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Constitution of Aontú Amendments

1. This Ard Fheis rejects the use of gender quotas by the party. Candidates, Ard Chomhairle members and Officers should be appointed based on merit. We are calling for an overhaul of the election process for Ard Comhairle and are calling for an end to the process of having separate election ballots for Males and Females.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

2. That this Ard Fheis calls on all Aontú candidates to comport themselves respectfully in their public engagements and adhere to the guidance of the Aontú Ard Chomhairle in their public and political work.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

Education and the Irish Language

3. This Ard Fheis believes that the Water safety Ireland education programme should be made compulsory in primary schools.

PH Pearse Cumann, Cork North West.

4. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to monitor, record and publish monthly statistics detailing the number of young people emigrating and their professions, qualifications and occupations.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

5. This Ard Fheis believes that early childhood services for 4, 5 and 6 year olds, like speech therapy, occupational therapy, mental health supports from the likes of CAMHS should be delivered through primary schools. The services should be brought to the children. The current method is not working and only generates reams of paperwork while failing to deliver the actual supports that children need.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

6. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to require primary schools nationwide to facilitate the teaching of Ireland's national Anthem, Amhrán na bhfiann. Made compulsory from 3rd or 4th class.

O'Donovan Ross's Cumann, Cork South West.

7. That the Dáil, government require all Special education schools to provide a Summer programme for their pupils.

PH Pearse Cumann Cork North West

8. Aontú believes steps should be taken to see the Irish language become the medium of instruction in all primary schools in the North of Ireland

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

9. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Education to seek further input, expert consultation and clarification on the new schools SPHE curriculum.

Westmeath Cumann

10. Aontú calls for the prioritisation of traditional Irish music and dance and Gaelic sports over other forms of music, dance and sport in terms of allocation of public resources.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

11. All official government usage of place names for villages, towns, and cities should exclusively be in the Irish language.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

12. This Ard-Fheis calls for 25 additional bonus points to be awarded to anyone who passes the Leaving Certificate Higher Level Irish Exam

Ógra

13. This Ard Fheis calls on the State to cover placements in language College for TY students during the school academic year. Students can use the scheme for a block in the Gaeltacht or at a French/German/Spanish College.

Limerick Cumann

14. In light of the recent delays in receiving state exam results, this Ard Fheis proposes that all newly qualified teachers should be contracted to assess state exams for at least three years during their teaching career. We also propose that all remuneration for all those assessing state exams should be tax free.

Kells Cumann

15. This Ard Fheis is opposed to developing the provision of *only* gender-neutral toilets and changing rooms in schools.

Brian Boru Cumann

16. This Ard Fheis asserts the introduction of any SPHE or RSE curriculum into our schools should only occur following extensive consultation with parents and should be implemented in accordance with the wishes of the parents. That parents be given the right to scrutinise any books that schools have on site before these books become part of the curriculum.

That all Schools are facilitated to teach Relationships and Sexuality (RSE) fully in accordance with the ethos of that school. That all parents of school-going children are informed at least 48hrs in advance of any classes in which it is intended to show content not in line with the ethos of the school. That this Árd Fheis opposes Gender Ideology within the new SPHE or RSE programme and calls on the government to only teach SPHE on the basis of science and best medical evidence within the framework of the ethos of the school.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann, Brian Boru Cumann, Martin Savage Cumann, Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

17. That this Ard Fheis calls on the government to provide support and care to all children who suffer gender dysphoria. That the government base all policy in education and health on science and best medical evidence. That the government supports the pluralist ethos system in schools and does not force its own ethos onto schools who don't wish to teach it.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

18. This Ard Fheis supports the expansion of the teaching of Entrepreneurship among older secondary and tertiary students to promote and support the development of more small businesses.

Martin Savage Cumann

19. This Ard Fheis supports the formation of a new optional secondary school subject to encourage more young people to consider agricultural science/horticulture as a career and thereby help safeguard our future food provision, self-sufficiency and employment.

Martin Savage Cumann

20. This Ard Fheis recommends that Home Economics, Cooking / Baking should be available in more schools to promote healthy eating and culinary skills.

Martin Savage Cumann

21. This Ard Fheis calls for an increase in funding for Gaeltacht bursary schemes, in order to enable as many young people as possible to avail from the benefits that stem from attending the Gaeltacht, where they can immerse themselves in the Irish language, whilst bringing business/income to the gaeltacht areas. Adequate financial support is not only an investment in the future of our language and culture but also in the personal growth and development of our young people. Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam!

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

22. This Ard Fheis calls for the implementation of bilingualism in all official documents and communications issued by the Oireachtas. Ensuring that both English and Irish versions are readily available not only serves to promote our national language but also enhances accessibility and inclusivity for all citizens.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

23. This Ard Fheis demands that every child of school age and deemed ready to attend school, should have a place in an educational setting which facilitates their needs, in agreement with parents and confirmed no later than 1st August.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

24. This Ard Fheis demands that every school has access to a professional team including a designated special educational needs teacher, an educational psychologist, a counsellor, a speech and language therapist, an occupational therapist, a neurodiverse expert. This can be centred within each council or postal area.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

25. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of Justice to recommence the Thornton Hall project so that additional prison spaces are created considering the present overcrowding in our existing prisons leading to a revolving door situation.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

26. Ógra Aontú proposes the reduction of paperwork and bureaucracy in an Garda Síochana to free up personnel to allow for more visible community policing.

Ógra

27. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to increase the number of Gardaí in the State to 16,000 by 2027.

Ógra

28. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Justice to focus on the shocking increase in Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour instead of focusing on the culture wars and that the minister increase investment in Garda numbers throughout the state but especially in those areas such as Meath where numbers are at crisis levels. That the Government increase investment into drug rehabilitation services, mental health services and in community facilities for young people.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

29. This Ard Fheis calls for greater support of Neighbourhood Watch Groups and encourages the formation of new groups. This Ard Fheis strongly supports the need for a visible and well-resourced Garda presence on our streets.

Martin Savage Cumann

30. This Ard Fheis calls for a mandatory minimum prison sentence to be imposed on those convicted of attacks on the elderly.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

31. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to support the Aontú Bill that seeks to introduce a mandatory prison sentence on those who intentionally injure an on duty Garda, health worker in the public hospital system or staff of the fire service.

Laurance O'Connor Cumann, Trim

32. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to introduce legislation for an increased penalty for those convicted after previously receiving multiple convictions.

Laurance O'Connor Cumann, Trim

Health Service

Speaker: Majella Beattie, Care Champions

33. That Melatonin (essential for the treatment of autism), be included in the medical card scheme.
PH Pearse Cumann, Cork Northwest

34. That this Ard Fheis recognises with horror the collapse of elements of the Nursing Home sector and calls on the government to ensure proper funding and staffing for all.
Ard Chomhairle Aontú

35. This Ard Fheis calls for the packaging of vapes to be treated like that of tobacco - plain packaging.
Westmeath Cumann, Ógra

36. This Ard Fheis calls for the banning of disposable vapes due to the plastic waste and littering created.
Westmeath Cumann, Ógra

37. This Ard Fheis calls for the removal of VAT from Sunscreen.
Limerick Cumann

38. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the 20% increase in new child referrals to educS (Child Adolescent Mental Health Service) last year along with the increase time-period now required by CAMHS to deal with these more complex cases. This Ard Fheis demands that a report be commissioned to explain the reasons for the increases and the complexity of new child referrals to CAMHS.
Brian Boru Cumann

39. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the continuing high number of excess deaths across all age groups in Ireland and calls for a public enquiry to establish the cause.
Brian Boru Cumann

40. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Health to increase support and funding towards mental health services nationwide.
Westmeath Cumann

41. This Ard Fheis calls for greater investment from the government towards adult neurodivergent assessment and support services. This Ard Fheis calls for investment in the diagnostic, early intervention and support services for children with additional needs or neurodivergence.
Westmeath Cumann

42. This Ard Fheis demands investment in the staff and support of the Maternity Unit in Mullingar Hospital.
Westmeath Cumann

43. This Ard Fheis demands an investigation into the governments previous and continued spending on the National Childrens Hospital, along with the location selection process.
Westmeath Cumann

44. This Ard Fheis opposes any loss of Irish sovereignty to any future WHO Pandemic Treaty.
Brian Boru Cumann

45. This Ard Fheis demands the government to assess the reliability of the current HSE model, and to relocate funding and resources back to the front lines of the health care system.
Westmeath Cumann

46. This Ard Fheis demands an investigation into mental health and suicide rates both in Westmeath and nationally.

Westmeath Cumann

47. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Health to end the government's 10 year effort to close Our Lady's Hospital Navan A&E. That the government end the ambulance by pass of Navan A&E. That the government invests in the necessary resources to ensure that to make Navan A&E one of best A&Es in the country in line with growing population in Meath.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

48. This Ard Fheis calls for the banning of the sale of e-cigarettes to under 18-year-olds because the impact on health of the long-term vaping of chemicals and nicotine is unknown.

Martin Savage Cumann

49. This Ard Fheis calls on the HSE/ NHS to put in place Care Paths and Specialist Consultants for sufferers of severe M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis)

Martin Savage Cumann

50. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Health and his department to be more proactive in promoting good mental health among people of all ages and to fund and support the important research needed to explore the root causes of loneliness, self-harm and suicide.

Martin Savage Cumann, Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

51. This Ard Fheis calls for increased investment and recruitment into Acute Medical Services including births and paediatrics in Causeway Hospital.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

52. This Ard Fheis calls on each council area to establish a mental health forum with a long term and annual plan, providing access to services in mental health and addiction following a transparent consultation completed in line with Equality and rural needs legislation.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

The Economy and the Cost-of-Living Crisis

53. That this Ard Fheis calls on the government to prioritise the staffing of the health service, the education service and the Gardaí in this Budget. The necessary pay terms and conditions must be developed to ensure men and women will work in these sectors. That the government will put in place workforce planning to ensure that the necessary staff for these sectors and the construction come through the education system.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

54. This Ard Fheis notes with alarm a recent opinion poll which found that 70% of those aged between 18 and 24 years intend to emigrate and calls on the government to conduct research among our emigrant population to determine what it would take for them to return to Ireland, and immediately tackle this problem.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

55. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to institute a scheme to install free solar panels on occupied residential buildings, at the request of homeowners and subject to survey, and that any income earned by selling electricity supply to EirGrid through this scheme should be split equally between the Government and the homeowners.

Wicklow Cumann

56. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of the Environment to initiate a comprehensive review of Local Government funding with a focus on commercial rates for retail businesses in light of the shift away from bricks & mortar to online retail by consumers which necessitates reform so as traditional and online business are treated equitably.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

57. That this Ard Fheis notes that Excise Duty makes up a large part of the price of petrol and diesel in Ireland. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to halt its staged increase in Excise Duty on diesel and petrol on October 31, 2023 and reverse the increases already made on June 1, 2023 and September 1, 2023.

Wicklow Cumann

58. Ógra Aontú proposes for Aontú to take a stance regarding carbon tax and excise tax: We call on Aontú to formally campaign and support the reduction of carbon tax and excise tax on petrol and diesel to alleviate the cost of the living challenge and reduce the strain on costs for farmers, hauliers, small businesses, and drivers in Ireland.

Ógra

59. Aontú calls for youth returning to Ireland after a long period to have full social welfare rights as if they never left, as that is the minimum a citizen deserves.

Corrib Cumann Galway

60. This Ard Fheis believes that the TV licence should be abolished and that the relevant criminal records of those who have been prosecuted in recent years for not having a TV licence, be cleared.

Corrib Cumann Galway

61. This Ard Fheis calls for the abolition of Uisce Éireann and for water responsibility to be returned to local councils.

Corrib Cumann Galway

62. This Ard Fheis notes that Ireland's Total Public Debt at the end of 2022 was €226 billion, one of the highest per capita debt burdens in the world. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to ensure that in

its next Budget no deficit spending takes place nor any measures without quantifiable return are taken which will increase the Public Debt.

Wicklow Cumann

63. That this Ard Fheis supports the development of nuclear power in Ireland. A national plan should be formulated to begin the process of constructing nuclear reactors to meet Ireland's growing energy needs.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

64. That this Ard Fheis calls for research to be carried out on the imposition of a windfall tax on bank profits, modelled on the Czech government's three-year 60% levy on bank profits exceeding 120% of the average made between 2018-21.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

65. That this Ard Fheis believes that if a digital euro is created, it must have the same properties as cash and fully respect the privacy of its holder. EU citizens should further have the right to store their money digitally at the ECB without restriction, enabling citizens to make digital transactions without the necessity of relying on private for-profit banks and clearing houses as intermediaries.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

66. That this Ard Fheis supports the development of Irish worker-owned co-operatives, along the model of the Mondragon Corporation in the Basque Country.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

67. That this Ard Fheis proposes that Aontú take on a stance regarding the Universal Social Charge (USC): We call on Aontú to research the abolition of USC due to; record surpluses in the national budget and unfulfilled promises to the taxpayer in Ireland that are an act of grave breach of trust to the taxpayer entity. We seek to give a long-awaited break to workers by making work pay through the abolition of the USC.

Ógra and Corrib Cumann Galway

68. Ógra Aontú proposes for the Aontú to take on a stance regarding minimum unit pricing and VAT on alcohol: We call on Aontú to formally campaign and support the abolition of minimum unit pricing and a VAT decrease on alcohol to 15% by which reducing the burden of cost to young professionals, publicans, students, and alcoholic-beverage enjoyers.

Ógra

69. That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to carry out an audit of all NGOs in receipt of state funding to ascertain the cost benefit to citizens of that funding. That the government ensure that only funds that have a real benefit to citizens are expended.

That this Ard Fheis calls on the Government to ensure that all Non-Government Organisations (NGO's), who receive State funding, provide access to their accounts to the Public Accounts Committee and other relevant Government Committees and that their disbursement of State funds be subject to public scrutiny.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann, Ógra

70. That this Ard Fheis calls on the government to end toll charges on state owned motorways.

Ógra

71. That this Ard Fheis calls for payments to the EU to be significantly decreased and seeks to actively promote Irish values: our own sovereignty, neutrality, etc.

Ógra

72. That this Ard Fheis calls for the property tax to be abolished, and for bonds to issue to citizens to repeal and repay property tax to citizens without having a negative immediate impact on current cash flow and finances.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

73. That this Ard Fheis calls for the government to cap childcare costs to support working families especially working mothers, so that going out to work isn't robbing them of precious time with their family yet proving to be of little financial benefit.

Co Down Cumann

74. That this Ard Fheis calls on the government to allow taxpayers to use all of their spouses'/civil partners tax – free allowance if their spouse does not work or the remainder if their spouse/civil partner earns less than the threshold.

Down Cumann

75. That this Ard Fheis acknowledges the growing trend of businesses only accepting card/contactless payments. That this Ard Fheis also acknowledges the risks posed to consumers by a cashless society in regard to privacy and security, including government and bank surveillance of transactions, data mining, fraud and political repression. That this Ard Fheis applauds the work carried out by Aontú in opposing moves to cashless by the NCT and the GAA.

This Ard Fheis proposes that all future services delivered by Government and Local Authorities should insist that, where payments are made by members of the public, a variety of payment methods should be offered including cash. That this Ard Fheis calls on Aontú to support legislation prohibiting businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors from refusing cash payment, with reasonable exception for goods/services that require collateral, such as rented products.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann, Wolfe Tone Cumann, Aontú Liatroma

76. This Ard Fheis calls on the government, industry, local authorities and other relevant parties to prioritise, promote and provide more employment opportunities for persons with Autism and for others with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Martin Savage Cumann

77. This Ard Fheis proposes the establishment of a minimum ATM-to-population ratio in order to guarantee ease-of-access to cash. According to 2021 World Bank statistics, Ireland currently maintains 44.91 ATMs per 100,000 residents, ranking 71st globally, while in comparison, Britain has a ratio of 96.28 and ranks 17th globally.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

78. This Ard Fheis calls for a long-term funding commitment for community transport services from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). Community transport services play a pivotal role in ensuring accessibility, mobility, and social inclusion for those who rely on them, particularly in rural areas with limited public transport.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

79. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of the Environment to initiate a comprehensive review of Local Government funding with a focus on commercial rates for retail businesses in light of the shift away from bricks & mortar to online retail by consumers which necessitates reform so as traditional and online business are treated equitably.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

80. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of Finance to give more supports to An Post and Credit Unions so that banking facilities are available in more localities creating some competition to the present duopoly.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

81. That this Ard Fheis recognises the increasing crisis developing in Early Years Education and Childcare sector and fully supports the representative's groups in their strike against the Government's reduction in income supports to the smaller providers.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

82. That this Ard Fheis demands that the Government take responsibility for the enforcement of regulation of the Construction Industry to include 'fit-for-purpose' certification for all building materials in order to establish confidence in the viability of current building materials, calls for end to the bureaucratic efforts by this Government to deny a Just Redress to the victims of homes and buildings constructed with unregulated deleterious materials. We call on this Government to negotiate, immediately, with banks and lending institutions, to put in place, zero interest loans for property owners involved in the demolition and reconstruction of buildings affected by deleterious materials.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

83. This Ard Fheis calls upon the Government to immediately rescind and review the implementation of this discriminatory RZLT - Residential Zoned Land Tax, due to the punitive costs attached, in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis.

Donegal Cumann

Human Rights

Speaker: JP O'Sullivan, Mecpaths

84. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to ratify the 'Optional Protocol' which accompanied the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which would allow people to make complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities against Ireland.

Aontú Ard Chomhairle

85. This Ard Fheis condemns the treatment of the Uyghur Muslim population in Xinjiang by the Chinese Communist Government.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

86. This Ard Fheis calls on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to carry out an audit of all aspects of their Active Travel infrastructure to review accessibility and safety for those with disabilities, mobility and vision impairment.

Roger Casement Cumann

87. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to increase their efforts to tackle persecution of Christians worldwide.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

88. This Ard Fheis endorses the 'Consistent Life Ethic' philosophy which opposes the intentional destruction of human life in all forms - abortion, the death penalty and euthanasia. That this Ard Fheis opposes the use of taxpayer money to fund abortions.

Ógra, Corrib Cumann, Galway

89. This Ard Fheis notes with concern the fact that Ireland was recently placed on an international watch list for our poor record on human trafficking and calls for a taskforce to tackle the trafficking and exploitation of children in Ireland.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

90. This Ard Fheis calls for the submission of a bill to call on the government to provide equal funding, including tax reliefs to be made available to those wishing to make a prolife choice.

Brian Boru Cumann

91. That the asylum process is streamlined to allow a decision to be made within a maximum of two years, in the interest of social justice, avoiding people being left in uncertainty, in reception centres for many years.

PH Pearse Cumann, Cork North West

92. That Aontú stands behind the family in all its forms, not forgetting the traditional family.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

93. Aontú supports biological women's rights to their own spaces and asserts that it is not a hate crime to state and support same.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

94. That this Ard Fheis recognises that the role described in Article 41 of the Constitution as being undertaken by 'woman' and 'mothers' in the home is also undertaken by men and fathers.

Accordingly, this Ard Fheis calls for a basic income to be provided by the Government to the parent who undertakes these duties in the home.

Wicklow Cumann

95. That this Ard Fheis calls on the government to provide support and care to all children and adults who have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria. This Ard Fheis recognises the challenges and difficulties experienced by people who struggle with their identity. Calls on the government to base medical supports and treatment for people with gender dysphoria on science and best medical evidence. That this Ard Fheis recognises that a woman is an adult, human, female and the scientific fact that sex is binary. Accordingly, this Ard Fheis calls for the reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2015.

Wicklow Cumann

96. That this Ard Fheis calls upon the Government to designate Good Friday as a Public Holiday in the State.

Wicklow Cumann

97. That this Ard Fheis recognises that most Irish people want to help those who are fleeing from violence, war and famine and that many refugees and migrants have been welcomed successfully in many parts of Ireland.

The Ard Fheis also recognizes the positive contribution that is made by many immigrants to Ireland every day in every walk of life. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to ensure that Ireland's immigration policies are sustainable and manageable, that local communities are consulted with and that there is a community dividend for communities who accept migrants.

That all people flying to Ireland from other EU countries should have their travel documents in order, that the law is fully implemented for all individuals who have been deemed not to be asylum seekers by the state application process and that the asylum application process wait time is reduced to a maximum of 6 months in total.

Westmeath Cumann, Ógra, Dr. George Sigerson—Tyrone Fermanagh, Brian Boru Cumann, Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

98. This Ard fheis notes with concern, the issue facing women who choose life for their babies, in the instance of pregnancy following rape. Currently men can and do have access to children they have conceived through rape, regardless of the risk they present to the mother. Affirming Aontu's pro-life ethos, Ard Fheis wishes to move to urge both Governments in the 32 Counties, to mitigate any negative consequences for these women in choosing life in such circumstance by removing the implied parent rights of convicted rapists, while allowing courts to grant access only when it is in the clear interest of the child to do so.

Dr. George Sigerson—Tyrone Fermanagh

99. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to ensure that entry would only be allowed to migrants without criminal convictions.

Wicklow Cumann

100. This Ard Fheis calls for an investigation on the impact that holding large amounts of immigrants in hotels has had on other businesses in the tourism sector and seeks the provision of the necessary supports to communities.

Westmeath Cumann

101. That this Ard Fheis upholds the guarantee that all citizens can profess their faith without unwarranted restriction.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

100. Ógra Aontú proposes that a solution similar to the V-chip used in the United States be considered to allow parents greater control of what their children watch on television and streaming services.

Ógra

101. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to investigate the rate of suicide among those residing in Direct Provision Centres in the State and to provide greater mental health supports to asylum seekers.

Ógra

102. This Ard Fheis called for the situation in relation to the criminal and sexual exploitation of children in the state care system to be declared a national emergency

Ogra.

103. This Ard Fheis calls for the resignation of the Minister for Children Roderic O'Gorman

Ogra

104. This Ard Fheis calls for the submission of a bill calling on the government to enact legislation called the 'Heartbeat Protection Act' where following a mandatory examination by a doctor, abortion is prohibited where a baby's heartbeat is detected.

Brian Boru Cumann

105. This Ard Fheis calls on all citizens to speak respectfully. This Ard Fheis also condemns the imposition of legislation that restricts freedom of expression.

Brian Boru Cumann. Martin Savage Cumann

106. This Ard Fheis condemns the taking of life from conception to natural death and encourages its citizens to be pro-active in asserting the right to life of all. This Ard Fheis condemns the Minister for Health for abdicating his responsibility to provide positive alternative options for women considering abortion while at the same time allocating huge sums of money for the promotion and expansion of abortion services.

Martin Savage Cumann

107. That this Árd Fheis supports the work of Irish Palliative Care teams and strongly opposes the passing of the 'Dying with Dignity' Bill, which would mark a further step in devaluing life in Irish Society.

Martin Savage Cumann

Regional, Rural, Agricultural and Environmental Affairs

Speaker: Pat McCormack, President of the ICMSA

112. That this Ard Fheis recognises that the food market is very profitable, that factories and supermarkets are reaping massive profits, paying little tax and forcing down farm prices. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to reduce the oligopoly power of factories and supermarkets and ensure that farmers get a fair price for their work.

Laurance O'Connor Cumann

This Árd Fheis calls for the resignation of Minister Eamon Ryan.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

113. This Ard Fheis demands that the government stop punishing people for not taking up ecological innovations and adapt a culture of encouragement instead and for the removal of taxes on carbon negative and carbon neutral products to encourage their uptake.

Corrib Cumann Galway

114. This Ard Fheis calls for an increase in investment in Road Safety nationwide, and consultation with local communities about their everyday experiences with this.

Westmeath Cumann

115. This Ard Fheis calls for the introduction of separate electrical metering for heat pumps and electric car charging at the home, as was done for storage heating decades ago. This can be charged at a lower rate allowing uptake without being unaffordable.

Corrib Cumann Galway

116. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to look at the feasibility of the development of remaining areas of the canal network in the west of Ireland as a tourist asset, with potential to build small housing developments along access and utility points such as locks, etc.

Corrib Cumann Galway

117. This Ard Fheis condemns the southern and northern administrations for their failure to decentralize services and provision of infrastructure to the regions and calls on the government to prioritize regional infrastructural investment.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

118. Aontú proposes that the government finance the full cost of installing electric solar panels on every building roof in the country, where desired by the building owner. The saving made should be divided between the government and the electric account holder until the government recoups the installation cost, therefore being cost-neutral.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

119. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister of Finance to give more supports to An Post and Credit Unions so that banking facilities are available in more localities creating some competition to the present duopoly.
(repeated)

Cathal Brugha Cumann

120. This Ard Fheis calls on the government to guarantee the rights of vehicle users in respect of public roads and to commit to not allowing further redesignation of road space without significant and regular public consultation.

Brian Boru Cumann

121. This Árd Fheis supports the construction of the Galway Ring Road.

Corrib Cumann, Galway.

122. This Ard Fheis supports the reopening of the western rail corridor, in particular the extension of the existing line from Limerick to Athenry, through to Tuam and Claremorris.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

123. That this Ard Fheis calls for the required referendums and action towards the relocation of both houses of the Oireachtas out of Dublin to a more central location, as first step towards devolving power from central government to regional and local government.

Wicklow Cumann

124. This Ard Fheis commits to taking a more proactive approach to environmental issues and should work towards a policy that takes a pragmatic approach to matters such as clean energy or plastics.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

125. This Ard Fheis commits to the protection of the Moore Street Battlefield Site and all National Monuments in Ireland and calls for proper investment in heritage and cultural projects.

Ógra

126. This Ard Fheis calls on the Government to undertake research to determine what tax breaks for persons who hold a green cert qualification could be developed to entice young farmers to remain in the agricultural sector.

Ógra

127. This Ard Fheis calls for a government grant to all schools to install Solar PV panels, to be repaid over five years with savings from electricity generated.

Limerick Cumann

128. This Ard Fheis calls for a radical and far-reaching review of the campaign against Bovine TB in this country. We believe many people profit from the lucrative business of TB control and, as a result, little is done to seriously tackle this problem. We want this issue to be addressed to soften the blow on farmers, and practice integrity with curbing this disease.

Kells Cumann

129. That this Ard Fheis supports a diesel rebate from Revenue for HVO which is a renewable diesel made from lipids like vegetable oil or used cooking oil, and which can be availed of by Haulage companies. This low carbon biofuel serves as a direct replacement for regular fuel. The Government should incentivise more companies to use this biofuel by allowing companies add HVO bills to their rebate list.

Wolfe Tone Cumann

130. This Ard Fheis supports the beef farmers in rearing cattle at an acceptable and fair profit margin.

Martin Savage Cumann

131. This Ard Fheis condemns the government for its sell out of the Irish Fishing Industry, and the fact that we as an Island nation, with a rich fishing resource, are seeing our national fleet being decimated while fleets from other jurisdictions are plundering our seas.

Martin Savage Cumann

132. This Ard Fheis supports the reduction of toll fees on the M50 as this is a state-owned infrastructure and commuters have already more than paid for its construction.

Martin Savage Cumann

133. This Ard Fheis acknowledges that gold mining is a highly destructive industry and calls for a ban on all mining operations in the Sperrin Mountains. We do so to preserve the mountain range as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to safeguard the nearby ecosystem and the well-being of local

communities against potential risks associated with gold mining, which may include the pollution of water sources by harmful substances like arsenic, lead, mercury, and cyanide.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry.

134. This Ard Fheis calls for an urgent response to the ecological crisis in Lough Neagh, and the implementation of an effective strategy to combat the growth of toxic blue-green algae known as cyanobacteria, as well as an independent investigation into the sources and impact of raw sewage disposal into the Lough. This investigation would aim to identify responsible parties, assess the extent of environmental damage caused by sewage pollution, and determine the adequacy of current regulations and enforcement measures.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

135. This Ard Fheis recognises that although wind power is a valuable and sustainable source of renewable energy, it is essential to respect the concerns and interests of local communities affected by wind farm projects. This Ard Fheis therefore emphasizes the necessity of transparent and meaningful consultation with local communities on the planning and construction of wind farms.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

136. This Ard Fheis condemns the southern and northern administrations for their failure to decentralize services and provision of infrastructure to the regions and calls on the government to prioritize regional infrastructural investment.

Navan Cumann

137. That this Ard Fheis encourages farming and fishing as natural, healthy and profitable enterprises, good for our environment and the security of our state. We enjoy natural abundance on land and on sea. These natural resources are internationally famous, and the squandering of these resources and the skills to exploit them, must not be surrendered. Aontú supports our relationship with the EU and considers the free movement of people and goods to be good for Ireland. The overly compliant actions of our European representatives with respect to European regulations/legislation, is in our view treasonous to the welfare of our Nation, our natural advantages, and our people. We must defend our Farmers, our fishermen and our FDI (Foreign Direct Investment), as well as the unique attributes of our culture, language, music and dance. We oppose the reduction of our fishing fleet, and the proposed cull in our national herd. We call for the negotiating for the return of our fishing quota. The price originally paid for this quota, included ongoing support of our agricultural industry. Our representatives have not fought for Ireland and Irish interests.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

138. This Ard Fheis believes that if farming is to be made viable, a review of what makes farmers dependent on grants is conducted and EU/international obligations renegotiated if necessary to make farming viable.

PH Pearse Cumann, Cork Northwest

139. That this Árd Fheis calls on the Government to ensure that no Local Authority may close any road (or restrict vehicles to a single lane) as part of the provision of new cycle lanes without full engagement with affected communities, businesses and local organisations and have demonstrated a need for such infrastructure, showing clear advantages for same. In the event that the Local Authority is unable to obtain a broad consensus in relation to such matters, including consensus on Local Area Plans, it may undertake a Plebiscite, which shall be binding on both parties.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann

140. That this Ard Fheis calls on Aontú to call a Scientific Convention to determine whether the war on CO₂ and CH₄ emissions is justified in the light of recent scientific findings and whether the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Report is more nuanced in its predictions and conclusions than what is presented by national and international media.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann

Housing

Speaker: Aubrey McCarthy, Tiglin

141. That this Ard Fheis calls for the average turnaround time for the re-rental of Local Authority homes to be reduced to 1 month. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for Public Expenditure to ensure that monies collected from the Vacant Homes Tax are used to fund a grant scheme for the refurbishment of vacant houses. This Ard Fheis calls for a relaxation on qualification criteria for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant.

Ard Chomhairle

142. The government needs to separate the Homelessness Crisis from the Housing Crisis. The Housing crisis will take years of investing by both private builders and local authorities to solve. The immediate Homelessness Crisis is one that can be solved in about two years by the provision of temporary modular housing units appropriately distributed throughout the country.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

143. This Ard Fheis supports a relaxing of regulations on the construction or erection of modular homes.

Ógra

Corrib Cumann, Galway

144. This Ard Fheis condemns the fact that local authorities around the country have consistently underspent and returned funding to central government, which was earmarked for Traveller Accommodation, in the teeth of a housing crisis. This Ard Fheis reiterates its call from last year for a State Apology to the Travelling Community for systematic discrimination and attempts by previous governments to erase their identity and culture by way of legislation. This Ard Fheis affirms its commitment to protecting and promoting Traveller heritage, culture, identity and the Cant language, and to the protection of Travellers as a unique ethnic minority in our country.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

145. The Dáil and government make the provision of social housing an urgent priority, allocating additional funds as required. 1. On the grounds of basic justice. 2. As an essential requirement for long term social stability.

PH Pearse Cumann, Cork Northwest

146. That the Dáil and government take immediate action on the provision of emergency accommodation.

PH Pearse Cumann, Cork Northwest

147. This Ard Fheis calls for a prohibition on 'no fault' evictions in cases where the tenant is pregnant, has a disability or a terminal illness. This Ard Fheis calls for pregnant women to be prioritised, in terms of housing allocation, on social housing waiting lists by local authorities across the country.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

148. That this Ard Fheis believes that Hostels for the homeless should be 24hours a day, state provided with counselling, particularly grief counselling and all necessary services.

Wolfe Tone Cumann

149. Reform of planning laws to place a burden of proof to stop housebuilding for family homes on the objector, and for the concept of approval in principle for such home building to be at the foundation of planning.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

150. This Ard Fheis calls for reform of mortgage laws to allow suspension of mortgage, extension of mortgage duration by the amount of time for which it is suspended, and the payment of lower sums during the suspension period to allow families keep their homes in times of distress such as illness, being unemployed etc.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

151. This Ard Fheis believes that every university place should have provision for accommodation.

Wolfe Tone Cumann

152. This Ard Fheis calls on the Minister for housing to find creative ways to make living space an absolute right for its citizens and to totally remove the need for child homelessness and anyone having to sleep rough.

Martin Savage Cumann

153. This Ard Fheis insists that the government and local authorities must be held accountable for the scandal of the 3,600 vacant houses throughout the country.

Martin Savage Cumann

154. This Ard Fheis calls for amendments to planning regulations that would place a limit on the number of short-term rentals permitted in coastal towns. This measure aims to address the shortage of affordable properties available to rent or buy in many of our seaside towns.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

155. This Ard Fheis calls for a thorough review of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, with a focus on enhancing transparency and efficiency in the planning process. Furthermore, any review should give special consideration to the housing needs of rural communities, as well as addressing any inconsistencies in planning decision-making procedures between Councils.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

156. Aontú believes that a limit should be placed on the number of private properties which any one individual can own.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

157. This Ard Fheis calls on An Bord Pleanála to produce a list of pre-approved housing plans in each area, as a template, so that persons can apply for planning permission using these templates, and be swiftly granted planning, rather than having to go back to the drawing board.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

United Ireland & Justice for Victims and Survivors

Speaker: Mark Thompson, CEO Relatives for Justice

158. Aontú supports the full decommissioning of loyalist paramilitaries' weaponry and structures.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

159. This Ard Fheis states that in the event of a United Ireland, the unified Irish state should take steps towards the renegotiation of our relationship with the European Union to ensure more democratic powers for each nation state.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

160. This Ard Fheis calls for the devolution of income tax powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, potentially generating as much as £3 billion in revenue per annum. This move aims to enhance financial autonomy, as well as to reduce dependence on the Westminster-allocated block grant for the provision of public services.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

161. This Ard Fheis calls for a commitment, on the part of the British government, to fulfil its obligations concerning State Pension disbursements to residents in the North of Ireland in the event of Irish reunification. This is a sum amounting to upwards of £3.4bn per annum. By meeting these obligations, the British government would demonstrate its willingness to facilitate a peaceful and stable transition, as well as promoting financial- security and goodwill in the process.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

162. This Ard Fheis calls for the development of a clear and comprehensive economic roadmap towards Irish Unity. The prospect of a United Ireland presents a unique opportunity to harmonize our economic systems and bolster the prosperity of the entire island. To achieve this, the seamless integration and harmonization of public services must be prioritised; ensuring that citizens on both sides of the border have access to high-quality infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Moreover, the establishment of robust cross-border trade bodies is needed to not only foster economic growth, but also work to overcome any regulatory barriers that may exist between our economies and industries North and South of the border.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

163. This Ard Fheis calls on the Irish government to take the British government to the European Court of Justice over its Legacy Bill, which stands to deny any chance of justice for innocent victims and their families.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

164. This Ard Fheis calls for the necessary reforms that would disqualify individuals who previously served in the RUC from assuming the role of Chief Constable in the PSNI. This would serve to promote a more inclusive and unbiased organizational culture within the PSNI, free from the shadow of prejudiced policing strategies witnessed in the past.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

165. This Ard Fheis calls for a State apology to those murdered during the Irish Civil War by the Free State Government.

Ard Chomhairle Aontú

Reform, Foreign Affairs and Defence

Speaker: Roger Cole, PANA

166. Aontú opposes Irish participation in any international military alliances, including NATO-linked programmes like the “Partnership for Peace”. Aontú supports Ireland seeking membership of the Non-Aligned Movement

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

167. Aontú does not support the expulsion of the Russian ambassador, an action which would undermine Ireland’s neutrality.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

168. This Ard Fheis calls for a citizens’ assembly on the number of TDs needed and a referendum on the issue for same.

Corrib Cumann, Galway

169. This Ard Fheis calls for reform of the Electoral Register to make it more accurate.

Corrib Cumann Galway

170. This Ard Fheis condemns the southern government for eroding neutrality and for not promoting peaceful negotiations in the Ukrainian conflict.

Cathal Brugha Cumann

171. This Ard Fheis reiterates it’s call for a negotiated settlement to the Israel/Arab conflict on the basis of the Two State Solution.

Cathal Brugha Cumann, Navan Cumann

172. Aontú calls for an end to visits to Ireland by large numbers of foreign military personnel and an end to the policy of facilitating US military operations via Shannon airport.

Plunkett Cumann, Belfast

173. That this Árd Fheis is mindful of Party Policy as adopted in Resolution 98 of Árd Fheis 2022 and calls on the Government to pursue a policy independent of the EU and NATO, to bring about an immediate end to the war in Ukraine so that further slaughter and maiming can be stopped. If adopted, this policy would halt a process of escalation, which will inevitably lead to nuclear war.

Dublin Rathdown Cumann/ Navan Cumann

174. The Roger Casement Cumann proposes that Aontú calls for the long overdue debate on the reform of the Seanad to increase fairness and democratic representation.

Roger Casement Cumann

175. This Árd Fheis strongly supports and recognises the important role and contribution to society of men and women working in the home as well as working outside the home.

Martin Savage Cumann

176. This Ard Fheis acknowledges the need to enhance the transparency and accessibility of the public consultation process within the civil service, and therefore calls for a review and subsequent reform of current public consultation procedures within the civil service, as well as emphasising the necessity of publicising the outcomes and actions taken in response to consultation feedback to demonstrate accountability.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

177. This Ard Fheis calls for increased investment in the Irish Defence Forces, with special attention given to the vital role played by the reserve forces. Currently facing a recruitment crisis and equipped with outdated gear ill-suited for contemporary conflicts, our reserves require urgent attention. Adequate resources are needed to ensure that recruitment, training, and equipment are at the highest standards.

Francie Brolly Cumann, East Derry

Aontú Leader's Keynote Speech

Peadar Tóibín TD