



Ireland's
Future

Todhchaí na hÉireann



2024 Executive Summary and Work Programme for 2025

INTRODUCTION

The primary objective of this document is to provide you with information about the work of Ireland's Future.

The Ireland's Future management board has been working diligently throughout 2024 and has plans to implement a thorough work programme for 2025.

To implement this programme effectively, the organisation requires financial assistance from those who support its aims and objectives.

IRELAND'S FUTURE

Ireland's Future recognises, supports and facilitates the need for widespread and inclusive conversation with regard to the future constitutional status of the island. We work towards increasing momentum for the national discussion on a new, shared and united Ireland, across the island and within the global Irish diaspora.

We would like to assist in building popular support for a civic forum to allow a formal deliberative process to begin and we support any progress in advancing this objective.

The contributions of the SDLP New Ireland Commission, the Sinn Féin Peoples' Assemblies and the work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement are all very welcome and we note their importance and value.

Our landmark document Ireland 2030 outlines clearly why we believe a unity referendum will take place around the year 2030. Ireland's Future has called on the governments in London and Dublin, as well as the Assembly Executive in the north to plan and prepare immediately for the referendum which is likely to take place in the coming years.

We want to continue to work in friendship, harmony and fraternity particularly with those who come from unionist and protestant backgrounds. We also want to work with people from all other communities and identities.

OUR DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS

Over the recent past the organisation in collaboration with others has produced a series of discussion documents analysing issues including citizens' rights, the all island economy, education in a new Ireland and the potential for a world class health system.

These detailed and extensive documents can be found in the publications section of our website at <https://irelandsfuture.com/publications/>

OUR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

Ireland's Future has organised an extensive series of public meetings and consultations across the island of Ireland, Britain and the USA.

We organise these large scale events to increase civic and political engagement, provide publicity for Ireland's Future and increase public awareness of the organisation and its aims.

Over the past number of years, the organisation has hosted almost forty public events.

Most recently thousands of people attended the SSE Arena in Belfast in June 2024. The Pathway to Change conference heard contributions from eleven political parties, leading economists and trade unionists, former leader of the Alliance Party Lord John Alderdice, current President of the GAA Jarlath Burns, former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, founding member of the DUP Wallace Thompson, former Loyalist leader David Adams and many others.

Ireland's Future also hosted an event in Belfast's Ulster Hall where over one thousand people heard from a panel who were exclusively from a unionist or protestant background.

In November 2023 we hosted a business lunch in the Europa hotel that was attended by almost five hundred people including many business and civic figures from across broad northern society. The keynote speakers were former BBC Newsnight presenter Gavin Esler and former Irish News editor Noel Doran.

Ireland's Future has facilitated almost twenty document launches and online events, many of which have been broadcast across the Ireland's Future online platforms and have attracted significant viewing numbers.

The organisation has also hosted a number of lunch events and these have been held for fundraising and awareness purposes, engaging with key stakeholders, supporters of Ireland's Future and those who are interested in the future more generally.

Ireland's Future has also hosted public meetings in Britain. These have been well attended and The Scottish National Party, The British Labour Party and other political figures from across British society have also participated.

On six separate occasions in 2024 Ireland's Future figures have met with leaders from across Irish America. Ireland's Future representatives have participated in a number of events, taking part as guest and keynote speakers.

We have strong ties with Irish America. Andrée Murphy, Brian Feeney, Prof Colin Harvey and Niall Murphy have all spoken on behalf of Ireland's Future at various events in the USA.

Irish America can play a vital role in the time ahead and the importance of broader American participation in Irish matters over the coming period should not be understated.

More information on events to date can be found at:

<https://irelandsfuture.com/events/>

OUR PEOPLE

Ireland's Future provides media analysis and commentary on a frequent basis. Chris Donnelly, Andrée Murphy, Brian Feeney, Niall Murphy, Rev Karen Sethuraman and Professor Colin Harvey all contribute to press and media regularly. Our members also contribute to public events, academic journals and legal symposia. We are in regular contact and work closely with many individuals and organisations both inside and outside of the political sphere.

IRELAND'S FUTURE FUNDING

Ireland's Future is a voluntary funded organisation and raises all of its own funds.

The main sources of income have come through:

- Fundraising lunch events
- Online patron scheme
- Selling publications
- Private donors
- Entry fees to events
- The business community

Ireland's Future is a registered company and is in full compliance with corporate obligations.

The organisation receives no public funds, nor does it receive funds from any political party.

Ireland's Future incurs significant operating costs.



In addition to core and recurring base operating costs, the organisation has incidental costs pertaining to website maintenance, graphic design, printing and production of documentation, social media maintenance at large events, management fees, venue hire, AV costs, live broadcast costs, production costs and other ancillary costs associated with invited speakers, fees, flights and accommodation.

Donations are recycled into events, publications and other costs as outlined above.

The management board is pragmatic and will only be in a position to implement a programme that is in line with its current funding capacity.

Ireland's Future would like to include some of the following in the work plan for 2025.

FINANCE

- 1 Significantly increase the number of monthly patrons in Ireland, Britain and across the EU
- 2 Organise a large scale fundraising Gala Lunch
- 3 Continue to identify additional revenue streams
- 4 Develop the patron scheme in USA, Asia and Australia
- 5 Identify new Ireland's Future members who are effective fund raisers

WORK PROGRAMME 2025

- Continue private, regular engagements with key members of the unionist and protestant community
- Establish a forum in first quarter of 2025 which is specifically for addressing unionist and protestant matters and issues
- Host focussed consultation with approximately one hundred trade unionists in January 2025. Leading Irish trade unionists to facilitate.
- Meet with new Irish Government when it is formed
- Continue to engage with the eleven political parties from across the island who have participated in Ireland's Future events.
- Continue to engage with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Shared Island unit in Dublin
- Meet with the American Ambassador/Consul in Dublin and Belfast
- Continue to develop and enhance relationship with former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar
- Meet with President Michael D Higgins
- Address the NI Affairs committee in Westminster
- Address relevant new joint Oireachtas committee following new government formation
- Establish a forum which is specifically for addressing new Irish/minority community to be led by Rev Karen Sethuraman
- Begin initiative to engage various church and faith leaders
- Request to address all political party conferences and ard fheisanna in 2025
- Convene quarterly regional consultation events in each of the four provinces starting with Ulster in the first quarter of 2025
- Continue to engage with women's sector and the women's commission
- Host focussed seminar for young people/youth seminar
- Host focussed seminar examining all island economy
- Host seminar with specific focus on disability and disabled community
- Host focussed seminar examining the Arts
- Continue to engage with colleagues in Brussels