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UNITED STATES
UNITED IRELAND

A Letter from Ireland

Twelfth of July

a Chara,

In the North of Ireland, July 12th and 13th are public holidays to facilitate Orange Order marches.

An Irish Government TD suggested that this should be extended to the rest of Ireland. I doubt that he knows his history or lived through a marching season.

The Orange Order was established in 1795 following an attack that left up to 30 Catholics killed and further disturbances that forced 7000 from their homes.

The bowler-hatted, orange collarette-wearing marchers have become the stereotype of Ulster unionists and protestants. An unfair and incorrect assumption.

At its most benign it is a religious separatist organization. You cannot be a member if you are a catholic or married to a catholic. Members can be disciplined for attending the wedding or funeral of catholic friends.

It was a political organization established to oppose catholic emancipation, support the King and defend the union with Britain.

Around the same time, the United Irishmen were established in Belfast by Presbyterian merchants. Headed by Wolfstone, the United Irishmen sought to break the union with Britain, end discrimination and unite Catholics, Protestants, and Dissenters under the common banner of Irish men and women.

The Orange Order opposed the United Irishmen and took part in quelling their rebellion. It continues with its political actions. It campaigned against the Good Friday

As a kid growing up in Andytown in West Belfast I remember boredom, those that could afford would leave on holiday, the rest of us have a couple of days with nothing to do, and everywhere was closed. Elsewhere Catholic communities would be held captive in their own homes.

Since its foundation, Orange Order marches have led to violent conflict. Later I would join campaigns supporting residents who opposed Orange Order marches through their neighborhoods. The Order at the time refused to meet or negotiate with residents but simply demanded that the police and army would clear the way against the will of residents.

Many from the US and Canada came to observe the human rights breaches. This year has been mainly quiet so far but the sectarianism associated with the event continues. Bonfires set light to Irish flags and effigies of Sinn Féin leaders. Bands play sectarian songs including "being up to your knees in Fenian (catholic) blood".

While it has the potential to create sectarian violence the Order is not the force that it once was.

It is always worth remembering that while all members of the Orange Institutions are Protestant and Unionist, not all Protestants support the Orange Order.

The Orange Order does not represent the experience, identities, or aspirations of those from a British identity that share our Island. The United Ireland we seek to build a home for all who share our island. The marching issue is no longer the flashpoint it once was. Accommodations have been arrived at and long may that continue.

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

Ciarán

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

President Biden Raises Good Friday Agreement with British Prime Minister



President Biden met with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in Downing Street, London on Tuesday.

First Minister Elect Michelle O'Neill welcomed the continued support from President Biden for the Good Friday Agreement and progress in Ireland.

Michelle O'Neill said, "It is clear that the issue of Ireland, and a better future for people here, remains high on the agenda for President Biden. The United States has been a key partner for peace in Ireland for decades, and an ardent supporter of the peace process and I value that commitment

"Last month in Washington I raised the need for Rishi Sunak's government to work with their partners in the Irish Government to prioritize restoration of the political institutions and the full implementation of Agreements without any more delay."

The official readout from the meeting said that that the leaders reaffirmed their steadfast support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's ongoing aggression and

Irish Government Failing to Plan, Prepare, or Persuade for Irish Unity



“...Holding Brexit-style referendums, without a detailed plan as to what happens afterward would be a disaster. Only the Irish government and parliament have the credibility to outline a pre-referendum model for a united Ireland, striking a balance between setting out what would happen if the referendums were passed, while allowing scope for post-referendum debate. “

[Read Full Article](#)

July Video Update

Watch this month's video update with Sinn Féin Representative to North America, Ciarán Quinn. We discuss the latest news and upcoming events.



Call to Action: Scrap Legacy Legislation

Let your Senators and Representatives know that the British Government must honor its commitments and legal obligations, scrap their Legacy Legislation, and work in partnership with the Irish Government to progress the implementation of all agreements.

[Click Here To Contact Your Representatives](#)

Belfast Women's Assembly on the Future of Ireland

The Belfast Women's Assembly took place in the Europa Hotel. This was the 5th event hosted by Sinn Féin's Commission on the Future of Ireland and the 1st of the women's assemblies.

Over 140 women from across the wider Belfast area joined in the discussion on what a New United Ireland would mean for them.



Donate to Friends of Sinn Féin

Your donation to Friends of Sinn Féin helps support our work for peace and unity in Ireland, and strengthens the connections between Ireland and the United States.

Thank you! Go raibh maith agat!

A green promotional graphic for monthly donations. The main text reads 'MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION & WATCH IT GROW!'. A circular inset shows a donation form with the 'Monthly' option selected and circled in red. Below the inset are buttons for \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, and \$50, along with a 'Custom Amount' field. To the right is the Friends of Sinn Féin logo, which features a gear with an American flag on the left and an Irish flag on the right, with a tree and 'SF' in the center. The text 'FRIENDS OF SINN FEIN' and 'UNITED STATES OF AMERICA' surrounds the gear. A green circle in the top right contains the text 'GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT!'.



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