



Ireland

St Patrick's Day 2023: Celebrating A Century of peace building

St Patrick's Day 2023 marks a century of Ireland's active membership of the international community, contributing to peace building and supporting democracy, human rights and justice across the globe.

St Patrick's Day 2023 will see the most ambitious ever engagement by Ireland with the world, with Ministers reaching out to Governments and Irish communities on every continent to promote Ireland and Irish interests. Thirty-six representatives of the state will bring Ireland's message of peace to the world, hosting over 850 official events in 70+ cities across 41 countries.

Ministers will mark a number of significant anniversaries which fall in 2023, including the Centenary of Ireland's joining the League of Nations, the 50th anniversary of our accession to the then EEC, and especially the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

Objectives

- Communicate that 2023 marks a Centenary of peace building for Ireland in the World,
- 2023 marks significant anniversaries of the League of Nations, the 50th anniversary of joining EEC, and the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement,
- On its 25th anniversary, to reiterate our support for consolidating the achievements of the Good Friday Agreement
- Emphasise the importance and value of our membership of the European Union on the 50th anniversary of our accession to the European Communities
- Re-affirm Ireland's steadfast commitment to the people of Ukraine
- Connect with Irish communities overseas and emphasise the importance of our Diaspora
- Build further on relationships with key political leaders, business leaders, decision makers, influencers and stakeholders across the world
- Celebrate Ireland's contemporary and traditional arts, culture and heritage
- Promote Ireland as a great place to live, visit, work, invest in, trade with, and study.

25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

25 years ago, in Belfast, the Good Friday Agreement was signed on 10 April 1998, bringing to an end three decades of violence, and establishing inclusive, democratic power sharing institutions.



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The Agreement transformed relationships across these islands and gave us new ways to work together and understand one another – within Northern Ireland, East-West, and North South. This framework remains at the heart of how the Government of Ireland approaches its responsibilities as a co-guarantor of the Agreement.

On this 25th anniversary, we remain profoundly committed to peace and reconciliation and to fully realising the promise, values and vision of the Good Friday Agreement.

This pivotal moment in the history of our island will be extensively covered in events marking St Patrick's Day throughout the world, particularly in the US where a Good Friday Agreement event will be organised by each of Ireland's 9 US missions. The highlight of these will be a Gala St Patrick's Day concert in the Kennedy Centre Washington hosted by the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD.

[Learn more about 25 Years of the Good Friday Agreement](#)

St Patrick's Day 2023 explore the best we have to offer, at home and overseas on Ireland.ie

This year, St Patrick's Day will mark 'A Century of peace building by Ireland in the World'.

2023 signifies a century of Ireland's engagement as an active member of the international community in the promotion of democracy, human rights, peace and security over the last 100 years.

A number of milestones occur in 2023, such as:

- The centenary of Ireland's joining the [League of Nations](#)
- [50 Years of Ireland in the EU](#)
- The 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

#StPatricksDay #GlobalIreland

The St Patrick's Day 2023 Video - A Century of Peace Building

Background to St Patrick's Day 2023 video



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The core theme for this year's St Patrick's video is Ireland's commitment to peace building from the very inception of our State, through active multilateralism and unswerving adherence to democratic values.

Starting with the League of Nations, which we joined just weeks after gaining our independence, the video traces our work in peace-making and peacekeeping through our membership of the United Nations. It picks out key moments of our 20th century history; in 1973 joining the then EEC, itself established to prevent future wars in Europe; in 1974 the beginnings of Irish Aid, providing development assistance in troubled parts of the world; and the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to our island after 30 years of violence.

A contemplative, acapella rendering 'Oh Danny Boy' accompanies the visuals and on-screen script from beginning to end – a song that reminds us of our own global family and expresses a deep human desire for peace.

Interwoven into the story of peace building is a theme of human solidarity and connection. At the beginning of the video, we see a young woman intently watching a theatre film-reel of episodes in our history. The melody and intensity of the song, Oh Danny Boy, rise and fall in tandem with the story of peace. We see images of Ukraine. As we come to the end, we discover that the singer is in fact the young African-Irish woman we saw at the beginning, Tolü Makay, who brings an original and moving interpretation to one of our most iconic songs, signifying the power of cultural creativity to transcending difference and connect us to each other.

The video will be available on DFA social media including on [YouTube](#) from 16 March.

Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025

Launched in June 2018, Global Ireland 2025 is a whole-of-government strategy to double the scope and impact of Ireland's global footprint by 2025. Global Ireland 2025 represents the most ambitious renewal and expansion of Ireland's international presence ever undertaken in terms of diplomacy, culture, business, overseas aid, tourism and trade.

It supports efforts to grow and diversify export markets, inward investment and tourism. It ensures that Ireland is well positioned to build the alliances necessary to advance its interests and defend its positions in the EU. It supports the securing of our deep and positive relationship with the UK and its constituent parts into the future.

At a global level, it enhances our ability to advocate for and achieve our foreign policy objectives, including international development, peace, disarmament and security, while



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strengthening Ireland's engagement with its 70 million-strong diaspora and bringing our rich culture and heritage to wider audiences.

A Team Ireland approach abroad and a global perspective at home will continue to be essential to economic recovery and growth over the coming period.

Objectives

- To open at least 26 new diplomatic missions, enhancing Ireland's impact in shaping the future direction of EU policies, budgets, programmes and legislation, as well as our influence at multilateral institutions including the United Nations
- a significant expansion of the supports for promoting Irish arts and culture internationally
- accelerated diversification of FDI source markets, doubling growth in IDA-supported project investments from non-US markets in the period 2018-2024
- accelerate diversification of export markets by Enterprise Ireland clients, with the ambition to:
 - double the total value of EI client exports outside the UK from the 2015 baseline by 2025;
 - double Eurozone exports by 2025; and
 - increase the diversification of client exports into new markets, with at least 70% of exports going beyond the UK by 2025
- develop the tourism sector, including by tripling revenues from developing markets, including China, to €600 million a year by 2025, and doubling revenue from both the US and German markets by 2025
- increase the economic output value of international education to the Irish economy to €2.7 billion per annum by 2025, and double the number of Government of Ireland scholarships to 120 per annum by 2025
- develop a new policy and strategic approach to supporting our citizens overseas and diaspora networks internationally, including our traditional, affinity and return diaspora, including the publication of a new diaspora strategy in 2020
- implement a global Team Ireland communications strategy to present a unified image of Ireland as a good place in which to live, work, do business, invest and visit

Oscars & LA trade mission 2023

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD travelled to Los Angeles and San Diego for a screen industry trade mission, which was also a



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key part of the Government's St Patrick's Day programme. Cultural promotion is central to the 2023 St Patrick's Day plans, which will see over 850 official events in 77 cities in 41 countries around the world, the highlight of which will be a signature Gala St Patrick's Day concert in the Kennedy Centre Washington hosted by the Taoiseach.

[Watch our recap of Oscars' week in LA here.](#)