

Weekend Review



Anti-repo men
Carl O'Brien goes on the road in Co Mayo with the group fighting home repossessions Page 3

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TIME FOR A NEW PROCLAMATION?

As the centenary of the 1916 Rising draws near, we invite six people – a journalist, an artist, activists and economists – to write a new Proclamation for today's Ireland



Fintan O'Toole
Irish Times columnist and critic. His books include 'Enough is Enough: How to Build a New Republic, 2010'

POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN.

The People of Ireland to Themselves

AS IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN, in the name of our common humanity, we summon for ourselves our deepest resources of courage and compassion, of imagination and invention. We have confidence in our collective capacity to create a society that gives pride to ourselves and comfort and inspiration to the world around us. We commit ourselves to the creation and maintenance of a republic characterised by the equal dignity it affords to all its citizens.

We recognise that those who belong in our republic may come from, and adhere to, different spiritual and intellectual traditions. We honour all of those traditions, subject only to their willingness to respect difference and to accept the norms of democracy, freedom of thought and an open society. We reject the use of violence and intimidation for political ends. We establish our republic on the basis of the many values we share rather than of the few that divide us.

First among those values is the belief that every citizen must have both the legal, civic and political rights and the material conditions without which neither personal dignity nor full citizenship is possible. Ours will be a republic in which citizens can look one another in the eye without reason for fear or deference. No citizen or group of citizens will be allowed to exert dominance over others in the public or private spheres and no citizen will be discriminated against on the basis of gender, ethnicity, spiritual belief or sexual orientation. We place at the centre of public policy the principle that every citizen must have access to sufficient levels of income, housing, education, healthcare and cultural enrichment to enable full participation in society and democracy. We will shape our democratic institutions so that they are open, transparent, and resistant to corruption and domination by private interests and so that all decisions are taken at the lowest possible level and with the greatest possible degree of civic engagement.

We reassert 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 recognise that this ownership is a duty as well as a benefit. We take responsibility for ourselves and our children, for the cultural riches that have been handed down to us, and for the beauty and diversity of our natural environment. We pledge to future generations that will seek to pass on to them a decent, vibrant and sustainable country.

Signed
The People of Ireland
(as imagined by Fintan O'Toole)



Joanne O'Riordan
Disability activist and criminology student at UCC. She wrote this with her brother Steven O'Riordan, director, producer and writer of *No Limbs No Limits*, a documentary about Joanne

POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN.

TO THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC FROM THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN, To those who stand with me and to those who have gone before me; I hereby declare that every citizen regardless of their ability has an unfettered right and absolute ownership to the island of Ireland, including all its natural resources. To those who have imprinted their humanity on and contribute to a wider more global civilization, but yet were born on the island of Ireland, Ireland will forever be the natural home of those citizens.

In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland guarantees in its laws the absolute right of every citizen to a free education and healthcare system. No law can ever override this undeniable right.

The foundations of this new republic are built on the ideology and sacrifice of all its citizens regardless of their race, creed or borders. Furthermore we respect the individual right of every citizen to privacy and a livelihood that is both meaningful and dignified. Standing on these fundamental rights this new Irish Republic recognises the unequivocal right of all its citizens to marry, love and show tolerance in times of unease and transition, resulting in a brighter, more solid future for the entire island of Ireland.

The republic through its people at home and abroad has absolute power in deciding how it is governed. No one person or government has the right to squander the wealth of this great nation. In that regard we hereby declare that all monies raised by the State are for the benefit of all the people of Ireland and must be used solely for that purpose.

In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline rise up to ensure that the cultural identity of all its citizens is protected; ultimately, cherishing all the children of the nation equally.

Signed
Joanne O'Riordan, Steven O'Riordan
On behalf of the people of Ireland



Grace Dyas
Grace Dyas is "an activist, a theatre director, a writer, a theatre producer . . . She makes theatre because she wants to change the world. She lives and works in inner-city Dublin, Ireland where she is from"

A NEW PROCLAMATION AND APOLOGY

IRISHWOMEN: First of all, in the name of the dead generations, we're sorry that still, through us, you need to strike for your freedom. That in your homeland, you're still oppressed by gender. That, having organised effectively for change, little change has happened.

We declare the right of the ownership of women's bodies, to the women of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of their own destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible.

IRISHWOMEN are entitled to, and hereby claim, equal rights and opportunities, equal pay and equal opportunities to work, health and lifestyle. That hereby puts an end to casual misogyny, workplace bullying and everyday sexism. We will not be told to cheer up or smile. Nor will we be called Love. We will have affordable, accessible childcare.

We repeal the 8th amendment. We will have free, safe and legal abortion. No judgment. No fear. This is a matter for a woman and her doctor. We're sorry we didn't see that sooner, before so many people got hurt, before so many had to march, before too many died.

To the girls who couldn't get the money together, who gave birth to babies in front of holy statues, who went to parts of the city unknown, and lay on tables and at the mercy of knitting needles, and paid a heavy price for that too. We're especially sorry that thousands of backstreet abortions happened, and are happening every day. We won't allow that to continue. We are sorry.

To the women imprisoned in Magdalene Laundries, we are sorry. That was our fault. We should never have let that happen to you. To their children, we are sorry. That was our fault. We should never have let that happen to you. To the nuns who were abused by abusing them, we are sorry. That was our fault. We should never have let that happen to you.

We will have a republic where no woman is able to be bought by a man to buy a communion dress for a child. We are putting an end to the commercialisation of sexual abuse that is prostitution.

We will provide access to work, training — no we're going one further, we're providing access to dreams. Everyone is entitled to and facilitated to live a life that's meaningful.

In this supreme hour we are saying Never Again. Except this time, we actually mean, Never Again.

Signed
Grace Dyas
On behalf of the women of Ireland



Oisín Coghlan
Director, Friends of the Earth Ireland. "I echoed the structure and the language of the original, and being the environmental activist went big with that aspect"

PROCLAMATION OF A NEW REPUBLIC FREE FROM FOSSIL FUELS

Irishmen and Irishwomen, in the name of humanity and the future generations to whom we bequeath our only home, Planet Earth, Ireland summons her people to the cause of freedom from fossil fuels.

Having reflected on the reports of the International Panel on Climate Change, the International Energy Agency and the Carbon Tracker Initiative, having watched our political leaders ignore the signs of an overheating economy and let a crash wreck the first Republic, we will wait no longer for them to heed the warnings that burning fossil fuels is dangerously overheating our planet. Supported by the Irish diaspora around the world and expatriates of many countries living here, we join the global movement to keep fossil fuels in the ground, confident that together we can overcome the obstructionism of the most powerful industry the world has ever known.

We declare the right of everybody in Ireland to a warm home, a mobile life and affordable electricity, unfettered by fossil fuels. And the right to own the renewable energy developments that will power our lives, and to participate in the decisions that will get us there. Our democracy has for too long been usurped by the disdain or our leaders and the deference of our citizens. Once again asserting our sovereignty we proclaim a new Republic, a participatory democracy that celebrates diversity and dissent. But we recognise that Irish destinies are interwoven with those of all humanity. We claim no exceptionalism and seek no exaltation. Our small country will do its fair share to contain climate change.

Just as humanity is entitled to our solidarity in the face of the existential threat to civilization, the new Republic is entitled to the allegiance of all those who seek its citizenship. The Republic guarantees the civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, regardless of age, gender, religion, race, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or membership of the Traveller ethnic group. The Republic resolves to pursue the wellbeing of our whole society, a vibrant economy across the country, the diversity of nature and the quality of our environment.

We place our cause not under the protection of God but in the hands of the people. We are building a movement and we are asking you to join. Only a citizens' movement can free us from our dependence on indifferent leaders and guarantee a Republic of participation. Only a global movement can free us from our dependence on fossil fuels and guarantee humanity flourishes not flounders in the 21st century.

Signed
Oisín Coghlan
On behalf of the people of Ireland



Constantin Gurdgiev
Russian economist based in Dublin. Blogs at trueeconomics.blogspot.com. "We are not rewriting history or disrespecting the past: this is about a new statement for today's Ireland"

PEOPLE OF IRELAND

In the name of the generations from which she receives her nationhood, Ireland summons her children, native and adopted, to strengthen and protect the freedom and the liberty of all living in her lands and those who will follow after them. Having attained and secured her independence by sacrifices of her people, now is the time for the Republic to lead the present and the future generations to an even greater and more just society, that secures real opportunities for all, and balances the liberties of the few with the rights of the many, the values of the present with traditions of the past.

We declare 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. In every generation past, the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people is over. Still, many internal divisions that confine the right of her people to the pursuits of liberty, a better future and expression of their identities remain.

Standing on that fundamental right, we pledge our lives to the cause of the Irish Republic, the freedom and liberty of all its people, and the welfare of its present and future generations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman native and adopted.

The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its people. The Republic declares its resolve to pursue the liberty, happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts, cherishing all of the children of the nation equally. The Republic declares itself to be free of the differences carefully fostered by the institutions, and the leaders of the past, which have divided a minority from the majority on the basis of religious, cultural, social and other identities.

By placing the cause of the Irish Republic in the hands of its people, the Republic declares its commitment to direct participation in the democratic governance of this state for all people of Ireland. No one who serves the Republic will dishonour it by cowardice, in humanity, corruption, cronyism or rapine. The Republic will permit no discrimination against any of its people in law or in practice by the means of preferences awarded to some at the expense of the others, by suppression of freedoms to express one's identity and belief, freedom of thought, or freedom to transact and to carry out a free enterprise.

In this age of internationalisation the Irish nation must, by the readiness of its children prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called, the destiny of protecting, empowering and strengthening her identity and her people.

Signed
Constantin Gurdgiev



Gerard O'Neill
Director of Amárach Consulting, economist, and author of *2016: A New Proclamation for a New Generation*

POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN. TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND

Drawing on the rich traditions bequeathed us by past generations and on our Christian values, all of Ireland, through this generation, summons her children everywhere to celebrate our freedom and to join us in our endeavours as a proud, independent nation. Having founded and fashioned a young nation from an old people, in the face of fear and adversity, but always with hope and determination, we now seize this moment.

Nourished by the energy and discipline of the organisations and institutions we have shaped as a free people, supported by the love of Irish descendants throughout the world, and by our fellow citizens in the European Union, but relying first on our own strength, we now confidently stride forward to our nation's future.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to be the final arbiters in how we govern ourselves, founded on democratic principles, to be sovereign and indefeasible. That right includes the voluntary sharing of sovereignty with other peoples in order that our nation can endeavour with other nations to face common challenges as necessary to ensure a better future for the Irish people.

Ours is a fortunate generation of Irish people, one of only a few to have lived in a free and sovereign nation. Mindful of our inheritance, and also of the responsibility that every generation has to protect and pass on our freedom to the next generation, we pledge, through the lives we lead, to warrant the faith put in us by past generations and to ensure Ireland's esteem among the free nations of the world.

It is the firm will of the Irish nation, in harmony and friendship, to unite all the people of different traditions on the island of Ireland in a united Ireland, with the consent of a majority in both jurisdictions in the island.

As a peaceful and democratic nation, the Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and all of its parts.

But each generation faces new trials, and ours is no exception. In this supreme hour, the Irish nation must forge a common purpose that will guide us through the difficult times ahead. By so doing, we will once again prove ourselves worthy of the august destiny to which we have been called.

Signed
Gerard O'Neill
On behalf of the people of Ireland