



Sinn Féin

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Sinn Féin shakes up European Parliament race with diverse and seasoned MEP lineup

In a historic move, former Agriculture Minister and current Sinn Féin Member of Parliament (MP) for Fermanagh & South Tyrone, Michelle Gildernew, alongside sitting MEP Chris MacManus have been selected to stand for the European Parliament for Midlands Northwest.

Michelle Gildernew, with her extensive experience advocating for the rights of farmers, aims to bring her unique perspective to the European stage. Michelle said, “beyond championing on agricultural issues, I envision the European Parliament as a crucial arena to advance progressive politics and pave the way for constitutional change in Ireland.”

Her commitment to addressing the challenges faced by the agricultural community, such as fair subsidies, sustainable practices, and rural development, has earned her respect and support across the island of Ireland. Now she seeks to utilise this experience on a broader stage, advocating for policies that benefit farmers across the constituency and beyond.

TD Kathleen Funchion said, “This milestone achievement comes as part of Sinn Féin’s ambitious campaign, featuring a formidable line-up of six candidates and I am honoured to be one of them. This is the biggest number of candidates ever fielded by the party for the EU elections.”

Candidate Councillor Daithí Doolan said he sees the European Parliament as “a strategic platform to build upon existing efforts in advancing the importance of the EU in facilitating the planning and preparation for constitutional change in Ireland.”

The Sinn Féin line-up for the European Parliament elections reflects Sinn Féin’s commitment to progressive politics and a vision of positive change in Ireland.

Senator Paul Gavan said, “The decision to field us six candidates for the European Parliament underscores the party’s determination to amplify its influence and contribute to shaping a more progressive and inclusive political landscape in Ireland and in Europe.”

Fielding six Sinn Féin candidates marks a significant moment in Irish politics. As seasoned politicians with a focus on grassroots engagement, they aim to bridge the gap between local concerns and European policy, fostering a deeper connection between the people of Ireland and the institutions that shape their future.

Michelle Gildernew concluded, “the upcoming European Parliament elections will undoubtedly be a crucial juncture for Sinn Féin, as we strive to make a lasting impact on Ireland’s future.”

SINN FÉIN, NOMINATED A DIVERSE AND EXPERIENCED TEAM OF MEP CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

As a team, Sinn Féin MEP candidates are committed to representing the interests of the people of Ireland north and south in Europe. They stand for progressive values, social justice, equality, and advancing self-determination in Ireland - and if elected, they will work tirelessly to enhance these principles at the European level.



Chris MacManus
MEP



Michelle Gildernew
(MP)



Lynn Boylan
(Senator)



Daithí Doolan
(Councillor)



Kathleen Funchion
(TD)



Paul Gavan
(Senator)



Keep your hands off Irish neutrality – MEP MacManus warns EU Commission President

The Sinn Féin MEP for Midlands North-West, Chris MacManus, has hit out at the candidacy of Ursula von der Leyen for President of the European Commission after she was selected to be the EPP candidate.

Speaking in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, MacManus hit out at President von der Leyen's pro-Military agenda and said the next Commission president should be committed to a social Europe, that puts citizens to the fore of the decision-making process.

MacManus said:

"President Ursula von der Leyen has been selected to be the EPP candidate to serve a second term for European Commission President. Launching her campaign, she commented that you wished to work with those who are pro-NATO. As a neutral country, what does that mean for us in Ireland?"

"She has also commented that she would like to see an EU Defence Commissioner. I firmly believe this would be detrimental to Irish neutrality.

"To put it simply, my message to President von der Leyen is 'keep your hands off Irish neutrality'.

"Her agenda does not align with the values of Ireland or the Irish people. We value our independent foreign policy and we do not want the President of the European Commission having any part in setting that policy.

MacManus concluded. "What we need is a Commission President who is committed to a social Europe, that puts citizens to the fore of the decision-making process, respects the sovereignty of countries – not a neo-liberal, pro-militarisation agenda".

The MEP called on An Taoiseach to make that abundantly clear at the next meeting of the European Council.



CLIMATE JUSTICE - legislation to curtail the fossil fuel industry – Senator Lynn Boylan - Brussels

Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Climate Justice, Senator Lynn Boylan is leading the charge in the Irish Parliament to rein in the fossil fuel industry.

As a Sinn Féin candidate in upcoming June European Parliament elections, Boylan is determined to push for legislation that treats big oil companies with the same scrutiny as the once-mighty tobacco industry.

Her proposed bill aims to establish a robust code of conduct, placing stringent limits on the power and influence of fossil fuel giants.

Boylan, a passionate advocate for Climate Justice, emphasizes the urgency of addressing the undue influence of fossil fuel lobbyists. Speaking at a conference in Brussels she declared, "If we're to stand a chance of ensuring a liveable planet, we need to put an end to the undue influence of fossil fuel lobbyists."

With global temperatures on the rise and the climate crisis

worsening, Seanadóir Boylan's call for action comes at a critical juncture. The proposed legislation seeks to create a framework that holds fossil fuel companies accountable for their environmental impact.

Boylan argues that the fossil fuel industry must be regulated in a manner like how the tobacco industry has been scrutinized in the past by the EU Tobacco Product Directive.

By establishing a code of conduct, the bill aims to curtail the industry's power to manipulate policies and decision-making processes that perpetuate environmental degradation.

Lynn Boylan's commitment to Climate Justice extends beyond national boundaries. She told delegates at the Conference in Brussels that in the upcoming European Parliament elections, she plans to advocate for EU-wide measures to regulate big oil companies. This stance aligns with her belief that a unified

front is necessary to combat the global challenges posed by climate change.

Expressing disappointment with the Irish Government's recent rejection of progressive amendments to the Gas Bill, Lynn has stressed the need for immediate action. The proposed amendments aimed to bring GasNetIrl in line with climate obligations, illustrating her ongoing struggle to ensure that the Irish Government remains committed to a just transition away from fossil fuels.

Boylan emphasizes that in the pursuit of climate justice, no one should be left behind. Her efforts reflect a dedication to creating a sustainable future that prioritizes the well-being of both people and the planet.

As the fight against climate change intensifies, Senator Lynn Boylan's proposed legislation stands as a beacon of hope for those seeking a more responsible and accountable approach to the fossil fuel.



First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Jr Minister Aisling Reilly



A NEW ERA DAWNS:

Sinn Féin's Michelle O'Neill First Minister and three Sinn Féin Economic Ministries

In a historic turn of events, Sinn Féin has taken a significant stride towards a more inclusive and prosperous state with the appointment of Michelle O'Neill as the First Minister.

Alongside this milestone, Sinn Féin has also secured three pivotal economic ministries – Economy, Finance, and Infrastructure – in the Stormont Assembly.

This landmark achievement reflects not only the party's commitment to delivering for all communities, but also its strategic focus on advancing constitutional change, with a United Ireland now on the political horizon.

Michelle O'Neill's appointment as the First Minister is a testament to her leadership qualities and dedication to fostering unity. As the first Republican woman to hold this esteemed position, she brings a fresh perspective and a steadfast commitment to working for the benefit of all citizens.

Speaking during the first sitting of the restored Assembly, Michelle O'Neill said: "we must make power sharing work because collectively, we are charged with leading and delivering for all our people, for every community."

The allocation of key economic ministries, underscores Sinn Féin's determination to drive economic growth and development, taking full advantage of the all-Ireland economy. By actively engaging in the economic aspects of governance, Sinn Féin aims to create an environment that thrives on innovation, investment, and job creation. The party's emphasis on these critical areas, addresses not only political but also economic challenges facing the region.

The First Minister travelled to the United States with other

Executive Ministers over St Patrick's week, to drum up support for investment, and to send a clear message that Government is reinstated and open for business. Michelle O'Neill also met President Joe Biden twice and directly raised the urgent demand for a ceasefire in Gaza as the world watches with horror the genocide of the Palestinian people.

Sinn Féin's commitment to working for all citizens is exemplified by their dedication to the "here and now." Michelle O'Neill and her team recognise the immediate needs of the people they serve, irrespective of political, cultural, or constitutional affiliations. Sinn Féin wants to create a more inclusive society, and a better future for all.

Simultaneously, as the largest political party on the island of Ireland, Sinn Féin is strategically positioned to advocate for constitutional change. The party's leadership is poised to influence policy decisions that will shape Ireland's future.

The pursuit of constitutional change and the potential for a United Ireland have become central to political discourse across the globe, defining the direction in which Ireland is headed.

Michelle O'Neill's appointment as the First Minister and Sinn Féin's securing of three key economic ministries mark a new era. With a commitment to work for all citizens and a vision for a prosperous future, Sinn Féin stands at the forefront of political change.

As the potential for a United Ireland takes centre stage, the Assembly's decisions under Michelle O'Neill's leadership are poised to shape Ireland's destiny for generations to come.

IRISH UNITY RESOUNDS ACROSS IRELAND: Easter commemorations echo calls for Irish reunification

In gatherings echoing the spirit of republicanism, thousands across Ireland gathered over Easter weekend to honour the enduring struggle for Irish freedom.

At the heart of the commemorations lie a recommitment to the ideals of independence, sovereignty, and unity, as articulated by the leaders who paved the path for the nation.

Matt Carthy TD Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs Spokesperson addressed the Armagh

City commemoration and reflected on the historic significance of the 1916 Easter Rising. He said “108 years ago Irish republicans, alongside progressives of all hues, coalesced in a great revolutionary effort to

liberate Ireland and establish a democratic, egalitarian republic on this island.”

Carthy continued, “The realisation of the republic was frustrated by the British, by the Free State, and by the imposition of Partition. It was shot down in firing squads, internment, and vicious repression. But the republican spirit of resistance was never crushed.

Much has changed in recent years, thanks to those who maintained the republican struggle, who initiated a peace process and who negotiated the Good Friday Agreement.”

As the tides of change sweep through Ireland, at every Sinn Féin commemoration there was a palpable sense of optimism fuelled by an escalating desire for political transformation.

With the restoration of the Stormont Executive in a historic turn of events, Sinn Féin’s Michelle O’Neill was elected to the office of First Minister for all.

Meanwhile, south of the border, a seismic shift is underway as a “new generation, demanding long overdue change is stepping forward”, said Carthy.

Reiterating the call for a General Election the Cavan & Monaghan TD added: “The Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil coalition government has run out of energy, ideas, and time. Sinn Féin wants to lead a government that will build homes, transform the health service and which puts Irish reunification at the heart of its agenda.”

The Sinn Féin Foreign Affairs spokesperson went on to say: “In the European elections we have first class candidates who will stand up for Ireland in Europe; defend Ireland’s military neutrality; seek to end Ursula Von Der



Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald and First Minister Michelle O’Neill

Leyen’s damaging leadership of the EU; and oppose the drift of the EU towards militarization.”

In the face of global atrocities, Matt Carthy TD said: “At home, within the EU institutions, and in every international opportunity available to us, we have unapologetically raised the obscenity of the Gaza genocide and called for the efforts of all political leaders to be directed towards an immediate ceasefire. What is happening now in Gaza is just the latest horrific chapter in a long tale of oppression that has brutalised generations of Palestinians”.

He reaffirmed Sinn Féin’s unwavering commitment to the vision articulated in the 1916 Proclamation—a vision of a free and united Ireland.

British government breach International Law



Gerry Kelly MLA

In a ground-breaking ruling by the Belfast High Court, the “immunity clause” embedded within the British government’s Legacy Act has been declared to egregiously contravene the fundamental principles enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

This ruling marks a significant moment in the pursuit of justice and accountability for all those affected by the Conflict.

As a representative of Sinn Féin, policing board member Gerry Kelly MLA, stand in firm agreement with the Court’s judgment and called for the Legacy Act to be scrapped. He said, “The Legacy Act, with its immunity clause, has long been a contentious issue, impeding the path to truth and reconciliation. It breaches Article 2 and 3 of the ECHR and it should be scrapped”.

It is imperative that

the British government takes immediate action to repeal and replace this Act. The North Belfast MLA said. “This is not a time for hesitation or further legal battles. Victims and survivors have waited far too long for the recognition and closure they deserve”.

The MLA call upon the British Government to demonstrate genuine commitment to upholding the ECHR, its human rights obligations, and

the principles of justice by respecting the Court’s decision and refrain from pursuing an appeal.

It is time for all parties involved to come together, with compassion and empathy, to forge a path forward that prioritises healing, accountability, and reconciliation for our people. “Let us seize this moment as an opportunity to pave the way towards a more peaceful and harmonious future”, he concluded.



NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND IRELAND'S PATH TO REUNIFICATION

Declan Kearney - Barcelona

Speaking on 1st March in Barcelona, Sinn Féin National Chairperson Declan Kearney MLA, discussed the pivotal theme of national self-determination and Ireland's path to reunification.

The South Antrim MLA highlighted the importance of national self-determination in the global context, pointing out that respect for its full implementation is essential to ending Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israel's war against Palestine.

Grounding his speech in the United Nations Charter, Kearney stressed the need for international cooperation to strengthen universal peace.

Reflecting on Ireland's struggle for self-determination, he traced its roots to English colonisation and underscored the relevance of the 1916 Proclamation in shaping a vision of a united and inclusive nation.

Addressing CIEMEN audience he said, "Over 100 years ago in 1916 a new generation of Irish Republicans captured that spirit in the visionary words of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The Proclamation is a freedom charter for all the people of our island. Addressing Irishmen and Irish Women it guarantees religious and civil liberty and equal rights and opportunities for all citizens and to cherish all the children of the nation equally. A Republic in which the people are sovereign."

Kearney acknowledged the progress made through the Good Friday Agreement but emphasised the need for ongoing efforts to address constitutional change and promote Irish reunification. "The planning and preparing for constitutional change must begin now. The Irish government presently, and in the future must act as a persuader for reunification. "The British government needs to accept the political reality that partition has failed and there is no alternative.

Emphasising Sinn Féin's progressive internationalism, he drew parallels with other pro-independence movements worldwide, urging collective efforts for a world based on equality and peaceful coexistence.

Declan Kearney concluded by asserting the need to uphold national self-determination as the cornerstone for building harmonious relationships between nations and fostering democratic change.



Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald delivers message of opportunity and hope at New York Irish Unity Summit

Sinn Féin Leader Mary Lou McDonald TD addressed an Irish Unity Summit at Cooper Hall in New York, expressing gratitude for the honour of discussing Ireland's future with the audience and outlining the positive conversations happening across Ireland about change.

Standing at the lectern where Abraham Lincoln once addressed the end of slavery, the President of Sinn Féin acknowledged the historical significance of the venue. She commemorated the loss of Rita O'Hare, praising her leadership, patriotism, and friendship and she dedicated her speech to Rita, emphasising the emotional impact of a video tribute presented during the event.

Mary Lou McDonald TD highlighted the symbolism of their meeting coinciding with spring, a season representing renewal and hope. She emphasised that renewal, hope, and change are integral to the journey toward Irish reunification and the realisation of a new Ireland, united and free.

The Sinn Féin President outlined the seismic changes in Ireland, citing Michelle O'Neill's appointment as First Minister, marking a significant shift in the political landscape, and Sinn Féin Ministers leading out on three major economic departments. She emphasised that the Good Friday Agreement's genius lies in facilitating power-sharing and unity referendums, underlining the importance of a Citizens' Assembly for planning Irish unity.

Mary Lou advocated for a united Ireland, assuring citizens of the Unionist-British tradition that they are valued partners in the envisioned future. She urged both the Irish and British governments to acknowledge

the ongoing changes in Ireland and to play constructive roles in the nation's development. Stressing that nation-building involves creating a home where everyone belongs, she called on the current generation to shape Ireland's future and expressed optimism that, together, we could achieve the dream of a new Ireland.

Expressing gratitude to the United States for its longstanding support, Mary Lou traced the historical ties between Ireland and the U.S., shaped by shared struggles and migration experiences. Indeed, she acknowledged the crucial role the international community played in the Irish peace process and its support during the Brexit threat.

Addressing the challenges currently facing Ireland, including the impact of Tory austerity, she underscored Sinn Féin's vision for a government that prioritises economic strength, the all-island economy, innovation, education, healthcare, and housing. A government of change, in which a better, fairer, and united Ireland is achieved and in which ordinary workers and families are put first.

The President of Sinn Féin acknowledged the contributions of Irish expatriates worldwide and encouraged them to return, promising a government focused on building homes and creating opportunities. She pledged to address the concerns of the younger generation, assuring them of a prosperous future in Ireland.

She concluded by addressing global issues of conflict, emphasising the need for an immediate ceasefire, for an end to the genocide faced by the Palestinians and for a renewed peace process in Gaza.

Abdullah Öcalan 75th Birthday

Martina Anderson - Berlin

I was in Berlin on the 75th Birthday of Kurdish Prisoner Abdullah Öcalan to speak at the launch of "Freedom Shall Prevail," a ground-breaking graphic novel chronicling the extraordinary life of Abdullah Öcalan, known affectionately as "Apo."

It was both an honour and a solemn occasion, marking the 75th birthday of a man synonymous with resistance, determination, and the pursuit of freedom, despite enduring over 25 years of incarceration.

As a former Irish republican prisoner, I resonate with the unwavering spirit of those who resist oppression.

Öcalan's leadership in the Kurdish freedom struggle has left an indelible mark globally, which is detailed in "Freedom Shall Prevail". This graphic novel not only recounts history but also sheds light on Öcalan's

theories, which continue to inspire freedom movements worldwide.

The Peace in Kurdistan Campaign and the International Initiative "Freedom for Abdullah Öcalan—Peace in



Kurdistan" is to be commended for their dedication, which led to this inspiring project.

Öcalan's resilience echoes that of leaders like Nelson Mandela, who transformed from political prisoners to a symbol of freedom. Öcalan and Palestinian Prisoner Marwan Barghouti have inspired their people to envision a liberated future despite battling occupation and oppression.

As we marked Öcalan's 75th birthday, I believe his dedication to peace and justice will guide the ongoing struggle for Kurdish freedom and the novel, "Freedom Shall Prevail", will motivate

generations to come.

Öcalan's enduring spirit, despite solitary confinement for a quarter-century, embodies the strength of the human spirit.

In my closing remarks, I recall the words of Bobby Sands, reminding the hundreds in attendance of the indomitable "undaunting thought" that persists in the face of adversity – "That thought that says, I'm right".

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DID YOU KNOW ABOUT IRELAND?



Mícheál Mac Donncha

James Connolly – Ireland's great internationalist

Every Easter Irish people recall the 1916 Rising. At the height of the First World War, Ireland was firmly under British Empire rule. The very limited "Home Rule" legislation for Ireland had been shelved by the British government when the war began and already it was making plans to partition the country. Faced with all this, an alliance of deeply committed activists – republicans, socialists, trade unionists, feminists, patriotic artists – were determined to strike a blow for Irish freedom.

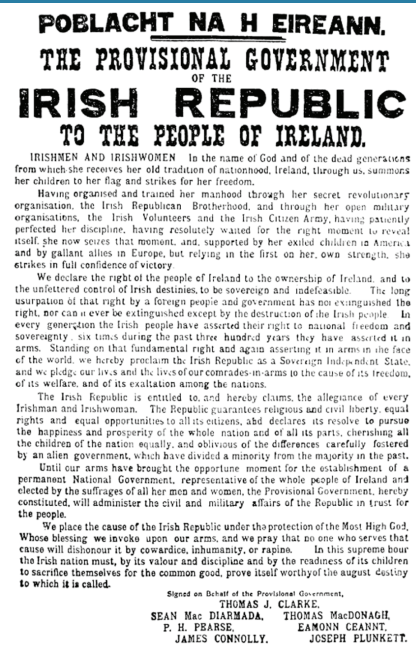
Most prominent among this extraordinary group of Irish men and women was James Connolly. Though poverty forced him to work from an early age, he educated himself thoroughly. In the 1890s he was in Dublin where he founded the Irish Socialist Republican Party. He emigrated with his young family to America and threw himself into socialist and trade union work. He worked with people of all nationalities and developed his thinking on the importance of national self-determination, anti-imperialism, and international solidarity. From the beginning he believed that socialism could only be built in an Ireland free from British rule and that only under socialism could be the people of Ireland be truly free. He urged trade unionists to play a full part in the struggle for Irish independence: "The cause of labour is the cause of Ireland, and the cause of Ireland is the cause of labour."

Connolly was a leader of the Irish Transport & General Workers Union in their great struggle in 1913 when Dublin employers locked out thousands of workers in a bid to break the union. He was a founder of the Irish Citizen Army, one of the first trade union militias in the world, to defend workers against violent attack by employers and police.

When war broke out in August 1914 Connolly believed that the socialist and trade union leaders of Europe would keep their solemn pledge against imperialist war. He was bitterly disappointed when this did not happen but in Ireland, alone in western Europe, the trade union leaders refused to become recruiters for the imperialist armies. Connolly forged an alliance with the Irish Republicans who were planning an insurrection against British rule.

Connolly was a signatory of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic of Easter 1916. He commanded the insurgents who held out in Dublin for a week. After surrender and capture, 16 leaders were executed. Though gravely wounded, Connolly was tied to a chair in the prison yard and executed by a British Army firing squad.

James Connolly continues to inspire today as both a great patriot and a great internationalist. And these words of his have taken on new relevance: "Our demands most moderate are – we only want the earth."



The republican principles stated in the Irish Proclamation are as relevant today as they were in 1916



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