

SENATOR MARK DALY

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Uniting Ireland: 1st Report in History of the State, by a Dáil or Senate Committee, on achieving a United Ireland – Produced by Senator Mark Daly

This year I sought to be appointed to a compile a report for the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement which is entitled 'Brexit & The Future of Ireland: Uniting Ireland & Its People in People in Peace & Prosperity', The 1,232 page report looks at what Ireland needs to do in order to peacefully achieve its constitutional aim as outlined in Article 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution which was supported by 94% of people in a referendum. The Report and its 17 recommendations were unanimously endorsed by the all party committee they include

- The establishment of a New Ireland Forum 2 is recommended to set a pathway to achieve the peaceful reunification of Ireland.
- Establish an international task force with experts in security so that plans to meet any risks may be devised and implemented.
- Fears and concerns of the Unionist community need to be examined, understood and addressed comprehensively by all stakeholders in advance of any



- Further research into the income and expenditure for Northern Ireland should be carried out, as these costs current including expenses such as the Royal Family and the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since the launch of the report I have met with Unionist politicians, Protestant church leaders and members of Loyalist paramilitary group to answer their questions and outline the main findings of the report.

In the compiling of the report I came across a note by the person voted by the people of Ireland as Irish Man of the 20th Century, T K Whittaker, to the then Taoiseach on the 11th November 1968

“We were, therefore, left with only one choice, a policy of seeking unity in Ireland between Irishmen. Of its nature this is a long-term policy, requiring patience, understanding and forbearance and resolute resistance to emotionalism and opportunism. It is not the less patriotic for that”

Civil Rights for the 50,000 members of the Deaf Community to be enshrined in law with passage of the Recognition of Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill



WITH MEMBERS OF THE IRISH DEAF SOCIETY AND REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF THE DEAF COMMUNITY AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL IN THE SEANAD

Only 5 laws introduced by a Senator while in opposition have been signed into law by the President since the enactment of the Constitution in 1937. Working with Senators and TDs on all sides my Civil Rights Recognition of Irish Sign Language for the Deaf Community Bill will become the 6th ever Private Members Bill in the history of the State, just 15 Dail Private Members Bills having been entered into law in the last 80 years. The Justice committee said in its report that the bill was necessary to end the 'extreme marginalisation' of the deaf community. This Bill gives civil rights for the 50,000 Irish Sign Language users in Ireland and puts a duty on state agencies such as hospital A&E, schools and court to provided interpreters for the deaf community.

Continued work on improved Terms & Condition for Local Authority Members

NEW GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO BE WELCOME

I continue to work with my Oireachtas colleagues to gain much needed support and improved terms and conditions for local authority members. We called the Minister to the Seanad to impress upon him the increased work load now on local authority members. Since the change in local government structures the number of local government members has reduced from 678, the number of local authorities areas have reduced from 114 to 31. Not only has the size of local authorities areas increase but the workload and responsibility have also increased. I welcome the Government commitment to put issue of Councillor's pay to a commission the recommendations from which I hope will come into effect in time for the next elections.



WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS AT THE LAMA CONFERENCE

PENINSULA LANDSCAPE PICTURE TO BE SUPPLIED

Peninsula Lands at the Pier in Kenmare Should be National Park

A once in a generation opportunity exists for the people of the area and the county to turn the 50 acres of land by the pier in Kenmare into a National Park that can be of benefit to the whole community for parking, housing for the elderly, boat storage for local clubs and other public facilities. It is hoped that the contracts to secure the lands for public ownership will be signed before the end of the year and ahead of the court case taken by those claiming rights over the land. Great credit is due to the local committee chaired by Mickey Ned O'Sullivan and the many thousands who signed the petition to call on the Council to secure the land for the people of the area.

Votes for the Irish outside the state and the Diaspora

I was delighted with the announcement by an Taoiseach Enda Kenny that a referendum is to be held on allow the Irish outside of the state and the diaspora a vote. By virtue of Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution anyone of the 1.8 million people born in the North of Ireland are entitled to Irish citizenship, yet they are also not allowed to vote in any Irish election. The 1.2 million Irish born citizens living overseas are also not allowed to vote. More than 120 countries around the world have provisions for their citizens abroad to cast a ballot, but Ireland continues to disenfranchise people who by virtue of article 2 and 3 of our constitution are either Irish citizens or are entitled to be citizens. I will continue to work on this issue throughout 2018 and press for the referendum to be held.



CAPTION- PICTURED WITH ORLA KELLEHER FROM KILGARVAN WHO RUNS THE AISHLING CENTRE IN NEW YORK AT THE GLOBAL IRISH FORUM

Fears grow for 50,000 Undocumented Irish in the United States

Under the new Presidential Administration in the United States, fears have grown for the 50,000 undocumented Irish in the US and their families back home in Ireland of deportation. With President Trumps increase in raids and arrests, the fears among the Irish Community are heightened. I am continuing to work with Irish Community organisations to provide advice and assistance to both the undocumented Irish and their loved ones at home in Ireland. As new legislation on immigration and border security is being drafted in the United States I am working with all sides in the US Congress to ensure that law abiding Irish people who have created lives, employment and paid their taxes will not be arrested and sent back to Ireland.

Plaque from the President of Ireland Handed Over for Washington Monument to Commemorate 1916 Rising and 'Strong & Enduring links between Ireland & the United States'



WITH HEAD OF THE US OFFICE OF BUDGET MICK MULVANEY, IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE US ANNE ANDERSON, CONGRESSMAN BRENDAN BOYLE AND MINISTER SEAN CANNEY

Working with the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Department of the Interior Nikki Buffa I secured permission for a plaque from the President of Ireland 'acknowledging the strong and enduring links between Ireland and the United States' to be placed in the Washington Monument. In May, I was delighted to accompany Minister for Public

Works Sean Canney to Washington DC to present the US National Parks Service with the bronze plaque which included a replica of the 1916 proclamation. All the 50 states in America have plaques in the monument but only 16 countries have been give this great honour and there has been only 5 plaques installed in the last 75 years.

Seanad Public Consultation on the National Anthem

This year I was Coordinator of the Senates Public Consultation process on the National Anthem which sought the peoples views on how the State should protect and respect Amhran na bhFiann since it was no longer protected by the law of the land. I requested the Senate to hold a Public Consultation due to the copyright expiring on both the music, and lyrics, in Irish and English of Amhrán na bhFiann. It is my belief that legislation, protocols or guidelines should be put in place to protect the anthem from misuse or disrespect. We received submissions from many Irish citizens at home and abroad across a wide range of society including schoolchildren, the Irish Army School of Music, The department of Finance and Government Ministers. The submission affirmed the core belief that our National Anthem should be respected and used appropriately. In an opinion poll 84% of people support the current national anthem

I will be producing a report for the Senate along with draft legislation and protocols based on all the submissions received and following the public hearings to be held in the Senate Chamber.



DEBATING THE NEED TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM ON THE CLAIRE BYRNE SHOW

Kenmare Hospital Staffing

We all worked very hard to get the new hospital built and since the official opening in May 2014 it has yet to open all of its beds for use, this is down to the under staffing within the hospital. Negotiations are ongoing between the unions and the HSE to agree terms and conditions for new staff. I will continue to work to ensure that all beds will be in made available as soon as possible so that the hospital is fully staffed to meet the demand in the area.



KENMARE TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE, VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS CELEBRATE ANOTHER GOLD MEDAL FOR THE TOWN



IN MONTANA PRESENTING GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK WITH AN IRISH FLAG TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FORMER GOVERNOR & CREATOR OF THE IRISH FLAG THOMAS F.MEAGHER



AT THE ARD FHEIS WITH THE CHAIR OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BRENDAN SMYTH AND PARTY SPOKESPERSON ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DARRAGH O'BRIEN



MEETING WITH PARTY SPOKESPERSON ON JUSTICE DEPUTY JIM O'CALLAGHAN AND OFFICIAL FROM THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ON PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM



PRESIDENT OF IRELAND MICHAEL D HIGGINS AFTER THE 1916 ARBOUR HILL COMMEMORATION MEETING TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS CARA DALY & CARLYNN O'SULLIVAN ON THEIR FIRST DAY OF WORK EXPERIENCE IN LEINSTER HOUSE. MICHAEL KEANE ALSO MET THE PRESIDENT ON HIS WORK PLACEMENT FROM COLLEGE



WITH FOUNDATION SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR 2014 ROSE OF TRALEE MARIA WALSH, CEANN COMHAIRLE SEAN O'FEARGHAIL AND FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN REVEREND MICHAEL CAVANAGH (COI)



DEPUTY JOHN BRASSIL TD, COUNCILLOR JOHN F FLYNN, COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CAHILL AND NORMA MORIARTY AT A RECENT MEETING IN KILLORGLIN TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF CONCERN AFFECTING THE AREA AND COUNTY

Thomas F Meagher Foundation Rewarding Active Citizenship

I am delighted to continue my work with the Thomas F Meagher Foundation chaired by Kenmare's local Reverend Cavanagh (COI) in promoting pride in and respect for the Irish Flag and its meaning for peace. In 2017 the Foundation again, sent schools flag lapel pins to sell for charities and projects of their choosing. Ceann Comhairle Sean O'Fearghail was guest of honour at the Foundation's Awards and Scholarship Presentation lunch held in Leinster House in May.

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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY