

UNITY NEWS

NUAHT NA HAONTACHTA

JULY IÚIL 2023

#TIME4UNITY
#AM LE HAONTAHT

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Is féidir leat d'uailmhianta, na rudaí a bhfuil tú ag dúil leo, nó aon ábhar inní ata ort a chur isteach i scríbhinn ag www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland nó trí ríomhphost a chur chuig commission@sinnfein.ie

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COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN

Make a contribution in writing by visiting

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HAVE YOUR SAY



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND

The Commission on the Future of Ireland has hosted 6 successful events this year with 4 more planned for 2023.

In addition to the public events the Commission is also accepting written contributions.

Get in touch and have your say on our future. Reach out to your friends, family or groups and organisations in your area and ask them to get in touch.

Tá Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na hÉireann ag Sinn Féin i mbun rannpháirtíocht dhomhain ar an saol atá amach romhainn.

Bí mar chuid de phlé reatha agus plé atá ag fás maidir le hÉireann nua a thógáil.

Is féidir leat ionchur scríofa a chur isteach i nGaeilge nó i mBéarla.

REPORT OF ARMAGH DOWN LOUTH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland and Sinn Féin in Down, Armagh and Louth have published the report of the People's Assembly that was held in the Carrickdale Hotel at the end of March.

The packed event provided an opportunity for people in the border region to have their say on Irish Unity and the future of Ireland. The meeting was addressed by Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD.

The independent chair of the Assembly was Dr Conor Patterson who is currently the Chief Executive of Newry & Mourne Cooperative & Enterprise Agency.

Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD addressed a number of themes in her remarks including the impact of the border on the communities of Armagh, Down and Louth, as well as the significance of the Good Friday Agreement, the importance of extending welcome and partnership across the political cultures in the region and the need to recognise that our 'shared challenge is to create a future which is warm and welcoming for everyone'.

Focusing on the work of The Commission on the Future of Ireland Conor Murphy MLA said that: "There is growing evidence from a succession of elections, academic reports and opinion polls that support for the reunification of Ireland is growing. The May local government election in the North is an example of this. That was as much a vote for Unity as it was for our local government policies and the restoration of the political institutions.

There is a constitutional obligation on the Irish government – including as a co-guarantor of the Agreement - to advance the objective of unity. That means planning now and engaging in a process of inclusive dialogue that ensures that the process of constitutional change is democratic and seamless.

The onus is on the Irish government. They should establish a Citizen's Assembly to begin the work of planning. Preparatory work should start now."

https://www.sinnfein.ie/files/2023/A5_ArmaghDownLouth_REPORT.pdf

https://www.sinnfein.ie/files/2023/A5_GaeilgeArmaghDownLouth_REPORT.pdf



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ARMAGH /
DOWN / LOUTH
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Report of
Armagh, Down, Louth People's Assembly
30 March 2023



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TIONÓL AN PHOBAIL
I nARD MHACHA /
AN DÚN / LÚ

Tuascáil ó
Thionól an Phobail - Co. Ard Mhacha,
an Dún agus Lú
30 Márta 2023



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#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht



BELFAST WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

The Belfast Women's Assembly took place this month in the Europa Hotel.

This was the 5th event hosted by Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland and the 1st of the women's assemblies.

Over 140 women from across the wider Belfast area joined in the discussion on what a New United Ireland would mean for them. This included women from diverse backgrounds and from different political persuasions.

The significant response to this event highlights that women, young and old, want to be a part of this conversation, they want to have their say on what the future will mean for them and their families.

The event was opened by West Belfast MLA Aisling Reilly and was independently chaired by academic Eilish Rooney. Some of the main topics raised by participants were all Ireland health care, government arrangements in a New Ireland, social and economic issues, integrated education and the importance of people feeling welcome including those with a British identity. Seanadóir Lynn Boylan gave the main address at the event. Lynn said, "There is an urgent imperative for the Irish government to

establish a Citizens' Assembly to begin the work of planning for the future."

The meeting finished with the participants voting overwhelmingly in favour of the Irish Government establishing a Citizens' Assembly on Irish reunification. Those in attendance clearly believe that there is a need to begin planning for constitutional change and that this should be led by the Irish Government.

Feedback from those who attended indicated that participants were motivated by being part of the conversation and that there is a demand for this type of meeting to be held again.

A report with the full detail of the event is due to be published over the next short period.



Footage of the event can be viewed here: [Belfast Women's Assembly on the Future of Ireland - YouTube](#)

#Time4Unity **Am d'Aontacht**

DUBLIN YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The Commission on the Future of Ireland hosted the Dublin Youth Assembly this month in the Communication Workers Union. There was a real sense of purpose and excitement among the young people who took part. Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien, a widely respected youth worker, chaired the event and the emphasis was on engagement, conversation and the future.

Huge energy was brought to the discussion by the young people. The event was interactive throughout and included 'Menti' activities and writing down their hopes for the future. The themes of culture, music and identity were repeatedly cited as were equality, climate justice and the development of a rights based society. The biggest challenges identified by the participants are housing, education, mental health and education.

For some it was clearly the first time they had taken part in this kind of discussion and they enjoyed it. They were willing to share ideas and thoughts about what the future could look like.

In the words of the vice chair of the Commission, Seanadóir Lynn Boylan, "Young people have been to the forefront of major constitutional changes in our country, not least in Dublin. Young people living in Dublin today have the chance to live in a united Ireland, something that was denied to those who came before you. You have the right, and also the responsibility, to help shape that new united Ireland and make it a place we can all be proud to live in." The event concluded with the young people being given an opportunity to write their thoughts on a postcard to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. See below a sample of what was written.

A Taoiseach,

Your party fought for a UI. That country has not been delivered. Give the Irish people a

chance to discuss this. Call for a Citizens' Assembly

A Thaoisigh,

Tá Éire nua uaim. Aontaithe, díchoilínthe, fréamhaitha I gcearta an duine – sláinte, tithe,

Saoirse ón mbochtanas san áireamh. Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité. Tá sé in am! Cabhraigh!

There was very positive feedback after the Youth Assembly and there is clearly potential to hold Youth Assemblies in different neighbourhoods across Dublin.



First words that come to mind when you hear 'Irish Unity'



Footage of the event can be viewed here: [Dublin's Youth Assembly - Sinn Féin Commission on the Future of Ireland - YouTube](#)



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht



British travel scheme will hit all-Ireland tourism and jobs – Ó Donnghaile

Sinn Féin's Seanadóir Niall Ó Donnghaile said today that the British government's planned introduction of electronic travel authorisation requirements will harm all-Ireland tourism.

He was speaking after British minister Robert Jenrick rejected calls which would have enabled tourists to travel north south without the ETA.

Sinn Féin's Leader in the Seanad, said: "The Seanad opposed the introduction

of the ETA, which would result in restrictions on non-Irish and non-British nationals travelling across Ireland.

"Ireland's tourism is all-island.

"This unnecessary paperwork would bring additional cost and inconvenience.

"It risks reducing the numbers of visitors to the north, with jobs lost in tourism and hospitality.

"This policy would also impact on some of those travelling between jurisdictions

for work or study. Its ramifications will be far reaching.

"This is yet another example of a British Tory government in London bringing in laws which have no consideration as to how would work in reality in Ireland. They just don't care.

"Sinn Féin will continue to campaign for an immediate halt to these unfair, unreasonable and unworkable proposals."

IRISH UNITY CAMPAIGN PROMOTED IN LONGFORD

Local area rep James Donnelly, Sorcha Clarke TD and Chris MacManus MEP attended the Longford Agri-fest recently in Enybegs. They took this opportunity to promote the Irish Unity campaign and engaged with rural communities on what a New Ireland would mean for them.



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht



Mothú an tSamhraidh

- Irish language phrases to practice today!

Summer vibes / Mothú an Tsamhraidh		
ENGLISH	IRISH	PRONOUNCED
I am going to the beach	Tá mé ag dul go dtí an trá	Taw may egg dull guh jee an traw
There's a grand stretch in the evening	Tá fad breá leis an lá	Taw fod brow lesh un law 
Ice cream	Uachtar roíote nócha naoi	Eww tur row cha no-ka knee
Holiday	laethanta saoire	Lay han ta seara
swimming	Ag snámh	Egg snawvv 
put on plenty of suncream	Cuir neart uachtar gréine ort féin	Kurr nart eww tur grain-ya urt fane 

Tuam Sinn Féin held a walk for Irish Unity this month at Knockma Hill, Belclare, Galway.

Why not organise a unity themed event in your area this summer?

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- Incorporate Unity literature into local campaign stalls and political canvasses
- Use the large Unity banner in your area
- Organise a cycle for unity, unity walk, mountain climb day of action etc.
- Promote Unity literature at agricultural shows including the recent Rural communities leaflet

Discussions on our island's economic performance 'key in preparing for unity referendum'

- Rose Conway Walsh TD

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Public Expenditure, Rose Conway Walsh TD, has highlighted the importance of discussions around the broad economic performance of Ireland's economies – South and North, in preparation for a referendum on Irish unity.

Speaking following a meeting of the Good Friday Agreement Committee, Teachta Walsh said:

"I welcome the discussion arising out of the thoughtful presentations from professors John Doyle, John Fitzgerald and Gareth Hetherington at the most recent meeting of the Good Friday Agreement Committee.

"The contributions were part of a series of meetings organised by the Good Friday Agreement Committee about the constitutional future of Ireland.

"The issues raised included: the economic cost of partition; the growing strength of the all-Ireland economy; the high levels of foreign direct investment in the economy of the South and the benefits of this to the overall economy; the lower levels of foreign direct investment in the economy of the North and the disadvantages of this to the overall economy.

"The meeting also discussed the complementary contribution that third level education and the institutes of technology play in assisting the development of the

economy of the South.

"Concerns were expressed at the underdeveloped IT sector in the north; continued academic selection; low levels of skills in the workforce; long-term unemployment; its place as the lowest economically active region out of twelve regions in the UK and the poor state of its infrastructure.

"The meeting heard that the North's economy would benefit significantly if there was political certainty with the re-establishment of the executive and assembly; a significant health intervention; an energy strategy with a focus on off-shore wind turbines located in the port of Belfast and a sustained economic focus on Derry City – which was described as key to the revival of the North-West

"The meeting heard calls for a single health service on the island; a sovereign wealth fund for the island; a national strategic investment plan; a popular streamlined system for student placements in universities north to south and south to north and all-island plans for transport, roads, energy and the environment.

"The open-ended nature of the discussion allowed for a free flow of ideas and proved the importance of the approach by the Good Friday Agreement Committee's to Ireland's constitutional future, with, in this instance, a focus on the economy."



Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht



'An Ghaeltacht in Éirinn Aontaithe' mar théama ag seimineár Thionól Gaeltachta Chonradh na Gaeilge i nGaoth Dobhair

CONCHÚR Ó MUADAIGH

Le blianta beaga anuas, tá athruithe bunreachtúla agus sóisialta tagtha ar an oileán agus tá tús curtha le díospóireacht cheana féin maidir le socrúithe in Éirinn amach anseo. Tá an comhrá ag fás go mbeidh athruithe bunreachtúla i ndán don tír agus beidh ceist na Gaeilge in aon socrú nua bhunreachtúil i lár an aonaigh.

I 2018, glacadh d'aon ghuth le rún ag Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge a thacaigh le dul i mbun plé in athuir maidir le ról na Gaeilge in Éirinn nua. Leis an rún seo moladh gur chóir plé a dhéanamh ar na himpleachtaí agus na dúshláin a d'fhéadfadh a bheith don teanga agus aon athrú bunreachtúil i bhfeidhm in Éirinn. Go dtí seo bhí ceithre Seimineár againn, an Ghaeilge sa bhunreacht, córas oideachais uile-Éireann agus cén dóigh is féidir linn foghlaim ó chomhthéacsanna idirnáisiúnta eile.

Bhí seimineár is deanaí dar teideal An Ghaeltacht in Éirinn Aontaithe in óstán An Chúirt, Gaoth Dobhair ag deireadh Meitheamh mar chuid de Thionól Gaeltachta Chonradh na Gaeilge. I measc chainteoirí an tSeimineáir, labhair an ceoltóir iomráiteach, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh; an

múinteoir agus údar, Dr. Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh; Naoise Mac Cathmhaoil agus Eoghan Ó Garmaile ó chraobh Glór na Móna, chomh maith le hÁine Ní Bhreisleáin a bhí mar chathaoirleach ar an ócáid.

Rinne an seimineár seo scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na féidearthachtaí agus na himpleachtaí a bheidh ann don Ghaeltacht agus don Ghaeilge mar

ghnáth-theanga labhartha inti i gcás Éireann Aontaithe. Is téamaí iad seo a bhaineann le gach ceantar Gaeltachta agus is maith go raibh muid in ann breis agus 100 duine a chur i mbun comhrá ar an gceist thábhachtach seo.

In ainneoin éagsúlacht na gcainteoirí agus na dtuairimí, ba é an rud a bhí soiléir ar an oíche ná an dúil sa chaint agus an ábhair. Ba léir fosta go raibh mórchuid den seomra a mothaigh go raibh deiseanna ann do phobal na Gaeilge agus go háirithe do na pobail Ghaeltachta a bhfuil teipthe ag an rialtais orthu le blianta fada maidir le hathbheochan teanga

agus infheistíocht. Bhí neart dóchais agus dearfachta sa seomra agus b'iontach an méid daoine óga a bhí i láthair.

Leanfaidh Conradh na Gaeilge orthu ag eagrú tuilleadh cainteanna agus tá súil againn páipéar a chur le chéile a thabharfaidh léargas ar an nGaeilge in Éirinn Aontaithe bunaithe ar an tsraith.



UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP



GAELS LE CHÉILE

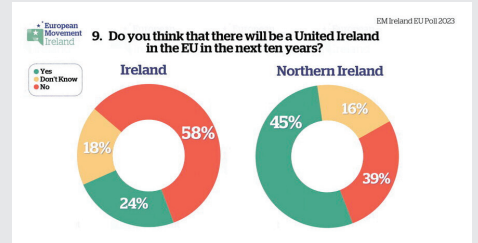
Gaels le Chéile have written again to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar urging him to meet with the group to discuss their campaign. Over 16,000 Gaels have now signed their letter which asks the Irish government to begin planning for change in Ireland by establishing a Citizens' Assembly. You can sign the letter here: www.gaelslettertotaoiseach.ie

Gaels le Chéile will host an event at this year's Féile an Phobail in St Mary's University College at 5.30pm on Friday 4th August.



EUROPEAN MOVEMENT FINDINGS

There were some interesting findings in the all Ireland European Movement poll published this month. A large majority in both the south (88%) and north (79%) believe Ireland should remain a member of the EU. 45% of respondents in the north believe there will be a United Ireland in the EU in the next 10 years – versus 24% in the south. A full overview of the findings can be found here: [European Movement Ireland EU Poll - European Movement Ireland](#)



ESRI REPORT

Research published by the ESRI examines new data on the norths exports and imports on a detailed product and market level. The analysis was undertaken as part of a research programme on the all-island economy funded by Ibec. Key points in the research focus on the growing all Ireland economy and people feeling a strong link with the European union.

The report can be accessed here: [Structure of international goods trade for Ireland and Northern Ireland | ESRI](#)



Féile 35 an Phobail WELCOMING THE WORLD

IRELAND 2030 THE ROADMAP TO A BORDER POLL

THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST 11AM ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, FALLS ROAD

Ireland's Future was formed in 2019 to campaign for Irish Unity. As we move closer to the announcement of a unity referendum date, Ireland Future board members will discuss the roadmap to a border poll from 2023 to 2030. Free event. No booking required. Organised by Ireland's Future.

IRELAND'S FUTURE

Ireland's Future have announced plans to host an event at this year's Féile an Phobail in Belfast. Their event entitled 'The Roadmap to a Border Poll' will discuss their thoughts on how we move closer to unity from now until 2030.

The event will take place in St Mary's University College on Thursday 3rd August at 11am.

MAKING SENSE OF A UNITED IRELAND

Professor Brendan O'Leary spoke recently at an event organised by The Institute of International & European Affairs. Professor Brendan O'Leary, a global expert on the politics of divided places, explained how unification could happen, set out potential models of a united Ireland, and analysed the economics and politics of Irish unity. You can catch up on the event here [Making Sense of a United Ireland](#)





SENATOR FINTAN WARFIELD MEETS WITH BXL IRISH UNITY

Senator Fintan Warfield was in Brussels recently and caught up with BXL Irish Unity.

Fintan said,

“It was a pleasure to meet with the Brussels - Irish Unity group. They have been doing important work, bringing the conversation about a united Ireland to Brussels and the EU institutions.

“We spoke about the need for representation for people in the north. Legislation is going through the parliament every day which affects 2 million people in the north of Ireland but currently they do not have a northern voice in Brussels to scrutinise legislation that affects them.

“We also spoke about the need to plan for Irish Unity. It’s clear the Irish government is not doing enough to plan for this. We spoke of the need for an all island Citizen’s Assembly to give people an opportunity to become involved and have their say. “In the event of a United Ireland the entire territory of a new Ireland should be part of the EU so it’s important that the EU gets into the space where they know they also have a role to play.”

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

OPINION PIECE FROM DAITHÍ FITZGERALD

As a young Republican from Kerry, I have always valued the international connections of our party. It was during my first Ógra Shinn Féin trip to Catalonia in 2017 that my eyes were opened to the global struggle for self-determination. This experience not only deepened my understanding of international solidarity but it also gave me an opportunity to meet and make new comrades from far and wide.

Inspired by the work of past and present Sinn Féin MEPs in Brussels, I was determined to gain experience in the European Parliament. Luckily, for me, such an opportunity arose in January 2023 with the Sinn Féin team that would broaden my understanding of international solidarity and its significance to uniting our island. During my time in the European



Parliament, I had the opportunity to attend the Dutch Socialist Party Congress in Apeldoorn.

As an international guest, I had the privilege of meeting activists from Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Kurdistan, Iraq and more. The congress resonated with a deep appreciation for Sinn Féin’s growing strength and electoral success. Many party members eagerly engaged in discussions about our achievements and expressed their eagerness to know when the long-awaited

referendum on Irish Reunification would take place. I was delighted to have the opportunity to articulate the view that we need the government to establish 32 Countywide Citizens Assembly which provides an inclusive platform for citizens from across our island to engage in meaningful dialogue and make informed decisions about our future. The urgent need to combat disinformation, fake news, and confusion surrounding the reunification process found unanimous agreement among those present.

The elephant in the room was clear, how is Sinn Féin - a party on the left with left values getting so much momentum and electoral success while across the EU, the left is diminishing and the right is rising. The response given of course was down to the great work of our

activists across the 32, pointing out failures of the Dublin government and working from the grassroots level up to show the people of our island there is an alternative for positive change.

After six months of working towards promoting and advancing the cause of Irish Unity with the Sinn Féin team in Brussels, I will soon be heading to an international solidarity camp with the Lajee Institute in Palestine, to continue the journey of international solidarity. During this trip, the aim is to echo the support of solidarity to the Palestinian struggle and engage in lectures and meetings with Palestinian activists and professionals in the fields of media, education, politics and social work, visits with civil society organisations.

Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht



Has there been Irish Unity campaigning in your area?

Ar tharla feachtasaíocht ar son Aontú na hÉireann i do cheantar?

Would you like to write an article or do you have a story of interest?

An mbeadh suim agat alt a scríobh nó an bhfuil scéal suimiúil agat?



Send content to irish.unity@sinnfein.ie for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

Seol ábhair chuig irish.unity@sinnfein.ie le bheith san áireamh inár nuachtlitr níosúil.

FÉILE AN PHOBAIL

Féile an Phobail is Ireland's Biggest Community Arts Festival. Féile provides a programme of inclusive arts, cultural and community-based activities throughout the year, with its flagship festival, the August Féile being the highlight of Ireland's festival calendar.



This year's events run from 3rd-13th August. There are many events linked to the theme of Irish Unity and our future. See a full list of events here: **Féile Events - Féile an Phobail** (feilebelfast.com)

CAN THE CASE FOR THE UNION BE MADE?

WEDNESDAY 9TH AUGUST 1PM ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, FALLS ROAD

A panel of unionists will consider if the constitutional framework of the UK can be made to work for everyone. The speakers will set out the case for the Union but will also consider how this can be achieved in the context of ongoing challenges such as Brexit, unionist fragmentation and the growing arguments for unity.

Free event. No booking required.

Organised by Féile's Debate and Discussions Committee.

THE GHOST LIMB: STORIES OF ALTERNATIVE PROTESTANT LIVES

TUESDAY 8TH AUGUST 1PM ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, FALLS ROAD

Claire Mitchell, Linda Irvine and Rev. Karen Sethuraman told their stories in Claire's recent book, *The Ghost Limb: Alternative Protestants and the Spirit of 1798*, stories often excluded from the mainstream narrative. Here they will explore cultural, political and social change amongst northern Protestants and will argue that alternative Protestant traditions are thriving and are beginning to find their voice.

Free event. No booking required.

Organised by Féile's Debate and Discussions Committee.



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 for all of the news on uniting Ireland.

