



Sinn Féin

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SPECIAL



Historic change!

Sinn Féin Vice-President, Michelle O'Neill MLA has made history in being elected First Minister of the northern Assembly.

On a momentous day in Irish history, First Minister O'Neill said that she is determined to lead as a First Minister for all to build a brighter, better future for everyone.

The Sinn Féin leader said:

"We mark a moment of equality and progress.

"A new opportunity to work and grow together.

"Confident that wherever we come from, whatever our aspirations, we can and must build our future together.

"The power-sharing coalition formed by the parties here today must now dedicate itself to delivering an ambitious Agenda for Change.

"We must make power-sharing work because collectively, we are charged with leading and delivering for all our

people, for every community.

"The days of second-class citizenship are long gone.

"Today confirms that they are never coming back.

"I stand here proud, elected First Minister as someone who represents the Good Friday generation, and someone who will lead us into the next twenty-five years.

"This is an historic day which represents a new dawn.

"For the first time ever, a nationalist takes up the position of First Minister.

"That such a day would ever come would have been unimaginable to my parents and grandparents' generation.

"My appointment reflects that change.

"I will serve everyone equally and

be a First Minister for All.

"Much suffering and trauma persists as a result of the injustices and tragedies of the past.

"As First Minister I am wholeheartedly committed to continuing the work of reconciliation between all of our people.

"The past cannot be changed or undone.

"But what we can do is build a better future.

"Every generation must write its own chapter, define its own legacy.

"Let our legacy be that chance, that freedom for every young person, for every child.

"1998 opened a new horizon of hope and optimism.

"Now in 2024 let's gift today's generation all that they deserve.



Irish unity is within our grasp – Mary Lou McDonald

Sinn Féin President, Mary Lou McDonald TD has reflected the significance of Michelle O’Neill becoming First Minister as a clear emblem of the wider change happening across Ireland.

The Sinn Féin leader said:

“It’s unmissable.

“It’s here in the north but it is echoed throughout the island.

“There’s a conversation underway about what happens next – twenty five years on from the Good Friday Agreement.

“What does Ireland look like in five years time, in ten years time, in a generation’s time.

“That’s a very exciting conversation.

“I think the days of partition are numbered.

“It doesn’t work.

“There’s a cost to partition.

“We have started our conversation.

“Nothing in life is inevitable; although they say death and taxes come very close there are no inevitabilities in political life.

“The reality is that so long as Ireland is partitioned we will face very significant economic challenges and disadvantages here in the north and all along the border.

“The facts are that the big opportunities from our island whether it is in terms of the climate catastrophe and renewable energies and how we develop that, our skills base, our innovation and research base, all of those things only make sense on an all-island basis.”

Sinn Féin take key Ministerial posts

Following the reconvening of the northern Assembly institutions, a number of Sinn Féin representatives have been elected to Executive ministerial posts.

They include:

- ➔ **Conor Murphy MLA** (Economy Minister)
- ➔ **Caoimhe Archibald MLA** (Finance Minister)
- ➔ **John O’Dowd MLA** (Infrastructure)
- ➔ **Aisling Reilly MLA** (Junior Minister)



Sinn Féin Executive Ministerial team

Setting out Sinn Féin’s ministerial priorities, Caoimhe Archibald MLA said:

“We are determined to work together with all parties to better the lives of workers, families and communities.

“We will lead a new Executive that has the backs of workers and families, and works together to secure more investment to deliver the best possible public services.”

In addition to Sinn Féin’s ministerial appointments, a number of Sinn Féin MLAs have been elected to Assembly Committees positions:

- ➔ **Colm Gildernew MLA** (Communities Chairperson)
- ➔ **Ciara Ferguson MLA** (Communities Vice-Chairperson)
- ➔ **Liz Kimmins MLA** (Health Chairperson)
- ➔ **Pat Sheehan MLA** (Education Vice-Chairperson)
- ➔ **Deirdre Hargey MLA** (Justice Vice-Chairperson)
- ➔ **Declan McAleer MLA** (DAERA Vice-Chairperson)

First Minister Michelle O’Neill MLA reflected on the appointments:

“We will demonstrate, through word and deed, our commitment to represent all our people and communities.

“I stand ready to lead an Assembly and Executive, and get down to the crucial work of supporting workers and families as First Minister for all.”



Sinn Féin MLAs outside Assembly buildings