Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Here’s a story for you:

Back in 2018 myself and a friend were driving around west Dublin when we happened upon two pro-life demonstrators getting egged by a bunch of young lads. We thought, this is great. I went across the road to the shop and bought them more eggs.

Lo and behold, they started egging me.

……and the moral of the story is divided into four observations on the Dublin riots.

1. The Far Right
2. Radicalisation
3. AI
4. Arming Gardaí

**The Far Right**

* There is no mystery at all here. Síol na hÉireann are the main group and Niall McConnell, a wealthy sheep farmer from Castlefinn in Co. Donegal is the main instigator. He spent time in Boston where there is a large contingent of Irish fascists. They are called NSC-131 New England.
* Those of us who campaigned for Marriage Equality and fertility rights have already met these malicious groups over and over. We have seen funds flow in from the US at crucial campaign junctures. Hating and spreading hate, they are thick and deranged, but they are heavily funded and organised.
* The new hate crime legislation must be applied to these instigators as a matter of urgency.
* They must not be left unfettered to fixate on refugees/ immigrants/ non white skinned people.
* And if their racist activities can’t be curtailed under hate speech laws - given that they’ve mobilised a scape goat herd of young lads on scooters to do the dirty work; then they should be done for fraud. They are listed as a private company and they accept political donations.

The law says, any individual or organisation (other than a candidate, political party or elected official) who or which accepts a donation given for political purposes over the threshold of €100 must register as a third party, and must open a political donations account into which all donations must be lodged. Failing to register as a third party is an offence.

**Radicalisation**

* Groups of teenagers. We have to examine the system that has incubated their frustration before it is further weaponised by far right groups. We need emergency education such as helpline clinics in conjunction with pre-existing support groups like Samaritans, Childline, Women’s Aid and Peter McVerry Trust where at risk communities can discuss what is happening in a safe and confidential environment.
* Furthermore, many of those who took part in the riot are of ‘no fixed abode’, living in the streets of Dublin.
* This group has recently experienced 57 overdoses due to a bad batch of Nitazene, a drug over 50 times stronger than heroin.
* Grief and bereavement make people susceptible to impulsivity and radicalisation.
* What is the strategy in place for curtailing the spread of Nitazene and providing counselling for the bereaved?
* We must ensure that the working class, poor and vulnerable areas of Dublin do not become synonymous with racism which will lead to demonisation and class war.

**AI**

The Gardai are currently trawling through thousands of hours of footage while instigators and organisers are right in front of them. This constitutes an egregious misuse of resources.

* There has been an announcement that AI will be rolled out despite ethical concerns that the technology is not ready for use on civilian populations.
* Whistleblower, Timnit Gebru, a researcher in the field of ethical AI and algorithmic bias has emphasised that while the technology itself is efficient, it is harmful in the way that it is applied on different groups of people for different purposes, she asserts, ‘the scale at which businesses are adopting AI technologies isn’t matched by clear guidelines to regulate algorithms and help researchers avoid the pitfalls of bias in datasets’.
* It has been shown to disproportionally misidentify women and people of colour.

**Arming the Gardaí**

* Ireland is one of the countries with the least government expenditure in the EU on public order and safety. Will recent events be used to make the case for arming Gardaí?
* Let us remember that the remit of the Garda Síochána is in their name: They guard the peace. Their title defines their contract with the Irish people.
* Drew Harris has not honoured this contract, he must resign. Minister for Justice Helen McEntee has not upheld this contract, she must resign.
* Arming Gardaí will not solve complex social issues, it will injure and kill people who should have had access to help. We as a nation are capable of having a conversation about this. As taxpayers, we demand that our money goes towards better solutions.
* Water cannons have been borrowed from the PSNI. Is this an indication that weapons would come through the same supply chain? BAE Systems in the UK are one of the biggest arms manufacturers worldwide. Their biggest market is  ‘security’ and ‘the domestic market’, arming the British Police force. Does Drew Harris have connections to the PSNI and to BAE Systems?
* We must ask who would benefit from closing the deal on this multi-billion euro contract. Identifying motivations and benefactors can often help to clarify seemingly chaotic situations. There must be full transparency with the Irish people on future spending for public order and safety.

The moral of the egg throwing story is that the aggression of people who have nothing to lose is not loyal to any faction. It is a chaotic force of its own. It needs to be dealt with separately. Deploying AI and arming Gardaí will cost millions and still not keep vulnerable groups safe from Far Right driven violence.

As an elected representative it is up to you to co-create a healthy work environment with your colleagues, irrespective of party alliance. It is up to you to make sure people like Niall O'Connell are stopped in their tracks. This is your job. Your job as a community representative and political leader is to protect people from dangerous ideologies - it is the whole reason we have elections. Please keep me updated on your progress in dismantling Síol na hÉireann.

And as a taxpayer in Ireland I would like you to keep me updated on what you and your party are doing to resolve the social issues highlighted in this letter.

All the very best,

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