IrishEcho

Program

Forum: Irish America, Congress and Constitutional Change in Ireland

We are entering a pivotal period in the debate around constitutional change in Ireland. In Northern Ireland, a nationalist now holds the office of First Minister and in the last census in the North, a majority of the population, for the first time, was recorded as coming from the nationalist tradition.

In September, on a landmark visit to Ireland, President Trump threw his support behind “a merger” between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In November, An Tánaiste (deputy Prime Minister) Simon Harris of Fine Gael unveiled an ambitious “blueprint” to a unified island.

He was swiftly followed by An Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin who announced his own “Futures Study Initiative" which will seek to provide an objective knowledge base to inform proposals on the form unification might take. In this time of rapid change, our Forum will ask how Irish America and Congress can build on this momentum to facilitate the peaceful reunification of Ireland.



HOUSING for US

Donate to The Irish Echo

https://www.irishecho.com/events/capitol-hill-forum

IrishEcho

Forum: Irish America, Congress and Constitutional Change in Ireland

11:30am **Registration**

11:50am **Welcome:** Connla McCann, CEO, Irish Echo

12pm **Setting the Scene: Embedding the Peace, Building for Tomorrow**
Rep. Richie Neal, Co-Chair Friends of Ireland Caucus for U.S. House of Representatives

12:15pm **As the Momentum Towards a Unified Ireland Builds, What will be the Role of America and Irish America?**
Chair: Sophie Colgan, Irish American Advocate
Panel: John Feehery, Presidential Appointee as Observer to IFI
Stella O'Leary, Three Presidential Appointments as Observer to IFI, Co-Founder Irish American Democrats
Bernard McGuire, Managing Director, 57 Stars, Washington D.C.
Professor Brendan O'Leary, Lauder Professor of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania and Honorary Professor of Political Science at Queen's University Belfast

12:40pm **Keynote: A New Ireland - A Future We Can Build Together**
Rev Karen Sethuraman, Board Member Ireland's Future, Pastor Soul Space Belfast, a peace hub of the Anabaptist Mennonite Network

12:55pm **Developing a Transatlantic Partnership to Underpin and Facilitate a 'Merged' Ireland**
Chair: Sophie Colgan, Irish American Advocate
Panel: Congressman Tim Kennedy, Buffalo, NY
Congressman Mike Lawler (Invited), NY
Maura Drumm, Media Coordinator, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Washington D.C.
Sean Pender, National President, AOH, NJ
With additional comments from Congressman Jonathan Jackson, Chicago, IL

1:20pm Terry O'Sullivan, General President Emeritus, Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA)

1:30pm Open Discussion

1:45pm **Close:** Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Publisher, The Irish Echo



HOUSING for US

Donate to The Irish Echo
https://www.irishecho.com/events/capitol-hill-forum