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**UNITED STATES**  
**UNITED IRELAND**

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# Getting Away with Murder

## A Letter From Ireland

a Chara,

I have rewritten this letter a number of times. It is hard to find the words to describe the actions of the British government and the injustice they have imposed on bereaved families this week.

At the stroke of midnight on Tuesday, April 30th, the British Government's "Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act" came into full effect. Behind this innocuous title is the coverup of multiple killings.

The Act immediately closed down 38 inquests linked to 76 deaths. Families will be left without basic findings of the cause of death of their loved ones. It also closes investigations into hundreds of unresolved killings carried out over 30 years of conflict. It ends the rights of the injured and bereaved to have access to the courts. Behind these cases are families who have fought for up to 50 years for justice and truth.

This Act has been opposed by all political parties on the Island of Ireland, by victims groups, the EU and UN Human Rights bodies, and the US Congress.

The Irish Government has now instigated a legal case in the European courts as these actions run contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement.

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cover up their actions during the conflict. Families campaigned to secure disclosure, information, and inquests.

When the British could no longer frustrate the legal process they closed it down. The British Government and military have always portrayed themselves as referees and peacemakers between two warring factions. The truth has been exposed. The pattern across cases is consistent. The British military, and agents, engaged in killings with no effective investigation, followed by years of cover-up.

The British military was involved in establishing, arming, and directing loyalist paramilitary gangs, allowing killing to proceed and protecting agents.

The pattern across 30 years of British involvement in the conflict is consistent. They were involved in commissioning, murdering, and covering up the killing of citizens North and South. In order to continue that coverup they have closed down all investigations into all killings.

I believed that the British attempts to stall and frustrate justice were in the hope that families would give up their quest. That was never going to happen. It now appears that justice is to be denied to ensure that no living British political or military figure will end up in court or exposed for their role in their dirty war in Ireland.

The families will continue their campaigns, and the British Government will have to defend its actions in a European court. It would be hoped that a new British Government would scrap this act and return to their previous agreements with the parties and the Irish Government.

The British Government was an actor in the conflict. The British Government should play a part in delivering justice, truth, and acknowledgment if we are to build a process of healing and reconciliation. Their actions this week are an injustice to bereaved families and an insult to all.

Is mise,

Ciarán

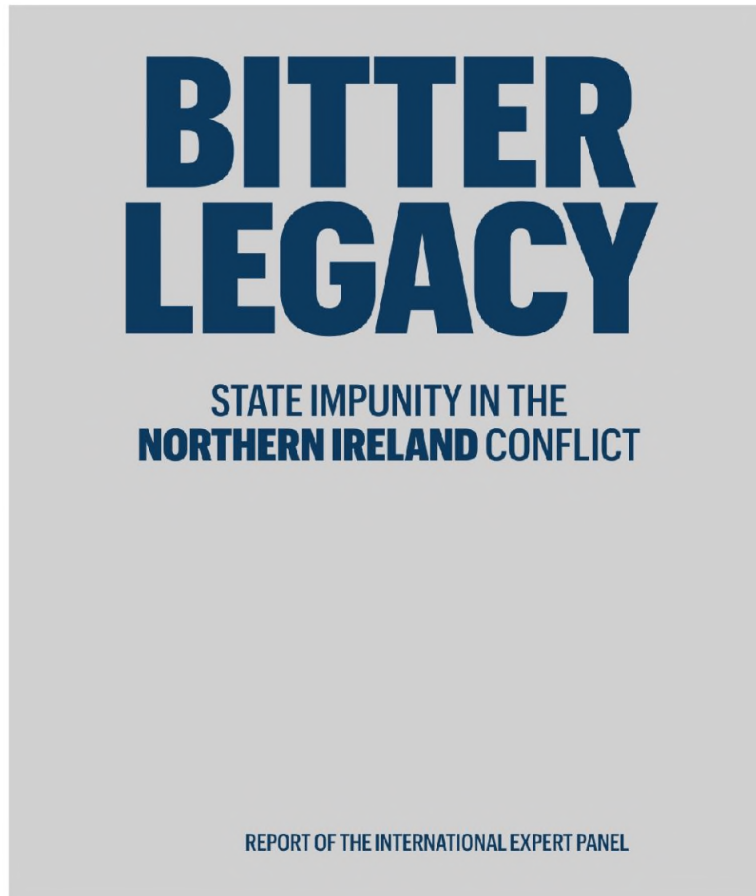
**Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America**

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# Bitter Legacy: State Impunity in the Northern Ireland Conflict – Report by Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo



An international, independent panel of experts was convened by the Norwegian Center for Human Rights, University of Oslo to provide an authoritative record of the extent to which there is evidence of patterns of impunity by the UK Gov in relation to human rights violations.

This week, they published a report that examined state killings, torture & ill-treatment, & collusion. They concluded that state impunity in the conflict in Northern Ireland can rightly be described as widespread, systematic and systemic.

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## April Video Update

We catch up with Sinn Féin Representative Ciarán Quinn for the latest news and analysis. A review of the Irish Unity Summit, St. Patrick's Day and Easter events, a preview of upcoming elections, and more. [WATCH VIDEO HERE](#)



## Paul Maskey MP, West Belfast addresses Irish Unity event in Pittsburgh

The Pittsburgh chapter of the Irish American Unity Conference hosted an event to discuss the next steps towards a new and United Ireland. "A Nation Once Again - The Road Ahead" was a sold-out discussion of the work needed to fully implement the Good Friday Agreement and present efforts toward Irish unification.

While in Pittsburgh, the West Belfast Representative met with local community leaders and elected officials.

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Paul Maskey, MP with Congressman Brendan Boyle



With the first female Mayor of Philadelphia, Cherelle Parker



With Philadelphia Council President Kenyatta Johnson at Philadelphia City Hall



Paul at Old St Patrick's Church. Oldest Irish church in Pittsburgh



Mary Ellen Meyers, Paul Maskey and LADH National president Marilyn Madigan



Moderated Q & A with Jim Lamb of Ireland Institute of Pittsburgh

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# Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald to visit Springfield, MA

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THE JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY CLUB TO HOST

# MARY LOU MCDONALD TD

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 18, 2024  
11:00 AM  
OUTSIDE PAVILION**

---  
**JBO CLUB  
33 PROGRESS AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, MA**



**MUSIC BY  
THE BARDS**



**LEADER OF SINN FÉIN, THE  
LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY  
ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND**

**WE ARE HONORED TO HOST  
HER AT AMERICA'S OLDEST  
IRISH CLUB, THE JBO.**

**'We will stand with families in their  
continued fight for truth and justice' –**

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Sinn Féin MP John Finucane has said heartbroken families will continue to challenge the shameful Legacy Act at every turn and called on the British Government to repeal it.

Speaking at a demonstration in Belfast today, the North Belfast MP said, “For years victims and families have raised their concerns time and again about the British government’s shameful Legacy Act.

“Human rights experts, churches, the US, UN, EU, the Irish government and all main political parties on this island have opposed this cynical and cruel piece of legislation.

“These calls have fallen on deaf ears in British government circles and they have instead railroaded through this disgraceful legislation against all wishes.

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We provide the latest news and analysis every week via our newsletter and every month on our video updates. We let you know about events all across the country and we organize and host events like the recent Irish Unity Summit. We bring Sinn Féin members over for community meetings and political briefings and updates. All of that is possible thanks to your donations and your support. When you donate to Friends of Sinn Féin, you make it all possible. Please make a gift today, and if you're able, make it monthly. Thank you!

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**Ireland's Future**  
Todhchaí na hÉireann

# PATHWAY TO CHANGE

**Public Meeting, Thursday, May 23rd, 7 PM,  
United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco**

## Planning And Preparing For a New and United Ireland

With guest speakers from Ireland's Future:  
**Niall Murphy & The Reverend Karen Sethuraman**

### All Are Welcome



**Niall Murphy is the National Secretary of Ireland's Future, and a Civil Rights Attorney from Belfast.**

*"I believe that the debate and momentum towards constitutional change is growing and developing. Ireland's Future want to see constitutional change which delivers a new Ireland and society in which all who live here feel comfortable and have a stake in."*



**Karen Sethuraman is the first and only female Baptist Minister in Ireland. Karen practices her ministry in East Belfast.**

*"Growing up in East Belfast, I saw a lot of 'us and them' and 'in and out' mentalities," says Karen. "But those divisions really didn't sit right with me and I felt obliged to question what the whole issue was about. I was never personally wedded to the Union and in the past was always quite ambivalent or centred on the issue but I believe Brexit in particular has catapulted us towards this new situation. Now we need to start asking ourselves, 'Is there something better than what we have now?' and I think there is."*

**Ireland's Future is a non-politically aligned group of civic nationalists,  
Formed in 2017 to advocate for the reunification of Ireland.**

**This event is co-sponsored by:  
The Knights of the Red Branch, San Francisco  
& The Irish Herald**


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# Change starts here - Sinn Féin Campaign Begins

This week saw the kick-off for council elections and European Parliament elections in Ireland. Sinn Féin is running a record number of candidates and are standing in every single electoral area. This is the most important election for a generation because of housing. A vote for Sinn Féin is a vote to end the housing crisis. It's time for change.

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Whether you are looking for links to some of the latest headlines or longer stories about what's going on in the work towards a New and United Ireland, you'll find what you need on our social media channels. Click the image above and you'll be taken to

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