

## **Maura Harrington ends hunger strike as *Solitaire* leaves Irish waters**

Today's departure of the *Solitaire* from Irish territorial waters is a major victory for both Maura Harrington and the Shell to Sea campaign. We hope it does not attempt to return to Irish waters; if it does it will be met with even more determined opposition, on land and at sea.

Shell to Sea salutes the courage and tenacity of Maura Harrington throughout her hunger strike, and we wish her a speedy recovery from her ordeal in the company of her family. Her action has resonated around Ireland and the world and has shone a light of publicity upon the situation in Erris, publicity that Shell and the Government have tried with all their power to deny us.

We hope that the breathing space that the departure of the *Solitaire* brings will lead to dialogue for creating an acceptable solution for the community here. It is time that Minister Eamon Ryan engaged honestly with the local community.

We also hope that people around Ireland acquaint themselves with what is being done to their fellow-citizens in Co. Mayo in their name, with their taxpayers' money.

We reiterate our opposition to the foisting of this unwanted project on the people of Erris and the give-away of Ireland's natural resources to multinational corporations.