

UNITY NEWS

NUAHT NA HAONTACHTA

FEBRUARY FEABHRA 2024

#TIME4UNITY
#AM LE HAONTAHT



THE DECADE OF OPPORTUNITY

History was made this month as Michelle O'Neill became the First Minister in the north. Michelle is the first Sinn Féin representative and the first non unionist to take up this position. Speaking following the formation of the new executive Ms O'Neill said, "My election to the post of first minister demonstrates the change that's happening on this island. That's a good thing. It's a healthy thing because this change I think can benefit us all. "I believe that we're in the decade of opportunity and I believe, also equally, that we can do two things at once. We can have power-sharing, we can make it stable, we can work together every day in terms of public services, and whilst we also pursue our equally legitimate aspirations. "There are so many things that are changing. All the old norms, the nature of this state, the fact that a nationalist republican was never supposed to be first minister. That all speaks to the change. "I'm somebody who wants to be a unifier. I'm somebody that wants to bring people together. "We've had a difficult past, a turbulent past.



A lot of harm was caused in the past and I think it's so, so important that here in 2024, and we've just celebrated the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement last year, that we very much look towards the future. "I hope I can represent the future. I believe I can represent the future, as somebody who wants to work with all communities. "I obviously am a republican, a proud republican, but I think it's really, really important that I can look towards those people who identify as Irish republicans, but

also those of a British identity and unionist identity and tell them that I respect their values, I respect their culture." Speaking following the historic election of Michelle O'Neill as First Minister and the conversation on Irish Unity, Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald said, "What I firmly believe is - in this decade - we will have those referendums, and it's my job and the job of people like me who believe in reunification to convince, to win hearts and minds and to convince people of that opportunity - part of which, by the way, will be really consolidating our relationship with Britain as our next door neighbour and good friend. "Irish Unity is within touching distance, so there's an awful lot of work that needs to be done. I've said consistently to the government in Dublin that they really need to take possession of this conversation that's now under way right across Ireland. They need to give it a structure and a place and of course it has to be inclusive - we want to hear from every voice, including those for whom reunification would not be their first option - those who go out and campaign for the union.

#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht



FERMANAGH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TAKES PLACE IN ENNISKILLEN

Sinn Féin MLA Áine Murphy has said the discussion on the Future of Ireland is alive and kicking across Fermanagh.

Speaking after an event organised by the Commission on the Future of Ireland, which was attended by over 200 people in the Westville Hotel last week, the Fermanagh MLA said:

“We were delighted that Fermanagh was chosen as the location for the 11th People’s Assembly and the meeting was addressed by Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD.

“No-one holds the title deeds on what a United Ireland will look like. We all have our aspirations, our ideas and therefore it was important that people from all political persuasions and none joined in on the discussion.

“A huge energy was brought to the discussion by our expert panel of Noelle McAloon, Dr Niall McVeigh, Mairaid Kelly and Trevor Birney and the event was interactive throughout. Those in attendance clearly believe that there is a need to begin planning for constitutional change.

“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.

“Together we can protect public services, pensions, and create

decent jobs and pay. Together we can create an Irish national health service and introduce all island climate protections. Together we can negotiate and agree new constitutional, democratic arrangements and structures which leave no one behind.

“I want to commend the people of Fermanagh for getting involved in the event, which I believe, is only the beginning.”

Addressing the Fermanagh People’s Assembly Uachtarán Mary Lou McDonald said,

“There are two words that really sum up what we as Irish Republicans are standing for in the here and now - Hope and Change. That is what we are offering in 2024. It’s all about the future.

“But I also believe that Republicans can’t grasp it alone. We need an alliance of change makers who see a better future. We need to go beyond the rhetoric & start planning for unity. The Irish government must establish a Citizens’ Assembly.

“I believe there are no obstacles on the road to unity that cannot be surmounted. Irish Unity is the big idea - hope & change are the pathway to get there.”

Contributions can still be made to the Commission at commission@sinnfein.ie or via the following webpage www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

STRABANE HOSTS WEST TYRONE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Sinn Féin MLA Conor Murphy spoke this week at the West Tyrone People's Assembly which took place in the Fir Trees Hotel, Strabane.

The People's Assembly is the work of the 'Commission on the Future of Ireland' which is a Sinn Féin initiative aimed at encouraging people to have their say on the future of Ireland.

Speaking at the event Conor Murphy MLA said:

"The Irish government should publish an economic plan for unity. This plan should be the basis for a Citizens' Assembly to conduct a structured discussion on the economy of a new Ireland. Change is happening. It must be grasped. With the economic logic of unity increasingly apparent, many people who previously wouldn't have contemplated a United Ireland are now giving it serious consideration. This is a positive development.

Speaking after the event West Tyrone MP Órfhlaith Begley said,

"We were delighted at the turn out for the West Tyrone People's Assembly and with the huge level of engagement from the audience.

"Our fantastic panel included Michelle Canning- Communications Adviser, co-founder of Women in PR & former journalist, Dr Kieran Kennedy- Chairman of 21 Training & Strabane Business Improvement District, Annette Kelly- Owner of Little Penny Thoughts & Mental Health Advocate, Professor Malachy Ó Néill- Director of Regional Engagement at Ulster University & Dr Brendan O'Hare- GP & Health Service Manager.

"The discussion covered a wide range of issues including health, education, business, economy, young people, agriculture, unionism but most importantly the future.

"The Good Friday Agreement provides a peaceful and democratic pathway to reunification. I am fully committed to power-sharing with unionism and others where our political allegiances and aspirations are both respected and equally legitimate.

"I see no contradiction in having a mature conversation about the constitutional future of this island and how all those who share it can map out a future together. This event was an opportunity to put forward ideas and to listen to those of others around a vision for a New Ireland."

"The issue of constitutional change is now firmly fixed on the political agenda. The conversation on the merits of a United Ireland – of a new shared Ireland - is now widespread. We must plan for it. We must discuss how best to shape the new Ireland for this and future generations. I hope this event in West Tyrone is just the beginning of conversations like this in the local area."

For information on previous events and to make a written contribution visit www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland



Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht



Scoil Gheimridh Uí Chadhain

B'iontach an rath a bhí ar Scoil Gheimridh Uí Chadhain an mhí seo, mar ar reáchtáladh clár lán le díospóireachtaí agus plé ar feadh trí lá i mBéal Feirste. Féachann an scoil, agus í ina dara bliain, le rannpháirtíocht níos doimhne a chothú i bpobail den lucht oibre sa chomhrá ar Éirinn Aontaithe agus ar an gceartas sóisialta. Cuireadh an-bhéim i mbliana chomh maith ar an gcinedhíothú sa Phalaistín trí cheolchoirmeacha, cur is cúiteamh agus taispeántais scannán a eagrú in ómós na háite. Agus é ag labhairt le linn na ndíospóireachtaí, chuir Chris Hazard TP an gá le tuilleadh comhoibríthe i measc na heite clé Poblachtánaí trí chéile. D'áitigh sé: "Caithimid machnamh a dhéanamh ar an mbrí a shamhlaítear le prionsabail thraidisiúnta an phoblachtánachais in Éirinn inniu: an tsaoirse, an ceannas, an comhionannas agus an saoltachas." "Ní mór dúinn athmhachnamh a dhéanamh freisin ar nádúr an stáit agus na cumhachta, ar an impiriúlachas, ar an gcoilínea-

chas in Éirinn inniu – tá na dinimicí seo ríthábhachtach, ach níl an chuma chéanna orthu is a bhí in 1798, 1867, 1916 ná in 1969!" "Caithimid gluaiseacht chlaochlaitheach a thógáil ar cheart fadhbunaithe mhuintir na hÉireann chun seilbh na hÉireann – ag tarraingt fhórsaí an phoblachtánachais agus an tsóisialachais níos giorra dá chéile ar an mbóthar i dtreo an athraithe shóisialta agus i dtreo shaoradh náisiúnta na hÉireann." "Ní mór dúinn deimhin a dhéanamh de nach i seilbh phríobháideach corparáidí nó daoine aonair atá ár n-acmhainní nádúrtha feasta, ach i seilbh choiteann an phobail. An ola, an gás, mianraí, an talmhaíocht, na foraoisí, an talamh, na haibhneacha, an fharraige – acmhainní uile na hÉireann in úsáid chun leas an phobail. Go simplí, ní mór dúinn fis a chur chun tosaigh atá fréamhaithe sa díchoilíniú agus sa dícharbónú; claoclú frithimpiriúlach sóisialach ar Éirinn!

Discussion on constitutional change and the ending of partition is growing. This is demonstrated by the increasing numbers of people across Ireland and beyond, from diverse backgrounds, who are questioning the status quo and exploring the possibility of Irish unity.

Sinn Féin activists are continuing to promote the Irish Unity campaign.



ARMAGH



BAHRAIN



DERRY



BREWSTER PARK



KEADY



DUBLIN & BELFAST ACTIVISTS



DUBLIN CRANN NA SAOIRSE



DUBLIN



FERMANAGH

WHY NOT ORGANISE SOMETHING IN YOUR AREA?

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.

GNÍOMHACHAS AR AONTÚ na hÉIREANN

Cén fáth nach n-eagróidh tú imeacht ar théama na haontachta i do cheantar?

Rudaí a thig leat a dhéanamh:

- Litríocht faoin Aontacht a bheith mar chuid de stalláí feachtais áitiúla agus i stocaireacht pholaitiúil.
- Úsáid a bhaint as an mbratach mór Aontacht i do cheantar.
- Rothaíocht nó siúlóid nó siúlóid sléibhe nó lá gnímh ar son an hAontachta a eagrú.

Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



Partition has failed all our people. This is the time for the Irish government to have ambition, and to start developing a road map for an agreed, prosperous united Ireland.

Constitutional change is now firmly fixed on the political horizon. It's no longer a question of if reunification will come about, but when. The milestones are clear. An all island Citizens' Assembly on Irish unity should be convened and a date should be set for the unity referendum. The people of Ireland should have as much information on the new Ireland as possible – the Citizens' Assembly would be an important part of this.

Conor Murphy MLA recently urged the Irish Government to begin “structured conversations” around Irish unity. The new Minister for the Economy said,

“There has been movement both in terms of support for the union, and in terms of either supporting the idea of a united Ireland or indeed potentially supporting a united Ireland over the last number of years. That dial has shifted significantly, and we haven't even

had a proper conversation yet in relation to what that would look like.

“The priority now is for the Irish government to form a structured conversation, to analyse and examine all of the issues that may come in terms of constitutional change, so that when people do and I believe that they will come to make a decision on that in the not so distant future, that people are fully informed of what that involves.”

Speaking recently on a visit to the North West the new Economy Minister said the north would be “much better” off in a united Ireland.

“I think there is much more economic opportunity in one island and less duplication of services. I think the island has been inhibited by partition.

“In the interim” there is much work that can be done on an all-island basis, but it would be much more beneficial for us all in a united Ireland.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

- Incorporate key UI and Citizens' Assembly messaging into Easter speeches.
- Encourage all election candidates to talk about the Citizens' Assembly and Uniting Ireland issue & promote it via social media and print media.
- Encourage activists to talk about the need for the Irish government to establish a Citizens' Assembly, write letters to your local papers and get local coverage. Local coverage is key to lifting the campaign.

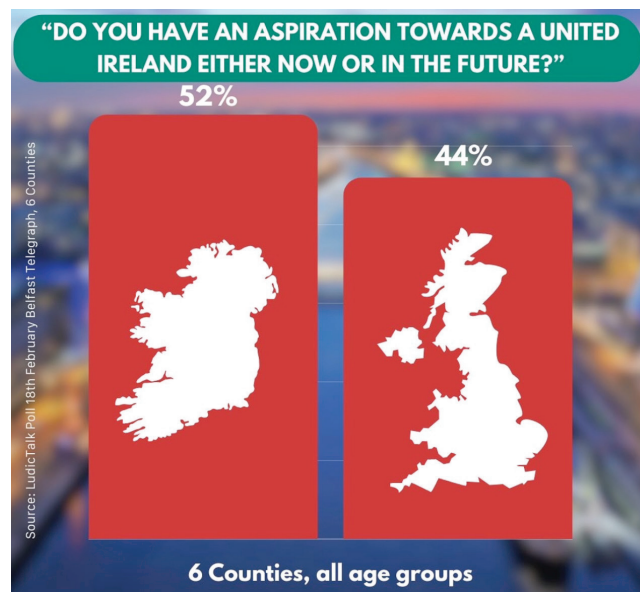


A United Ireland proved to be the most popular choice for people aged under 45 in a recent Lucid Talk survey for the Belfast Telegraph. The poll comes amid increasing debate on the constitutional question.

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE POLL INCLUDE:

- 11% were unsure what they would do in regard to a future referendum
- Almost two-thirds of unionists believe there should never be a referendum
- Younger age groups showed more support for Irish unity with 48% of 18-24 year-olds wanting a united Ireland, while 43% chose the Union.
- Among 25-34 year-olds, the split is 45% to 41% in favour of constitutional change and 44% to 42% among 35-44 year-olds.
- The middle-aged and retired are in favour of maintaining the status quo
- The split is 54% to 42% among 45-54 year-olds, and 64% to 28% among 55-64 year-olds in favour of the Union.
- 48% of pensioners would vote to remain in the union, with 36% supporting Irish unity.
- 69% of SDLP voters would vote to end the Union with 14% voting to keep it.
- Alliance voters (36%) were more in favour of maintaining the Union, with 27% for a united Ireland and 35% undecided.
- Green voters (55%) were more pro-Irish unity, with just 10% wanting to remain in the union and 35% undecided.
- Almost two-thirds of people in the north would vote to rejoin the EU if another referendum was held today.

‘A UNITED IRELAND’ THE MOST POPULAR CHOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN RECENT POLLING



YOUTH FOR UNITY

Young people have been to the forefront of major constitutional changes in our country. The marriage equality referendum was one example of change that has been achieved by young people.

Ireland’s youth will have a pivotal role to play in the future of Ireland as a united country

Young people have the chance to live in a united Ireland, something that was denied to those who came before them. They 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.

All areas should engage with young people on the issue of Irish Unity & encourage them to have their say.



UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP

IRELAND'S FUTURE

Ireland's Future board members met with representatives from political parties in Dublin this week. They presented their framework document for planning and preparing in the period between now and 2030 which is due to be launched on March 4th at 7pm. This will be broadcast live on facebook, Youtube and Twitter.



IRELAND 2030
PROPOSALS FOR THE PERIOD
BETWEEN 2024 AND 2030

CHAired BY BRIAN FEENEY
PANEL ANDRÉE MURPHY AND PROFESSOR COLIN HARVEY

BROADCAST ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK AND
TWITTER/X. SEARCH FOR IRELAND'S FUTURE

Ireland's Future
Tábhacht ar an tAontacht

YOUNG FINE GAEL CALL ON IRISH GOVERNMENT TO HOLD A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON UNITY

This month Young Fine Gael members called on the Irish government to hold a citizens assembly on a United Ireland. They said the time for change and the time to begin planning for our future is now! Watch their video here: <https://x.com/Yfgoneisland/status/1761040473076965771?s=20>



GAELS LE CHÉILE

Gaels across Ireland are continuing to support the campaign for a Citizens' Assembly to be established on Irish Unity. Notable high profile Gaels who have signed the letter to Leo Varadkar includes Wexford hurler Jack O'Connor and Armagh Ladies star Blaithín Mackin. You can support their campaign by signing the letter at www.gaelstettertotaoiseach.ie



BLAITHÍN MACKIN
ARMAGH COUNTY
FOOTBALLER
SIGNS LETTER TO TAOISEACH

<https://gaelstettertotaoiseach.ie/>

JACK O'CONNOR
SIGNS LETTER TO TAOISEACH

<https://gaelstettertotaoiseach.ie/>

SDLP NEW IRELAND COMMISSION

A conversation on the practicalities of inclusive constitutional change, and the building of a shared New Ireland will be hosted this week by SDLP MP Claire Hanna and the New Ireland Commission. It will take place in the Seamus Heaney Centre. You can register via eventbrite **Towards a New Ireland: In-Conversation with Claire Hanna - Bellaghy Tickets, Thu, Feb 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM | Eventbrite**



THE
NEW IRELAND COMMISSION

29TH FEBRUARY 2024
7PM - 9PM
SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE

IN CONVERSATION
WITH CLAIRE HANNA MP

WITH COURAGE, FOR
A NEW IRELAND.

New Ireland Commission

Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht

EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SECURITY AND TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE STRENGTHENED BY ALL-ISLAND APPROACH

– DARREN O’ROURKE TD

Sinn Féin spokesperson on Climate Action and the Environment, Darren O’Rourke TD, has said an all-island approach is the most effective way to address the interconnected challenges of energy security and climate change.

Commenting on a new jointly published report by IBEC and Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the Meath East TD said:

“This report makes clear what Sinn Féin has been saying for decades – that a united approach

is the most effective way to achieve progress on substantive issues.

“The reality is that the lack of coordination between North and South is hindering progress and challenges such as regulatory uncertainty, planning delays, skills shortages, supply chain constraints are only exacerbated by partition.

“A disjointed and uncoordinated approach risks policy makers working against each other and can result in unnecessary duplication of effort and investment, increased costs, mixed signals for consumers and investments, and furthermore, missed opportunities for emissions reductions.

“This is certainly not the way we will decarbonise most effectively and equitably.

“Rather, Ireland – North and South – could and should embrace new opportunities for collaboration and policy alignment on energy and climate action, and ultimately, work toward a united and unified approach.

“The transition towards net zero represents a momentous opportunity for our island, in which



natural resources can be translated into national wealth in a new energy secure and independent Ireland.”

KEYWORDS

EOCHAIRFHOCAIL

Climate Change - Athrú Aeráide

The Environment - Timpeallacht

Carbon Dioxide - Dé-ocsaíd charbóin

Carbon footprint - Lorg carbóin

Natural Disasters - Tubaistí nádúrtha

Hotter - Níos teo

Temperature - Teocht

Floods - Tuillte

Crisis - Géarchéim

Emergency - Éigeandáil

MARY LOU MCDONALD TRAVELS TO NEW YORK FOR IRISH UNITY SUMMIT

IRISH UNITY SUMMIT FOR A NEW & UNITED IRELAND
MARCH 1ST 2024
1:00PM - 6:00PM
THE GREAT HALL AT COOPER UNION
PANELS, MUSIC, Q&A, AND MORE!
A COLLABORATION
 ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
 BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
 FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
 FRIENDS OF SINN FEIN
 IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
 JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
 LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

All over the island of Ireland, conversations about Irish Unity are taking place. From community centres to churches, college campuses to pubs, it is clear that the question of Unity is no longer one of 'if' but is now one of 'when'.

On March 1st, 7 Irish American organisations will come together to host the 'Irish Unity Summit: For a New and United Ireland'.

Mary Lou McDonald will represent Sinn Féin at the summit and said this week she expects a huge crowd in Coopers Hall. This is evidence of the growing conversation on constitutional change domestically and internationally. There will be panels, presentations, and discussions about the next steps on the journey to a New and United Ireland. Tickets are available here [Irish Unity Summit: For a New and United Ireland Tickets, Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



HAVE YOU READ THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF ÉIRE NUA?

The 6th edition of the Sinn Féin online magazine Éire Nua is published today. The magazine is a rich mix of analysis, commentary, academic reviews and history on the broad theme of Irish Unity.

In this edition

- ➔ A Decisive Year for Unity - includes articles by Chris MacManus MEP on the contribution the EU can make to Unity;
- ➔ The work of Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland;
- ➔ Chris Donnelly, media commentator and Irish News columnist on Preparing for Reunification;
- ➔ Irish America and the momentum toward a united Ireland by FoSF's Greg O'Loughlin;
- ➔ A New Ireland Must be for all the People by Frank Connolly;
- ➔ A review of Claire Mitchell's The Ghost Limb by Emma McArdle and many more contributions, including a history quiz to test your knowledge.

This edition will be the first of three that are planned for this year.

Want to read more?

Click here: https://www.sinnfein.ie/files/2024/ISSUE_6reduced.pdf

TAOBH ISTIGH
 PREPARING FOR REUNIFICATION IS CRITICAL **PAGES 7-8**
 WHY IRELAND SHOULD MATTER TO THE BRITISH LABOUR MOVEMENT **PAGES 10-14**
 REVIEW: THE GHOST LIMB - ALTERNATIVE PROTESTANTS AND THE SPIRIT OF 1798 **PAGES 21-23**



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.



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