

Liberty - Equality - Community

"We reaffirm that all right to private property must be subordinated to the public right and welfare"



**FiA Democratic Programme
For The New Republic**



A dense forest scene with moss-covered trees and a sun flare. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a bright flare in the upper left quadrant. The ground is covered in thick, vibrant green moss and fallen leaves. The text is overlaid on the image in three white boxes with black borders.

'OUR DEMANDS MOST

MODERATE ARE, WE

ONLY WANT THE EARTH'

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Democratic Programme of the First Dáil Éireann - 1919 -

We declare in the words of the Irish Republican Proclamation the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies to be indefeasible, and in the language of our first President, Pádraig Mac Phiarais, we declare that the Nation's sovereignty extends not only to all men and women of the Nation, but to all its material possessions, the Nation's soil and all its resources, all the wealth and all the wealth-producing processes within the Nation, and with him we reaffirm that all right to private property must be subordinated to the public right and welfare.

We declare that we desire our country to be ruled in accordance with the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Justice for all, which alone can secure permanence of Government in the willing adhesion of the people.

We affirm the duty of every man and woman to give allegiance and service to the Commonwealth, and declare it is the duty of the Nation to assure that every citizen shall have opportunity to spend his or her strength and faculties in the service of the people. In return for willing service, we, in the name of the Republic, declare the right of every citizen to an adequate share of the produce of the Nation's labour.

It shall be the first duty of the Government of the Republic to make provision for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the children, to secure that no child shall suffer hunger or cold from lack of food, clothing, or shelter, but that all shall be provided with the means and facilities requisite for their proper education and training as Citizens of a Free and Gaelic Ireland.

The Irish Republic fully realises the necessity of abolishing the present odious, degrading and foreign Poor Law System, substituting therefor a sympathetic native scheme for the care of the Nation's aged and infirm, who shall not be regarded as a burden, but rather entitled to the Nation's gratitude and consideration. Likewise it shall be the duty of the Republic to take such measures as will safeguard the health of the people and ensure the physical as well as the moral well-being of the Nation.

It shall be our duty to promote the development of the Nation's resources, to increase the productivity of its soil, to exploit its mineral deposits, peat bogs, and fisheries, its waterways and harbours, in the interests and for the benefit of the Irish people.

It shall be the duty of the Republic to adopt all measures necessary for the recreation and invigoration of our Industries, and to ensure their being developed on the most beneficial and progressive co-operative and industrial lines. With the adoption of an extensive Irish Consular Service, trade with foreign Nations shall be revived on terms of mutual advantage and goodwill, and while undertaking the organisation of the Nation's trade, import and export, it shall be the duty of the Republic to prevent the shipment from Ireland of food and other necessaries until the wants of the Irish people are fully satisfied and the future provided for.

It shall also devolve upon the National Government to seek co-operation of the Governments of other countries in determining a standard of Social and Industrial Legislation with a view to a general and lasting improvement in the conditions under which the working classes live and labour.

Introduction

On 21st January 1919, An Chead Dail Eireann adopted two visionary documents in The Declaration of Independence and The Democratic Programme. Together they declared not only that Ireland would be free, but also how that freedom would be used to improve the lives of the people of Ireland.

Anchored in the Republican values of Liberty, Equality and Justice, the opening paragraph of The Democratic Programme declared that 'all right to private property must be subordinated to the public right and welfare'. It further committed the emergent Irish Republic to the creation of a democratic economy, a de facto welfare state, and the collective ownership of Ireland's natural resources.

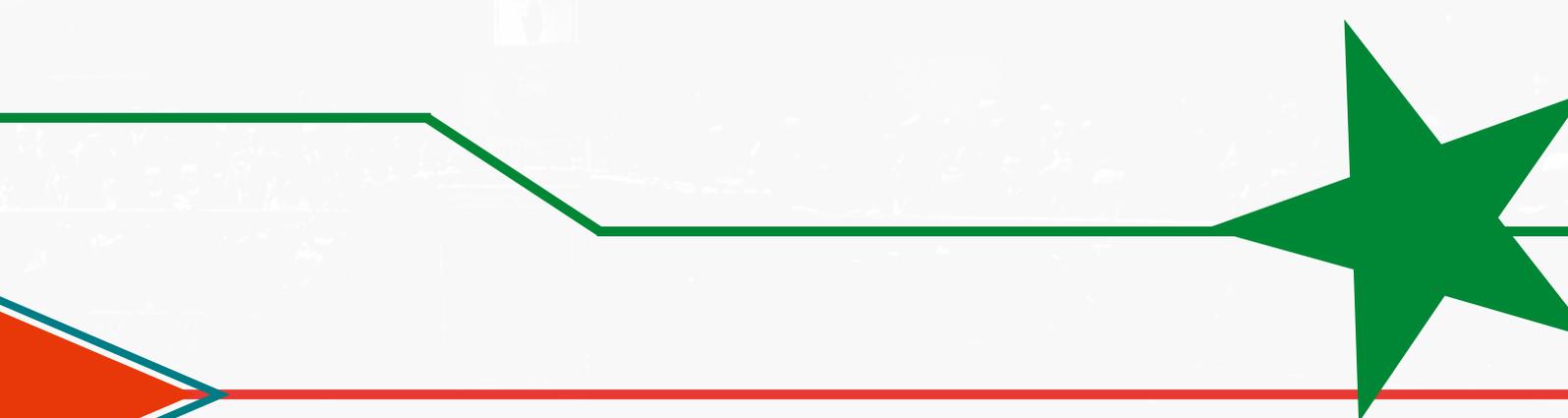
The Irish and British establishments understood that The Democratic Programme represented a direct challenge to their positions of privilege and therefore mobilised their forces to strangle the Republic at birth.

Within just four years of the first sitting of Dail Eireann, the forces of conservatism had triumphed in a vicious counter-revolution. Ireland was partitioned into two sectarian states that were designed to protect the interests of private capital and their respective religious majorities.

In the intervening decades both states have been largely defined by sectarianism, inequality, exploitation, corruption, poverty, emigration, oppression and an unwavering, slavish support for domestic and international capital.

Throughout this time both states have been repeatedly shown to be incapable of the reform that is needed to deliver freedom, equality and justice for all.



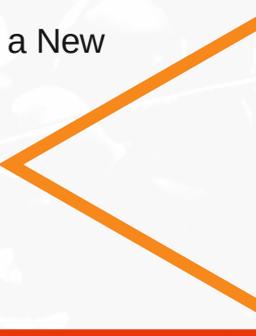


It is time, therefore, to move beyond partition and the failed two-state scenario. It is time for a new beginning, a new democracy, a new economy and a new society. It's time for a New Republic.

Éirígí believes in a New Republic that will put the needs of the many ahead of the greed of the few; a New Republic that will protect and manage our natural environment for the benefit of future generations; a New Republic that will be secular, egalitarian and internationalist; a New Republic that will support our native language and culture; a New Republic that will provide secure, properly paid employment for everyone that can work and support for those that cannot; a New Republic that will provide all of our citizens with the housing, healthcare, education and other essential services that they need to reach their full potential.

A Democratic Programme For A New Republic outlines Éirígí's vision for this future New Republic. It is an evolving summary manifesto that will expand over time and is complemented by other Éirígí policy documents. It represents our contribution to the national conversation on the future direction of our country.

If you like what you read, we ask you to consider joining Éirígí and the fight for a New Republic that will truly cherish all the children of the Nation equally.





To The People of Ireland.

In the words of the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, Éirígí declares the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.

We assert that partition, the domination of private capital and the interference of foreign powers are collectively preventing the social, cultural, political and economic advancement of the Irish Nation.

We reject the exploitation, division, sectarianism and inequality of the partitionist states and commit ourselves to building a democratic, peaceful, progressive, mass movement For A New Republic.

A National Irish Republic that shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the island of Ireland, its waterways, airspace, islands and seas.

A Sovereign Republic where the Irish people, free from foreign interference, shall freely choose their form of governance and the international alliances that the Republic shall enter.

A Participative Republic where citizens shall have ongoing democratic input into the development of their communities, their workplaces, the economy and wider society.

A Free Republic where citizens shall live untethered to the profiteering and tyranny of private landlords, private banks, private stock markets, and the multitude of other parasitic practices that exist within the capitalist system.

A Workers' Republic where all workers shall be protected from the exploitation of private employers and private capital.



Éirígí's Democratic Programme For The New Republic

A Socialist Republic where the right to private property shall be subservient to the right of the public good; where Ireland's natural resources and major wealth-producing processes shall be held in common ownership and used for the common good.

A Fair Republic where all citizens shall contribute their labour in return for a share of the Nation's wealth and access to public housing, healthcare, education, social welfare and other essential services.

A Humanitarian Republic where the resources of the Nation shall be used to meet the needs of the young, the old, the unwell and the less-able before all others.

An Egalitarian Republic which shall treat all citizens as equal regardless of their gender, religion, skin colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other false division.

A Secular Republic with full separation of church and state, where the state alone shall provide education, healthcare, housing and other essential services.

A Just Republic where the law shall be applied without fear or favour and all citizens shall be guaranteed their legal and political rights.

A Feminist Republic which shall overcome the legacy of patriarchy and guarantee women their equal rights, including the right to bodily autonomy.

A Sustainable Republic which shall act as a guardian of Ireland's natural environment, protecting and managing it for the benefit of future generations.

A Gaelic Republic which shall promote Irish culture and seek to bring the Irish language into widespread everyday usage.

An Internationalist Republic which shall oppose imperialism, promote mutually beneficial fair trade and provide sanctuary to those who flee persecution and war.

An Ethical Republic which shall eliminate the corruption, nepotism and waste of the status quo, replacing them with honesty and efficiency in all aspects of public life.



21st Century Republicanism

The roots of modern Irish Republicanism can be traced back to 1791 and the foundation of the Society of United Irishmen. Those first Irish Republicans were inspired by the principles of Liberty, Equality, Justice and Community that underpinned the French Revolution. Those same principles continue to guide us today.

Éirígí believes that Irish Republicanism, as a political theory of the twenty-first century, must be confident, engaging, outward-looking and constantly evolving to meet the challenges of the modern world.

Modern Republicanism must provide a coherent analysis of neo-liberal capitalism, advanced technology, abortion rights, global environmental destruction and other phenomena that could not have been imagined by Republicans of generations past. We are inspired by our rich republican history, but not restricted by it.

In the great battle of ideas between the Left and the Right, the Republican vision remains our strongest and most potent weapon, capable of exposing and laying low the inherent chaos, corruption and contradictions of the capitalist system. There is no argument which the Right can advance that Republicanism cannot match and defeat.

As it was in 1791, Republicanism must once again become the natural rallying point for radical, progressive thought and action in Ireland. More importantly it must win the hearts, minds and loyalty of the great mass of the people if a New Republic is to be established.

When we speak of a New Republic we are not talking about an abstract legal statute, a distant elected assembly or a set of institutions that exist apart from the people.

We believe in a New Republic where the people are the Republic; where the citizens and institutions of the state are as one; where democracy extends beyond occasional elections into all aspects of the economy and society.

The road to such a Republic requires the steady, incremental building of a new, peaceful, mass social movement incorporating political parties, single-issue campaigns, trade unions, cooperatives, women's organisations, language and cultural groups, students, the unemployed and other progressive individuals and organisations.

Only an organised movement of this type will have the depth of strength that will be required to challenge and ultimately defeat the forces of imperialism, conservatism and capitalism in Ireland.

There is simply no credible alternative strategy to advance the cause of Republicanism in Ireland today.



An All-Ireland Republic

From the 12th century to today the fundamental Right to Irish self-determination has been continually denied by British monarchs and governments. It is a matter of historical fact that Britain has deployed virtually every weapon in its imperialist arsenal to assert control over Ireland, including invasion, occupation, ethnic cleansing, plantation, starvation, enforced emigration, apartheid, bribery, blackmail and genocide.

Partition was just another anti-democratic weapon of imperialist control, deployed only when Britain was in danger of losing control of all of Ireland. The nominal line on the map that became Britain's border in Ireland has no geographical, historical, economic, cultural or social basis. It serves only to protect the interests of the British state and capitalism in Ireland.

There is now, and has only ever been, one Irish nation - a nation that is now made up of many skin colours, religions, ethnicities and sexual orientations. The territory of that nation consists of the island of Ireland, it's waterways, airspace, islands and seas.

Éirígí is committed to the building of a democratic movement to peacefully challenge Britain's usurpation of the Irish right to self-determination and to the building of popular support across Ireland for the reintegration of the national territory.

The jurisdiction of the New Republic, with the freely given support of the Nation, shall extend to all parts of the national territory. It shall be the first duty of the Republic to defend the integrity of the national territory and ensure the protection of the Republic to all who live within its borders.

Democracy

In 1915, James Connolly wrote that 'governments in capitalist society are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the capitalist class'. In 2008 the political establishment again vindicated Connolly's analysis when it chose to nationalise the debts of the private banks and inflict savage austerity on the population at large.

Within capitalist societies the concept of democracy has been reduced to a farcical, occasional opportunity to tick a box on a ballot paper. Between elections the citizen is afforded little opportunity to influence important decisions that will impact on their workplace, community and wider society.

In Ireland the status quo is maintained through the incessant pro-capitalist propaganda of the government controlled state media and oligarch-controlled private media, while the same narrative is replicated in the formal education system. State funding provides unfair and unmerited advantage to established political parties, while big business uses its financial resources to manipulate and influence government policy.

Faced with this reality, many in Ireland have understandably become cynical to the point of apathy. Trust in elected representatives and political parties has plummeted, while voter turn-out in working class communities is consistently lower than in wealthier areas.

The New Republic will be built upon a genuine democracy, where the citizen will have regular and meaningful opportunity to participate in decision making in the workplace and at a local, regional and national level. At the core of this new democracy will be a citizen focused, rights based constitution that will provide all citizens with legally enforceable personal rights including free expression and political organisation, as well as social and economic rights including employment, housing, healthcare and education.

Environmental Protection

The industrial revolution was just thirty years old when Irish Republicanism emerged as an organised political movement in the 1790s. Capitalism was in its infancy and its potential for global environmental destruction was yet to be fully understood.

Now, over two hundred years later, that potential for destruction has become a terrifying reality.

Climate change, species extinction, habitat destruction and the widespread pollution of land, water and air are the indisputable consequences of a system that places the desire for profit above all other considerations.

Capitalism, as the dominant socio-economic system, has brought our planet and species to the point of global environmental catastrophe.

The battle between capitalism and socialism is, therefore now a battle between chaos and sustainability, between annihilation and survival.

All other battles, over territory, wealth and power will count for nothing in the context of a global environmental catastrophe.

Irish Republicanism, as a political theory and an organic movement, must now embrace environmentalism as both a core value and a site of ongoing political struggle.

The New Republic will place environmental protection and sustainability at the heart of every aspect of government policy and economic development.

The New Republic shall act as a guardian of our natural environment, protecting and managing it for the benefit of this and future generations.





Natural Resources

The battle for control of Ireland's natural resources, and the riches that flow from them, has raged for centuries.

The failed attempt to privatise water resources in the Twenty-Six Counties was the exception to a rule that has seen virtually every other natural resource taken into private ownership.

As far back as 1867, the Fenian Proclamation of The Irish Republic correctly identified that an 'oligarchy' had 'drew away from our unfortunate country all material riches'.

Over one hundred and fifty years later little has changed. An oligarchy of native and foreign private corporations is still in effective control of Ireland's renewable, mineral, hydrocarbon, agricultural, fisheries and other natural resources.

Industries that are partly or entirely based on these natural resources already employ hundreds of thousands of people and generate multiples billions of euro of economic activity and profit each year.

This wealth, however, is not distributed in an equitable manner due to corrupt legal and tax regimes which deem the right to private profit to be of greater importance than the rights of the Nation collectively.

The New Republic will take strategically important natural resources, including, but not limited to, hydrocarbons and large mineral deposits, into public ownership.

It will further ensure that all of Ireland's natural resources will be developed and managed for the benefit of the common good in a manner that is environmentally sustainable.



Economy

Economic policy over the last thirty years in Ireland has been defined by its slavish adherence to the principles of neoliberalism. Many valuable and strategically important natural resources, communication and energy networks, transport systems and even essential public services have been transferred from public ownership into private hands.

In the Twenty-Six Counties a regime of light touch regulation, low corporation tax and a range of tax-avoidance schemes have created a de facto tax haven. Similarly in the Six Counties, the Stormont coalition parties advocate lowering corporation tax and other tax-avoidance proposals. Both states have also prioritised the securing of foreign direct investment over the development of a sustainable, domestic economic base.

In the Six Counties, Stormont politicians openly advertise for foreign direct investment on the basis that operating costs, including wages, are already 20-30% lower than in the rest of Europe. In the case of the Twenty-Six Counties, up to one in five jobs in the private sector are now directly or indirectly dependent on foreign corporations.

This over-reliance on FDI is both economically high-risk and democratically damaging in the leverage that it provides to these corporations over fiscal, education, organised labour, infrastructural and other government policy.

The unwavering implementation of neo-liberal doctrine has been disastrous for Irish society.

Despite the 'leprechaun' economics of recent statistical growth, the vast majority of Irish people are now working longer hours, carrying greater debt, enduring higher levels of stress and are less able to access high-quality public services than previous generations. These are the marks of inter-generational regression, not advancement.

The current economic model undermines democracy as it concentrates an ever-greater amount of wealth, and subsequent concentration of influence and power, into the hands of an ever-decreasing number of people.



The New Republic will be built upon a deep democracy that will extend into the workplace and the wider economy. Ireland's natural resources, strategic infrastructure and major wealth-producing processes will be brought into common ownership to form the central pillars of a vibrant, innovative, efficient, democratic economy.

All economic policy will be geared to support the development of environmentally sustainable economic activity based on Ireland's inherent strengths in areas such as agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, food processing, forestry, tourism, mineral extraction and renewable energies.

Domestically controlled heavy industry, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, information technology, and other sectors will be developed along state, semi-state, cooperative and other democratic lines.

Credit and other financial services for business and personal use will be provided by a network of state-backed financial institutions, credit unions and other not-for-profit institutions.

Private profiteers will be removed from the provision of essential public services, which will instead be efficiently delivered by state, semi-state and other democratically controlled non-profit entities.

Businesses will pay tax on their profits commensurate with the benefit that they accrue from publicly funded infrastructure and publicly-funded education, health and housing systems.

In the New Republic the economy will serve the people - a complete reversal of the status quo.

Through the planned development of a democratic economy and the proper application of mechanisation and technology, our citizens will be able to work less hours for better wages and improved conditions, while also enjoying access to efficient, first-class public services.



Irish Language and Culture



The destruction of native language and culture has long been a defining component of colonialism. By eradicating these critical markers of national identity, the coloniser aims to erode the social and political cohesion of the colonised people and to undermine legitimate claims for national freedom.

The Gaelic Revival, which gave birth to the GAA and Conradh na Gaeilge, recognised the critical importance of language and culture in the fight for national freedom. Because of this grassroots mass movement our native language, sports, music and dance were saved from extinction.

In a globalised world all minority languages and cultures are under pressure from a handful of dominant languages and cultures.

In the Six Counties, the Unionist establishment and British state still refuse to embrace the principle of full language parity. Meanwhile, the Twenty-Six County state pays lip service, while refusing to take the necessary steps to ensure that our language and culture flourish.

The New Republic will recognise the unique importance of the Irish language and Irish culture by ensuring the provision of all state services through Irish.

The incremental Gaelicisation of the education system will eventually give all citizens the fluency that is required to use Irish in social, business and other settings.

Across Ireland the grassroots language movement, with limited resources, has demonstrated how Irish can successfully grow and move beyond the school gate and expand effectively into the community.

Democratically controlled economic development agencies will be required to focus on the creation of sustainable employment in the remaining rural Gaeltacht areas.

Multi-agency planning will be used to foster and develop new Gaeltacht areas in cities, towns and villages across the country.



The Arts

The capitalist system is built around the concept of commodification, where value is measured in monetary terms alone. Those things that cannot be easily commodified are dismissed as valueless, unimportant and disposable.

This one-dimensional approach to measuring value is incapable of establishing the true worth of a poem, a sculpture, a painting, a novel or any other act of artistic expression.

Nor can an accountant's measure be accurately applied to the joy that flows from language, dance, music and sport. Human emotion and human development simply cannot be measured in monetary terms.

When the market-led approach is applied to the arts, sports and culture the results are as disastrous as they are predictable. The importance of winning dominates over the importance of participation.

Through branding and advertising, sponsorship and media contracts, the elite levels are turned into multi-billion-euro businesses while grassroots organisations and individuals struggle to survive.

Through this mechanism of control, minority languages, niche and wider amateur sports, cutting edge artistic expression, and other less profitable activities are slowly financially strangled.

The New Republic will recognise that the contribution of the arts, sports and culture to our society and global humanity cannot be simply measured in monetary terms. It is through these activities that human beings express, challenge and grow.

The Republic will also uphold the fundamental human right to free artistic expression.

In addition to supporting efforts to reverse the impact of the colonial conquest on the Irish language and culture, the New Republic will also embrace and support artistic, cultural and sporting initiatives which encourage participation, free expression, empowerment, personal development, critical thought and innovation.



Housing, Healthcare and Education

Access to high-quality housing, healthcare and education is essential for the fulfilment of the individual citizen and by extension for the development of wider society.

In recent decades all three areas have come under sustained attack from neo-liberal capitalism, this regressive system being intent on turning these essential services into arenas for the generation of private profit.

In the New Republic access to Housing, Healthcare and Education will be legally enforceable constitutional rights. It will be a core function of the Republic to provide all citizens with access to these services based on need alone.

By providing secure, affordable homes and equal access to education and healthcare, the New Republic will provide all citizens with the means to reach their full potential on a level playing field.

The provision of these three services will lay the foundation for a Republic of outcome and not just a Republic of nominal opportunity.

The funding for these new systems of universally accessible Public Housing, Healthcare and Education will come from a combination of social insurance payments, general taxation and tenants rent.



Housing

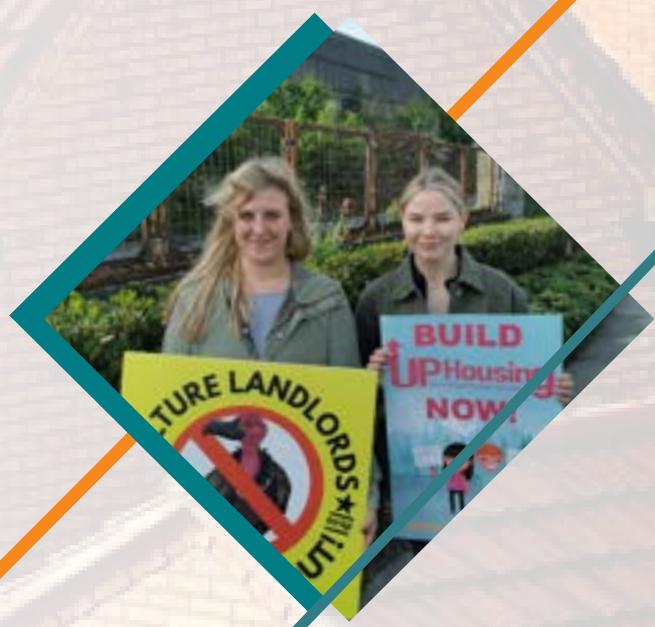
The housing crisis of the early 21st century has revived memories of the darkest days of Ireland's past in the mid 19th century. It has also given new life to terminology that should have been confined to Ireland's history books - of absentee and slum landlords, of rack-renting, of overcrowding and of eviction.

The current crisis has arisen as a direct result of a process of creeping privatisation of the housing sector which began in the mid 1960's. By the turn of the 21st century every aspect of housing provision was dominated by the private sector, with the spoils being divided up among Ireland's most powerful vested interests.

Landowners, property developers, bankers, solicitors, landlords, media owners and many politicians have grown wealthy off of the misery of others, a reality which makes them all part of the problem, with no role to play in the solution.

The New Republic will recognise the importance of a secure home for personal development and understand that such a home is critically important for healthy human relationships, good physical and mental health, educational achievement and the development of stable communities.

The New Republic will create a new system of universally accessible, high-quality public housing, where all citizens will be able to rent a secure and affordable home, that is suited to their needs, from the state.



Healthcare

While underfunded and under-resourced, the British National Health Service (NHS) continues to function in the Six Counties. In the Twenty-Six Counties, however, there exists a bizarre hybrid system which allows the private sector to profit from publicly funded equipment in public hospitals using medical staff who are trained at public expense. This parasitic relationship has flourished under the patronage of successive Dublin governments which have lacked both the vision and the political will to create a system of universal healthcare.

The failure to properly fund and resource the public health system on both sides of the border has resulted in hundreds of thousands of citizens waiting unacceptable periods of time for essential medical treatment with horrific consequences. Human health and lives are, quite literally, being sacrificed to protect the interests of insurance companies, elite medical practitioners and politicians.

The New Republic will establish a secular Irish National Health Service to provide high-quality healthcare to all citizens from the womb to the tomb.

Within this new health service medical treatment will be determined on the basis of medical need alone. All existing medical facilities, medical practices and medical training facilities will be brought under public control and integrated into a single-tier public health service.

Education

Éirígí understands the critical importance of education as a tool for individual self-development, as well as collective economic, social and cultural advancement. We also understand that access to education has long been used by both church and state as a means of social and economic control.

The education system on both sides of the border currently consists of a complex mix of public, private, secular, religious, English language medium and Irish language medium pre-schools, primary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities.

This system, which evolved over centuries, perpetuates religious segregation, economic inequality and class division in Irish society today.

Children from wealthier families continue to attain higher levels of educational achievement, and subsequently higher incomes than children of equal ability from poorer families. Nominal equality of access to education has demonstrably not resulted in equality of outcome.

The New Republic will establish a secular public education system from pre-school to fourth level, including training and apprenticeships. All citizens will be entitled to reach their full educational potential through a lifetime process of education and training.

This new education system will be primarily delivered through the medium of the Irish language as part of a wider strategy to revive everyday usage of our native tongue.

Access to education will be based upon choice and ability, not class and wealth. The success of this system will be measured, not on nominal access to education, but on the ending of class-based outcomes.

Workers' Rights

Within the capitalist system there is constant friction between the desire of the employer to generate greater amounts of wealth and the desire of the worker to secure a higher return for their labour. This conflict manifests itself in disputes over pay, working hours and other conditions of employment.

When agreement is reached on pay and conditions, generally the worker has no further democratic input into their workplace or claim over the wealth that their labour generates.

While Augusto Pinochet, Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan and others chose direct confrontation, in the Twenty-Six Counties the neo-liberal objective of undermining organised labour was achieved through more insidious means.

Through a process of 'social partnership', the trade union movement, with some notable exceptions, was first co-opted and then neutered to the point that it could offer no meaningful resistance to the austerity programme and the further erosion of workers' rights that followed the 2008 economic crash.

In the New Republic trade union recognition will be compulsory. Zero-hour contracts, enforced bogus self-employment and other 'gig economy' exploitative practices will be outlawed and the gender-pay-gap will be closed. Workers displaced by technological advances will be retrained as required.

Vulnerable workers including carers, migrant, agency and part-time workers will be afforded the same protection as full-time workers. Profit share schemes and meaningful worker participation in strategic workplace decision-making will be legally required in the private sector.



Women's Rights

Prior to 1921, church and capital had already created a highly conservative and patriarchal Irish society through centuries of colonisation.

The two church-dominated states that emerged after partition deepened and institutionalised that conservatism in the most extreme manner. Women and girls were thus subject to routine exclusion, discrimination, abuse and violence in both the 'free' Twenty-Six Counties and the British-controlled Six Counties.

While significant progress has been made over the last forty years, the battle for gender equality is far from over.

Women are still paid significantly less than their male counterparts for the same work. They are also more likely than men of the same age and educational status to work in low-paid, part-time and precarious jobs.

The female half of the population is also chronically under-represented in the upper echelons of decision-making in politics, business, trade unions and other important arenas. Instead women disproportionately perform the role of unpaid carer for our children, our elderly, our ill and our disabled.

Casual sexism and violence of all types against women remains endemic in Irish society.

Despite the repeal of the 8th Amendment, many Irish women are still denied local access to free, safe and legal abortion and post-abortion services, most particularly in the Six Counties and in rural areas of the Twenty-Six Counties.

Through education, legislation and example the New Republic will reverse the legacy of colony, church and capital.

Women will take their rightful place as equal citizens in the political, economic, cultural and social spheres.

The division of labour, at home and in the workplace, will be equally divided and equally rewarded, regardless of gender. Like male citizens, women will have control of their own bodies including their sexual and reproductive processes.



Internationalism

Imperialism, in all of its forms, has been a blight on humanity for millenia. This policy of domination by the strong over the weak has resulted in incalculable death and suffering across the globe.

Today the nefarious work that was once carried out by imperial troops is largely prosecuted through the use of proxies, the control of credit, unfair trade agreements and other mechanisms that allow the continued transfer of resources and wealth from the poor to the rich.

Despite the nominal neutrality of the Twenty-Six County state, Ireland is deeply embedded in a global order based upon imperialism and the exploitation of the developing world. This collusion with imperialism has economic, political and military dimensions, with the use of Shannon airport by the United States military and participation in PESCO being just two of the most visible examples.

The antidote to imperialism is internationalism, a philosophy based upon the belief that all peoples are inherently equal and capable of developing economic, political and cultural relations that will be mutually beneficial to all.

The New Republic will adopt a policy of strict neutrality in all military conflicts, providing neither direct nor indirect support to warring parties.

International trade agreements will be developed on the basis of environmental sustainability and mutual benefit. Entry into such trade agreements and political alliances will be dependent on the result of national referenda.

Those who flee persecution and war will be provided with dignified safe haven by the New Republic.



European Union

The European Economic Community, which began as a customs union sixty years ago, has now morphed into a proto-European super-state, complete with its own justice system, collective foreign policy and military force.

This process of ever-deepening integration has occurred not because of a popular grassroots demand from the people of Europe, but because of the determined machinations of Europe's business and political elite. By design they have created a European Union that is inherently pro- private capital, undemocratic and militaristic.

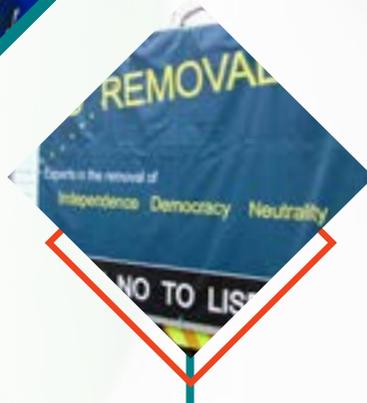
The economic model upon which the EU is based is firmly anchored in the neo-liberal principles of privatisation, deregulation, austerity, curtailment of public spending and the hegemony of market forces - principles which run contrary to the creation and advancement of a democratic, fair and equal society.

The imposition of crippling private bank debt on the population of the Twenty-Six Countries and the anti-democratic coercion of the people of Greece provided undeniable evidence of whose interests the EU ultimately serves.

The political and economic principles that will underpin the New Republic are irreconcilable with the principles that underpin the EU. The New Republic would, therefore, initiate an orderly, planned withdrawal from the EU.

Guided by its commitment to internationalism, the New Republic will be outward looking and will actively seek to build mutually beneficial economic, political, cultural and social relationships with the Nations of the world.

In the New Republic the people will decide through popular referendum whether Ireland will join any future political and economic alliance.



The Declaration of Irish Independence

Whereas the Irish People is by right a free people:

And whereas for seven hundred years the Irish People has never ceased to repudiate and has repeatedly protested in arms against foreign usurpation:

And whereas English rule in this country is, and always has been, based upon force and fraud and maintained by military occupation against the declared will of the people:

And whereas the Irish Republic was proclaimed in Dublin on Easter Monday, 1916, by the Irish Republican Army, acting on behalf of the Irish People:

And whereas the Irish People is resolved to secure and maintain its complete independence in order to promote the common weal, to re-establish justice, to provide for future defence, to ensure peace at home and good will with all nations, and to constitute a national policy based upon the people's will with equal right and equal opportunity for every citizen:

And whereas at the threshold of a new era in history the Irish electorate has in the General Election of December, 1918, seized the first occasion to declare by an overwhelming majority its firm allegiance to the Irish Republic:

Now, therefore, we, the elected Representatives of the ancient Irish People in National Parliament assembled, do, in the name of the Irish Nation, ratify the establishment of the Irish Republic and pledge ourselves and our people to make this declaration effective by every means at our command:

We ordain that the elected Representatives of the Irish People alone have power to make laws binding on the people of Ireland, and that the Irish Parliament is the only Parliament to which that people will give its allegiance:

We solemnly declare foreign government in Ireland to be an invasion of our national right which we will never tolerate, and we demand the evacuation of our country by the English Garrison:

We claim for our national independence the recognition and support of every free nation in the world, and we proclaim that independence to be a condition precedent to international peace hereafter:

In the name of the Irish People we humbly commit our destiny to Almighty God Who gave our fathers the courage and determination to persevere through long centuries of a ruthless tyranny, and strong in the justice of the cause which they have handed down to us, we ask His Divine blessing on this the last stage of the struggle we have pledged ourselves to carry through to freedom.

21st January, 1919

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