



Thank you Deputy John McGuinness TD and all the other politicians in Ireland who spoke up for whistleblowers.

By email only.

Dear

We, all the undersigned, are writing to extend our sincere thanks to you Deputy John McGuinness TD, and all the other Members of the Oireachtas who spoke up so clearly and so forthrightly for whistleblowers in the Irish Parliament on Wednesday 26 November.

Your powerful collective contributions in the Dáil, highlighting the profound gap between how whistleblowers *should* be treated by the State and how they actually *have* been treated, have resonated deeply with many of us. Your words gave voice to experiences that are too often ignored, minimised, or dismissed.

As well as the input of John McGuinness TD, we were also struck by:

- Deputy Richard O'Donoghue - who moved the motion, calling the situation a "national disgrace" and demanding comprehensive reforms including legal aid, enforceable sanctions, and personal accountability for officials.
- Deputy Mairéad Farrell - who called the Government response "outrageous" and said whistleblowers were being "gaslit."
- Deputy Pat Buckley - who had previously introduced a Bill on this topic with Deputy Farrell, and spoke about whistleblowers being paid off and blacklisted.
- Deputy Ged Nash - who thanked Independent Ireland for the motion and expressed pride in his role developing the original 2014 legislation.

There were other excellent contributions too; we are expressing our gratitude to everybody

that spoke up for whistleblowers.

Like you all, we firmly believe that “delay, deny and destroy” is the playbook used so often against whistleblowers, and that protections for whistleblowers are in urgent need of improvement – not only in Ireland and the UK, but globally. Whistleblowers constructively challenge misconduct in the public interest, and as such they are essential to a healthy economy, society, and a fully functioning democracy. Whistleblowers should be valued and protected, compensated for taking the risk they do when speaking out, and perhaps even rewarded beyond that.

But they should definitely not be penalised or “battered by the state” as so accurately described by many of you last Wednesday.

We are particularly grateful for the recognition of individuals such as [Lorraine Morris](#), whose courage and determination embodies the very best of public-spirited action; and [Jonathan Sugarman](#) too, who, like Lorraine, had the courage to challenge what he knew to be wrong - serious banking misconduct and catastrophic regulatory failure.

There are of course many other examples of noble and necessary, candid and courageous conduct by right-minded, decent people seeking only to do the right thing, but paying a heavy price for doing it; a completely unnecessary heavy price for doing it - as stated last week, telling the truth must never be punished; and you are all right to be demanding change with the sense of righteous indignation expressed so admirably on the 27th November.

Furthermore, initiatives such as those led by [BankConfidential](#) (please do see their amazing report on “[The largest fraud anywhere, ever](#)” that was launched in the UK Parliament on 13th November, and only made possible through the sacrifice of whistleblowers) and [Parrhesia](#) (please do watch [The Parrhesia Tapes](#); how those whistleblowers have managed to get through their ordeals is truly remarkable) are making a tangible difference; but your support from the floor of the Oireachtas for the rights of whistleblowers has sent such a powerful message that we want to publicly applaud it with this ‘thank you.’

When we think of whistleblowers we often think of the sacrifices they make, and the suffering they endure for the benefit of society. But it isn’t just their sacrifices and their suffering; their families sacrifice and suffer too. I would challenge anybody to watch [our recent event about this very issue](#), through the lens of the family of Paul Moore R.I.P. and not be moved by what they witness.

What we all witnessed that you all did on Wednesday 26th November in the Oireachtas reminds us of a similar message, also delivered in a meaningful and mighty way, many years ago:

Robert F. Kennedy



“Every time we turn our heads the other way when we see the law flouted, when we tolerate what we know to be wrong, when we close our eyes and ears to the corrupt because we are too busy or too frightened, when we fail to speak up and speak out, we strike a blow against freedom and decency and justice.”

We, the undersigned, wish to thank you all for:

- Recognising the vital role played by whistleblowers.
- Acknowledging the many weaponised injustices that have indubitably occurred.
- Calling for stronger, more effective protections, and fair treatment by the State.
- Understanding how whistleblowers often feel isolated, exposed and abandoned.
- Speaking up, and speaking out, passionately; refusing to be silenced.

Your powerful collective contributions in the Dáil will be a catalyst for meaningful reform; not just in Ireland, but everywhere.

We stand ready to support your efforts and to follow the leadership you have all shown.

With much appreciation,

Andy

Andy Agathangelou, FRSA

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