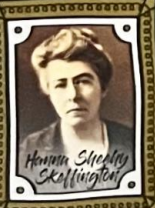


FÉILIRE POBLACHTÁNACH



# REVOLUTIONARY IRISHWOMEN

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

REPUBLICAN 2024 <sup>RESISTANCE</sup> CALENDAR

COMMEMORATION | CELEBRATION | COMMITMENT  COMÓRADH | CÉILIÚRADH | DÚTHRACHT







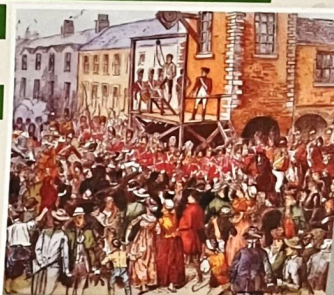
# Mary Ann McCracken

Mary Ann McCracken (1770-1866) of Belfast was a supporter of the United Irish cause, sister of executed 1798 leader Henry Joy McCracken, activist for emancipation of women, campaigner against slavery and for the rights of the poor.



The truth and justice of our cause alone is sufficient to support it, as there can be no argument produced in favour of the slavery of woman that has not been used in favour of general slavery and which have been successfully combated by many able writers. I therefore hope it is reserved for the Irish nation to strike out something new and to show an example of candour, generosity and justice superior to any that have gone before...

MARY ANN MCCracken's LETTER TO HER BROTHER HENRY JOY, MARCH 1797



\* The execution of Henry Joy McCracken, Market House, High Street, Belfast, July 1798

DECEMBER 2023  
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## January 2024 Eanáir

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"We call on the Minister to revoke Section 31..."  
Michael D. Higgins  
Minister for Broadcasting  
WE'RE WAITING...  
REPEAL SECTION 31



IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HISTORY OF IRELAND  
THEN YOU'VE PROBABLY BEEN WATCHING RTE  
GET THE FACTS  
REPEAL SECTION 31

### SECTION 31 BAN ENDED

From midnight on Wednesday 19 January 1994, radio and TV reporters in the 26 Counties were legally permitted to interview Sinn Féin representatives. Minister Michael D Higgins had announced a Cabinet decision to scrap the offending orders on Tuesday 11 January.

An Phoblacht  
SECTION 31  
VICTORY





# Anne Devlin

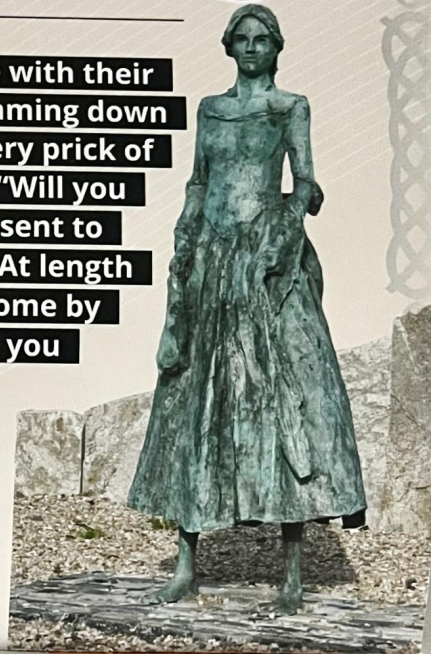
Anne Devlin of County Wicklow (1780-1851) was a key activist and comrade of Robert Emmet. She and her family suffered greatly at the hands of the British regime in the wake of the 1803 rebellion and execution of Emmet and 20 other insurgents. She endured horrendous conditions in Kilmainham Prison. She refused to inform on her comrades. She died in poverty in the Liberties of Dublin, still proud of the part she had played.



• Anne was arrested, tortured and imprisoned in Kilmainham jail for three years.

“They began afresh to goad me with their bayonets. The blood was streaming down my sides and arms, and at every prick of bayonets they would cry out: “Will you tell now?” I scarcely could consent to give the wretches an answer. At length this determination was overcome by their brutality and I said: “No, you set of villains, I will tell you nothing. I have nothing to tell you.”

ANN DEVLIN ON HER TREATMENT  
AFTER HER ARREST IN 1803



• Anne Devlin statue, Rathfarnham, Dublin

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## February 2024 Feabhra

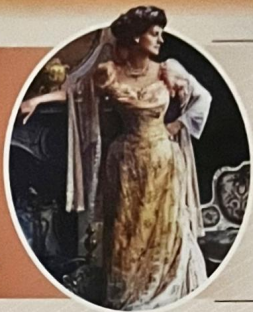
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# Constance Markievicz

Constance Gore-Booth Markievicz (1868-1927) came from Co. Sligo. She championed women's rights, co-founded Fianna Éireann in 1909, supported the workers in the 1913 Lockout and was a leader in both the Irish Citizen Army and Cumann na mBan. Sentenced to death for her part in the 1916 Rising, the sentence was commuted. First and only woman elected to the First Dáil Éireann in 1918, she served as Minister for Labour and strongly opposed the 1921 Treaty.



“

The building up of the Republican government was of necessity slow and laborious. It had to be done in secret, because our country was overrun by an army of occupation. The nation became one huge secret society, each man and woman taking his and her part in making the Republic the de facto Government of Ireland...

Let no-one imagine that this loyalty and this self-sacrifice were offered to a mere transference of the same system from Westminster to Dublin: it was given to the vision of Ireland 'not merely free, but Gaelic as well'.

'WHAT IRISH REPUBLICANS STAND FOR', CONSTANCE MARKIEVICZ, 1922

”

FEBRUARY 2024

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March 2024 Márta

APRIL 2024

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# Margaret Skinnider

Margaret Skinnider (1892-1971) of Coatbridge, Scotland, was a lifelong Irish Republican and a trade union activist. She served with the Irish Citizen Army in St Stephen's Green at Easter 1916, the only woman combatant to be wounded. Active in Cumann na mBan during the Black and Tan war and opposed the Treaty. President of the Irish National Teachers Organisation and a leading figure in the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.



“We had the same right to risk our lives as the men: that in the constitution of the Irish Republic, women were on an equality with men. For the first time in history, indeed, a constitution had been written that incorporated the principle of equal suffrage...Then they found I had been shot in three places...My disappointment at not being able to bomb the Shelbourne Hotel was what made me unhappy.”

‘DOING MY BIT FOR IRELAND’ BY MARGARET SKINNIDER  
PUBLISHED 1917, RE-PUBLISHED 2014

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## April 2024 Aibreán

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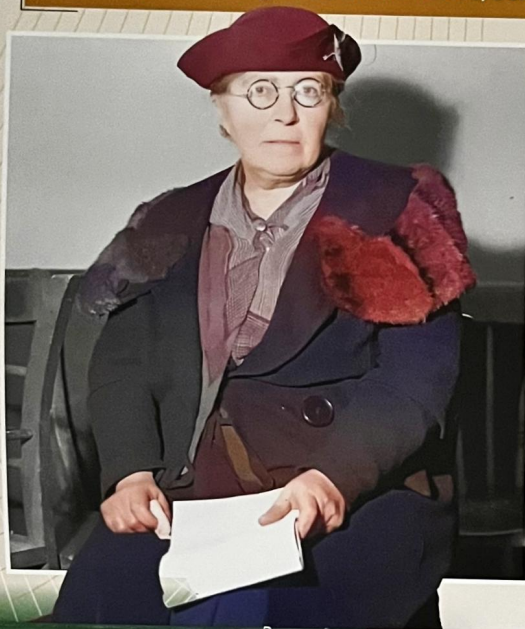
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# Hanna Sheehy Skeffington

Hanna Sheehy Skeffington (1877-1846) born in Cork, lived most of her life in Dublin. Leading activist for women's rights in Ireland in the first half of the 20th century, founder of the Irish Women's Franchise League, member of the Irish Women Workers Union, jailed several times for her feminist and Republican activism. Her husband Francis was murdered by a British Army officer in 1916 and she campaigned for Irish freedom in the USA and at home, opposing the Treaty and, in the 1930s, serving as deputy editor of *An Phoblacht*.



“As I look back across the space of 30 years, one impression emerges more clearly than ever, namely, that it is not the brutality of the British Army in action against a people in revolt but the automatic and tireless efforts on the part of the entire official machinery, both military and political, to prevent the truth from being made public. This was wholly characteristic of the British regime in Ireland: it is this more than any individual crime or atrocity which damns beyond redemption the whole apparatus of British Imperialism.”

HANNA SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON, 1946

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## May 2024 Bealtaine

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### UNIONISTS COLLAPSE SUNNINGDALE

The Sunningdale Power-Sharing Executive at Stormont collapsed on 28 May 1974 after a violent Unionist campaign which included a widespread strike, loyalist sectarian attacks in the Six Counties, and, with British crown forces' collusion, the no-warning bombings of Dublin and Monaghan which took 34 civilian lives on 17 May.





# Kathleen Lynn

Kathleen Lynn (1874-1955), medical doctor from Church of Ireland family in Mayo, with Irish Citizen Army in City Hall 1916, elected to Sinn Féin Ard Chomhairle 1917. Active in Tan war, imprisoned and released to help fight 1918 flu epidemic. Founded St Ultan's Children's Hospital for the poor of Dublin and ran it with Madeleine Ffrench Mullen until she was 80.



“

It was formally opened as St Ultan's Infant's Hospital on Ascension Thursday 1919. We had £70 in the bank, and there were two infants in the hospital. A man who was on the committee with us remarked: "If you were men, I would say you were lunatics, but because you are women you might succeed." After that, of course, I went on with all the Sinn Féin activities and everything else like that. We ran the hospital as well.

KATHLEEN LYNN,  
BUREAU OF MILITARY HISTORY WITNESS STATEMENT

”

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## June 2024 Meitheamh

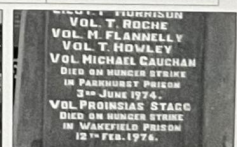
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### DEATH OF MICHAEL GAUGHAN

Michael Gaughan (left), IRA political prisoner, died as result of brutal force feeding while on hunger strike in Parkhurst Prison, England, on 3 June 1974.





# Máire Comerford

Máire Comerford (1893-1982) of Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, an active Republican from 1916 up until her death. Worked in Cumann na mBan, Sinn Féin and actively assisted the IRA in several capacities. Opposed the Treaty and was in the Four Courts and O'Connell Street at the outbreak of the Civil War, jailed and on hunger strike. Worked later as a journalist and continued to support the Republican struggle in the 1970s and 1980s, especially vocal on behalf of the political prisoners in the H-Blocks during the 1981 Hunger Strike.



“

People refer to the independence of Ireland as if freedom has been won. But think of it this way – if someone is handcuffed to another person, are they free? The partition of our island has made it impossible for our nation to grow and mature, as modern democratic states should be free to do. My earnest wish, that the partition of Ireland will end, remains intact. Everything I have observed in Ireland since 1923, north and south, only strengthens this belief.

'ON DANGEROUS GROUND – A MEMOIR OF THE IRISH REVOLUTION' BY MÁIRE COMERFORD

”



Cumann na mBan group left to right: Rosie Hackett, Máire Comerford, Elizabeth Bloxham and Bridie Clyne

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July 2024 Lúil

AUGUST 2024  
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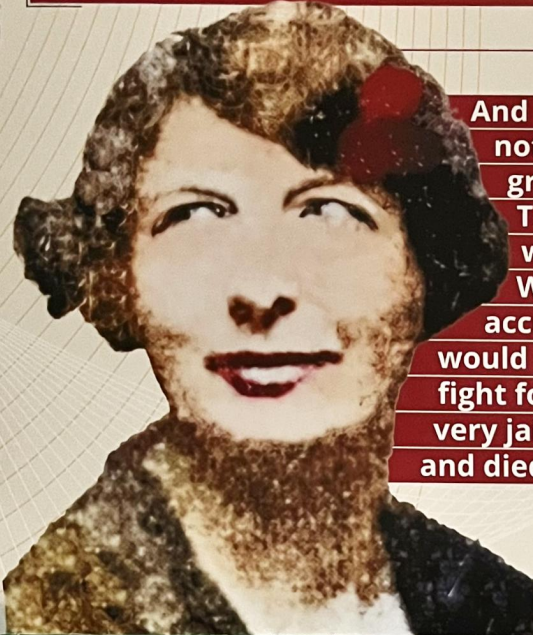
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# Margaret Goulding Buckley

Margaret Goulding Buckley (1879-1962) the first woman leader of a political party in Ireland as President of Sinn Féin 1937 to 1950. A leading member of the Irish Women Workers Union. A Cumann na mBan activist, she risked her life in both the Black and Tan War and the Civil War and then as a Republican prisoner in Free State jails in 1922 and '23.



And so we prepared for our first hunger strike; not lightly, but fully conscious of the possible grave consequences of our resolve... The hunger strike was the only weapon we could wield, and we felt justified in using it. We were 12 Irishwomen of good character, accused of no criminal intent. We felt we would be poltroons if we did not put up a fight for the political status which in that very jail Tom Ashe had suffered and died to obtain.

'THE JANGLE OF THE KEYS' BY MARGARET BUCKLEY  
PUBLISHED 1938, RE-PUBLISHED 2022



## August 2024 Lúnasa

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SEPTEMBER 2024  
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**IRA CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS**  
On 31 August 1994 the IRA announced a complete cessation of military operations, the culmination of the first phase of the Irish peace process, leading eventually to negotiations.





# Nora Connolly O'Brien

Nora Connolly O'Brien (1893-1981) a daughter of James Connolly and followed in his footsteps in the struggle for a Workers Republic. She smuggled his last message from Dublin Castle prior to his execution. Active in the Tan War and Civil War and imprisoned by the Free State. She took part in Republican Congress in the 1930s. An activist to the end, she supported the H-Block prisoners of 1981 as she had supported those of 1916.



“

I believe the people who are fighting the British in the North are just a continuation of the fight that we fought in our days... I have found on my visits there that it is James Connolly's ideal of social and political freedom for which they are fighting the same enemy as we fought. Until the Six Counties are united with the 26 Counties, the fight will still go on. I am with the people of the North in their fight and I believe they are justified in it.

NORA CONNOLLY O'BRIEN, *IRISH TIMES*, 16 JULY 1971.

”

• Nora Connolly O'Brien showing support for Irish Republican POWs

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## September 2024 Meán Fómhair

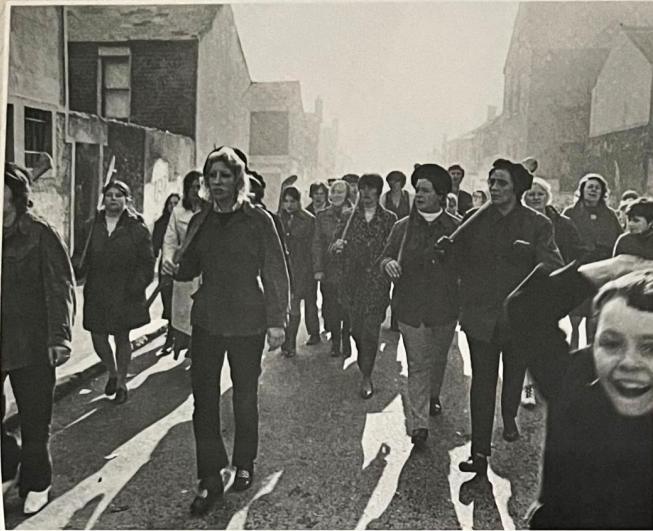
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# Máire Drumm

Máire Drumm (1919-1976) a native of South Armagh and lifelong Republican. Came to prominence in July 1970 when she led Belfast women in breaking British Army curfew of the Lower Falls. A leader of popular resistance to British oppression, especially after internment was imposed in August 1971. She was jailed North and South and was elected Leas-Uachtarán Shinn Féin. She was murdered in her hospital bed in Belfast by pro-British forces on 28 October 1976.



• Republican women protesting the banning of combat jackets and the carrying of huris, Máire Drumm, right front

What is peace? The kind that the Republican Movement has been fighting for is peace. Peace with justice. Peace that our people can live; peace that our people can walk free through the streets of their own towns, their own cities and their own country. It will be the peace that will be restored to the nation after 800 years when for the last time British imperialism leaves our shores.

MÁIRE DRUMM'S LAST PUBLIC SPEECH, SOUTH ARMAGH, SEPTEMBER 1976

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NOVEMBER 2024  
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## October 2024 Deireadh Fómhair

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### BOUNDARY COMMISSION REINFORCES PARTITION

The Boundary Commission arising from Article 12 of the Treaty was formally constituted on 31 October 1924. Far from undermining the Border and the Six-County state, as Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith believed it would, it was set to reinforce Partition.



POSSIBLE PROPOSALS IN INITIAL IRISH BOUNDARY CHANGES  
Special Forecasts of the Commissioners' Findings  
HOW ULSTER WILL FARE  
No Big Slice of Territory for the Free State  
A special forecast of the findings of the Irish Boundary Commission



# Máiréad Farrell

Máiréad Farrell (1957-1988) was a Belfast IRA Volunteer. She was captured by British forces in 1976 and imprisoned in Armagh Women's Prison. There she led the protesting Republican prisoners and in December 1980, with Mary Doyle and Mary Nugent, spent 19 days on hunger strike. She resumed her IRA activism after her release and on 6 March 1988 was shot dead in Gibraltar with Volunteers Seán Savage and Dan McCann.



• Máiréad Farrell in her cell, Armagh Women's Prison

The conditions have deteriorated, the regime is more repressive, and the punishments more severe and excessive...One cannot help feeling like a caged animal with every twitch monitored, analysed and filed away for further use against us...or so they believe. It's a popular boast of the present regime that they know all we say and do, but they choose to forget that their mania for surveillance does not reveal what's in our minds, and that's what counts!

MÁIRÉAD FARRELL WRITING FROM ARMAGH PRISON, WHERE THE REGIME INCLUDED BRUTAL STRIP-SEARCHES

IRIS - THE REPUBLICAN MAGAZINE, JULY 1983

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## November 2024 Samhain

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### LONG KESH TRAGEDIES

Much of Long Kesh prison camp was burned by protesting Republican prisoners on 15 October 1974, after which they were severely beaten and subjected to poisonous CR gas by the British Army. On 6 November IRA prisoner Hugh Coney (right) was shot dead by the British Army as he emerged from an escape tunnel.





# Rita O'Hare

Rita O'Hare (1943-2023) of Belfast was a leading Irish Republican for decades. She was jailed on both sides of the Border. A founder of the Sinn Féin Women's Department and the drive for equality within the party. Editor of *An Phoblacht/Republican News* 1985-1989, she served as Sinn Féin Director of Publicity, Ard Rúnaí and North America representative, playing a key role in the peace process and the campaign for Irish Unity.



**We seek constitutional change which places in the hands of the Irish people the sovereign power to determine our own future, free from outside interference. We seek reconciliation between Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter, people of every religious belief and none, leading to unity in the common name of Irishmen and Irishwomen. We seek equality and respect for the rights of all in place of discrimination, sectarianism and second-class citizenship.**

RITA O'HARE, WOLFE TONE COMMEMORATION, BODINSTOWN, 1996.

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## December 2024 Nollaig

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"I die proudly for my country and in the hope that my death will be sufficient to obtain the demands of my comrades. Let there be no bitterness on my behalf but a determination by all to achieve the New Ireland for which I gladly die. My loyalty and confidence is to the IRA and let those of you who are left carry on the work and finish the fight."

MICHAEL GAUGHAN



## An Phoblacht

Óró  
'sé  
do  
bheatha  
abhaile...



## MASSIVE TRIBUTE TO I.R.A. MARTYR

From London to Ballina





At 7.20pm, 3 June 1974, Michael Gaughan, a 24-year-old IRA Volunteer from Mayo, died, after 65 days on hunger strike. His death was a result of force feeding, a practice that was ended after his death. Michael's final request was: 'Take me home to Mayo.'

*Take me home to Mayo, across the Irish Sea  
Home to dear old Mayo, where once I roamed so free  
Take me home to Mayo, there let my body lie  
Home at last in Mayo, beneath an Irish sky*

BALLAD OF MICHAEL GAUGHAN



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