Trump Baby team announces Irish groups will host blimp for November visit

Civil society organisations join forces to host the Trump Baby as part of protests during US President Donald Trump’s Irish visit.

The “Trump Babysitters”, whose Trump blimp was a centrepiece the protests in London during the US President’s visit to the UK in July have teamed up with four Irish civil society groups to bring the Trump Baby to Ireland for the protests planned here against Trump and the right wing politics he represents. The four groups, Afri-Action from Ireland; Comhlámh; Friends of the Earth and the Latin America Solidarity Centre are delighted to work with The Trump Babysitter team from the UK. The organisations are committed to grassroots-driven social and environmental change, challenging rising xenophobia and racism, ever increasing wealth inequalities and the devastating logic of Trump in relation to climate change.

Kevin Smith, one of the Trump Babysitters in London helping facilitate the Trump Baby’s journey to Ireland commented:

"We're thrilled to be working with groups like Comhlámh and Friends of the Earth to bring the Trump Baby over to Ireland for the protests against the US president’s politics of hate and division.

“Apart from wanting to troll Donald wherever he goes, we made the Trump Baby as a symbol for for those who would mobilise in support of migrants and refugees, and for those who want to create a safe and liveable climate for generations to come. So it’s wonderful to be teaming up with some of the groups in Ireland who are doing just that."

Sian Cowman of the Latin America Solidarity Center (LASC) said:

“The treatment of Latin American migrants under the Trump government, most recently the separation of families at the border, is abhorrent and inhumane and is rooted in the United States' history of colonialism and racism, as well imperialist interventions in Latin America.
“The Trump government's disregard for environmental and climate change policy also has very real impacts on the ground in Latin America, where communities are resisting encroachment by US extractive multinationals while simultaneously living with the extreme effects of climate change.”

**Joe Murray of Afri commented:**

“Among the most serious threats to our survival is the war machine, fed by an obscene arms industry. In a world and in a country already armed to the teeth, Trump’s proposal is to increase military spending, while poverty and hunger remain the experience of millions of people in the US and throughout the globe. Afri believes that finite resources, and human energies, should be used for peace and development, not for war and destruction.

“Successive Irish governments have shamefully colluded in Trump’s and his predecessors’ wars by providing Shannon Airport as a transit hub for death and destruction. Afri sees the visit of Trump as an opportunity to highlight the craven attitude of our government in facilitating US war and aggression in the Middle East – and beyond.”

**Mark Malone from Comhlámh stated:**

“Comhlámh members understand the need for continuous engagement and struggle on social justice issues at both local and global levels. Our members recognize that public protest and expressions of discontent around Trump’s visit are only part of what is required for progressive social transformation. Symbolism alone drives little change. Civil society and social movements are and need to be a bulwark against rising right-wing ideology globally, a political current from which Ireland is not immune.”

“We cannot authentically protest state and structural racism from Trump and be blind to structural racism in our own society. It is a failure in solidarity with people living in Direct Provision - and with active networks like the Movement of Asylum Seekers In Ireland (MASI) - to be vocal about Trump putting children in cages and yet remain silent about the damaging impacts of isolation and institutionalization that are a deliberate part of successive government border regimes here. Direct Provision is first a foremost a for-profit system punishment and deterrent and should be dismantled in a manner as presented by MASI.”

**Oisin Coghlan from Friends of the Earth commented:**

"President Trump's reckless and repugnant approach to everything from democratic values to migration and climate change poses an existential threat to human progress and in the case of climate change the livability of our only home, Earth.

“Trump's visit to Ireland is an opportunity for all of us who reject his nihilistic vision to come together and build the movement for a more sustainable, fair and inclusive future. The Trump Baby blimp will provide a fun focal point for those demonstrations.
"The absurdity and hypocrisy of Trump’s position on climate change will be on show when he visits his Trump Hotel in Doonbeg, Co. Clare. He wants the US to be the only country outside the Paris Agreement, while at the same time he desperately wants to build a 'Big, beautiful, wall' to prevent the rising sea eating away the dunes of his precious golf course."

President Trump is due to visit Ireland in November, when he will be in France for the centenary of the end of the First World War. More details of the Trump Baby’s itinerary in Ireland will be confirmed closer to the date.

Ends