis with none of the GFA institutions working.

"Brexit has been a disaster for Ireland. The British Government did not give a fleeting glance to the damage that Brexit would do to Ireland. That damage accelerated a conversation that was already underway about Irish Unity. Today, more and more People want to see the Irish unity referendum date set and want the Irish Government to properly plan and prepared for unity referendums through establishing a Citizens Assembly.

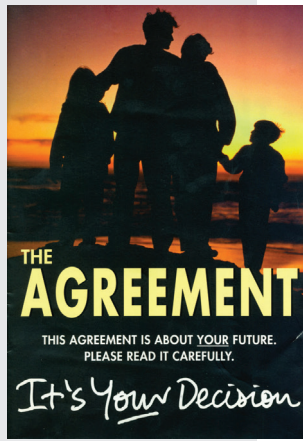
"The referendum choice would be to reunite Ireland and for the north of Ireland to move back under the EU roof or for the north to stay with Britain outside of the EU: Stay linked to a country that has stripped away hard-won human rights, has removed the charter of fundamental rights from us, has told us it will remove the European Conventions of Human Rights, which is a bed rock of GFA rights; and stay linked to a country that has shown to the world that it will break international obligations by implementing legislation like Legacy legislation and other Bills which do not comply with international human rights standards.

"I am a republican and I certainly want a better future than what is being offered by Britain. I want a new, a better, a progressive united Ireland and I especially want that for the next generation to enjoy."



COMHAONTÚ AOINE AN CHÉASTA  
EOCHAIRFHOCAIL

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT  
KEY WORDS



- 🗨 Idirbheartaíocht- Negotiation
- 🗨 Síocháin- Peace
- 🗨 Cainteanna- Talks
- 🗨 Comhaontú- Agreement
- 🗨 Reifreann- Referendum
- 🗨 Príosúnach- Prisoner
- 🗨 Comhionannas- Equality
- 🗨 Cearta daonna- Human Rights



## Together we must keep moving forward

BY MICHELLE O'NEILL

I was 20 years-old and a young mother when the Good Friday Agreement was signed. I remember vividly the sense of hope and optimism that a brighter, peaceful future was on the horizon.

Like many, I will never forget when the result was announced from the podium at the count centre, it was a collective victory for everyone, a day of immense hope and progress for all communities.

It really showed what political leaders and communities can achieve when we work together.

As a representative of the Good Friday Agreement generation, I have worked to build the peace.

And together, we must keep moving forward.

Working as one to build a brighter, better future in which all our children and future generations can prosper, investing our energy into making sure people have access to a world class education, a good job, an affordable home and the best possible opportunities in life.

That is my determination as a First Minister for all, to work endlessly to build that better future, where all our people and communities can thrive.

It is right that today we celebrate the achievements 25 years on from the Good Friday Agreement, but we cannot rest on our laurels, we must keep going forward.



## Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta

BY ANTAINE Ó FEARGHAIL

Sa bhliain 1998, dhá bhliain déag tar éis mo scoileadh saor síníodh Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta. Glacadh go forleathan leis an chomhaontú sna reifrinn fad fud na hÉireann. Bhí sé deimhnithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann, Rialtas na Breataine agus Aontas na hEorpa. Cuireadh fáilte roimhe ar fud an domhain mhóir. Bhí sé ina chor cinniúna. Thug sé leis an suíochan, dóchas agus treoirphean don todhchaí. D'aontaigh mé féin go huile is go hiomlán leis an chomhaontú. Ba chóir dúinn an comhaontú a chosaint ar ais nó ar éigean.

Tá a fhios ag saol mór anois go raibh dianiarrachtaí a dhéanamh sa chúrla chun réiteach na faidhbe a fháil. Bhí na cainteanna seo fíorthábhachtach sna laethanta roimh an Chomhaontú.

Bhí saol mhuintir an tuaiscirt athruithe ó bhun go barr. Tá athrú meoin ann agus tá meanma ár bpobail iontach dearfach. I measc na daoine tá dóchas agus súil acu go mbeidh Éire Aontaithe lena linn-smaoineamh atá chun tosaigh ina n-intinn. Tháinig an creideamh nuafhaighte go díreach ón Comhaontú. Ó shínigh an Comhaontú d'fhás na mílte páistí aníos gan taitní ar chogaíocht, ár gclann féin san áireamh. Creidim féin go láidir nach mbeidh sé i bhfad go dtí mbeidh muid saor ó ghallsmacht.

Gabhfaidh na glúnta atá le teacht buíochas linn as an Chomhaontú. Thug Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta deas dúinn fás agus forbairt ó thaobh cúrsaí polaitíochta de faoin suíochán úr. Tá feabhas ár gcuid torthaí dochreidte ar fad.

# Time 4 Unity **Am d'Aontacht**



# THE PATHWAY WHICH OPENED UP WAS LIKE A NEW PHASE OF THE STRUGGLE

BY GERRY ADAMS

“The Good Friday agreement wasn’t a settlement, the agreement was a commitment or an accord or a willingness to take a new journey, or a roadmap without the destination being agreed.

“We had all agreed to take this new course. People could either at some point agree for Irish unity or could agree to keep the union and that was better than what was there before.

“The Good Friday Agreement has transformed lives and society.

“The first acid test is thousands of people are alive, who may otherwise be dead at this point.

“There are half a million people born since the Good Friday Agreement. Unless they were personally affected, that’s half a million people who have no recollection of the tragedy and the



terror and the difficulties that everybody went through at that time. “Look at what’s happening in Syria, look at what’s happening in parts of Africa. Look at what’s happening in the Palestinian territories, look at what’s happening in Ukraine. That’s not happening here.

“This is the first generation of republicans who have a mechanism through a referendum, which would allow them to determine their own constitutional future.

“Bobby Sands, Mairead Farrell, they didn’t have this type of a mechanism.

“Some people in other struggles are campaigning for the right to referendums. That principle has been conceded here, we have it, it’s a matter of when.

“We certainly want to see a referendum but we want to see it preceded by a thoughtful inclusive process of information of debate. We don’t want to see a repeat of Brexit. When it comes to the referendum, people will know what they’re voting for.

“It just doesn’t make sense on a small island like this for the two parts to be facing away from each other.

“I think that it’s important to recognise that Irish Unity is not inevitable, but those of us who want it can be involved in a phase of gentle persuasion.”



# NOW IS THE TIME TO WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER - THE REUNIFICATION OF OUR COUNTRY

BY MARY LOU McDONALD

“The Good Friday Agreement delivered peace and transformed Ireland. To this day, it stands as an historic, international success story in peace-making - a blueprint for the resolution of even the most intractable of conflicts. The agreement is a testament to what can be achieved when people come together in the spirit of hope. It made progress possible. It made change possible.

“Twenty-five years ago political leaders showed huge courage not just in signing a

peace accord but in establishing the power sharing political institutions. As a result of their work the Good Friday Agreement generation has grown up free of conflict, in a very different world full of hope and opportunity.

“We need to see that same courage and determination today. Today’s political leaders need to recapture the spirit and determination that was seen on this weekend twenty-five years ago.

“We need progress. We need ambition.

“There is huge international goodwill towards Ireland, a huge appetite for

progress, for investment but the economic opportunities that exist will not last forever and will only be properly realised with functioning institutions in place. So let’s take this opportunity to work for all, to attract investment, to create jobs, to deliver change, to plan for the future.

“Twenty-five years ago, a generation wrote a ground-breaking chapter in Ireland’s story. Now is the time to write the next chapter - the reunification of our country. Here in our time, we can build the nation home.”

# REFLECTIONS ON THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT- 25 YEARS ON

A special podcast by Gerry Adams marking the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement was launched this month on YouTube. The special guests are Mitchel McLaughlin, Bairbre de Brún and Gerry Kelly all of whom were heavily involved in the political negotiations at that time. The two-part podcast can be watched by clicking here:

**Part 1- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uK5fTTFROeA>**

**Part 2- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JsfmRD305Yw>**



# Time 4 Unity **Am d'Aontacht**



# UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP

## IRELANDS FUTURE

Ireland's Future this month produced a special 8-page supplement in the Irish News marking the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, with contributions from political leaders and influencers on how the landmark deal shaped the path towards a new, agreed Ireland. The groups chair Senator Frances Black said, "Questions about how a new, united Ireland is structured and governed will be answered through steps including a Citizens' Assembly before a border poll is held."

The group are planning to publish its Ireland 2030 document later this year that will set out the path that must be travelled between now and the referendum date.



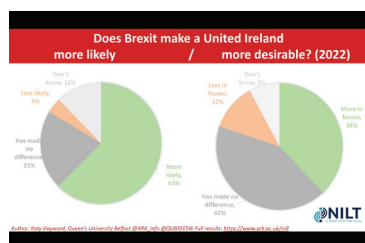
## GAELS LE CHÉILE

Over 15,000 Gaels across Ireland have now signed a letter addressed to An Taoiseach urging him to start preparing for a referendum on Irish unity and establish a Citizens' Assembly. The Taoiseach responded to the group this month and has tasked officials from his department and the department of Foreign Affairs to meet with the group to discuss the groups aspirations further.

Gaels Le Chéile can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The letter to An Taoiseach can be signed at [www.gaellettertotaoiseach.ie](http://www.gaellettertotaoiseach.ie)

## CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURES PODCAST

Constitutional Futures looks at the economic, political and cultural factors that are helping shape the debate and the issues that arrive from it. Professor Colin Harvey speaks with academics and civic society. All 16 episodes of this podcast series are now available online. Click here to tune in: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/queens-university-belfast-constitutional-futures/id1582449200>



## UNIVERSITY SURVEY ON IRISH UNITY

A recent survey by Queens University and University of Ulster has found a plurality of public expectations tilting toward Irish unity and away from the union with Britain. The latest finding, based on 1,405 people surveyed, now finds that 45 percent of people think the north will no longer be a part of the union with Britain 20 years from now. Only 38 percent still think the union with Britain will remain. An even higher percentage – 63 percent, up 5 points from two years ago – thinks Brexit has made unification more likely in any time frame.

## PERSPECTIVES ON CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

A special subcommittee on 'Perspectives on Constitutional Change' has been established as part of the GFA Implementation Committee in the Dáil. A number of topics of discussion have been agreed which the committee will focus on and seek advice on from experts. Topics include Human Rights, Equalities, Women, Finance & Economics, Healthcare, Environment & Natural Resources, Education & Skills and Unionism. The committee have agreed to start on the topic of 'Pensions and Social Security'. The first hearing with Seamus McGuinness, ESRI, Dr Ciara Fitzpatrick, Ulster University and Dr Tom Boland, UCC is due to be held in the coming days.



## THINKING FUTURES: BUILDING RECOGNITION

An event took place this month in Croke Park which involved a panel discussion with 2 pro-union and 2 GAA panel members who discussed identity and their attitude to the constitutional question/building reconciliation.

This is an initiative of the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, and the GAA, which aims to encourage positive engagement and to protect and develop civic space and in doing so promote reconciliation and conflict transformation. This is the first in a series of events planned.



Thinking Futures:  
Building Recognition  
Launch + Forum



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht





## PREPARATORY WORK NECESSARY BEFORE REFERENDUM - BERTIE AHERN

Speaking at an event held at the Brexit Institute in Dublin last week, Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said he “would love” to see a united Ireland.

But he added: “After looking at what happened in Brexit and after looking what happened in the Scottish referendum, any referendum that doesn’t comprehensively and in great detail answer and deal with all of the issues will not pass in my view.

“Therefore there is a huge amount of work that has to take place on what a new Ireland would look like – how we would integrate all our various administrative institutions? Forget money for a minute, that’s another issue, how would you actually do it, how would it function?

“Would Northern Ireland still have an assembly of its own, would people be elected to Northern Ireland Assembly, would they be elected to Dáil Éireann?

“How would we integrate our police forces, how would we integrate our various departments?”

Ahern said he believed this was possible to achieve but the necessary work – such as academic research – had only just commenced.

He added: “I think it is fair to say maybe the first vote will be within the decade, I think that is reasonable, but if the preparatory work isn’t done there is no point in having that referendum.”

# McDonald calls for Citizens’ Assembly on reunification at Liam Lynch centenary

500 people marched up a winding country road to mark the centenary of the death of Irish republican Liam Lynch at his home under sloping mountains near Anglesborough, Co Limerick.

Liam Lynch was shot 100 years ago while on a secret mission in the Knockmealdown Mountains in Tipperary.

“Change is made and history happens because people rise to challenges, rise to the occasion and meet the needs of their people,” Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald said at the commemoration.

“The landscape of Ireland is imprinted with the legends and legacy of our revolutionary patriots. Those who took on the might of the British Empire and who fought with great honour for the freedom of Ireland and her people. For the Republic.”

“Lynch’s dream of an Irish Republic has never been closer.

“Together we will realise the Irish Republic in our time. Now is the time to write the next chapter — the reunification of our country.

“I believe that the Unity Referendums provided for by the Good Friday Agreement will happen in this decade.

“It is therefore vital that the Irish government establishes a Citizens’ Assembly to advance an inclusive, all of society national conversation, vital that government plans and prepares for peaceful, democratic constitutional change. To prepare for 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.



[sinnfein.ie](http://sinnfein.ie)

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