

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2019

The Right Honourable Boris Johnson
Prime Minister, United Kingdom
Leader, Conservative Party
10 Downing Street
Westminster, London SW1A 2AA

The Right Honourable Jeremy Corbyn
Leader, Labour Party
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

The Right Honourable Jo Swinson
Leader, Liberal Democrats Party
44C Huntershill Village
102 Crowhill Road
Bishopbriggs, G64 1RP

Dear United Kingdom Party Leaders:

We are writing to express our support for the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and our belief that this historic peace accord must be fully implemented and enforced. As a guarantor of the GFA, the United States and the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus in Congress remain steadfastly committed to preserving its integrity.

Regardless of the electoral outcome on December 12 and the eventual framework, if any, of the U.K.'s departure from the European Union, it is essential that the hard-won peace of the GFA be preserved and not undermined by any Brexit calculations. That peace includes not only an open border between the Republic of Ireland and the province of Northern Ireland but also commitments to improved protections of human, civil and democratic rights, and economic justice for all the communities of Northern Ireland as enshrined in the GFA.

As you know, the United States was closely involved in the long quest for peace, committing funds, loan guarantees, and investment inducements in order to reduce the economic despair that lay at much of the sectarian and political conflicts. The good work of former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell in helping to bridge the gap to reach the groundbreaking agreement is well known. Leaders across the political spectrum in the United States government remain committed to the accord and have made clear that any proposed bilateral trade agreement coming to Capitol Hill in the wake of a possible vote to exit the E.U. must include a guarantee of an open border and the protection of the GFA in all its parts.

The political uncertainties unleashed by Brexit have had a negative impact on all the communities of Northern Ireland. It has slowed essential new inward investment to a halt, ratcheted up sectarian tensions, and contributed to the ongoing stalemate over restoring self-government at Stormont.

The considerable bipartisan support for peace and justice in Northern Ireland in the halls of Washington reach back through many administrations and many decades. We have personally visited old friends and made new ones in many visits to the island of Ireland and can attest to the appetite to end divisions and create a new society – more tolerant and prosperous, respectful of all traditions, with a place for everyone in a better future.


As leaders of the largest political parties in the United Kingdom, we urge you to take all and any steps in your power to ensure that peace prevails in Northern Ireland, including a continuing commitment to an open Irish border and the protection of human and civil rights for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress