

2025 Interim Board Meeting- 9/13/25- FFAI report

Sisters,

As your Freedom For All Ireland Chair I am honored to represent all of you and report on the current state of Ireland's quest for Unity and Freedom.

Your generous response to our Annual Appeal was amazing. Fifteen ladies of the LAOH including myself and National President Mary Ann Lubinsky were able to deliver checks in the amount of \$51,000.00 to 21 recipients in Northern Ireland. In addition to these groups, we were able to present Charlie Casey in Newry Ireland with a certificate showing him that a wild cherry tree was planted in his late daughter Catherine's memory. Charlie has been a good friend and very accommodating whenever the LAOH comes to Ireland. This was a personal gift from the 15 LAOH members who traveled to Ireland on this trip and the cost of the tree did not come out of FFAI donations. The resilience and determination of these Irish groups to not only get justice but to also bring the Island of Ireland together as One Nation Free and United is obvious in the good works these men and women have accomplished. Each group was unique in the way that they helped bring all Irish together. Some are keeping the history of Ireland's struggles alive by preserving artifacts and historic items in their museums so that no one ever forgets the sacrifices of the victims during the darkest time in Ireland's history, tend to the graves of the fallen, provide safe havens to help those struggling with mental and emotional trauma still present today, provide support for those seeking justice and bring the youth of Ireland together with their sports and music. I feel the only way that Ireland can heal all its wounds is in the hands of the youth. They are starting to see that their similarities far outweigh their differences and that may be the key to Unite all of Ireland. As of March, Ireland has not dropped the European Court of Human Rights inter-state case against the UK and has no intentions of withdrawing. A win would mean repealing the Legacy and Reconciliation Act. In anticipation of this the UK has formed the ICRIR – Independent Commission for Reconciliation and Information Recovery. This commission has been widely opposed by many political groups and the victims and survivors of the Troubles. The "conditional amnesty scheme" which offers immunity from prosecution to those who cooperate with the ICRIR has been criticized for its potential to undermine justice and accountability. There are concerns that the ICRIR processes may not be compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The EMN (European Migration Network) has published its annual review of migration and asylum in Ireland. The report shows continued challenges and developments in migration to Ireland. Ireland's immigration policies play a crucial role in businesses ability to hire global talent. These foreign workers continue to address labor market gaps and contribute vastly to Ireland's growing economy. With labor incentives and employment eligibility the economic structure of Ireland is benefitting from immigration however the housing crisis which includes a deficit of 212,000-250,000 homes and high rental costs have resulted in large numbers of homelessness.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Varady

LAOH National Board FFAI Chair