

Irish Parliament: Dáil Éireann
Chair Letter

DEAR DELEGATES,

Welcome to the Irish Dáil Éireann at CNYMUN 2027! As tensions increase internationally, diplomacy and cooperation are very important skills, possibly now more than ever. We look forward to seeing a productive and thoughtful conference with quality discussion about these greatly relevant modern issues that impact the global sphere. Chairing the Irish Dáil Éireann this year will be Priya Pavoor and Ben Waltz.

ABOUT THE CHAIRS:

Priya is a senior at Manlius Pebble Hill School. This is her fourth year in MUN, and is looking forward to chairing a successful committee! Outside of MUN, Priya loves baking and traveling. When not spending time with her friends, she can be found playing bee swarm simulator or volunteering.

Ben is a Junior at Fayetteville Manlius highschool. This is his third year of doing MUN. He's looking forward to a great committee session! In school Ben enjoys going to French club and singing in choir. When outside of school Ben enjoys going mountain biking and hanging out with his friends.

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE:

Dáil Éireann[1], meaning Assembly of Ireland, was first established in 1919 following the Easter Rebellion when members of the Nationalist party Sinn Fèin were elected to the British House of Commons and refused to swear allegiance to the king and created the Dáil Éireann. Also during this time the Irish Republican Army (IRA) formed, and the Anglo-Irish war for independence approached its end in 1922 upon the establishment of a treaty which gave Ireland the status of a British Common Wealth. Then in 1922, when the Irish free state was established, the Dáil Éireann was officially established as the lower house of the Oireachtas (Parliament). In 1937, they officially named the name of the state Ireland and in 1938 gained military sovereignty allowing for them to remain neutral in the events of WW2. Today[2]The Dáil Éireann is made up of Teachta Dála (TDs), meaning in english "Deputy of the Dáil," who are voted for and represent Ireland. The Dáil Éireann is currently made up of 174 TDs but this number is not fixed as for every 20,000 to 30,000 people, there is one TD representing them. When a constituency has an issue they can voice the issue to their TD who will either bring the issue up to the Dáil directly or put it down as a parliamentary question. The Dáil Éireann will then vote on proposed laws or bills to pass or fail, and if the bill passes then it will move on to the Seannad, the upper house of the Oireachtas. The Dáil Éireann, on top of their legislative duties, votes for the Ceann Hairle, or the Chairman of the Dáil Éireann. They proceed to commence the process in which the largest party in Dáil Éireann will nominate their Taoiseach, or the Prime Minister of Ireland, who will nominate TDs to become ministers of state.

Your topics for the Irish Dáil Éireann at CNYMUN 2027 will be:

1. Addressing Political Polarization and Tensions Surrounding Immigration
2. The Irish Triple Lock Situation

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:

Following CNYMUN tradition, the debate will be conducted in Harvard style, meaning delegates will not be allowed to use pre-written clauses and/or resolutions during the committee. Doing so will make a delegate ineligible for awards.

To be eligible for awards, delegates must submit a position paper via email that addresses both topics before the start of the conference. Position papers should be 2-3 pages with each topic covering about a page. Position papers should outline the stance of your delegation and display an understanding of the topics, demonstrating research and knowledge of your organization's goals. When deciding on awards, the chairs will look favorably upon delegates who have put significant effort towards research/preparation, collaborate with other delegates during committee sessions, stay within their nation's policies, and get their voice heard without being overbearing.

Furthermore, CNYMUN has implemented a tiered structure of committees to ensure similar experience

[1] *Britannica*. *Britannica*, 28 Aug. 2026, www.britannica.com/place/Ireland/Independent-Ireland-to-1959.

[2] "Dáil Éireann" ["Assembly of Ireland"]. *Oireachtas*, Oireachtas/Irish Government, Apr. 2025, www.oireachtas.ie/en/visit-and-learn/how-parliament-works/role-of-the-oireachtas/dail-eireann/.

levels for all committee members. The Irish Parliament is designated as an **advanced** committee, as such all delegates in this committee should have extensive Model UN experience and have previously attended multiple conferences. Debate should also reflect the advanced nature of this committee. In turn, the 'Best New Delegate' award will not be offered to any delegates in this committee.

The special features of mini crisis and head-to-head debates will be used throughout the committee.

For the first time ever CNYMUN will have online delegate training sessions prior to the conference. These sessions will help delegates new and experienced learn about MUN and prepare for the nuances of CNYMUN. The schedule for these sessions and steps to participate can be found on our website, www.cnymun.org. We highly recommend all delegates regardless of experience join.

Please share position papers before the conference begins. Our emails are listed below for you to contact your chairs about any research, position papers, committee inquiries, or other questions. We also encourage you to scan our lengthy delegate preparation resources and award structure on www.cnymun.org. We wish you luck and look forward to what CNYMUN 2027 will bring.

Priya Pavoor
ppavoor@mphschool.org

Ben Walz
28bwalz@fmschools.org

TOPIC 1: ADDRESSING POLITICAL POLARIZATION AND TENSIONS SURROUNDING IMMIGRATION

In the last few decades, opposing views on immigration have begun to arise throughout Ireland. The rise of these differing perspectives have been further exacerbated by the rapid arrival of displaced peoples into Ireland being coupled with the Irish housing crisis. Recently, however, this sentiment has begun to manifest into violent attacks, hateful protests and rampant misinformation campaigns.[3] In a 6 year period, various asylum housing sites have been set on fire; these acts of hostility have been paired with increasingly unsafe and violent protests, either against the police or refugees.[4]

One factor that has led to this issue amplifying as much as it has is politicians. Irish politicians continually use immigration as a "wedge" issue when launching their political campaigns, which often removes the nuances of situations. Wedge issues are controversial topics that are harnessed by politicians in order to "wedge" or define themselves from an opposing party. Politicians often use these issues in order to unite their own followers, while creating a "rival" group. Common "wedge" issues include abortion, immigration, and gun control. This, coupled with other factors listed above, has led to situations like the Dublin riots and its subsequent aftermath arising.

The Dublin Riots occurred in November of 2023, after 3 young children, alongside a school care assistant, were targeted and stabbed in an act of violence.[5] Due to the public perception and rampant levels of misinformation being spread about the attackers identity, there was a spike in dehumanizing language being used to describe immigrants, which was worsened by public figures condemning the attacks without properly addressing the anti-immigrant sentiment. For example, the Commissioner of the Irish police force denounced the rioting, stating: "[it was] a lunatic, hooligan faction driven by a far-right ideology."[6] Along with this, misinformation was spread rapidly across social media, with users falsely claiming that the perpetrator was an undocumented immigrant, further fueling these tensions.

Ireland's cost of living is at an all time high currently, with Irish goods being serviced 38% higher than the EU average[7]. This is, in part, due to the fact that Irish markets are less competitive because of Ireland's smaller population. Policy choices made by the Irish government have also served to worsen this issue. Government decisions surrounding taxation, energy regulation, and public spending have ended up placing a larger burden on consumers. This is true for groceries and essential living costs, but also in sectors like energy. The high cost of energy can be attributed to Ireland's reliance on fossil fuels. In recent years, energy prices have steadily risen, in part thanks to global supply chain disruptions, specifically following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 which caused natural gas prices to rise steadily throughout Europe[8]. Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels have left them particularly vulnerable to these fluctuations. While the green transition has revolutionized many other parts of the world, its main barrier stems from high start-up costs and maintenance. In 2024, the Irish government reported that renewable energy sources accounted for around 43.1% of Ireland's electricity generation, with the government aiming to increase this figure to 80% by 2030[9]. However, in order to meet this ambitious goal, significant investment into renewable energy infrastructure and energy storage must be met, demonstrating the financial challenges that prevent them from reaching this goal.

As mentioned earlier, Ireland's housing crisis has continued to worsen, which has only intensified anti-immigrant sentiment in Ireland. In 2024, around

[3] Ehigie, Eric. 2024. "The Rise in Anti-Immigrant Politics: Will Ireland Withstand the Populist Temptation?" Ox.Ac.Uk, November 27.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Moore, Aoife. 2024. "Irish Election: View of Immigration One Year Since Dublin Riots." BBC, November 22.
[6] Harrison, Shane. 2023. "Dublin Riots: Immigration's Complicated Role in Growing Ireland's Far Right." Www.Bbc.Com, November 25.
[7] Howard, Emma. 2025. "How Did Ireland Become Europe's Second Most Expensive Country?" RTE.Ie, ahead of print, June 24.
[8] Ibid
[9] Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. 2024. "Energy in Ireland." https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/key-publications/energy-in-ireland.

150,000 people immigrated to Ireland.[10] Along with this influx of immigration, the average price of rent continued to rise; since the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of rent increased 43%. Not to mention that average house prices had risen over 10% since 2007.[11]

The lack of homeownership translates into a bigger problem: Generation Rent has become a majority in Ireland. Generation Rent refers to the fact that in Ireland, a larger number of adults are living at home. Ireland has one of the largest proportions of people living at home between the ages of 25 - 29, at a staggering 68%.[12] Not only is this considerably higher than the EU average of 42.1%, but it contrasts to the generation of 65 year olds and above, where 90% of whom have bought their own home.[13] This is indicative of a larger problem: when people are unable to buy homes, there becomes a loss of long-term assets, which translates to a loss of long-term compounding wealth, essentially worsening the wealth gap.

Over 270,000 Irish households are struggling financially, and their needs continue to be ignored by Irish lawmakers.[14] It is not possible to discern this rife in anti-immigrant sentiment from the larger housing crisis. Many propellants of this anti-immigrant sentiment view the Irish government as disregarding their needs in favor of asylum seekers and refugees. Politicians have only served to further this problem, by intensifying this perceived competition.

Anti-immigrant protests have been successful in some regard. Arguably, the most successful protest took place in the Irish town of Athlone. Working class citizens protested against the Department of Integrations plans to establish temporary housing and accommodations for well over 1,000 male asylum seekers.[15] While the racist and discriminatory sentiment was apparent in these protests and is cause for concern, it's notable that they occurred in a time of both political and economic unrest. It is important to note that these protests were mainly driven by working class citizens who have essentially been ignored by the greater majority of Irish politicians, requiring an effective political response to address the underlying political and economic concerns that fuel these protests. Without intervention, these tensions may continue to escalate, further polarizing Irish communities and increasing support for anti-immigration political movements. Similar protests have occurred throughout Ireland, and are not concentrated in a single area. In March of 2024, over 1,000 protesters gathered outside a former factory in Coolock, Dublin, once they heard plans of turning the factory into a home for asylum seekers. These protests demonstrate how anti-asylum and immigration sentiment has been able to mobilize communities.

There are 3 main political parties in Ireland: Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, and Sinn Féin. Fine Gael's stance on immigration is shaped primarily by harsh language and believes that Ireland should take a fairer and firmer approach to migration. They believe in both the strengthening of laws, along with investment into protective measures to work against the rise of anti-social behavior in Ireland.[16]

Fianna Fail is another part of Ireland's government coalition, alongside Fine Gael, and they believe in reducing the number of asylum seekers in Ireland[17]. Due to the public concerns around housing and immigration numbers, the Irish government introduced stricter immigration laws, which Fianna Fail was a huge propellant of. They would like to see the Irish government further secure their migration and asylum system. This would look like faster processing of asylum applications, and quicker returns of unsuccessful applicants, and accepted

[10] CSO. 2025. "Migration and Ireland - What CSO Data Tells Us - CSO - Central Statistics Office." Www.Cso.Ie, August 11.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Reddan, Fiona. 2024. "Generation Rent: Here's How 'Forever Renters' in Ireland Can Look to Secure Their Financial Futures." The Irish Times, July 3.
[13] Ibid
[14] Murphy, Gary. 2026. "Ireland Needs Immigrants, but We Need Housing Even More." Thetimes.Com, The Sunday Times, August 29.
[15] Ehigie, Eric. 2024. "The Rise in Anti-Immigrant Politics: Will Ireland Withstand the Populist Temptation?" Ox.Ac.Uk, November 27.
[16] FUSIO. 2024. "Having a Fair but Firmer Migration and Criminal Justice System - Fine Gael." Fine Gael, November 15.
[17] Ehigie, Eric. 2024. "The Rise in Anti-Immigrant Politics: Will Ireland Withstand the Populist Temptation?" Ox.Ac.Uk, November 27.

applicants having to wait 3 years to begin family reunification processes.[18] Members of the Fianna Fail party, like Bertie Ahren, have faced public backlash for making demeaning or thoughtless comments about refugee groups, though they have not faced many consequences for their actions.[19] In May of 2026, Ahren faced criticism from members of his own political party over his remarks on immigration. Specifically, they criticized that his views were out of touch with Ireland's current political landscape[20].

The third political party, Sinn Fein, opposes Ireland's decision to opt into the EU Migration Pact.[21] The EU Migration Pact was created in June of 2026, with the primary goal of producing a unified framework for migration laws. Most notably, the EU Migration Pact has led to greater detention time for asylum seekers, along with externalizing the asylum process[22]. One of the most notable parts of the new EU Migration and Asylum pact is that it may require certain asylum seekers to remain in designated facilities for up to 12 weeks while their applications are processed, with an additional 12 week return procedure that could potentially apply to unsuccessful applicants. This creates a possibility of asylum seekers being stuck in a foreign nation for 24 weeks, without clear knowledge of if they are granted asylum or not[23]. The EU has become more and more reliant on security deals and funding for developing nations to intercept migrants.[24]

Ireland has also struggled in addressing issues pertaining to its healthcare system. Ireland's healthcare system has long struggled with hospital waiting lists, increasing demand, and shortage of healthcare workers. At the end of 2025, around 800,000 patients remained on active hospital waiting lists, which marks a 12% increase from the end of 2024.[25] Population growth within Ireland has also contributed to this issue, seeing as it has led to an increase in demand for healthcare, which allows immigration to be connected to qualms about the healthcare system and greater politics concerned with public services deficits. However, immigration also plays a large part in addressing these problems, seeing as Ireland's healthcare system relies on foreign-born medical professionals migrating to Ireland, creating a similar paradox to the housing crisis.

Immigration remains a prominent issue in Ireland due to the fact that it is interlinked with seemingly every issue facing Irish citizens today: healthcare, the housing crisis, and a higher cost of living.[26] Rather than properly addressing the underlying issues, the Irish government has taken to housing asylum seekers in rural communities and state–run housing.[27] This newer system has both benefits and drawbacks. The state providing accommodation ensures that asylum seekers have access to safe and stable housing while their applications are processed, and it also allows the government to rely less upon privately operated emergency accommodation, which tends to be incredibly expensive.[28] In 2024, state provided accommodation cost around 34 euros a person per night, compared to the much higher price of 92 euros per night given by privately owned accommodations.[29] However, the system remains very costly, considering Ireland spends 1.1 billion euros annually. Immigration into Ireland contributes to the already high housing costs and raises the overall cost of living. Another paradox is created when considering the fact that there is a high consumer demand for housing, but a majority of Ireland's construction labor force are foreign-born immigrants. Delegates must consider many avenues

[18] Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. 2024. "Designated Accommodation Centres." Gov.Ie, Government of Ireland, March 21.
[19] Finn, Christina. 2026. "Fianna Fáilers Bristle at Bertie Ahern's Comments: 'He's out of the Game Too Long.'" TheJournal.Ie, TheJournal, May 14.
[20] Ibid.
[21] Carthy, Matt. 2026. "Real Concerns for Irish Sovereignty as EU Migration and Asylum Pact Operational Date Approaches – Matt Carthy TD - Sinn Féin." Sinn Féin, June 3.
[22] Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. 2024. "Designated Accommodation Centres." Gov.Ie, Government of Ireland, March 21.
[23] Ibid
[24] Human Rights Watch. 2026. "Questions and Answers: The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum." June 10.
[25] Health, Department of. 2026. "Minister for Health Publishes the Waiting Time Action Plan 2026." Gov.Ie, Government of Ireland, January 30. News, RTÉ. 2026. "State Spent €1.2 Billion on Asylum Accommodation In 2025." RTE.Ie, ahead of print, February.
[26] Harrison, Shane. 2024. "Ireland's Far Right Flopped in the General Election – but Its Threat Remains." Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank, December 9.
[27] Ibid.
[28] News, RTÉ. 2026. "State Spent €1.2 Billion on Asylum Accommodation In 2025." RTE.Ie, ahead of print, February.
[29] Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas Agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General Report on the Accounts of the Public Services 2024. 2025.

when crafting unique solutions to address the multidimensional nature of this issue.

As of right now, political polarization in Ireland is a relatively small issue. In the 2024 general election, Ireland was able to avoid a far-right surge, however these extremist values still remain a concerning and prevailing issue. The lack of a far-right surge was mainly due to the fact that extremist candidates did not have the backing of a political party, so there was not a single primary elect to be nominated. However, despite the success in the 2024 general election, it is important to note that Ireland has a significantly higher number of Independent elects than other nations, with 9% of those elected and returning to the Irish Parliament being Independent candidates.[30]

Furthermore, the major political parties in Ireland are beginning to lose votes due to their wavering stances on immigration, and working class citizens feeling underserved. Far-right or extremist politicians have the ability to gain a greater platform, seeing as more and more Irish voters are looking to immigration policy as a deciding factor.

Although far-right Irish politicians failed to win any seats in Ireland's parliament through the general election, this does not indicate that the problem has resolved itself. Rather, electoral success of these movements have been seen on a much more local level. In the 2024 local elections, many candidates who campaigned heavily against immigration won council seats[31]. For example, Gavin Pepper, who had participated in anti-immigrant protests, specifically against migrant accommodation, was voted in during the 2024 local election. This marked a shift from the 2019 local elections, where far-right candidates had a much smaller electoral presence in the greater community. Even though there was a small number of candidates associated with the far-right movements that remained a small portion of the overall votes, this support was higher in certain areas. For example, in Ballymun-Finglas, 4 far-right candidates received just over 20% of the vote, and this development occurred in tandem with the Dublin riots and unrest around immigration.[32] These movements have highlighted an ability to gain political mobility through harnessing immigration tensions, suggesting that delegates should focus on underlying causes so the issue does not worsen further.

The rise of misinformation in the media has also served to worsen the public perception of immigration. A 2026 study found that misperceptions that exist around immigration are systematically biased to be negative.[33] For example, respondents of the survey estimated that 28% of Ireland's population was foreign born, compared to the actual figure of 22%[34]. Furthermore, respondents also believed that 20% of recent non-EU migrants had arrived seeking asylum from countries other than Ukraine, where the actual figure was closer to 10%[35]. This is, in part, due to a general frustration around unmet demands, but also due to far-right figures from Ireland, and outside of Ireland, playing into the anti-immigrant rhetoric and publicly spreading misinformation. Currently, Irish citizens feel misrepresented and Ireland's electoral results are likely to suffer as a result of this, particularly if their concerns surrounding immigration, housing, and public services are not adequately addressed.

Since 2020 policy changes, both the Fianna Fail and the Fine Gael have both been best described as center-right. This coalition is particularly impactful considering that both parties are the modern counterparts to parent parties that were founded during the Irish Civil War.[36] In fact, this union showcases a larger change in Irish politics, which delegates should work to harness.

Delegates must view these tensions around immigration through a wider lens. Immigration itself is not the only policy issue at play; misinformation has grown so rampant because of other economic and

[30] Harrison, Shane. 2024. "Ireland's Far Right Flopped in the General Election – but Its Threat Remains." Chatham House – International Affairs Think Tank, December 9.

[31] Ibid

[32] Ibid

[33] ESRI, Shane Timmons, Celine Fox, et al. 2026. "The Role of Misperceptions in Attitudes to Immigration." The Role of Misperceptions in Attitudes to Immigration 225 (January).

[34] Ibid

[35] Ibid

[36] Hargaden, Kevin. 2024. "How Ireland Avoided a Far-Right Surge and Anti-Incumbent Backlash in Recent Election." America Magazine, AmericaMag, December 10.

social factors. Specifically, delegates must look to addressing factors that have led to the overall cost of living rising, along with the rampant misinformation surrounding immigration.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Should Ireland shift its focus from immigration, seeing as immigration has net positive effects on the Irish economy?
2. How can misinformation be combatted considering that far-right political figures from other nations are also propagating untrue narratives?
3. How can politicians address these tensions around immigration without further making it a wedge issue?
4. Should Ireland continue to accept migrants? If so, what policies need to be enacted to make the process fair and efficient?

HELPFUL SOURCES:

- "The role of misperceptions in attitudes to immigration" https://www.esri.ie/system/files/publications/RS225_1.pdf
- "Ireland's far right flopped in the general election – but its threat remains" https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/the-world-today/2024-12/irelands-far-right-flopped-general-election-its-threat-remains
- "Why Ireland Has Become One of the Most Expensive Countries in the World" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfVFzy4B6PU
- "Cost of Living in Ireland" https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/country_result.jsp?country=Ireland

TOPIC 2: THE IRISH TRIPLE LOCK SITUATION

In the 21st century, as the world's geopolitical tensions increase, the need for international deployment has grown for the Republic of Ireland. The "Triple Lock" mechanism is one of the largest factors influencing the degree to which Ireland can deploy internationally. To deploy is to move soldiers or equipment to a place where they can be used when they are needed.

The "Triple Lock" is a key part of Ireland's military neutrality which limits the deployment of troops internationally.[37] Ireland's military neutrality is based on the idea of non-membership of military alliances and mutual defense arrangements which stops Ireland's entry into conflicts it doesn't need to or want to enter into. The "Triple Lock" supports this even more by not allowing international deployments without its requirements met.

The "Triple Lock" mechanism is a three-part process Ireland is required to follow in order to deploy a number of troops greater than 12 internationally. The mechanism requires the approval of three bodies: the Irish Cabinet, Dáil and a mandate or authorization from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly or Security Council.[38] The five permanent Security Council members, consisting of China, Russia, Britain, France and the United States, all have the ability to veto any of their international deployments whether or not it is passed or remove the mandate at any time, greatly limiting Ireland's ability to deploy.

The legislation that makes up the current "Triple Lock" mechanism consists of a collection of 3 main documents, including the principle document, known as the 1954 defense act; the 1960 defense amendments, which outlined the ability for Ireland to deploy under a UN mandate and set the troop limit; and the 2006 amendment, which expanded the missions Ireland could participate in and gave exemptions of the "Triple Lock," such as for training, ceremonies, observation/advisory duties, sporting events, inspections (of stores, equipment and facilities).[39] [40] [41] Together, these documents make up the statutory law that is the "Triple Lock."

The creation of the "Triple Lock" mechanism stems from Ireland's past endeavors in peace missions.[42] In 1958, Ireland went on its first UN peace mission ever, participating in the UN Observer group in Lebanon, which included 50 Irish officers who focused on securing the Lebanese border. This first mission with the UN in Lebanon demonstrated a need for the "Triple Lock" to establish a framework to allow Ireland to keep its neutrality while participating in peacebuilding operations and inspired the legislation that the 1960 defense amendments were based upon.

Although much of the legislation for the "Triple Lock" was created earlier, the actual term "Triple Lock" wasn't formally used until 2001 during the leadup to the second Nice referendum.[43] The Nice referendum was the vote for Ireland's entry into the European Union. Following the first vote in which 53.87% voted against and 46.13% voted for entry into the EU, Ireland's entry failed. One of the reasons that the initial vote failed was due to various concerns including the EU creating some kind of European army or military alliance that could compromise Irish neutrality. As a way to reassure the Irish people of Ireland's commitment to neutrality, they formally coined the term "Triple Lock." In the second Nice referendum, following political reassurance, the vote passed with 62.89% for and 37.11% against, enough votes to officially enter into the EU and cement the use of the phrase the "Triple Lock" in future law.

---

[37] "Ireland's Policy of Military Neutrality." *Ireland.ie*, Department ofForeignAffairs, peace-and-security/neutrality/.

[38] Heston, Joseph. "Explained: The Triple Lock." *Trinity News*, 18.Nov.2025,www.trinitynews.ie/2025/11/explained-the-triple-lock/.

[39] "1954 Defense Act." *Ireland Statute Book*, Irish Government, 1954,www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1954/act/18/enacted/en/html.

[40] "Defense Act Amendments 2006." *Irish Statute Book*, Irish Government,2006,www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/20/enacted/en/html.

[41] "Defense Act Amendments 1960." *Irish Statute Book*, Irish Government,1960,www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1960/act/44/enacted/en/html.

[42] Bennet, Issac. "Ireland's Contribution to World Peace and Stability."*PoliticsExplained*,18Mar.2026,politicsexplained5.substack.com/p/irelands-contribution-to-world-peace.

[43] Evans-Pritchard, Blake. "Results of Nice Treaty Referendum." *EU Observer*, 8 June 2001. *EU Observer*, euobserver.com/78801/results-of-nice-treaty-referendum/.

As Ireland's need to deploy troops has grown in the current day, so has its need for greater military autonomy. The biggest controversy regarding this issue and the "Triple Lock" that limits autonomy is the UN Mandates and permanent Security Council member's veto ability. Many parties have argued that they should remove the veto to allow Ireland to be able to better control their own forces internationally. Other parties have stated that there is a need to keep the veto ability to stop interference in conflicts that could theoretically disregard Ireland's long-lasting neutrality. They argue that the ability for the permanent members to veto is needed as a barrier to stop conflict among nations.

While the veto ability has some utility when it comes to preventing neutrality-breaking situations, conversely, there have been several times when the veto ability has obstructed Ireland in their participation in peacekeeping missions and international diplomatic matters. This was very much the case during the Cold War.[44] In this period alone, 251 vetoes were cast of which 78% were from the U.S and Soviet Union, which led to the blocking of various mandates for peace missions and thus creating an essential deadlock scenario. This alone has created an argument for the removal of the "Triple Lock."

In the case of future deadlock or bad faith veto scenarios, it could become increasingly challenging to get a mandate. More recently, in 2022 in Ukraine, when many EU countries helped with training of Ukrainian troops, Ireland was greatly limited in its ability to help.[45] It maintained very limited aid through training hyper-specific non-combative roles like defusing mines, medical roles and engineering roles. This was due to an unsurprising lack of support from Russia for a UN mandate allowing a mission to Ukraine and the troop limit, which permits only 12 armed soldiers to be deployed internationally, meaning that the majority of the training they could do was non-combative. In another instance, during the Yugoslav Wars, Ireland was participating in the United Nations Preventative Deployment Force (UNDEPREP), which was a peace mission, the key goal of which was de-escalation and restabilization.[46] During this war, in 1999, Macedonia recognized Taiwan as a country independent from China. As a result, China vetoed the UN mandate, bringing Ireland's ability to participate in the peace mission to a halt. Most recently, in May of 2026, Ireland was forced to leave Operation IRINI.[47] Operation IRINI was an EU operation focused on monitoring vessels and enforcing security and international law throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Ireland's participation was cut short in May due to the UN mandate for the mission failing to be renewed, thus forcing Ireland to leave the mission due to the "Triple Lock."

The veto ability has posed major issues regarding the ability to deploy the troop requirement of 12 soldiers, limiting the Irish government in many ways. For example, during the start of the Sudanese Civil War in 2023, when an emergency evacuation of Irish citizens was needed, they were only able to send 12 troops to support the evacuation efforts as they did not have the time to get a UN mandate.[48] This led to Ireland having to rely on other countries for the vast majority of the evacuation of their own citizens and showed that the "Triple Lock" severely limited Ireland's ability to respond in emergency situations.

While many peace missions have had issues due to the "Triple Lock" it is important to take into account Ireland's long running history of peace missions even with the "Triple Lock"s various restrictions . For example peace missions such as the UNFIL Lebanon peacemission,EUFOR Bosnia and Herzegovina peace

[44] "Irish Neutrality." *Green Party*, May 2023, www.greenparty.ie/sites/default/files/2023-05/GP_POLICY_DOC_NEUTRALITY%20with%20AMEND%20V3%20May2023.pdf.

[45] "Ireland and EU Defense and Security." *European Commission*, European Union, 4 Dec. 2025, ireland.representation.ec.europa.eu/ireland-and-eu-defence-security_en.

[46] "EU Bewildered by Ireland Attitude to Peacekeeping Force for Macedonia." *Irish Times*, 25 Mar. 2003. *The Irish Times*, www.irishtimes.com/opinion/eu-bewildered-by-ireland-s-attitude-to-peacekeeping-force-for-macedonia-1.353375.

[47] "Minister Regrest Non-Renewal of UNSC Mandate for EU Mediterranean Naval Misssion." *Gov*, Irish Government, 25 May2026,\www.gov.ie/en/department-of-defence/press-releases/minister-regrets-non-renewal-of-unsc-mandate-for-eu-mediterranean-naval-mission/.

[48] *The Journal* [Dublin]. 24 Apr. 2023. *The Journal*, www.thejournal.ie/irish-rescue-operation-army-ranger-wing-sudan-6051883-Apr2023/.

mission and KFOR mission in Kosovo which were all given mandates.[49] This shows that while the "Triple Lock" has affected certain missions and many have successfully made it through the "Triple Lock" mechanism.

Dáil Éireann recently has been tackling the issue of the "Triple Lock." Many parties are taking the position that reforms to the veto ability and/or the total removal of the "Triple Lock" are needed to give military autonomy, while other parties are taking the stance that the "Triple Lock" needs to stay to protect Irish neutrality.

Recently, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have collaborated on the creation of the 2026 Defense Amendments that would focus on the removal of the UN mandate requirement of the "Triple Lock" and increase the allowed troop number from 12 to 50 troops.[50] Although the bill is in its early stages, it has recently received criticism from various parties including the Sinn Féin, Labor Party, Green Party, People Before Profit (PBP), Independent Ireland, Social Democrats and Aontú party. Many of the parties against the 2026 defense amendments say that the "Triple Lock" mechanism doesn't need changes or that the 2026 Defense Amendments go too far in removing the need for a mandate.

Various opposition parties to the 2026 Defense Amendments have also shared their opinion on the need to keep the "Triple Lock" to protect Ireland from getting into any unwanted conflicts and/or putting Ireland in a position of compromising their neutrality through intervening in future conflicts without international consensus. All these parties, including the Social Democrats, Labour Party, PBP party and Independent Ireland, have called for the creation of a public referendum to decide the future of the "Triple Lock." A recent survey was undertaken by the Irish Times on how many people support Ireland's current model of neutrality versus would like to see changes to take more responsibility for its own defense.[51] The survey results indicated that 29% would like to see Ireland's model of defense change, 63% would support Ireland's current model of defense and 8% don't know. This means a referendum would likely result in the continuation of the "Triple Lock." Various polls show that the majority of people agree with the current neutrality policy. While a referendum for the "Triple Lock" could occur, many critics of the idea have pointed out that a referendum isn't a requirement for the removal of the "Triple Lock." This is due to the legislation of the "Triple Lock" being statutory law rather than constitutional law. Unlike constitutional law, statutory law does not require a referendum for changes to occur.

To combat this issue of the "Triple Lock" not being constitutional law, various parties like The Labour Party and Sinn Fein have brought up the solution of enshrining the "Triple Lock" within the constitution, which would allow for greater control of the people over the "Triple Lock," likely slowing or stopping altogether any changes without the input of the public.[52] Various other parties such as the PBP, Social Democrats, Aontu party and Independent Ireland would likely agree to a similar change to this due to it lining up with their policy towards referendum control of the mechanism in the future.

While the Green Party has been in opposition to the 2026 Defense Amendments in the past, it has created a double lock system, which would work as a replacement for the "Triple Lock" and would include a Dáil Éireann vote, review by the Seanad, and either a UN vote and/or decision of a regional organization or/and regional arrangements authorized under the UN charter.[53] The Green Party also has some support from Fine Gael and Fianna Fails under the condition

[49] "Peacekeeping." *Peacekeeping Permanent to the United Nations* mission of Ireland totheUnitedNations,www.ireland.ie/en/un/newyork/peace-and-security/peacekeeping /.

[50] "2026 Defense Amendment Bill." *Oireachtas*, Irish Government,2026,data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2026/63/eng/initiated/b6326d.pdf.

[51] "Irish Times Poll:Current Model of Neutrality Backed by 63% of Voters." *The Irish Times:Politics*, 19 Apr. 2025. *Irish Times*, www.irishtimes.com/ireland/ 2025/04/19/ irish-voters-support-neutrality-by-21-margin-but-are-less-convinced-on-triple-loc k-poll-finds/. Accessed 27 Aug. 2026.

[52] "Labuor Defense Policy" ["Labor Defense Policy"]. *Labour*, Labour Party, labour.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Labour-Defence-Policy-doc-v2-1.pdf.

[53] Horgan-Jones, Jack. "Green Party Backs Move from 'Triple Lock' towards 'Double Lock' Policy onNeutrality."*TheIrishTimes:Politics*,26May2023.*IrishTimes*,www.irishtimes.com/politics/2023/05/21/green-party-backs-move-from-triple-lock-towards-double-lock-policy-on-neutrality/.

that there's a de facto veto over any deployments overseas to Russia. The Green Party also agreed that they are still committed to protecting Irish neutrality even with the move away from the original system.

Overall, various groups and different blocs have formed around common ideas. For example, the Fiana Fail and Fine Gael parties have generally leaned towards reforming the "Triple Lock" through the 2026 defense amendments. The Green Party, although initially against changing the "Triple Lock," has recently moved towards working with Fine Gael and Fianna Fail on a potential solution. The parties Sein Fein, PBP, Labour Party, Social Democrats, Aontu and Independent Ireland have all leaned towards creating a resolution including a referendum and/or changing the "Triple Lock" to be enshrined in the constitution.

Delegates must keep in mind Ireland's historic neutrality, while understanding the innovations and reforms needed with the ever-changing political landscape. Delegates should also consider public opinion regarding the decisions being made and past commitments and promises to the public such as the ones made in the second Nice Referendum. Careful decision-making will be necessary to avoid alienating people who support past choices.

Questions to Consider

1. Does the "Triple lock's" need for a UN mandate pose a threat to Irish Peacekeeping and how should Ireland proceed in dealing with this legislation?
2. Does the "Triple locks" troop limit in situations in which a UN mandate is unavailable infringe on Irish sovereignty, and if so, should the troop limit increase?
3. Should Ireland's 2026 defense amendments go through and do they properly address the key issues of the "Triple Lock" while keeping in mind Ireland's neutrality?
4. Is a Referendum a reasonable solution to the issue of the "Triple Lock" why or why not?

Helpful Sources

- "Explained: The Triple Lock" https://www.trinitynews.ie/2025/11/explained-the-triple-lock/

- "2026 Defense Amendments Act" https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2026/63/eng/initiated/b6326d.pdf

- "Irish Times: Poll on Current Model of neutrality" https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2025/04/19/irish-voters-support-neutrality-by-21-margin-but-are-less-convinced-on-triple-lock-poll-finds/