IRELAND'S FUTURE

A letter to An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD Oifia an Taoisiah Tithe an Rialtais Baile Átha Cliath 2

1st November 2019

A Thaoisigh,

We write to you as citizens to record our deep concerns about the negative repercussions which Brexit will have for our country, for the Good Friday Agreement and for the peace process.

Brexit has changed everything. The constitutional, political, social and economic status quo on the island of Ireland is now in flux.

Discussion about the reunification of Ireland has moved centre stage. Many citizens are already involved in formal and informal discussions about this. We believe that a new conversation is now required about our shared future on the island of Ireland. The Government needs to plan for this.

A clear majority of people in Ireland, both in this state and in the North, want to remain in the European Union. The majority of citizens in the North voted to remain in the 2016 referendum. This includes many Unionists. In recent years a conversation about Ireland's future, and the place of Unionists in it, is publicly taking place among Unionists. This is a welcome development.

Irish citizens should continue to enjoy the rights which accrue from membership of the European Union, as well as the full protection of the European Court of Justice. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the democratic wishes and rights of Irish citizens are respected and protected, regardless of where they live on the island.

Let's have a discussion on how this can be achieved. We would urge you to start this process, based on the vision of democratic change set out in the Good Friday Agreement. Start planning now.

We ask the Government to establish a Citizens Assembly reflecting the views of citizens North and South, or a Forum to discuss the future and achieve maximum consensus on a way forward.

ls sinne le mórmheas

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Antrim Jude Collins, Antrim Maria McCourt, Antrin Brian Feeney, Antrim Patricia McBride, Derry Darragh McAllister, Dor Martina Devlin, Dublin Frank Hopkins, Dublin David McWilliams, Dubli Fintan O'Toole, Dublir Mick Heaney, Dublin Darren Smith Dublin Betty Purcell, Dublin Siobhan Lynam, Dublir Tom O'Brannagáin, Dubli Beibhinn Byrne, Dublin Trevor Birney, Fermanag Dawn Foster, London Roy Greenslade Londor Kevin Meagher, London Bláthnaid Ní Chofaigh, Ciarán Casey, Meath Gráinne McIlwaine, Monaaha Sean Canniffe, San Francisco, USA Eamonn Maguire Jack Gleeson, Dubli Dr Triona Coyle, San Francisco, USA Tomas Mulcahy, Cork Jacinta O'Hanlan, Toronto, Canada SPORT Eoin Fleming, Antrim Michael Conlan Antri Jessaree Kennedy, Wicklow Neil McManus Antrim Clare Loughran, Antrim Seamus McMullan, Antrin Eddie McCloskey, Antrin Donna Buick, Antrim Sarah Murray, Antrim Terry Reilly, Antrim Eimear Moriarty, Armag Joe Gormley, Antrim Louise Carlile Antrim Aileen McManus, Antrim Eibhllin Kellegher, Dublin Terence McNaughton, Ant Kathleen McLaughlin, Cavo Dominic McKinley, Antrim Fithna Murphy Fermanaa Cathal Short, Armagh Ann McDonal, Monaghan Gary McConville, Armag Dympna Manley, Fermanag Banjo Bannon, Armag Austin O'Donnell, Calgary, Canad LABOUR Paul Brady, Cavan MOVEMENT Anthony Daly, Clare Paddy Mackel, Antrim Davy Fitzgerald, Clare Conor McCarthy, Antrin Patrick Horaan, Cork Shane Dooley, Cork Ryan McKinney, Antrin Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Corl Gerry McCormack, Cava Barry Murphy, Cork Donal Óg Cusack, Cork Eddie Walsh, Cork Dáire O'Connor, Cork Jimmy Barry Murphy, Corl **Richie Carrothers, Doneg** Briege Corkery, Cork Gerry Fitznatrick Dublin Anne Speed, Dublin Inmes McClean Derry Dave Gibney, Dublin Kieran McKeever, Derry William Mooney, Dubli David Connolly, Dubli Cormac O'Dalaigh, Dubl Gerard Brennan Dubli David Connolly, Dublin Jonny Hayes, Dublin Colm Casserly, Dublin Dr Sean O'Connor, Dub Foin Kilmurray Dublin Eamon Heery, Dublin Adrian Kane, Dublir Declan Hallissey, Dublir Jack O'Connor, Dublir Eamonn Fennell. Dublir Karen Halpenny, Dubli Patrick Osbourne, Dubli Diarmuid O'Connell, Dub Peter Quinn, Fermanagh Frank Connolly, Dublin Martin McNamara, Galway Michael Halpenny, Dubli Mickey Ned O'Sullivan, Kerry Mags O'Brien, Dublin Patrick O'Sullivan, Kerr Brian Taite, Dublin Bridget Leen, Kerry Seán McElhinney, Dublir Donie O'Sullivan, Ker Robert Purfield, Dublin Phil Healy, Kerry John Flannery, Dublin John Breen, Kerry Eddie Gunnery, Dubli Mickey Moriarty, Kerr Neil McGowan, Dublin DJ Carey, Kilkenny Sean Carabini, Dublir Richie Hogan, Kilkenny Mark Lohan, Galway David Herity, Kilkenny Con Casey, Kerry Martina McMahon, Lim Katie Morgan, Kildard Aidan Fee, Louth Billy Wall, Kildare Eddie Laverty, Louth Pat McCabe, Laois Jim O'Neill, Louth Angela Birtill, Londo Hugh Armstrong, Mayo Phil Flynn, Louth Dessie Keegan, Mayo John Callan, Louth Conor Ferguson, Meat Christy McQuillan, Mea Des Donnelly, Meath Ivnn Boland Meath Jonathan Douglas, Ma Kay Kearns, Meath Joe Dooley, Offaly John Regan, Meath Pat McEntaggart, San Francisco, USA Greg Ennis, Meath Pat Uniack, San Francisco, USA Alan Grimes, Meath Timmy Hammersley, Tipperary Paddy Finn, Meat Sean Harte, Toronto, Canad Marie Grav. Meath Peter Canavan, Tvron Anto McCabe, Meat Micky Donnelly, Tyrone Dick McGlew, Meath Kieran McGeary, Tyrone Gerry O'Brien, Meath Derek McGrath, Waterfor Jim O'Brien, Meath lan McArdle, Monaghan Dave Guiney, Wexford Denis Sheridan, Ma Malachi Dovle, Wicklow Séamas McAleenan, An John Samuelsen, New York, USA Willie Noone, Roscommo Donnach Callan, Louth Francis Kelly, San Francisco, USA Damien Callan, Louth Teddy McCarthy, Cork Robbie Hunter, Sacram IISI Des Ferguson, Meath John McCarrick, Sligo Terry Ferguson, Meat David Lane, Waterfor Tony Scullion, Antrim Ger Kenny, Westmeath Declan Lynch, Antrim Sid Rvan, Whitby, Canad Conor McCann, Antrin evie Fitzpatrick, Wicklo John Douglas, Wicklow Patrick McBride, Antrim Jimmy Coughlan, Wicklo Michael McCann, Antri Nóirín Greene, Dubli John Keenan, Derry John O'Donnell Cork Brian Smith, Derry Sandra Stapleton, Dublin Paddy Bradley, Derr

1 Samhain 2019

A Thaoisigh,

Táimid ag scríobh chugat mar shaoránaigh lenár n-imní ollmhór a léiriú faoi na himpleachtaí diúltacha atá i ndán dár dtír, do Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus don phróiseas síochána mar gheall ar an Bhreatimeacht.

Tá gach rud athraithe de dheasca an Bhreatimeachta. Tá an status quo in Éirinn ar féithbhogadh maidir le cúrsaí bunreachtúla, polaitiúla, sóisialta agus geilleagair.

Tá an plé faoi athaontú na hÉireann anois i lár an aonaigh. Tá cuid mhór saoránach páirteach cheana féin i ndíospóireachtaí foirmeálta agus neamhfhoirmeálta i dtaca leis an ábhar. Creidimid féin go bhfuil comhrá nua anois de dhíth maidir lenár dtodhchaí chomhroinnte ar oileán na hÉireann. Is gá don Rialtas pleanáil a dhéanamh mar gheall air sin.

Tá tromlach de mhuintir na hÉireann, sa stát seo agus ó thuaidh, ag iarraidh fanacht san Aontas Eorpach. Sa reifreann in 2016 chaith formhór na ndaoine a vóta chun fanacht. Ina measc siúd bhí roinnt mhaith aontachtóirí. Le blianta beaga anuas, tá plé ar bun i measc aontachtóirí faoi thodhchaí na hÉireann agus faoina ról féin sa todhchaí sin. Cuirtear fáilte roimhe sin.

Ba chóir go leanfar leis go mbeidh na cearta a bhaineann le ballraíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh, go mbeidh na cearta sin ag saoránaigh Éireannacha feasta, chomh maith leis na cosaintí a bhaineann leis an Chúirt Bhreithiúnais Eorpach a bheith acu. Tá sé de dhualgas ar an Rialtas a chinntiú go mbeidh meas ar mhianta daonlathacha saoránach Éireannach agus ar a gcearta; agus go ndéanfar sin a chosaint beag beann ar an áit ar an oileán a bhfuil cónaí orthu.

Bíodh an comhrá againn faoin dóigh leis sin a bhaint amach. Molaimid duit tús a chur leis an phróiseas sin, bunaithe ar an fhís atá i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta maidir le hathrú daonlathach. Cuirtear tús leis an phleanáil anois.

Iarraimid ar an Rialtas Tionól Saoránach a bhunú chun tuairimí saoránach thuaidh agus theas a léiriú; sin nó Fóram a bhunú inár féidir an todhchaí a phlé chomh maith leis an dóigh chun an chomhthoil is mó a bhaint amach faoin bhealach chun cinn.

Is sinne le mórmheas,