HISTORIC ELECTION **RESULTS ACROSS THE NORTH**

This has been a record-breaking election for Sinn Féin. The Party's vote share is up in all electoral areas. In a series of firsts. Sinn Féin councillors have been elected in areas where there has never been a SF councillor before. Other councillors have topped the poll in areas where they struggled to get elected in the last election.

Parties that support Irish Unity have now outpolled those who support partition. Sinn Féin is the largest party in local Government by seats and vote share. A first for a non-unionist party since the foundation of the state. We have travelled far from when Sinn Féin was banned as a party, censored from the airways, and voting rights denied to

In this election, the people voted for Sinn Féin in record numbers for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, for progress, and for a new and united Ireland.

First Minister Designate Michelle O'Neill has said the results of the local council elections is a clear signal that people want politics to work for all.

Michelle O'Neill said:

many.

"Sinn Féin went into this campaign with a positive message of wanting to make politics work for all.

"We asked people to vote for Sinn Féin candidates who will work hard in councils every day to deliver on the issues that matter to them.

"This election was an opportunity to send a clear signal.

"The voters have now spoken.

"In this election, Sinn Féin has made breakthroughs in areas right across the North.

"Historic change is happening, and Sinn Féin is leading that change right across Ireland. "These results are a positive endorsement of Sinn Féin's message that workers, families and communities need to be supported, and that the blocking of a new Assembly by one party must end.

"We want to work together with others. "To build a better future for everyone, protect public services, attract investment, create jobs for our young people, and deliver the change people here demand and rightfully deserve.













"The onus is now on the British and Irish Governments to get together and focus their efforts on the immediate restoration of the Executive and Assembly.

"We expect to see an early meeting of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference.





"The boycott of the Assembly cannot go on and an Executive must be formed. "It is time to make politics work for all right across this island. It's time to build a new and better Ireland for everyone who calls this place home."



Sinn Féin's success in the North's council elections strengthens the case for the immediate establishment of a citizens' assembly to discuss "how we transition" to a united Ireland, Mary Lou McDonald has said.

"I believe a border poll will happen in this decade.

"I think the fact of change and the extent of change is now well established; we're not surprised by that at all. What we need now is a conversation around how we manage that change. "We have said consistently to the Government in Dublin, to successive taoisigh, that they need to begin the preparation work. We believe that a Citizens Assembly needs to be convened. We need that all-of-society, all-island conversation and engagement about the future, what it looks like, how we transition to it, how we provide public services, all the things that really matter in people's lives right across the island, including those obviously of a unionist persuasion and those of a British identity."

CASE FOR BORDER POLL NOW OVERWHELMING

Political commentator Chris Donnelly gave his view on the election in a recent edition of the Irish News. Read an extract from the article below:

The evidence from this local government election is that middle ground-friendly voters - those most impatient for better, perhaps not overly concerned about identity issues - still have confidence and trust in the leadership of nationalism in a manner starkly contrasting with how this cohort of voters perceives the unionist political leadership. In the local government elections of 1993, the combined percentage of seats won by the SDLP and Sinn Féin was



just under 31 per cent. Also in that election, the UUP and DUP alone took almost 52 per cent of the seats. Fast forward 30 years and, together with the TUV councillors in 2023, they secured 40 per cent of seats.
The pace and extent of

change in this society is undeniable.

After a succession of elections since 2017 which have repeatedly demonstrated the strength of the pro-Irish unity constituency within Northern Ireland, it is beyond doubt that the demographic tide is decisively impacting upon the political and electoral landscape, and will continue to do

so for many years to come. The trajectory is very, very clear.

There is now an overwhelming case for a border poll in the short to medium term. Denying the evidence is no longer an acceptable reaction, however daunting that may appear to be.

The imperative now must be on the Irish government to recognise the significance of what is happening and prepare the ground for what must be done.



BELFAST WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 27TH JUNE, 7PM EUROPA HOTEL, BELFAST



THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



DATE SET FOR BELFAST WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

MNÁ NA hÉIREANN - ABAIR LEAT

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland will host the Belfast Women's Assembly which is due to take place in the Europa Hotel on Tuesday 27th June at 7pm. The Commission on the Future of Ireland seeks to facilitate a structured conversation among the citizens of Ireland and beyond on the future of our island.

'The New Ireland is for Everyone – Have Your Say', are the main pillars of the Commission.

This event is an opportunity for women from all walks of life in the Belfast area to share their views on Irelands Future.

Despite the pivotal role women

have played over the course of Irish history, too often their voices have not been heard.

In the new Ireland women must have an equal place in society. That is the spirit in which we hold Belfast Women's Assembly. This event will be chaired by Eilis Rooney, an academic and member of the Constitutional Conversations Group.

larrtar ar gach éinne, idir óg agus aosta, a dtuairimí a chur in iúl faoin saol comhroinnte atá amach romhainn agus na himpleachtaí a bheadh aige seo do mhná ar fud na hÉireann.



You can register to attend at the link here: https://belfast_womens_assembly.eventbrite.ie



AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA hÉIREANN

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland are planning ahead for events in the Autumn/ Winter 2023. Work is underway in preparing for a People's Assembly in Waterford and a Gaeltacht Assembly in Connemara

We will also host an event at the National Ploughing Championships as we are eager to hear voices and opinions from rural communities and farmers. We recently produced a leaflet and carried out a



survey at the Balmoral Show. Responses from the survey were overwhelmingly in favour of Irish Unity.

Copies of the Rural leaflet are available for any upcoming agriculture shows or events, please contact us on irish.unity@sinnfein.ie





DUBLIN YOUTH ASSEMBLY TO TAKE PLACE NEXT MONTH

Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland will host a Youth Assembly in Dublin next month.

This event will take place in the Communications Workers Union on Wednesday 28th June from 10.30am – 1.00pm.

This event is open to young people aged between 16-26.

Invites are due to go out soon. Whether you are a member of a community or youth group, a campaigning organisation, a political party or charity, or just want to share your views on Irelands Future you are welcome to attend.

The lead facilitator for this session will be renowned national and international youth worker Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien.

Young people have a vital role to play in the discussion around a new Ireland.



DUBLIN YOUTH ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE, 10.30AM - 1PM COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION 575 NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD, DUBLIN

DAOINE ÓGA NA hEIREANN HAVE YOUR SAY



THE COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



GLAC PÁIRT SA CHOMHRÁ AR ÉIRE NUA AMACH ANSEO

In addition to People's Assemblies and sectoral events, the Commission is asking everyone who is interested to make a written contribution.

These can be made through the dedicated Commission on the Future of Ireland page on the Sinn Féin website - www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

Alternatively, you can email your views to **commission@sinnfein.ie**







AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A WORLD CLASS, ALL ISLAND NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

Ireland's Future has launched a document on an all-island health service.

The document, described as part of the debate on the "opportunity for a world class, all island National Health Service", was launched by three speakers at an online event.

Speakers included Conor Patterson, chair of the Newry-based Daisy Hill Future Group and chief executive of the Newry & Mourne Co-operative and Enterprise Agency, Mairead McAlinden, former chief executive of Southern Health & Social Care Trust, and retired West Belfast GP Dr George O'Neill.

Debates over moving towards the establishment of an all-island health service have gathered pace over the last number of years. Motions in support of marrying the services have been passed by three district councils, Derry City and Strabane District; Mid-Ulster and Fermanagh and Omagh.

Similar motions have been passed in Dublin and Sligo while the Irish Congress of Trade Unions has called for "a public healthcare system free at the point of use, an integrated properly funded health and social care system with a proactive system of public health."

The document can be accessed here:

IF-An-Opportunity-for-a-World-Class-All-Island-National-Health-Service-An-Irish-National-Health-Service-1.pdf (irelandsfuture.com)

The event can be watched on YouTube: An Opportunity for a World Class, All Island National Health Service - YouTube







'LANDMARK MEETING WITH GAELS & IRISH GOVERNMENT'



"We stated clearly at the meeting that there has never been a greater interest in discussing and planning for future constitutional change on our Island." - Jane Adams

CLG EOCHAIRFHOCAIL GAA KEY WORDS

Gaelic Athletic Association

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

♦ Imirt **♦** Play

€ Cúl € Goal

Ocic saor Free kick

◆ Ionadaí ◆ Substitute

♦ Imreoir ♦ Player

♠ Réiteoir ♠ Referee

◆ Cárta bui ◆ Yellow Card

◆ Cárta dubh ◆ Black Card

◆ Cárta dearg ◆ Red Card

◆ Lár na páirce ◆ Midfield

♠ Manager ♠ Bainisteoir

A Gaels le Chéile delegation comprising of former Antrim Camogie All-Star Jane Adams former Antrim Football Captain Paddy Cunningham, Timmy Hamersley Co. Tipperary All-Ireland hurling winner have met with representatives from the Taoiseach's Office to discuss their campaign that has now been endorsed by over 15,000 Gaels from across Ireland

Commenting after the meeting, Paddy Cunningham said:

"We believe that detailed consideration about our shared future on the island of Ireland needs to be developed and that the Government needs to plan for this. We urged the Government to begin this planning immediately and asked them to establish an All-Island Citizens Assembly reflecting the views of citizens North and South to achieve maximum consensus on a way forward".

"The GAA is the biggest community organisation in Ireland. Over 15,000 grassroots members have now signed our letter and support our campaign. Undoubtedly, the repercussions of Brexit and the perceived slow, unwieldy nature of government has prompted GAA members to become more involved in the national conversation on a new Ireland. If we don't begin to plan or begin to form a Citizens' Assembly to have these conversations to find out what each section of society desires, then until that process begins, we'll never know what those issues are and therefore, we can properly address them".

Timmy Hammersley, former All Ireland Hurling winner with Tipperary said: "We were delighted to meet with representatives from the Taoiseach's Office to discuss our campaign. By convening a Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity, the Dublin government will demonstrate its commitment to engaging with citizens in developing the best future for the people of Ireland.

This will not just be a better future for those who support unity it will be a better future for all, irrespective of political persuasion, religion, identity or background. The first step in this process is to let the voices of our citizens be heard in an all-Ireland Citizens'

Consultation, engagement, persuasion and negotiation with a view to securing active support for a new Ireland must be the means towards these ends.

There is an onus and obligation on the Irish government to establish this and to begin the process of planning for the

Assembly.

Jane Adams, Camogie All Star and a founding member of Gaels le Chéile was also part of the delegation, Jane said: "We stated clearly at the meeting that there has never been a greater interest in discussing and planning for future constitutional change on our Island. This is being talked about on side lines at football and hurling matches across every county in Ireland. Many high-profile GAA stars are also talking about this publicly in news articles and podcasts etc.

We emphasised that now is the time for the Irish government to have ambition, and start developing a road map for an agreed, prosperous united Ireland. This is the first stage of what we hope will be ongoing engagement with the Taoiseach, and we have also asked for a follow up meeting in Dublin with the Taoiseach and other members of our campaign".

Further info please contact: **info@gaelslettertotaoiseach.ie** You can sign the letter at: **https://gaelslettertotaoiseach.ie/**

EU CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

In Brussels, the EU institutions celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. All three EU presidents, Ursula von der Leyen (Commission), Charles Michel (Council) & Roberta Metsola (Parliament) addressed over 500 MEPs at a European Parliament ceremony.

Sinn Féin MEP Chris MacManus also addressed the Ceremony. In his speech MacManus spoke of the path to Irish Unity and the EU's continued role on that journey.

"The Good Friday
Agreement is a peace
process and a political
process. It's a living,
breathing document."
"It is a framework which
guarantees that the people
of Ireland – north and south
– will decide whether to

unite or whether the North remains tied to Britain."

"My hope is that, within this decade, the people will be asked to be part of a new Ireland – a modern, forward-looking society based on peace, equality and social progress within the European Union."

"It is important we celebrate the 25th anniversary. I have no doubt that the EU will continue to play an important role for the next 25 years as the Good Friday Agreement embarks upon its







next chapter."

This ceremony also coincided with the European Parliament symposium, co-hosted by MEP MacManus, alongside fellow Irish MEPs Barry Andrews, Ciarán Cuffe and Seán Kelly.

The symposium featured contributions from community and sporting leaders from Ireland who had travelled to Brussels.

Speaking about the symposium, MacManus said: "The GFA put in place a new constitutional framework in the north of Ireland, along with a peaceful political process, to guarantee equality, justice, and human rights."

"At every point throughout the Brexit negotiations, myself, and my colleagues from across the European Union put the protection of the GFA front and centre."

"The European Institutions

demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the GFA on numerous occasions."

"I have no doubt our friends across Europe will play an equally important role in the next 25 years as a new chapter of the GFA unfolds."

"Today's event sends a clear message that all Irish MEPs are not only proud of the historic achievement, but we will fight to protect it."





Tá éileamh mór ar fud na hÉireann faoi choinne athraithe. Ba mhian le muintir na hÉireann tír a fheiceáil ina bhfuil éagsúlacht, comhionannas agus meas. Is gá an t-athrú sin a phleanáil i gceart trí phlé, trí idirphlé agus trí idirbheartaíocht. Ní féidir linn ligean don phraiseach a thit amach mar gheall ar an Bhreatimeacht tarlú arís. Beidh próiseas daonlathach de dhíth a ligfidh do gach duine, thuaidh agus theas, a bheith rannpháirteach i bpleanáil agus ullmhúchán don athrú bunreachtúil.

Déanfaidh sé seo aistriú síochánta, réidh chuig Éire nua aontaithe a éascú – Éire ar linn go léir í, lena n-áirítear ár gcomharsana aontachtacha agus inar féidir linn muid féin a rialú. Choinnigh deighilt na hÉireann siar ó dhul chun cinn muid le fada an lá. Tá fíordheis ann anois todhchaí níos rathúla a mhúnlú - le tír níos láidre, níos fearr agus níos cothroime a bhaint amach. Is féidir linn an deis seo a úsáid chun Seirbhís Sláinte Náisiúnta uile-Éireann a chruthú, beartas tithíochta inbhuanaithe, cúram leanaí uilíoch, agus aistriú chuig geilleagar atá neodrach ó thaobh carbóin de a chinntiú.

Tá próiseas daonlathach ar bun anois trí reifreann a bhfuil foráil dó i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, le deis a thabhairt do dhaoine cinneadh a dhéanamh faoin todhchaí. Dhéanfaí freastal níos fearr ar dhaoine ar fud na hÉireann gan dúbailt ar chórais rialtais, le seirbhís náisiúnta sláinte amháin, agus le geilleagar, réimeas cánach, córas dlí, agus córas oideachais amháin ann. Tá geallta ag ceannairí an Aontais Eorpaigh go mbeidh ballraíocht iomlán ag an Tuaisceart san AE mar chuid d'Éirinn Aontaithe. Tá an aontacht lárnach maidir le sochaí nua-aimseartha, chuimsitheach, chothrom a thógáil agus tír ar féidir léi páirt iomlán a bheith aici sa domhan. Anois an t-am le labhairt faoin todhchaí.

ÁIRÍTEAR LE TOSAÍOCHTAÍ SHINN FÉIN:

- Oibriú ar bhonn trasteorann le comhairlí eile ar cheisteanna forbartha réigiúnda coitianta
- Oibriú le go mbunóidh rialtas na hÉireann Tionól Saoránach Uile-Éireann le plé a dhéanamh ar thodhchaí bhunreachtúil s'againne
- Dáta a chinntiú ó rialtais na hÉireann agus na Breataine don reifreann aontacht a bhfuil foráil dó i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta
- Dul i mbun plé le daoine ar thodhchaí na hÉireann ar bhealach cuimsitheach, measúil agus eolach

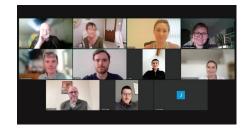
UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP

SINN FÉIN MEET WITH BXL IRISH UNITY

Sinn Féin met this month with the recently established BXL Irish Unity Group. The Sinn Féin delegation included Martina Anderson, Chris MacManus MEP & Emma McArdle. This was an excellent exchange which gave party representatives an opportunity to outline the scale of the Uniting Ireland work underway in Ireland, Brussels and across continental Europe.

The emergence of a group advocating for Irish unity in Brussels is a reflection of how Brexit has galvanised interest in unification by unpicking the status quo.

For more information on BXL Irish Unity or to sign up for their newsletter click here: BXL-Irish Unity (list-manage.com)





YOUNG FINE GAEL ONE ISLAND COMMITTEE

Over the past couple months Young Fine Gael have established a 'One Island committee' which has been meeting and engaging with stakeholders across Ireland working to develop policies that benefit everyone on the island of Ireland.

DUP CO-FOUNDER WELCOMES UNITED IRELAND DISCUSSION

Founding DUP member Wallace Thompson says a possible united Ireland should be debated "openly and honestly".

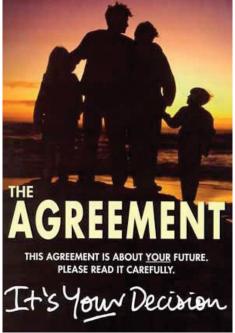
He said given changing religious demographics he would be open to conversations about unity. The former DUP special advisor and evangelical Protestant said those who wanted a united Ireland needed to "broaden their base".

"People who believe in the union going beyond their own constituencies and seeking to engage others in debate, I agree with that.

"Similarly, those who want a new Ireland/united Ireland need to broaden their base and speak to people like me.

Mr Thompson said he was unsure if those of the same faith as him could benefit in a united Ireland but thought it was something that should be pursued.





STATEMENT FROM CONSTITUTIONAL CONVERSATIONS GROUP

On the 25th anniversary of the all-island vote endorsing the Good Friday Agreement it remains essential to recall the constitutional compromise at its heart. People have a choice about the determination of their own future, as a matter of right. Today that means automatic re-entry to the EU for the people of the North/NI.

The Constitutional Conversations Group reiterates our commitment to inclusive, participative and effective planning and preparation for change. We hope that one day soon the people of Ireland, North and South, will again have the opportunity to vote for something better.

We are encouraged by the scale of the work already completed. We commend those across civil society who have engaged in the necessary conversations. The debate is now in a different place.

We know that much more must be done. That is why today we urge the Irish Government to support and enable the required preparatory work. History demonstrates what happens when the Irish state avoids dealing directly with matters of profound national and public interest. Being a detached observer in the collective effort of shaping the future of your own country is reckless and irresponsible. Turning away dishonours the legacy of those who have courageously forged the pathway to peaceful and democratic constitutional change.

We look forward to the day when the people of this island will exercise their right to choose. We believe that a new and united Ireland will benefit everyone. We call on all sectors of Irish society to prepare

well to ensure that this becomes a place we can be proud of. We believe that a particular responsibility rests with the Irish Government to demonstrate leadership in building and making a convincing case for change."

US SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

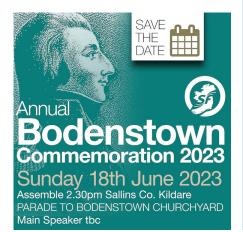
The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee have passed a resolution reaffirming their support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.

The bipartisan resolution, which also affirms support for subsequent agreements and arrangements—including the Windsor Framework—moves next to the Floor for consideration by the full Senate.

The bipartisan resolution also urges continued attention and action to resolve injustices of past violence, reaffirms support for the right of all people on the island to self-determination, and encourages renewed efforts to preserve the rich language, literature, and arts of the north of Ireland.

You can read the full text of the Resolution here.







'Our diaspora is part of our nation. You can help build a new and united Ireland' - Pat Sheehan

Pat Sheehan West Belfast MLA and former hunger striker addressed a meeting organized by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in New Bedford, MA this week. He travelled to Massachusetts directly from campaigning in the elections in the North. Speaking at the historic Seamen's Bethel, he said "The Good Friday Agreement is not a settlement, it is a set of rules, principles, and institutions for managing a divided society emerging from conflict. It asserts the primacy of politics and democracy over the threat of violence. Equality, partnership, and power-sharing replaced discrimination and exclusion.

"It is a vehicle for moving forward. The destination is in the hands of the people. There is now a peaceful and democratic pathway to Irish Unity. The people can vote in referendums to end partition and build a new and united Ireland. Support for the Good Friday Agreement is support for the people of Ireland to determine their own future.

"This week in the North the People came out and made history. Sinn Féin secured the highest number of votes and council seats of any party across the North. For the first time, there were more votes for pro-Irish unity parties than Unionist parties" "Against the backdrop of an economic crisis, the North has been without a government. Unionism refuses to recognize the vote of the people to get back to work, the loss of their majority or to nominate a deputy First Minister to work alongside the Sinn Féin First Minister. They are

living in denial.

"We have a current British Government that has no care for Ireland and our agreements. They have unilaterally brought forward legislation to ban families bereaved in the conflict from accessing the courts, inquests, or judicial investigations. They claim this is to promote reconciliation. It is not. Reconciliation requires acknowledgment. This is a continuation of the cover-up of their actions during the conflict.

"Both governments, acting in partnership must plan to implement all the aspects of the Good Friday Agreement including the re-establishment of the institutions. The DUP cannot be allowed a veto over the implementation of the Agreement. "There is an urgent need for an Irish Government to begin to plan and prepare for unity referendums. To become advocates for unity. That is what a Sinn Féin led government can and will do. Pat finished by saying, "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine. We all live in each other's shelter. The people in this room have shaped Irish History. We ask you to continue the journey, to ensure that the US acts to safeguard peace and progress, and that Britain honors its obligations.

plan and prepare for Irish Unity.
"Our diaspora is part of our nation. You can help build a new and united Ireland. A home for all. We have plenty more to do. I hope you will continue the journey with us.

"To ensure that the Irish Government begins to



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.



Sinnfein.ie





