



IRISH UNITY WITHIN TOUCHING DISTANCE

Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald has said a united Ireland is “within touching distance” following the announcement that Stormont could be restored by the end of this week.

Mary Lou McDonald said that the expected restoration of power sharing in the wake of a deal between the DUP and British government came amid a “historical turning of the wheel” that would unite the island.

Mary Lou said, “In historic terms, it is within touching distance and I think that is a very exciting thing and I hope people will find that a very welcoming conversation.

“This will be a moment of very great significance, not simply because we haven’t had government for so long but because it will be the first time that we will have a Sinn Féin first minister, a nationalist first minister.

A New Year
towards a
New
Ireland

Bliain Nua
ar an
mbóthar
go hÉirinn
Nua

#Time4Unity
Am d’Aontacht



SAVE THE DATE | SÁBHÁIL AN DÁTA

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ABAIR LEAT
HAVE YOUR SAY
HAE YER SPAKE
THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE

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FERMANAGH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2024
WESTVILLE HOTEL, ENNISKILLEN
7PM

WEST TYRONE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2024
FIR TREES HOTEL, STRABANE
7PM

HOSTED BY SINN FÉIN'S
COMMISSION ON THE
FUTURE OF IRELAND


www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

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TWO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES TO TAKE PLACE IN FEBRUARY

In 2022 Sinn Féin established the Commission on the Future of Ireland. The aim of the Commission is to undertake a broad and deep consultation with people all across the island and beyond on our shared future.

So far, there have been 11 public initiatives which have included People's Assemblies in Belfast, Donegal, Louth, Waterford & Derry, a women's assembly, an engagement exploring northern Protestant identities & cultures, a youth assembly, engagement with the agricultural sector & those from rural communities and a Gaeltacht Assembly in Conamara. All of these initiatives have been hugely successful in terms of engaging with wider civic society on the topic of Irish Unity.

Information on all past events can be found here www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland Throughout 2024 the Commission will continue to hold public and private events, to produce reports and videos of events, to communicate with past attendees and to gather written contributions.

We are pleased to announce the first of our events for 2024 have now been scheduled.

The Fermanagh People's Assembly will take place in the Westville Hotel, Enniskillen on Thursday 22nd February. The following week the West Tyrone People's Assembly will take place in the Fir Trees Hotel, Strabane on Tuesday 27th February. Both events will begin at 7pm. **Registration is now open for both events. Find more information on page 3.**

*Have your say on
the future of Ireland*

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 fáis maidir le hÉirinn nua a thógáil.

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

ABAIR LEAT
HAVE YOUR SAY
HAE YER SPAKE
THE NEW IRELAND IS FOR EVERYONE

AN COIMISIÚN UM THODHCHAÍ NA HÉIREANN

Glac páirt sa chomhrá ar Éire Nua amach anseo

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

ABAIR LEAT
Sinn Féin
www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON IRISH UNITY – MICHELLE GILDERNEW MP

Sinn Féin MP Michelle Gildernew announced that the party's Commission on the Future of Ireland will be holding the Fermanagh Peoples' Assembly in The Westville Hotel, Enniskillen on Thursday 22nd February.

Féachann an Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na hÉireann le comhrá struchtúrtha a éascú i measc shaoránaigh na hÉireann agus níos faide i gcéin ar thodhchaí ár n-oileáin.

Is iad 'Éire Nua do Chách – Abair Leat', príomhphrionsabail an Choimisiúin.

Registration is also now open for those wishing to attend. You can register to attend the event by clicking the link here: **Fermanagh People's Assembly Tickets, Thu 22 Feb 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite**



Michelle Gildernew MP said:

"The Fermanagh Peoples' Assembly is a unique opportunity for Fermanagh citizens to join in the debate about a united Ireland.

"Irish Unity is not inevitable. It needs to be planned for. That means those of us who want Irish Unity planning for it. We must also address the concerns of those who have not yet made up their minds, and are unsure how they would vote in a unity referendum.

"Citizens, regardless of whether they are nationalist or unionist or none of these, want to know what the new Ireland will mean for them and their families. They want answers and reassurance on priorities such as governmental structures, health service provision, jobs and pensions.

"That's why Sinn Féin believes the Irish government should organise a Citizen's Assembly where these matters and others can be discussed.

"However, there is also an onus on all of us who support unity to encourage the debate. To reach out to those who oppose unity or who aren't convinced of its merits.

"This People's Assembly is an opportunity for individuals, business and community organisations, language groups, farming organisations, trade unions and others across Fermanagh to have their say on the future.

The panel for Fermanagh will be announced soon.

SAVE THE DATE | SÁBHÁIL AN DÁTA

*Michelle Gildernew MP invites
you to*



FERMANAGH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2024
WESTVILLE HOTEL, ENNISKILLEN
7PM

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www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht



WEST TYRONE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2024
FIR TREES HOTEL, STRABANE, 7PM

CHAIRPERSON:

**MICHELLE
CANNING**



Communications Adviser,
co-founder of Women in PR
& former journalist

PANEL OF SPEAKERS:

**DR KIERAN
KENNEDY**



Chairman of 21
Training & Strabane
Business Improvement
District

**ANNETTE
KELLY**



Owner of Little Penny
Thoughts & Mental
Health Advocate

**PROF. MALACHY
Ó NÉILL**



Director of Regional
Engagement at Ulster
University

**DR BRENDAN
O'HARE**



GP & Health Service
Manager

HOSTED BY SINN FÉIN'S COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE OF IRELAND



www.sinnfein.ie/futureofireland

WEST TYRONE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY TO TAKE PLACE IN STRABANE

Reáchtálfaidh an Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na hÉireann de chuid Shinn Féin Tionól Pobail Thír Eoghain Thiar in Óstán Fir Trees, an Srath Bán, ar a 7i.n., Dé Máirt an 27 Feabhra.

Ba mhaith linn cuireadh a thabhairt duit a bheith linn agus páirt a ghlacadh sa phlé ar Éirinn nua, an dóigh a bhféadfaí í a bhaint amach agus an chuma a d'fhéadfadh a bheith uirthi.

Is féidir leat clárú le freastal ar an imeacht tríd an nasc a leanas a chliceáil: **West Tyrone People's Assembly Tickets, Tue 27 Feb 2024 at 19:00 | Eventbrite**



West Tyrone MP Órfhlaith Begley said:

"At a time when public interest in Irish Unity has never been greater the People's Assemblies are an opportunity for citizens to have their say on all issues pertaining to the future of Ireland.

"What should the new constitutional and governance structures look

like? What is the role of the Irish government at this critical juncture in our history? What about the rights and protections needed to underpin equality and democracy and language rights in the new Ireland? And of course many people are already talking about the imperative of a public health service for the island and an economy that makes best use of its place within the EU.

"The Commission is actively encouraging citizens from the protestant/loyalist/ unionist section of our people to engage with the Commission so that we can have a full discussion on all aspects of the new Ireland, including how best to address their concerns and opinions.

"The Commission on the Future of Ireland is also an opportunity for alternative proposals to be presented by those with a different vision of Ireland."

The panel for the event includes 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 independent Chairperson will be Michelle Canning Communications Adviser, co-founder of Women in PR & former journalist.

COUNCIL IRISH UNITY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

By Cllr Conor Heaney

The Derry and Strabane Council Irish Unity Working Group met last week. At the well-attended meeting councillors received an analysis of the open online consultation with ratepayers on Irish Unity that was conducted in April of this year, to which there were over 200 submissions. It was agreed that the outcome of the consultation will be published in the coming weeks.

Contact with officials in Donegal County Council which also has established a Working Group on Irish Unity has also been made. We hope to arrange a meeting soon to discuss potential joint initiatives.



The Working Group then moved on to discuss next steps. It was agreed to hold a consultation with various sectors such as business, education, health, and Trade Unions etc. They would be invited in to tell the Working Group what they would like to see for their sector in a New Ireland in the event of constitutional change.

A report will be published following the completion of the consultation programme. This is likely to be in the summer.

A request has also been sent to the Shared Island Unit to present to the Council the work that they have been doing on planning for constitutional change.



SINN FÉIN DELEGATION DISCUSSES IRISH UNITY ON VISIT TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Sinn Féin team in Brussels recently hosted a delegation of Sinn Féin members from across Ireland. The theme of this visit was the future of our island as 2024 kicks off a string of elections.

The first set of elections will be the Local and European Parliament Elections in June. These elections are often viewed as a midterm review of how the sitting government is doing.

There was consensus among members of the delegation that the issue of the referendum and the need for the Irish government to establish a Citizens' Assembly should feature in the election. We are nearing a referendum on the reunification of Ireland and so it is crucial that we return as many as pro-Unity MEPs as possible in the upcoming European Parliament Elections.

As we embark on this season of elections - Let us do so with refreshed confidence that Irish Unity is on the horizon.

THE NORTH'S FUTURE MUST BE WITHIN THE EU AS PART OF A UNITED IRELAND

Sinn Féin has announced that MP and former Agriculture Minister Michelle Gildernew is to seek a nomination to stand for Sinn Féin in the Midlands-North West constituency in the upcoming European elections.

Speaking following the announcement, Michelle Gildernew said:

"The European Union is crucially important to Ireland. Ireland needs to be the fore in setting the direction of the European Union in the years ahead, and I want to play a role in making that happen by bringing my experience of negotiation and dealing with EU institutions as a former Agriculture Minister to the job of standing up for

Irish interests in the European Parliament.

"The European Union played a key role in ensuring Brexit did not create a hard border in Ireland, and I believe the North's future must be within the European Union as part of a United Ireland.

"Ireland needs stronger representatives in the European Parliament. A strong Sinn Féin team will call out the EU when needed if it is not acting in the best interest of the Irish people or when EU office holders overstep their remit as the EU Commission President did in recent months.



Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht

Why not organise a Unity themed event 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 stallaí 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.

The momentum for constitutional change on this island has never been stronger. Discussion is taking place everywhere. This conversation should also be happening as Gaeilge. We should be promoting these conversations using our native language.

HERE ARE SOME KEY WORDS & PHRASES:



UNITED IRELAND KEY WORDS FRÁSAÍ ÉIRE AONTAITHE



Tionól Saoránach
Citizens Assembly
'Chin-Ole Sare-Awn-Uck'



Reifreann
Referendum
'Ref-Rinn'

Aontacht na hÉireann
Irish Unity
'Ain-Tocht na Hair-Inn'



An Cheist Bhunreachtúil
Constitutional Question
'Un Iesht Yun-Rock-Tool'



Críochdheighilt
Partition
'Cree-Uck-Yile-t'

UNITED IRELAND KEY WORDS FRÁSAÍ ÉIRE AONTAITHE

32 contae
32 counties

Éire Nua
A New Ireland

Éire
Ireland

Tacaím le hAontacht na hÉireann
I support Irish Unity

Tá an t-am linn pleanáil faoi choinne athraithe
It's time to plan for change

Féinchinntiúchán Náisiúnta
National Self Determination

Tá sé in am d'Aontacht na hÉireann
It's time for Irish unity



UNITING IRELAND ROUND UP

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 include Derry County star Brendan Rogers and Meath all Ireland Football Champion Niamh O'Sullivan. You can support their campaign by signing the letter at www.gaelstettertoaoiseach.ie



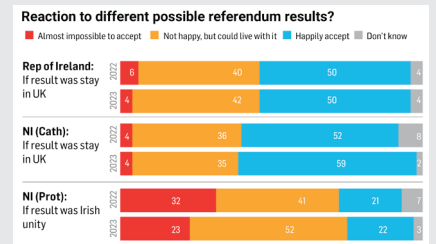
TCD FOR IRISH UNITY

Students at Trinity College Dublin have set up an online petition calling for their fellow students to show support for Irish Unity. The petition calls on signatories to play their part in furthering the conversation around Irish Unity and to show that students are not satisfied with the status quo.

Are you a student at TCD? If so, check out their instagram page at @tcdforunity for details on how to sign.

IRISH UNITY POLLING

The final instalment of The Irish Times/ARINS North and South series, examining attitudes to potential Irish unity and related issues north and south was published this week. The extensive research project has now



been running for two years and has provided data on highly contested subjects. Two surveys, conducted simultaneously north and south, examined voters' attitudes to a possible united Ireland and referendums on the issue. The findings from these surveys can be found here: **North and South: what we know now, and what we want to investigate in future | Royal Irish Academy (ria.ie)**

ALLIANCE PARTY TO TAKE PART IN IRELAND'S FUTURE EVENT

Alliance Party leader Naomi Long has confirmed she will take part in a discussion event at the Pathway to Change gathering hosted by Ireland's Future on June 15 at Belfast's SSE Arena.

Ms Long said, "I am looking forward to joining other female political leaders on the panel. While Alliance is not defined by constitutional question, we are happy to take part in constructive debates."

Tickets for the event can be purchased here: **Tickets Ireland's Future Presents Pathway To Change, Belfast | Sat, 15 Jun 2024, 12:00 | Ticketmaster IE**



IRELAND IS CHANGING- DO YOU WANT A SAY IN SHAPING THE FUTURE?

O'Donovan Rossa GAC, Belfast are to host an event in Rossa Park, Shaws Road on the 7th of February which will discuss the important role Gaels and the wider GAA community will have in shaping our future. Speakers on the night include Jane Adams, Gaels Le Chéile and Chris Donnelly, Ireland's Future.

Ó Donnabháin Rosa

IRELAND IS CHANGING. DO YOU WANT A SAY IN SHAPING THE FUTURE?

Gaels have played an important part in Irish Civic and Political life. Its time to join with others in the GAA and have our voices heard in planning for a New Ireland.

O'Donovan Rossa invites our members to a discussion around the role Gaels can play in shaping Ireland's future.

- Rossa Park, Shaws Road
- Wednesday 7th February
- 7:00pm

Discussion facilitated by our own Jane Adams and Chris Donnelly

Jane Adams
Gaels Le Chéile

Chris Donnelly
Ireland's Future

Time 4 Unity Am d'Aontacht

FROM THE UNION TO A NEW IRELAND

In April 2023, seven leading Irish American organisations hosted a sold-out event in The Great Hall at Cooper Union to mark the 25th Anniversary of the signing of The Good Friday Agreement. The event was addressed by former US President Bill Clinton, former Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, and Irish American leaders. By the end of the evening, the question on every one's lips was, "What does the future hold?"

Ireland is changing. The Good Friday Agreement provides a peaceful and democratic pathway to Irish Unity, but many questions remain. What are the challenges and opportunities to build a United Ireland? What steps need to be taken? What does a new Ireland look like? What is the role of the United States?

The same sponsoring groups are working together to host an event to answer these questions and to build awareness of the potential for Irish Unity. Together we can build a New and United Ireland.

To date, the organisers have secured the following speakers (with more to confirm):

Mary Lou McDonald TD (President of Sinn Féin), Professor Brendan O'Leary (University of Pennsylvania) in conversation with Meghan Stack (New York Times), Niall Murphy (Human Rights Lawyer and Ireland's Future Board Member), Glenn Bradley (Former British Soldier, former Ulster Unionist Party Officer, and member of Veterans for Peace), Ola Majekodunmi (born in Lagos, Nigeria, presenter, writer, producer,



IRISH UNITY SUMMIT
FOR A NEW AND UNITED IRELAND

THE GREAT HALL
AT COOPER
UNION

MARCH 1ST
2024
1:00PM - 6:00PM

A COLLABORATION
ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
BREHON LAW SOCIETIES OF NYC & NASSAU
FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK LONG ISLAND
FRIENDS OF SINN FÉIN
IRISH AMERICAN UNITY CONFERENCE
JAMES CONNOLLY IRISH AMERICAN LABOR COALITION
LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

MARY LOU MCDONALD
BRENDAN O'LEARY
OLA MAJEKODUNMI
GLENN BRADLEY
MEGAN STACK
NIALL MURPHY
SOPHIE COLGAN
CHRISTINE KINEALY

and board member on Foras na Gaeilge) Sophie Colgan (Director of Navigating New York, dedicated to connecting individuals and businesses in the Irish diaspora in NYC) and Professor Christine Kinealy (Irish historian, author, and founding director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University) will discuss a vision for a New and United Ireland. The program will also include contributions from the Presidents of the sponsoring bodies and bipartisan US political leaders. Live music and spoken word contributions will be performed between speakers and panel discussions.

Event details: Friday, March 1, 2024, 1:00pm - 6:00pm, The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 East 7th Street New York, NY 10003

This is a free, ticketed event, and registration is open here:

Irish Unity Summit: For a New and United Ireland Tickets, Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite



#Time4Unity Am d'Aontacht

LATEST EDITION OF ÉIRE NUA OUT NOW

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.

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 31-33**

NEW IRELAND GEIMHREADH 2024 WINTER EAGRÁN ISSUE 6 **ÉIRE NUA**

A decisive year for Unity

2024 is shaping up to be a decisive year for change and for Irish Unity.
SEE PAGE 2

#Time4Unity
Am d'Aontacht

KEEP TALKING ABOUT PALESTINE

CEASEFIRE NOW



Want to read more?

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



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

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irish.unity@sinnfein.ie