

# UNITY

#TIME4UNITY  
#AM LE HAONTAUGHT

# NEWS

NUAUGHT NA HAONTAUGHTA

FEBRUARY FEABHRA 2021

## All I want for Valentine's Day is YOU and a United Ireland

Valentine's Day is in two weeks. The UI committee has designed cards appropriate to this occasion and the desire for a United Ireland. Down load them for your sweetheart. Make up your own messages/poems to accompany them.

So it's over to you the great romantics of our great party:



Roses are red  
Violets are blue ...  
OR  
Mo grá thú  
Mo grá geal

**WHAT COMES NEXT?**  
Post these cards – or make up your own – along with your own Valentine poems on 14 February. Make this Valentine's Day one to remember.

Log in to print up your copy.  
[www.sinnfein.ie/contents/59623](http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/59623)

## Níor mhaith liom rud ar bith eile do Lá Fhéile Vailintín ach THÚ agus Éire Aontaithe

Beidh Lá Fhéile Vailintín ann i gceann coicíse. Tá cártaí cuí don ócáid seo deartha ag an gCoiste ÉA agus cuireann siad in iúl in Éirinn Aontaithe. Déan iad a íoslódáil do do ghrá geal. Cum do chuid teachtaireachtaí/dánta féin le dul leo.

Anonn chugaibhse, mar sin, a lucht rómánsúil sa pháirtí iontach seo:

Roses are red  
Violets are blue ...  
OR  
Mo grá thú  
Mo grá geal

**CAD É A THAGANN INA DHIAIDH SEO?**  
Cuir na cártaí seo sa phost – nó cum do chuid féin – agus dántaí do Lá Fhéile Vailintín atá cumtha agaibh féin ar an 14 Feabhra. Déan lá do do shaol i Lá Fhéile Vailintín na bliana seo.

Logáil isteach chun do chóip féin a phrintáil.  
[www.sinnfein.ie/contents/59624](http://www.sinnfein.ie/contents/59624)



## NEW POLL CONFIRMS GROWING BACKING FOR IRISH UNITY

### Deimhnítear i bPobalbhreith Nua tacaíocht mhéadaitheach d'Aontacht na hÉireann

A Lucid Poll published by the London Times at the weekend is the first major examination of the potential impact of Brexit on voter attitudes in the North of Ireland and in Britain since the EU and the British government concluded a deal toward the end of December. It suggests that the trend toward a fragmentation of the British Union is growing stronger. In particular, it says that a majority of citizens in the North and in Scotland want referendums on unity and independence within the next five years if of enormous significance.

The Lucid poll found a majority of voters in the North - 51 per cent to 44 per cent – support a unity referendum within the next five years. It also claims that “unionists hold only a slender lead over those who want a united Ireland now – 47 per cent to 42 per cent.” Eleven per cent are undecided.

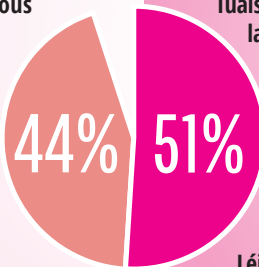
All of this underpins the importance of the Irish Government planning now for a referendum on a united Ireland and planning to win that referendum. All United Irelanders should note that growing support for a referendum does not necessarily mean support for unity. So we have work to do. Securing a referendum on unity is one thing. Winning that referendum and moving inclusively and in agreement into a new Ireland is another piece of work entirely. Let's do it.

Is é Pobalbhreith Lucid atá foilsithe ag an London Times ag an deireadh seachtaine an chéad scrúdú mór ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an mBreataineacht ar dhearcadh vótálaithe i dTuaisceart na hÉireann agus sa Bhreatain ó chuir an AE agus rialtas na Breataine conradh i gcrích ag deireadh mhí na Nollag.

Tugtar le tuiscint ann go bhfuil an treoicht i dtreo ilroinnt Aontas na Breataine ag fás níos láidre. Deirtear ann go háirithe go bhfuil tromlach na saoránach sa Tuaisceart agus in Albain ag iarraidh reifrinn ar aontacht agus neamhspleáchas laistigh de na cúig bliana amach romhainn agus tá tábhacht ollmhór ag baint leise seo.

De réir hpobalbhreith Lucid tacaíonn tromlach na vótálaithe sa Tuaisceart - 51 faoin gcéad go 44 faoin gcéad - le reifreann aontachta laistigh de na cúig bliana amach romhainn. Éilíonn sé freisin “nach bhfuil aontachtóirí ach giota beag chun tosaigh ar na daoine atá ag iarraidh Éire aontaithe anois - 47 faoin gcéad go 42 faoin gcéad.” Tá aon faoin gcéad déag gan chinneadh.

Léiríonn sé seo uile gur chóir do Rialtas na hÉireann dul i mbun planála anois do reifreann ar Éirinn aontaithe agus plean a dhéanamh chun an reifreann sin a bhaint. Ba chóir do gach duine a thacaíonn le hÉirinn Aontaithe a thabhairt faoi deara nach ionann tacaíocht mhéadaitheach don reifreann agus tacaíocht don aontacht. Mar sin tá obair le déanamh againn. Rud amháin is ea reifreann ar aontacht a dhaingniú. Píosa eile oibre go hiomlán is ea an reifreann sin a bhaint agus bogadh go huile agus go hiomlán in Éirinn nua. Déanaimis é.



#TIME4UNITY

# SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MEETING ON UI ECONOMY

Last November Sinn Féin published the 'Economic Benefits of a United Ireland'. In the next month we will publish an Activist Guide of the Economic Benefits of a United Ireland. It will provide a summarised account of the arguments and detail contained in the November paper.

Recently the Sinn Féin United Ireland group in Derry organised an online discussion with participants from Derry and Donegal. Finance Minister Conor Murphy was joined by Martina Anderson MLA, Pádraig MacLochlainn TD, and Karen Mullan MLA met with 18 business groups from Derry and Donegal. The groups who attended included Derry Chamber of Commerce, Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce, Buncrana Chamber of Commerce, City Centre Initiative and the Inner-City Trust, and the Watson Group, and others.

Conor Murphy presented a slide programme and then took questions from the business representatives. Martina Anderson described the meeting as "an extremely positive and healthy discussion with some very interesting points, virtually all participants contributed through a question

or a comment covering issues as diverse as the threat to the agricultural and rural community post Brexit; how to address the concerns of those unionists opposed to unity; how would Irish unity benefit the economy and business; the future of the health service; and the impact of the pandemic and of Brexit.

Speaking after the meeting Martina Anderson said:

"It was evident in the discussion that the business community has a real interest in the growth of the all-Ireland economy and how cross border co-operation can be advantageous to local businesses, especially in the wake of Brexit. Partition has consigned Derry and Donegal to periphery status and has stunted our huge economic potential.

"A United Ireland offers the best opportunity to tackle these issues in a way that can economically advantage all the people of Ireland."

Sinn Féin activists across the island should take up this idea and engage with the business community in your own area. The UI Committee will help. We can provide speakers and slides and guidance for the meeting.



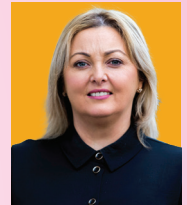
CONOR MURPHY MLA



MARTINA ANDERSON MLA



PÁDRAIG Mac LOCHLAINN MLA



KAREN MULLAN MLA

## BREXIT — THE LEAP TO IRISH UNITY IS GETTING SMALLER

Many of the initial problems created by Brexit have focused on issues related to the new regulatory border in the Irish Sea between Ireland and Britain. Most of these have been caused by lack of preparation by businesses in Britain in adjusting to the new regulatory regime. One result is that the additional bureaucratic cost and time involved in managing the new regulation may lead some businesses to simply stop trading from Britain to Ireland.

In addition, from the 1st April animal products will require health certificates. A spokesperson for the NI Retail Consortium told the Economist Magazine at the beginning

of January that "a typical supermarket lorry carries 200-300 products of animal origin. The necessary certificates will cost thousands of points."

However, one advantage of the new system is that goods produced in the North will be able to freely access the EU and the British market.

The Economist article concluded that the next generation "is likely to vote in a future referendum on Irish unification. Brexit has moved Northern Ireland farther from the UK and closer to the Republic. In itself, this will not reunite Ireland but the leap is getting smaller."

“Brexit has moved Northern Ireland farther from the UK and closer to the Republic.”

#TIME4UNITY

■ It's time to have a conversation on a United Ireland, says Sinn Féin representative for Nenagh, Damian O'Donoghue

# A United Ireland - Making the case

MORE and more people are now talking about Irish unity.

There is a reason for this. It has now become very clear that partition on this island has failed. The weak economy in the north is evidence of this.

Partition has also led to a lack of integration and all-island planning. Brexit and Covid-19 are clear examples of this failure, and there are many more.

So we have to ask ourselves, does it make any sense that six counties on this island are still under British rule? A Britain that has shown time and time again that it does not care in the slightest about what happens in Fermanagh, Armagh, Tyrone, Derry, Antrim and Down. Do you think the Tory government have any interest whatsoever in the daily lives of people living in those six counties? These same union supporting Tories, I should add, that shouted from the top of their lungs about wanting inde-



**Damian O'Donoghue is the Sinn Féin representative for the Nenagh area and the United Ireland Officer for Sinn Féin Tipperary.**

A New Zealand-type policy of testing everyone entering the country also became very difficult because of this. Brexit has also highlighted the fact that partition is having a detrimental

**“The case for uniting Ireland grows steadily...”**

would automatically attain full EU membership status. It is also worth mentioning that the people in the six counties were an after-thought during the referendum campaign, but that would not be the first time that has happened. Brexit highlights the democratic deficit on which partition is predicated.

From conversations I have had with people about this issue, the same question arises, “Can we afford it?” The answer to that question is “Yes,

than in the Irish state or Britain.

Often mentioned when uniting Ireland is discussed is ‘Subvention’. The subvention is the amount of money paid by the British Government to the Executive in Stormont. Some commentators have put this figure at £9 - 10 billion. In reality the figure is £2.5 - 6 billion. The real figure comes when you deduct costs that would not apply in the event of the North leaving Britain. These include British military spending, servicing Britain’s national debt, overseas spending and the pensions bill.

The economist David McWilliams believes that the combined GDP of both economies, some €350 billion, could absorb the North’s subvention “even before the commercial dynamism of unification kicks in”. And that is an important factor to mention, the potential of an all-island economy. The total value of cross-border trade

climate obligations, a green economy will need to create many jobs in many areas. It is one of our largest untapped potential growth areas. Continued partition will mean both parts of the island will be competing against each other on this front and taking two different approaches. A unified all-island approach to a green agenda would be much more effective and a path to green and economic benefits that could see us lead the way internationally during the climate crisis.

If people want an example of how co-ordinated planning can improve economic conditions, they can look to the example of Germany. The situation is different of course but that model could be used to give us an idea of how to unlock the huge potential that exists. The EU also supported German integration through structural funding of almost €18 billion; no doubt Ireland would see an invest-

## UNITING IRELAND RAISED IN TIPPERARY PAPER

Nenagh Sinn Féin representative Damian O'Donoghue wrote the above article which appeared in the Nenagh Guardian, County Tipperary on 9th January.

Damian used the material available on our United Ireland website and contained in the recently published Economic Benefits of a United Ireland.

Sinn Féin representatives across the country should take up his example and do the same with their local media outlets. Go to [www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity](http://www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity)

**As Unity News goes to print Louis O'Hara, the Sinn Féin representative for Galway East, has had a similar article published in the Galway Advertiser. Well done to both!**

## A CHANGING LANDSCAPE IN USA FOR IRISH UNITY

In recent decades Sinn Féin has developed a strong connection with political leaders in the USA, especially in Washington. We work with those who are Democrats or Republicans or neither. Sinn Féin does not involve itself in the internal affairs of the USA, although Sinn Féin leaders have been critical of aspects of US foreign policy. But our main mission is to promote Ireland's interests. We have worked closely with Irish America to make that happen.

The most recent election saw Joe Biden elected as President. He has met many of our party leaders, including Mary Lou McDonald, Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Rita O'Hare. He has also made clear many times, including during his inauguration event, his deep personal connection

with Ireland.

One of his first acts was to appoint Boston Mayor Marty Walsh as Secretary of Labor. In a video message in November to the opening ceremony of the 2020 Golden Bridges Conference linking Northwest Ireland and Irish America, Marty Walsh said: “Under the leadership of President-elect Biden, the United States is ready to move forward and to once again live up to our highest ideals. And we are committed to supporting peace and unity in Ireland, too.”

In the course of the debacle that is Brexit Congress member and Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee Richard Neal and Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congress member Brendan O'Boyle were among many who made it clear that there

can be no free trade agreement between Britain and the USA if the British threaten the Good Friday Agreement.

Senator Chuck Schumer who will now be the Senate Majority leader is also no stranger to Ireland and the Irish peace process. In June 2011, for example, Senator Schumer spoke at a conference in New York organised by Friends of Sinn Fein which was promoting Irish Unity. There continues to be good will toward Ireland within the US political system and business community. Sinn Fein's objective in the time ahead is to build on the work of recent years and under the leadership of Ciaran Quinn to make Irish Unity a priority on Capitol Hill and in the White House.



**TO STAY  
UPDATED**



www.friendsofsinnfein.com  
@FOSFUSA  
Friends of Sinn Féin USA  
admin@friendsofsinnfein.com

Friends of  
**Sinn Féin**  
(Canada)

www.fosfc.com  
@FOSFCanada  
Friends of Sinn Fein - Canada  
friends@fosfc.com

**#TIME4UNITY**

# BREXIT:

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDING CONCERNS

A majority of citizens in the North voted to remain in the European Union in the referendum in 2016. That democratic vote was ignored by the British government and by the DUP. One significant consequence of this undemocratic act was the loss of EU rights for the people of the North. Irish citizens in the six counties are still EU citizens. However as they are outside the territory of the EU, they cannot access their EU rights. These rights include healthcare rights, workers rights etc. The first of these rights that was lost was the right of people in the North to vote in EU elections and be represented in the European Institutions. The loss of these rights will be increasingly felt in the time ahead.

During the 2016 referendum campaign Boris Johnson and his Brexiteers and DUP cheerleaders claimed that the British government would compensate the agricultural and community sector for any financial losses that might arise as a result of Brexit. Those promises are looking more and more thread bare.

The Assembly's Agriculture Committee chairman Sinn Fein MLA Declan McAleer has warned: "Not only has the British government dragged us out of the EU but they have also robbed us of £34 million that we had in the previous Rural Development Programme by not letting us carry this over to this year.

"The new Common Agriculture Policy also gives farmers in the South and across the EU certainty of continued direct payments along with a strong focus on generational renewal, young farmers, environment and climate action. The North no longer has these guarantees."

Of course, there is a way out of all these problems and that is through Irish reunification and the automatic admission of the entire island of Ireland into the EU. This is a commitment made in 2017 by the EU.

## THE PANDEMIC AND FORTRESS IRELAND

In 2007 there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in cattle in Britain. Michelle Gildernew was then the Agriculture Minister in the North. She very quickly got the agreement of unionist parties in the Executive and Irish Government to adopt a 'Fortress Ireland' policy in response to the outbreak of an animal disease in Britain. Michelle Gildernew succeeded in persuading the EU to accept that the North's unique position of being divided "from Britain by a significant body of water" provided a "natural barrier to the spread of animal disease. For disease-control purposes, therefore, the North is treated as a separate entity from Britain."

When the Japanese refused to accept meat product First Minister Ian Paisley lobbied the Japanese Ambassador in London. The First Minister said he was prepared to engage in world-wide lobby to prove that the North's meat products were safe and not linked to the British crisis. As part of this Jonathan Powell, the former Chief of Staff to British Prime Minister Tony Blair recalled that when Ian Paisley met Blair in an attempt to take advantage of the EU provisions Paisley said: "Our people may be British but our cows are Irish."

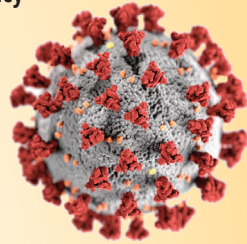
As a result of this work the EU recognised the North as a separate region from Britain in respect of meat products and allowed an exemption so that meat produced in the North could be exported separately and not associated with the Foot and Mouth crisis in Britain. Fortress Ireland worked.

Yet when it comes to a much more serious human health emergency and a worldwide pandemic there has been unwillingness by the DUP and some others to adopt an all-island approach to preventing the spread of Covid.

The demand for an all-island approach has been raised many times. It makes sense – as it did in 2007. We need a new fortress Ireland to co-ordinate resources; protect the most vulnerable; and support our health services which are stretched to their limits. This has been a terrible year with thousands of deaths across our island and we are currently in the grip of the most intense period thus far of the pandemic.

We are an island and that is an advantage which other island nations, most notably New Zealand, have used to great effect.

Covid-19 has highlighted the need for an all-island health response and an all Ireland public health service. Campaign for this in your area.



MARTIN Mc GUINNESS PEACE FOUNDATION

# POETRY COMPETITION

WORLD POETRY DAY - 21 MARCH

Write a poem that reflects Martin's legacy or his vision of a New Ireland. Winners Over 18 & Under 18 will receive £1,000.

Submit your poem to [mmpfpoetrycompetition@gmail.com](mailto:mmpfpoetrycompetition@gmail.com)  
by 12 Noon on Friday 5 March 2021

# NORTH – “ALREADY HEADING FOR THE EXIT DOOR”



Two former senior British politicians have acknowledged in recent weeks the increasing political trajectory toward Irish Unity.

David Blunkett who was a former senior Labour Cabinet Minister told the Press Association in early January that Boris Johnson's Brexit deal is a “disaster.” The Irish Sea border creates “contradictions” and he warned that the Brexit deal; “actually accelerates the possibility within the next 25 years of a united island of Ireland.” Most other commentators see unity happening much more quickly.

Among these is the Tory party's former Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne. Writing on 19 January in the London Evening Standard, where is now editor-in-chief, Osborne warned that public opinion in England “will not care” if there is

a United Ireland. Osborne claimed that the “unleashing” of English nationalism means that the future constitutional structure of the ‘UK’ will now be the key political issue for the next decade.

Speaking about the North Osborne said: “Northern Ireland is already heading for the exit door. By remaining in the EU single market, it is for all economic intents and purposes now slowly becoming part of a united Ireland ... Its prosperity now depends on its relationship with Dublin (and Brussels) not London. The politics will follow.”

Osborne was scathing in his criticism of the DUP. He wrote: “Now their short sighted support for Brexit (and unbelievably stupid decision to torpedo Theresa May's deal that avoided separate Irish arrangements)

has made those fears a reality. It pains me to report that most here and abroad will not care.”

Echoing this opinion Andrew Rawnsley, the Chief Political Commentator of the London Observer, writing on Sunday said: “You would have to possess a heart of stone not to weep with laughter at some of those who are now suddenly complaining about Brexit. It is a bit late for Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, those lusty sponsors of the great experiment with the UK's prosperity, to be wailing that they have been betrayed.”

**ALL OF THE RECENT ARTICLES AND MANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION ON A UNITED IRELAND ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SINN FÉIN WEBSITE.**

**Log in to [www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity](http://www.sinnfein.ie/irish-unity) for all of the news on uniting Ireland.**



**Sinn Féin**

English / Gaeilge

LATEST NEWS

BE PART OF SINN FÉIN

FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE



 [sinnfein.ie](http://sinnfein.ie)

 [@sinnfeinireland](https://twitter.com/sinnfeinireland)



 [sinnfein](https://www.facebook.com/sinnfein)

 [irish.unity@sinnfein.ie](mailto:irish.unity@sinnfein.ie)