



IRISH GOVERNMENT MUST USE ALL DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL OPTIONS TO ACHIEVE CEASEFIRE

“The violence and humanitarian crisis in Palestine deepens by the day. The Taoiseach has correctly stated that the Israeli destruction of Gaza is not self-defence. I share his view that Israeli actions are offensive and constitute collective punishment.

“They are engaged in a ferocious military offensive against a civilian population; breaking international law by targeting civilians, destroying civilian infrastructure, forcing mass population displacement and cutting off vital supplies of water, food, medicines and fuel.

“The sheer scale of this belligerence, collective punishment and the devastating loss of life is horrifying with more than 10,000 civilians killed and tens of thousands injured.

“This is happening before the eyes of the world, and it must be confronted. Unconditional ceasefires are urgently required.

“The Dáil became one of the first parliaments in the world to call for a ceasefire. It was an important international signal that has since been followed by an overwhelming vote at the UN General Council demanding such a ceasefire.

“Israel defies these calls for ceasefire. This cannot stand.

“The International Community and the Irish government must now take action to enforce international law. All available diplomatic, legislative and political options must be deployed by the Irish government to press the case for an end to all military

actions and to achieve ceasefires, the immediate release of all hostages and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

“The position of the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland is now untenable, the Ambassador should no longer enjoy diplomatic status in Ireland while Israel refuses the imperative for ceasefires and as the suffering and death toll grow.

“There is no military solution to the rapidly deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Palestine.

“Sinn Féin is committed to playing a constructive role with the Irish Government and international community to encourage and actively support dialogue between all sides, and to develop a durable, inclusive, and sustainable conflict resolution process. The lead should be taken by the United Nations and the Arab League in shaping these conditions.

“Ireland should play our role in the development of an international peace and conflict resolution initiative for Palestine. We believe this should be an issue of national consensus based on the implementation of International Law.”

Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD



‘CEASEFIRE NOW’

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SINN FÉIN LEADERS MEET WITH AMBASSADORS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES: CEASEFIRE AN IMMEDIATE PRIORITY

On Thursday 2nd November, a Sinn Féin delegation met with Ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to discuss the ongoing situation in Gaza.

Speaking following the meeting, Mary Lou McDonald said:

“I want to welcome this meeting with Ambassadors and Diplomatic Representatives from Palestine, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

“The Ambassadors briefed us on the deteriorating situation in Gaza where the Israeli bombardment is causing a humanitarian crisis with 10,000 Palestinians killed, many of whom are children, the displacement of 1.4million people and the cutting off of humanitarian aid.

“Israel’s actions are not defence. They amount to collective punishment and are a breach of international law.

“The International Community and the EU are failing to provide the leadership required.

“They need to be unequivocal in calling for an immediate ceasefire, be unequivocal and consistent in the application of international law and be unequivocal in holding Israel to account for its continuous breaching of international law.

“And ultimately there must be dialogue to secure a just and lasting peace including a viable State of Palestine.”



Pat Sheehan MLA addressing a ‘Ceasefire now’ rally outside Belfast City Hall

‘CEASEFIRE NOW’ ECHOED INTERNATIONALLY

With the deteriorating and horrendous level of violence in the Middle East, Sinn Féin representatives have been at the front of internationally spread ‘Ceasefire now’ protests and rallies.

Across Ireland Sinn Féin TDs, MLAs, MPs, Cllrs, Senators and activists have addressed thousands of demonstrators in cities

and towns.

Demonstrations for an end to the ensuing violence have been accompanied by candlelight vigils, medical aid fundraisers and the unveiling of murals.

Sinn Féin’s call for an immediate ceasefire and end to the violence has also been heard in London where Declan Kearney MLA and

John Finucane MP on separate occasions addressed hundreds of thousands of protestors.

On Saturday 4th November, Pat Sheehan MLA addressed a mural unveiling at the International Wall in West Belfast where he echoed Sinn Féin’s call for a ceasefire and the position of Israel’s Ambassador to Ireland is now untenable.

Palestine, you are not alone - we are all Palestinians now!

In a recent article published only in *'An Phoblacht'*, Sinn Féin National Chairperson, **Declan Kearney MLA** highlighted double standards by the international community:



“It has become impossible to fully grasp the scale of the human suffering and the scenes of living horror emerging from the rubble of Gaza and the refugee camps and towns in the West Bank.

“The sustained, relentless campaign of bombing being waged by the Israeli state, particularly against the population of Gaza can only be understood through the prism of ethnic cleansing.

“When western politicians refuse to condemn as war crimes, the stopping of water, medical supplies, power, and fuel by Israel, then a new line has been crossed.

“The double standards of those same leaders and large media organisations is appalling and indefensible.

“Israel has repeatedly flouted every UN resolution which has been adopted on Palestine.

“Now at last, the UN Secretary General of the UN has spoken out to assert the inviolability of international humanitarian law.

“The terrible, tragic loss of Israeli lives on 7 October has been rightly condemned.

“But make no mistake.

“Israeli aggression against Palestine long predates that terrible day. As Secretary General Guterres said in New York, those actions did not happen in a vacuum.

“This current onslaught, bombardment and pre-meditated collective punishment of Palestinians is the inevitable culmination of a fanatical government mind set which views the Palestinian people as animals:

“Which dehumanises and demonises them as a non-people:

“Which asserts they must either leave their remaining lands; or, accept total domination; or, be killed.

“These are the publicly expressed views of Israeli senior government ministers.

“This is now a defining moment for our generations of humanity.

“Now, the world has a choice to make.

“Ireland must be clear which side we are on.

“We must stand on the side of humanity, decency, universal democracy and international law.

“There can be no equivocation, this war must end immediately.”



Sinn Féin activists – Dublin



Declan Kearney MLA – London

“When western politicians refuse to condemn as war crimes, the stopping of water, medical supplies, power, and fuel by Israel, then a new line has been crossed.”



The full article can be read here:

<https://www.anphoblacht.com/contents/28583>

Neutrality

MUST BE A CORNERSTONE OF IRISH FOREIGN POLICY

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Defence, **Matt Carthy TD**, has published his party's formal written submission to the Consultative Forum on International Security Policy. Speaking in Dublin at the launch of the submission, Teachta Carthy said:

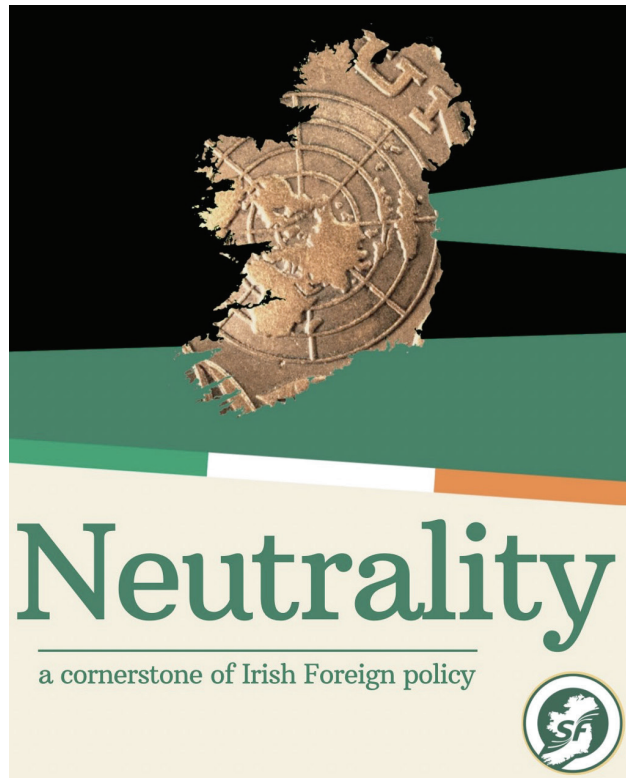


"Sinn Féin's vision is for Ireland to play a constructive role in the wider world; committed to diplomacy, humanitarianism, peace-building and co-operation with other states on global challenges including poverty, world hunger, climate change, conflict resolution and migration.

"Neutrality is the cornerstone of Irish Foreign Policy, which can allow Ireland to play that important role in the wider world. We should be proud of our military neutrality and resist attempts by those who seek to recast it as a weakness or a failing.

"The legacy of Irish neutrality is our role in working for nuclear non-proliferation, our humanitarianism, our contribution to the drafting of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, our peacekeeping and the proud record of our UN peacekeepers. This has been our contribution to making the world a better and safer place.

"We therefore believe that the starting point of any conversation on Ireland's approach to defence and international security must be an acknowledgement that military neutrality has served us well.



"While we have been rightly critical of the approach and format of the government's forum, Sinn Féin nevertheless attended each of the four days of the forum and we welcome the opportunity to make a written submission.

"Hard-won reputations may be easily lost. Sinn Féin believe that the historical role of the Defence Forces as a neutral force engaged in UN Peacekeeping is something that the Irish people are proud of.

"Our submission outlines our vision to enshrine the principle of neutrality within the Irish constitution and EU treaties; to ensure Ireland can adapt to a changed Global Security Environment; to address the historic underinvestment in the Defence Forces; our approach to international

and EU arrangements and organisations, underpinned by the Triple Lock and the United Nations; and Ireland's opportunity to be a positive force for conflict-resolution across the globe."

The Sinn Féin submission to the Consultative Forum on International Security can be [read here](#).



Michelle O'Neill MLA welcomes US economic envoy and trade mission



Michelle O'Neill MLA, US Special Envoy Joe Kennedy III, Belfast Mayor Ryan Murphy and Caoimhe Archibald MLA

First Minister Designate Michelle O'Neill MLA welcomed a delegation of influential US business leaders to Ireland in late October.

Speaking after welcoming US Special Envoy Joe Kennedy III, Ms O'Neill said: "US Special Envoy Joe Kennedy III has once again demonstrated his commitment to investment here.

"This is yet another opportunity to showcase our huge economic potential and the unique opportunities that we have here through access to the EU and British markets.

"As well as the historical and family ties, as well as the support for our peace process, US investment has been critical to building our prosperity.

"There would have been no Good Friday Agreement without America.

"Since then, every US administration has acted to protect and implement it.

"The post-Brexit trading arrangements - established in the Irish Protocol/Windsor Framework - which American diplomacy helped secure, puts us in a unique position.

"We are part of a thriving all-Ireland economy, with access to both the British and European markets.

"We've discussed Skills Academies to help meet the demand for workers that our unique economic position will generate.

"This visit is a very exciting time for our economy."



ANC Deputy Secretary-General leads leadership delegation to Ireland

A leadership delegation of the African National Congress (ANC) visited Ireland in October to hold a series of meetings with Sinn Féin to discuss the deepening of fraternal bilateral relations between both parties.

Deputy Secretary-General, Cde. Nomvula Mokonyane led a delegation that included ANC National Executive Committee members Alvin Botes MP,

Khusela Diko, Zuko Godlimpi and ANC veteran Cde. Mavuso Msimang that visited Dublin and Belfast.

Speaking after the delegation arrival, Mary Lou McDonald said:

"South Africa and Ireland are longstanding friends and allies in the search for global social justice.

"The ANC have been pro-active in support for the peace process and

democratic constitutional change in Ireland.

"This visit marks an important stage in the strengthening of cooperation between both parties and between Ireland and South.

"Sinn Féin looks forward to stronger working relations with our ANC comrades and friends in the time ahead."

COUNCIL OF EUROPE MUST ACT ON ETHNIC CLEANSING IN NAGORNO KARABAKH



Senator Paul Gavan has called on the Council of Europe to act decisively against the cruel military actions by the Azerbaijan regime in Nagorno-Karabakh, which has forced over 100,000 Armenians to flee their homes and killed hundreds of men, women, and children.

Speaking at the October session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Senator Gavan said:

“On 16th June, I was the rapporteur for a report on ensuring free and safe access through the Lachin corridor; I concluded that the intention of Azerbaijan was to force the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh to leave.



Senator Paul Gavan

“It gives me absolutely no pleasure to say that recent events have proven this to be the case.

“Azerbaijan delegates have denied ethnic cleansing, but this is the word of a regime who consistently tells these people that there is no such place as Nagorno-Karabakh.

“The Council of Europe must now reject the credentials of Azerbaijan and the international community must work to ensure that should the Armenian population wish to return to their home they must be provided with international protection.

“If this assembly is to retain credibility, we must finally hold the Aliyev regime to account.”

Hosting Euro 2028 an ‘opportunity of a lifetime’

In October, First Minister Designate **Michelle O’Neill MLA** welcomed confirmation from UEFA that Ireland and Britain will host the 2028 European Championship games.

Michelle O’Neill said:



“This is an opportunity of a lifetime.

“The hosting of this prestigious tournament will help create jobs, strengthen the economy and showcase everything that makes our island and people amazing.

“It will also provide a major boost to tourism with thousands of people set to visit this island to attend games, with a number of them set

to be hosted in a new Casement Park.

“This is a unique opportunity to unite communities and bring people together from across the political divide and from across these two islands using the power of sport.

“It is now time to move forward to build Casement Park to ensure we have another first-class, state of the art sporting facility for Ulster Gaels, and to

host major games like this.

“Grassroots football is going through a resurgence and going from strength to strength across the island with attendances at local football stadiums rapidly increasing.

“This tournament will leave a real legacy that will benefit grassroots football on this island and inspire young footballers for years to come.”



Casement Park (to be built) – Belfast



TDs Matt Carthy & Pearse Doherty – Australian Friends of Irish Unity



Pearse Doherty TD and Finance Minister Sen. Katy Gallagher

Sinn Féin committed to strengthening Ireland - Australia relations

Sinn Féin leaders Matt Carthy TD and Pearse Doherty TD in August led a Sinn Féin delegation to Australia to strengthen relations between Ireland and Australia.

The delegation met with Australian government ministers – including Foreign Minister Sen. Penny Wong and Finance Minister Sen. Katy Gallagher, parliamentarians at federal and state level, trade union leaders, business representatives, Irish community organisations and Australian Friends of Irish Unity.

After an intensive series of engagements between Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane, Matt Carthy reflected:

“Ireland and Australia have many shared values in that ordinary workers, families and communities come first. Affordable housing, strong public healthcare and an effective response to climate change are central to this vision. “We in Sinn Féin know that deepening the special relationship between Ireland and Australia is important to shaping a better future.

“The current Irish government has not done enough to develop the connections between our two countries.

“If elected to government Sinn Féin will work tirelessly to strengthen our diplomatic, political and economic relationship with Australia. We want Ireland to be Australia’s go-to contact in the European Union.

“Ireland’s influence in the world was never dependent on military or economic force.

“Instead, it has been through a principled military neutrality and independent foreign policy, coupled with the power wielded by our diaspora, that has allowed Ireland to punch above our

weight and advocate for peace, justice and equality in every corner of the globe.

“We believe that the strengthening of the friendship between Ireland and Australia can be a beacon to the world of these enduring principles.

“Our relationship is special, it has endured across time and tides, and I believe it can be made even stronger still.

“We remember our shared history, but today our responsibility is to reach for a new future for Ireland and Australia, and a better future for the peoples of our two great countries.”

Following the visit, Matt Carthy welcomed the Australian Labor Party’s (ALP) national conference passing a motion supporting the reunification of Ireland:

“The ALP’s friendship and solidarity with the people of Ireland reflects the deep bonds



Matt Carthy TD and Foreign Minister Sen. Penny Wong

between our two nations.

“The passing of this motion is a very positive step and reflects the growing interest both nationally and internationally in the benefits that Irish unity will bring to people across the island.”



John Finucane MP with Massachusetts Governor, Maura Healy and Friends of Sinn Féin USA, Greg O'Loughlin

John Finucane MP travels to Massachusetts

In September, John Finucane MP travelled to Boston, Massachusetts to meet political and Irish community representatives, and to participate in a 'Edward M. Kennedy Institute' event: '25 Years of The Good Friday Agreement'. The event which was addressed by Senator George Mitchell included representatives from the Irish and British governments and political parties from the north. The North Belfast MP said: "Make no mistake about it, the conversation about constitutional change is at a level and pace that has never been seen before. "We have a founding member

of the DUP who in a recent interview talked quite dramatically about what he saw as the inevitability of border polls - and there's nothing to fear from that. "If you support democracy and you support the Good Friday Agreement, you should support the managed and responsible way that this question will be put to the people north and south. "It will be for the people on the island to decide where they see their future. "But make no mistake about it - academia, civic society, business - lots of different areas in our society are having this conversation. "I think the pace of change will only gather in the years ahead."

Sinn Féin leaders travel to Lisbon, Portugal

A Sinn Féin delegation led by Mary Lou McDonald TD in October travelled to Lisbon, Portugal to meet with political and diplomatic representatives.

The delegation held meetings with Portuguese Foreign Minister - João Cravinho, Portuguese Parliament President - Augusto Ernesto dos Santos, Irish Ambassador to Portugal - Alma Ní Choigligh and political parties including: Socialist Party (PS), Bloco de Esquerda (Left Bloc) and Partido Comunista Português (PCP).

The visit involved ranging discussions on contemporary matters relating to Europe's drastically changing political landscape.

Separately, Sinn Féin's Representative to Europe, Martina Anderson commented:

"Across continental Europe, parliamentarians and civic society groups have been closely monitoring the changing political climate in Ireland.

"European delegations from Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Catalunya and the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee have embarked on visits to Ireland in recent weeks.

"European parliamentarians engaging with Sinn Féin recognise that Ireland's future is not solely about EU membership but also entails influencing and shaping the broader European Project.

"The notion of Ireland emerging as a European leader is fostering a belief beyond the island's shores that Sinn Féin can play a pivotal role in transforming Europe into a bastion of prosperity, peace, human rights, and social justice."



TDs Mary Lou McDonald & Matt Carthy with Portuguese Foreign Minister João Cravinho



Mary Lou McDonald TD
and Oriol Junqueras



Left to right: Jordi Solé MEP, Declan Kearney MLA, Gerry Adams
and ERC President Oriol Junqueras – Belfast, Oct. 2023

SENIOR CATALAN INDEPENDENCE LEADER VISITS IRELAND

In late October, Sinn Féin welcomed Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) President Oriol Junqueras and Jordi Solé MEP to Ireland on a visit between Cork, Dublin and Belfast.

President Junqueras met with Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald TD in Leinster House, Declan Kearney MLA and Gerry Adams in Belfast, and was also welcomed by Belfast Mayor Ryan Murphy and Assembly Speaker Alex Maskey.

The focus of the visit aimed to deepen constructive bilateral discussions, negotiation processes, political strategies and right to self-determination.

Reflecting in *An Phoblacht*, Declan Kearney said:

“This is a pivotal period for the Catalan independence movement in the aftermath of the recent Spanish general election. “When that Catalan government held the independence referendum in 2017, the Spanish state declared it to be illegal and acted to brutally suppress popular

participation in the vote.

“It attempted to crush the independence movement and imprison its political and civic leadership.

“The denial of national democracy in Catalunya, alongside Ireland, Euskal Herria and Scotland can no longer be ignored as a European issue.

“Since the independence referendum of 2017, and despite the anti-democratic backlash from Spanish authorities, support for self-determination has endured in Catalunya.

“The positive momentum and energy for Catalan independence was palpable in Barcelona on La Diada; manifested in a massive demonstration with an estimated 800,000 participants.

“It is time for the distinct national rights and identity of Catalans, and also Basques to be fully recognised.

“However, progress in bringing about negotiations on the future of Catalunya cannot be separated from the need to

maximise unity and consensus among all sections of the pro-independence movement.

“As with Ireland, self-determination and managed constitutional change for Catalunya and Euskal Herria, are now fundamental political questions for the EU which must be democratically addressed.

“The EU could play a constructive role in supporting such a process.

“There is no threat to Spanish democracy by embracing the need to manage the constitutional change being called for by increasing numbers of citizens in Catalunya and Euskal Herria, as evidenced in successive elections.

“On the contrary, democracy will be strengthened. New, resilient intergovernmental relations will be constructed as a direct result.

“For our part, Sinn Féin remains fully committed to assisting all these efforts, and supporting the achievement of a new, inclusive, progressive Catalan republic.”



The full article can be read here:

<https://www.anphoblacht.com/contents/28572>

International Engagements

SNP Conference 2023:



Matt Carthy TD & Declan Kearney MLA met with SNP leader Humza Yousaf in Aberdeen

Labour Party Conference 2023:



Michelle O'Neill MLA & John Finucane MP addressed a Sinn Féin fringe event in Liverpool with Labour Party leaders Hilary Benn MP & Baroness Angela Smith

Fourth Yeşil Sol Parti (YSP) Ordinary Congress



Chris MacManus MEP expressed solidarity greetings to the congress in Turkey via video.

Martina Anderson – Brussels, Belgium



Sinn Féin's European representative Martina Anderson and Chris MacManus MEP met with EU diplomats in September.

Dilemmas of Humanity Conference



Chris Hazzard MP spoke at the international conference in Johannesburg, South Africa



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