

ACHT GAeilGE

AN IRISH

LANGUAGE ACT

Ceisteanna Coitianta

Frequently Asked Questions



Conradh
na Gaeilge

#FAQ

#AchtAnois

Bealtaine / May 2019

CEAPA, COTROMAS

NA CEISTEANNA

Giorrúcháin	6
Fáilte	7
Cén fáth Ceisteanna Coitianta?	9
1 Cad é an rud é Acht Gaeilge agus cén fáth a bhfuil sé de dhíth?	11
2 Cad é atá i gceist leis an Acht Gaeilge?	11
3 Cad é an dóigh a mbeadh tionchar ag an Acht Gaeilge ar mo shaol?	13
4 Cé a labhraíonn Gaeilge? Cad chuige bhfuil gach rud stoptha de dheasca teanga nach n-úsáidtear fiú?	13
5 Cad é an t-éileamh don Acht Gaeilge?	13
6 Cad é an costas a bheas ar Acht Gaeilge? (An féidir costas a chur ar chearta?)	17
7 Cad chuige nach mbunaítear an Tionól / an Feidhmeannas agus nach réitítear an cheist seo ansin, go háirithe má tá tromlach ann sa Tionól atá ag tacú le hAcht Gaeilge?	17
8 An gcuirfeadh i bhfeidhm cuótaí sa stát seirbhís? (cad chuige a luaitear 10% i bplé-cháipéis Chonradh na Gaeilge?)	19
9 An mbeidh Gaeilge de dhíth anois le post a fháil sa Státseirbhís?	19
10 Nuair a deirtear gur mian le pobal na Gaeilge seirbhísí bheith ar fáil, cad iad na seirbhísí atá i gceist?	21
11 Ar mhian libh dul chuig an otharlann trí Ghaeilge, nó teacht bheith agaibh ar dochtúir le Gaeilge níos gaiste?	21
12 Cad chuige nach féidir Gaeilge a úsáid sna Cúirteanna?	25
13 Cad chuige a bhfuil an rialtas, cúrsaí oideachais, sláinte srl á gcur ar fuascailt de dheasca Acht na Gaeilge?	25
14 Cén fáth ar mhaith libh Acht Gaeilge 'neamhspleách'?	29
15 Ba mhaith leat comharthaí Gaeilge ar gach sráid? Fiú sna sráideanna nár mhaith le daoine é?	29
16 Cad chuige a ba mhaith leat Gaeilge ar ár mbóithre agus i lár ár mbailte?	31
17 Nach n-aontófá leis an argóint go gcruthaíonn nó go gcothaíonn an chomharthaíocht dháttheangach "teach fuar" dóibh siúd nár mhian leo an Ghaeilge a fheiceáil, go háirithe in áiteanna oibre?	31

THE QUESTIONS

Abbreviations	6
Fáilte	8
Why an FAQ?	10
1 What is an Irish Language Act (ILA) and why do you need it?	12
2 What would an Irish Language Act look like?	12
3 How would an Irish Language Act impact my life?	14
4 Who even speaks Irish? Why are we holding things up for a language nobody even uses?	14
5 What is the demand for an Irish Language Act?	14
6 How much will an Irish Language Act cost? (Can you put a price on rights?)	18
7 Why can we not just re-establish the Assembly / Executive and get it sorted out there, especially if there is a majority in favour of an Irish Language Act?	18
8 Will there be quotas introduced into the Civil Service? (why does a Conradh na Gaeilge document mention 10%?)	20
9 Will people now need Irish to get a job in the Civil service?	20
10 When you say you want services in Irish, what services do you mean?	22
11 Do you expect to be able to go into the hospital and see your Doctor as Gaeilge or that an Irish-speaking Doctor will prioritise an Irish speaker before an English speaker?	22
12 Why can't people use Irish in the Courts?	26
13 Why is the government, education, health, all being held to ransom over an Irish Language Act?	26
14 Why does it have to be a standalone act?	30
15 So you want Irish language on every street sign? Even in streets where the people wouldn't want it?	30
16 Why do you want Irish on our roads and town centres?	32
17 Wouldn't you agree that Irish language signage, especially in "neutral places", like the workplace, creates "cold-houses" for Unionists?	32

NA CEISTEANNA

- 18** Caitheadh £190 milliún ar an Ghaeilge le 7 mbliana anuas cheana féin, nach cur amú airgid é seo ar fad? 35
- 19** Tugtar barraíocht tacaíochta airgeadais do Ghaelscoileanna cheana féin. Nach gcuirfidh Acht Gaeilge go mór le córas a thugann tosaíocht mhí-chothrom don Ghaelscolaíocht cheana féin, i scoileanna beaga a mbíonn mionlach ag freastail orthu?" 39
- 20** Deirtear go bhfuil 'polaitiú' déanta ar cheist na Gaeilge. Cad é a déarfá féin maidir leis sin? 41
- 21** Deir tú gur mhaith leat cearta. Cad é atá i gceist agat? Cearta ó thaobh cad é? Agus nach gcuirfidh na cearta seo isteach ar chearta lucht labhartha an Bhéarla? 41
- 22** Cad chuige an bhfuil Coimisinéir de dhíth oraibh agus cad iad na cumhachtaí a ba chóir a bheith ag an Choimisinéir? 45
- 23** An ionann na héilimh seo agus 'forlámhas' cultúrtha do phobal na Gaeilge? 45
- 24** Tá níos mó cainteoirí Polainnise ná cainteoirí Gaeilge anseo. Cad chuige a bhfuil tús-áite ag an Ghaeilge? 45
- 25** Cad é atá i gceist le cur chuige na gCaighdeán Teanga mar atá i bhfeidhm sa Bhreatain Bheag? An é seo an dóigh is fearr le tabhairt faoi? 49
- 26** Ar mhaith libh go mbeadh an Ghaeilge ina teanga oifigiúil, nó aitheanta mar phríomh-theanga oifigiúil, nó aitheanta mar chomh-theanga oifigiúil taobh leis an Bhéarla? Cad é an difear idir na rudaí seo ar fad? 49
- 27** Cad é an ról atá ag an Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh sa chomhthéacs seo ar fad? 51
- 28** Cad é atá ráite ag Comhairle na hEorpa nó ag na Náisiúin aontaithe sa chás seo maidir le hAcht Gaeilge ó thuaidh? 55
- 29** An athróidh an tAcht Gaeilge gach rud, maith nó olc, sa phróiseas athbheochana teanga ina bhfuil muid faoi láthair? 57

***Tá friotail, ráitis agus eolas eile bailithe le chéile ó fhoilseacháin eile sa leabhrán seo agus iad scaipthe fríd na ceisteanna de réir mar is cuí.**

THE QUESTIONS

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| 18 | £190 million has already been spent on Irish in the last 7 years, is this not a waste of money? | 36 |
| 19 | Irish-medium schools are already lavishly overfunded. Will an Irish Language Act not see even more money be prioritised for Irish Language schools with only minimal numbers? | 40 |
| 20 | People say Irish has been 'weaponised' and 'politicised'. What would you say to that? | 42 |
| 21 | You say you want rights. What rights do you mean? Rights to what? And will these rights not impinge on the rights of English-only speakers? | 42 |
| 22 | Why do you need a Commissioner and what powers should a Commissioner have? | 46 |
| 23 | Do these 'demands' not amount to 'cultural supremacy' for the Irish language community? | 46 |
| 24 | More people speak Polish than Irish, why should be put Irish first? | 46 |
| 25 | What does the language-standards approach look like in Wales? Is this the preferred option? | 50 |
| 26 | Are you asking for the Irish language to be an official language, the official language or a joint official language alongside English? What's the difference? | 50 |
| 27 | How does the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages work here? Is this not enough already? | 52 |
| 28 | What has the European Council and the United Nations said on this and why would they be concerned by something like this? | 56 |
| 29 | Will an Irish Language Act be a total game-changer in terms of the big picture of the Irish language revival here? | 58 |

***Throughout this handbook we have also included previously published quotes, statements and other relevant information.**

“go dtabharfaidh Rialtas [na Breataine] isteach Acht Gaeilge ina léireofar taithí na Breataine Bige agus na hÉireann agus oibreoidh sé i gcomhpháirt leis an Fheidhmeannas atá le toghadh le forbairt na Gaeilge a fheabhsú agus a chosaint.”

“The (British) Government will introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language”.

Chomhaontú Chill Rímhinn, 2006

St Andrew's Agreement, 2006

GIORRÚCHÁIN | ABBREVIATIONS

ILA	Irish Language Act Acht na Gaeilge
ECRML	European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages An Chairt Eorpach do theangacha réigiúnacha agus mionlaigh
NISRA	NI Statistics and Research Agency Gníomhaireacht Thuaisceart Éireann um Staidreamh agus um Thaighde
NIHRC	NI Human Rights Commission Coimisiún Thuaisceart Éireann um Chearta an Duine
EQNI	Equality Commission NI Coimisiún Comhionannais Thuaisceart Éireann
COMEX	Committee of Experts, Council of Europe Coiste na Saineolaithe, Comhairle na hEorpa
CoE	Council of Europe Comhairle na hEorpa
CESCR	Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Coiste maidir le Cearta Eacnamaíocha, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights an Cúnant Idirnáisiúnta ar Chearta Eacnamaíocha, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha

FÁILTE

"Is le díograis agus le dúthracht a thugann pobal na Gaeilge faoi cheist na cosanta teanga ó thuaidh. Tá plé agus pleanáil déanta ar an ábhar seo le blianta anuas, ach tá dhá bhliain de dhian-dhíospóireacht curtha dinn agus éileamh ar son chearta teanga anois faoi spotsholas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta. Gach am a n-éiríonn linn mar phobal sa díospóireacht chéanna, tógtar ceisteanna agus conspóidí as an nua. Costas. Cearta. Comharthaíocht. Agus ar aghaidh.

Uaireanta, is ceisteanna agus fíricí gan bhunús iad, a thógtar díreach chun bac a chur ar an fheachtas agus ar an reachtaíocht, ach go fóill, ní mór a ndúshlán a thabhairt agus iad a shárú. Uaireanta eile, is buairimh nádúrtha iad. Arís, ní mór na buairimh sin a cheansú le fíricí agus le plé measúil ar an ábhar.

Tá feachtas stairiúil faoi lán seoil i measc phobal na Gaeilge ó baineadh maoiniú Líofa de na coláistí samhraidh. Tá feachtas An Dream Dearg agus #AchtAnois i mbarr réime agus glúin úr de dhíograiseoirí á gcumhachtú i rith an ama. Is áis í an FAQ seo chun cur leis an fheachtas sin agus chun pobal gníomhach na Gaeilge a chumasú agus a chur ar an eolas i dtaobh ceisteanna reachtaíochta agus chearta teanga.

Glacaimis leis an dúshlán. Tugaimis faoin díospóireacht. Bainimis amach cearta teanga do na glúnta Gael atá le teacht."

*An Dr Niall Comer
Uachtarán, Conradh na Gaeilge*

FÁILTE

"The Irish speaking community has travelled a long road in pursuit of rights, legal protections and official status for the language here. We have discussed and debated the question of bespoke legislation for the Irish language since it was promised in the 2006 St Andrew's Agreement. That debate has intensified over the last two years. Every time we get a step closer, more questions and obstacles are put in front of us. Cost. Rights. Signage. On and on.

At times, some of these questions and 'facts' can be groundless, and are raised in a cynical manner to delay and frustrate the campaign. Nonetheless, we must meet those questions head on and present the true facts. Other times, legitimate concerns around new legislation are raised. Again, we must answer and address those concerns both comprehensively and respectfully.

We are currently in the middle of an historic campaign for language rights, one that has been to the fore since the infamous removal of the Líofoa funding in 2016. The Dream Dearg #AchtAnois campaign continues to inspire, encourage and empower a new generation of language activists.

This FAQ seeks to meet head-on those obstacles and challenges and ultimately to assist the community in the campaign for language rights, respect and recognition."

*An Dr Niall Comer
Uachtarán (President), Conradh na Gaeilge*

CÉN FÁTH CEISTEANNA COITIANTA?

Mar chuid de Chomhaontú Chill Rímhinn 2006 “go dtabharfaidh Rialtas [na Breataine] isteach Acht Gaeilge ina léireofar taithí na Breataine Bige agus na hÉireann agus oibreoidh sé i gcomhpháirt leis an Fheidhmeannas...le forbairt na Gaeilge a fheabhsú agus a chosaint.”

I gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta 1998, thug Rialtas na Breataine na coimintí breise seo a leanas fosta, i measc go leor eile:

- beart diongbháilte a dhéanamh leis an teanga a chur chun cinn;
- úsáid na teanga a éascú agus a chur chun cinn ó bhéal agus i scríbhinn sa saol poiblí agus príobháideach araon nuair a bhíonn an ráchairt chuí ann;
- féachaint, nuair is féidir, le constaicí a chuirfeadh beaguchtach ar nó a chuirfeadh in éadan chothabháil nó forbairt na teanga a shárú;
- dualgas reachtúil a chur ar an Roinn Oideachais leis an Ghaelscolaíocht a chur chun cinn agus a éascú ar an dóigh chéanna a ndéantar i gcás an oideachais imeasctha;

21 bliain ar aghaidh, agus breis agus 13 bliain i ndiaidh choimintí ar son Acht Gaeilge i gCill Rímhinn, níl aon stádas oifigiúil ag an Ghaeilge anseo ó thuaidh. I bhfolús aon aitheantais sa dlí don Ghaeilge, bíonn pobal na teanga oscailte le haghaidh ionsaithe agus cinní leatromacha i rith an ama. In ainneoin sin ar fad, tá pobal láidir tógtha againn ón bhun aníos. Ach ní mór dúinn tógáil air sin arís eile.

Faoi mar atá a fhios againn ón dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta ar fad, ní pribhléid speisialta nó deonaíocht bhreise í reachtaíocht teanga, ach is croí-chuid de bhunchloch athbheochana teanga é.

Le breis agus 10 mbliana anuas tháinig muid fríd comhairliúcháin agus díospóireachtaí. Le dhá bhliain anuas ach go háirithe tá ceist na Gaeilge aitheanta mar mhór-ábhar plé ar fud na tíre. Ach go fóill beag ní mór dúinn na miotais amuigh ansin a bhréagnú. Ní mór dúinn dúshlán leanúnach a thabhairt don #BréagNuacht agus dualgas orainn an tsochaí ilteangacha Ghaelach ar mian linn a bhaint amach a chosaint i gcónaí.

Seo na ceisteanna is coitianta a chuirtear maidir leis an Acht Gaeilge.... Agus ár bhfreagraí orthu.

Léigh. Foghlaim. Roinn. Tabhair dúshlán. Cumasaigh.

#AchtAnois

WHY AN FAQ?

In 2006, as part of the St Andrews Agreement, the British Government promised to “introduce an Irish Language Act reflecting on the experience of Wales and Ireland and work with the incoming Executive to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language.”

In 1998, as part of the Good Friday Agreement, the British Government promised, among other commitments, to:

- “take resolute action to promote the language;
- facilitate and encourage the use of the language in speech and writing in public and private life where there is appropriate demand;
- seek to remove, where possible, restrictions which would discourage or work against the maintenance or development of the language;
- place a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education”...

21 years on from the Good Friday Agreement, and over 13 years since an Irish Language Act was promised at St Andrews, the Irish language is still not officially recognised in law here. The Irish language community is time and time again left alone to challenge discrimination or to go out and build the provision themselves, from the bottom up.

As international best-practice demonstrates, language legislation is not an ‘extreme’ demand, or an special privilege, instead it is seen across the world as a fundamental pillar of living language communities and a key component to successful ‘minoritised’ language revival efforts.

Over the last decade we have listened and debated. Over the last two years we have taken the issue of language rights to the core of the political discourse here. But we must challenge the myths. We must debunk the #fakenews and we must defend the diverse society we seek to promote.

Here are the Irish Language Act FAQs... and our answers.

Read. Learn. Share. Challenge. Empower.

#AchtAnois

Ceisteanna Coitianta

1. Cad é an rud é Acht Gaeilge agus cén fáth a bhfuil sé de dhíth? Níl aon rud ag cur baic ar aon duine Gaeilge a labhairt anois.

- Is píosa reachtaíochta é Acht na Gaeilge, creatlach shoiléir dhlíthiúil a chinntíonn nach mbíonn cosaint nó cur chun cinn na Gaeilge fágtha faoi chúram / faoi léamh aon aire nó polaiteora.
- Tá reachtaíocht mar seo ann cheana féin sa Bhreatain Bheag, i bPoblacht na hÉireann, in Albain, agus ar fud na cruinne, a thugann stádas oifigiúil do na teangacha sin.
- Cuirfidh Acht Gaeilge deireadh le hionsaithe leatromacha (m.s. Líofo).
- Baineann reachtaíocht ceist na teanga amach as an timpeallacht shuarach idir-pháirtí agus cuidíonn le normalú dearchtháí don teanga.
- Cruthóidh Acht Gaeilge soiléiriú i dtaobh ionchais an phobail mar a bhaineann le seirbhísí ón stát srl.
- Tabharfaidh sé fosta soiléiriú do na húdaráis stáit agus poiblí maidir leis na dualgais atá orthu i dtaobh na teanga.

2. Cad é atá i gceist leis an Acht Gaeilge?

- Ní mór don Acht Gaeilge ar a gealladh i gComhaontú Chill Rìmhinn agus bheith bunaithe go hiomlán ar an dea-chleachtas reachtaíochta atá ar fáil in áiteanna eile, ar na hoileáin seo agus ar fud na cruinne.
- Is féidir a rá go n-aithnítear ceithre phríomh-eilimint le haon píosa reachtaíochta teanga, Acht Gaeilge ina measc:
 1. Stádas oifigiúil don Ghaeilge agus an teanga aitheanta mar theanga oifigiúil
 2. Comharthaíocht dhá-theangach ar bhóithre agus in áiteanna poiblí roinnte
 3. Coimisinéir teanga le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm agus forbairt le himeacht ama
 4. Seirbhísí poiblí do phobal na Gaeilge ón stát agus fríd an stát
- Bheadh soláthar ann fosta chun úsáid na Gaeilge sa Tionól féin agus sna Cúirteanna a éascú.
- Gealladh Acht Gaeilge, “ina léireofar taithí na Breataine Bige agus na hÉireann”, do phobal na Gaeilge mar chuid de Chomhaontú Chill Rìmhinn in 2006. Ní mór an gealltanas seo a chomhlíonadh.
- Má tá socrú le déanamh, ba cheart go ndéanfaí an socrú sin bunaithe ar na rudaí is tairbhiúla don teanga, ní don socrú polaitiúil.
- **Mura bhfuil sé fiúntach, ní fiú é bheith ann.**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an Irish Language Act (ILA) and why do you need it? No-one is stopping you speaking Irish.

- An Irish Language Act is a piece of legislation, a clear legal framework which will ensure that the protection and promotion of Irish is not dependent on the will or interpretation of any given Minister or Party.
- Similar legislation already exists in Wales, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland and in many countries around the globe and provides official status for those languages.
- An Irish Language Act should prevent discriminatory, politically motivated attacks (e.g. Líofa)
- Legislation removes issue from confrontational party-politics and will help normalise attitudes in relation to the Irish language.
- An Irish Language Act will provide the Irish speaking community with clarity around expectations from state relating to services etc.
- It will also provide state and public authorities with clarity around their obligations in relation to the language.

2. What would an Irish Language Act look like?

- An Irish language Act should be based firstly on the promise made in the St Andrew's Agreement, on international best-practice and on other language acts across these islands and worldwide.
- Fundamental components of any Irish Language Act must include:
 1. Official status for the Irish language as an official language
 2. Irish language (bilingual) signage provision on main roads and shared spaces.
 3. A Language Commissioner to guide the process and to ensure the Act is implemented and enhanced over time
 4. Provision of Public Services for the Irish language community
- Provisions would also include using Irish in Court and in the Assembly
- The St Andrew's Agreement in 2006 promised an Irish Language Act based on the experiences in Wales and Ireland. This must be reflected in any Irish Language Act agreed.
- An Irish Language Act must be based upon linguistic best-practise, not political expediency.
- **If it's not worthwhile, it's not worth having.**

Ceisteanna Coitianta

3. Cad é an dóigh a mbeadh tionchar ag an Acht Gaeilge ar mo shaol?

- Do phobal na Gaeilge féin, déanfaidh Acht Gaeilge úsáid na teanga a normalú sa ghnáth-shaol ó lá go lá trí thuilleadh seirbhísí agus breis-fheiceálachta don teanga.
- Más cainteoir Gaeilge thú, ba chóir go bhfeicfeá an Ghaeilge in úsáid níos minice arís agus arís eile go poiblí; ar chomharthaíocht phoiblí, bóithre, in áiteanna roinnte poiblí ag an Rialtas ar fhoirmeacha, ar shuíomhanna idirlín srl.
- Munar mian leat, áfach, bheith ag plé leis an Ghaeilge ar bhealach ar bith, ní chuirfidh Acht Gaeilge isteach nó amach ar do shaol nó ní dhéanfar aon leatrom ort. Ní bheidh dualgas ort an teanga a fhoghlaim nó a úsáid. Beidh níos mó Gaeilge le feiceáil ach ní sháródh seo cearta aon duine.

4. Cé a labhraíonn Gaeilge? Cad chuige bhfuil gach rud stoptha de dheasca teanga nach n-úsáidtear fiú?

- Tá pobal láidir, éagsúil agus inleathnaithe Gaeilge anseo; ach níl an pobal sin le feiceáil sa dlí anseo.
- Faoi láthair tá breis agus 6,000 duine óg ag freastail ar bhreis agus 40 Gaelscoil; tá an uimhir seo ag fás i gcónaí agus táthar ag dúil go dtiocfaidh méadú faoi dhó air seo thar 7 mbliana.
- Dár le Daonáireamh 2011 tá eolas ar an Ghaeilge ag 184,898 duine (10.65%) agus is féidir le 104,943 duine (6.05%) an Ghaeilge a labhairt ag leibhéal éigin líofachta.
- Tá níos mó foghlaimoirí Gaeilge anois ann ná mar a bhí ag aon phointe le 100 bliain.
- I suirbhé NISRA 2017/18 (Roinn Pobal) léiríodh go bhfuil 15% den daonra ann a deir go bhfuil eolas ar an Ghaeilge acu AGUS deir 4 as gach 100 (4%) duine fásta go mbíonn an Ghaeilge á labhairt sa bhaile acu.
- Agus de bhrí gur teanga mhionlaithe í an Ghaeilge, is cúis bhreise í sin chun í a chosaint!

5. Cad é an t-éileamh don Acht Gaeilge?

- Bhí 15,000 duine i láthair ag Lá Dearg Bhéal Feirste in Aibreán 2017.
- Tacaíonn 5 pháirtí sa Tionól leis an Acht, Alliance, an Páirtí Glas, Pobal Roimh Bhrabús, SDLP, Sinn Féin; is ionann seo ag tromlach 50/90 CTR.
- Bhí 3 chomhairliúchán poiblí ar an cheist seo ó bhí 2007 ann agus in achán cheann acu léiríodh tromlach ar son, le 94.7% de 13,000+ freagróir i 2015 ar tacú le hAcht Gaeilge agus le stádas oifigiúil.
- Tacaíonn Comhairle na hEorpa, na Náisiúin Aontaithe, ár gCoimisiún Cearta Daonna agus Rialtas na hÉireann le hAcht Gaeilge.

Frequently Asked Questions

3. How would an Irish Language Act impact my life?

- For the Irish language community, this should see increased normalisation of the language in day to day life here, through service provision and visibility of the language.
- If you are an Irish language speaker, you should see the Irish language being used more and more in public; on public signage, road signs and shared spaces by the Government in everyday forms and websites.
- However, if you do not wish to engage with the language, the Irish Language Act will not affect or discriminate against you. You will not have to use the language, nor will you be compelled to learn it. You may see more Irish than previously but this doesn't mean that any of your rights have been affected.

4. Who even speaks Irish? Why are we holding things up for a language nobody even uses?

- There is a diverse, expanding Irish language community here; that community is virtually invisible in law.
- There are currently over 6,000 young people attending over 40 Irish-medium schools; this is growing each year and is expected to double over the course of the next 7 years
- The 2011 census tells us 184,898 people (10.65%) have some knowledge of Irish, 104,943 people (6.05%) can speak the language to varying degrees.
- More adults are learning Irish now than any point in the last 100 years.
- In 2017/18, 15% of the adult population had some knowledge of Irish (Dep. Communities, Findings from the Continuous Household Survey 2017/18, NISRA) and four out of every hundred adults here (4%) use Irish at home.
- It's worth remembering, the fact that the language is minoritised and endangered is a further reason to take measures to protect not an excuse to ignore it!

5. What is the demand for an Irish Language Act?

- 15,000 people joined the Dream Dearg march in April 2017.
- An Irish Language Act is support by 5 parties in the Assembly; Alliance, Green Party, People Before Profit, SDLP, Sinn Féin; a majority of 50/90 MLAs.
- There has been 3 public consultations on an ILA since 2007; all returning a majority in favour, with 94.7% of 13,000 responses in 2015 supporting the call for an Act.
- The Council of Europe, Committee of Experts, the United Nations, the NIHRC and the Irish Government all call for an Irish Language Act.

”Is í sin croí na faidhbe”

“Tá an reachtaíocht a bheith i bhfeidhm ar na hoibleagáidí is tábhachtaí atá ag eascairt as

an

gcairt (Cairt na hEorpa), ó thaobh an dlí de amháin,

“Ó thaobh na praiticiúlachta amháin, áfach, tá sé seo

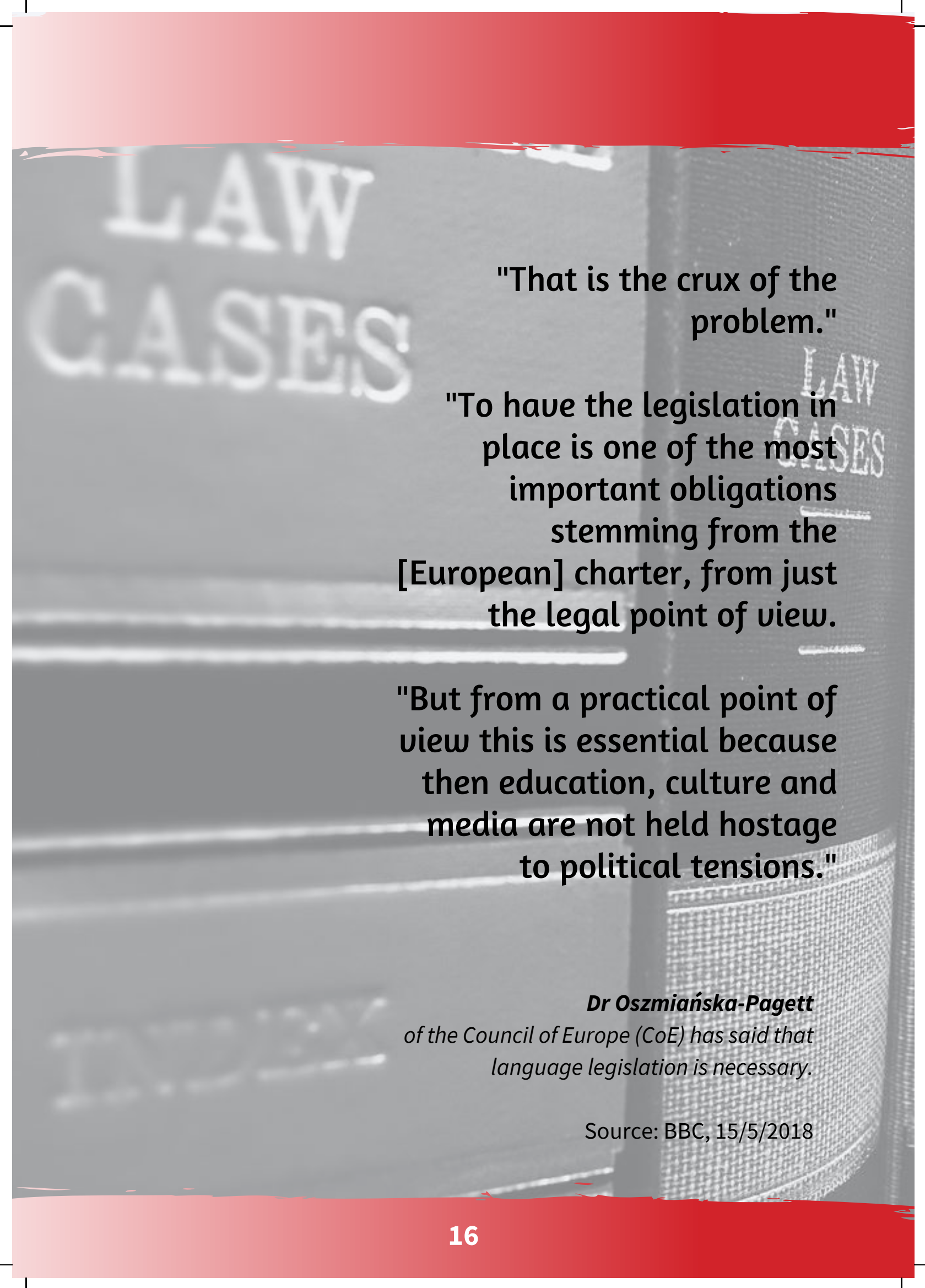
riachtanach óir ní féidir cúrsaí oideachais,

cultúir agus na meáin

chumarsáide a bheith i ngreim ag teannas polaitiúil”

Dúirt Dr Oszmiańska-Pagett, Comhairle na hEorpa (CoE), go bhfuil reachtaíocht teanga riachtanach.

Foinse: BBC, 15/5/2018



"That is the crux of the problem."

"To have the legislation in place is one of the most important obligations stemming from the [European] charter, from just the legal point of view.

"But from a practical point of view this is essential because then education, culture and media are not held hostage to political tensions."

Dr Oszmiańska-Pagett
of the Council of Europe (CoE) has said that language legislation is necessary.

Source: BBC, 15/5/2018

Ceisteanna Coitianta

6. Cad é an costas a bheas ar Acht Gaeilge? (An féidir costas a chur ar chearta?)

- Léiríonn moltaí a bhfuil costais curtha leo ag Conradh na Gaeilge go gcosnódh Acht Gaeilge timpeall £2mhilliún sa bhliain, le costas bunaithe aon-uaire de £9m.
- Bheadh costas iomlán saolré feidhmeannais (5 bliana) de £19m.
- Le forbairt seirbhísí dátheangacha, ísleoidh na costais seo de réir a chéile, má bhíonn an toil phoilitiúil agus cur i bhfeidhm éifeachtach ann
- D'aontaigh an DUP fosta go raibh na figiúir 'réasúnta'.
- Ní raibh sna figiúir de £100m ach #BréagNuacht.
- Is fiú cuimhneamh fosta gur cáiníocóirí iad pobal na Gaeilge fosta agus iad ag íoc as imeallú s'acu féin ón stát le blianta fada.

7. Cad chuige nach mbunaítear an Tionól / an Feidhmeannas agus nach réitítear an cheist seo ansin, go háirithe má tá tromlach ann sa Tionól atá ag tacú le hAcht Gaeilge?

- Ó gealladh Acht Gaeilge in 2006 tháinig éileamh oifigiúil an Achta os comhair an Tionóil faoi thrí.
- Gach uair cuireadh an cheist amach chuig an mhór-phobal mar ábhar comhairliúcháin agus d'fhreagair tromlach na bhfreagróirí go dearfach ar son Achta. In 2015 dúirt 94/7% de 13,000+ freagróirí gur thacaigh siad le hAcht Gaeilge.
- Ar an drochuair, nuair a tháinig an cheist seo chuig an vóta / céim chinniúnach sa phróiseas oifigiúil, cuireadh bac uirthi fríd 'an acmhainn inní' nó vótáladh ina héadan ag leibhéal an Fheidhmeannais.
- Níl aon rud atá déanta, ó bhí 2006 ann, nó go háirithe le 2 bhliain anuas agus an cheist seo faoi chaibidil sna comhchainteanna, a thugann le fios go réiteodh Tionól nua-bhunaithe an fhadhb. A mhalairt atá fíor.
- Is í an t-aon bhealach chun reachtaíocht cheart-bhunaithe, láidir agus neamhspleách a chinntiú ná chun sin a aontú agus a shocrú sula gcuirfear aon Tionól nua ar bun arís.
- Tá muid anois tréimhse fhada gan Cnoc an Anfa, agus cainteanna eadrannacha gan réiteach, cén seans a bheadh ann réiteach na faidhbe a bhaint amach dá mbeadh Stormont faoi lánseol, nuair a áirítear na seachráin uilig a thagann leis?
- Munar féidir seo a dhéanamh anois, cén fáth?

Frequently Asked Questions

6. How much will an Irish Language Act cost? (Can you put a price on rights?)

- Costed proposals from Conradh na Gaeilge show an Irish Language Act would cost around £2 million per year, with a one-off setup cost of £9 million.
- This overall cost would be £19m over a 5 year assembly term.
- As the state embed bilingual services, these costs should decrease with time, given political will and adherence.
- The DUP also agreed these costings were 'reasonable'.
- Those claims that cost would be £100m per year are #fakenews.
- It's worth remembering however, Irish speakers are also tax payers and have been paying for our exclusion for years.

7. Why can we not just re-establish the Assembly / Executive and get it sorted out there, especially if there is a majority in favour of an Irish language Act?

- Since an Irish Language Act was promised in the 2006 St Andrews Agreement, the Irish Language Act has been brought forward on three separate occasions to the Assembly.
- On each occasion there has been a public consultation; all returning a majority in favour, with 94.7% of 13,000 responses in 2015 supporting the call for an Irish Language Act.
- Unfortunately, at each decisive point in the legislative process, an Irish language Act has either been blocked via the 'petition of concern' or voted down at Executive level.
- Nothing since 2006, or over the past 2 years, tells us that this question would ever be resolved by an Assembly. In fact, quite the opposite is true.
- The only way to ensure strong and effective legislation for the Irish language is for that to be pre-agreed before any new Assembly is reinstated.
- We have had several years of no stormont and intermittent talks without resolution on this issue, what chance would there be for resolution if Stormont was up and running given all the distractions that comes with that?
- If not now, why not?

Ceisteanna Coitianta

8. An gcuirfear i bhfeidhm cuótaí sa stát seirbhís? (cad chuige a luaitear 10% i plé-chaipéis Chonradh na Gaeilge?)

- Níl Conradh na Gaeilge ar lorg cuóta sa Stát Seirbhís.
- Tá a fhios againn cheana féin go bhfuil go leor daoine a oibríonn sa stát seirbhís a bhfuil Gaeilge acu. Is é an chéad mholadh atá ann ná go ndéanfar iarracht na seirbhísí sin a phoibliú agus a threorú chuig na háiteanna a mbeadh éileamh ann sa stát-choras.
- Moltar iniúchadh a dhéanamh maidir le líon na ndaoine a bhfuil Gaeilge acu chun cuidiú leis seo.
- Ní chaillfeadh duine ar bith a bpost de bhrí nach bhfuil siad in ann Gaeilge a labhairt. Is scil í an Ghaeilge, agus beidh postanna áirithe a dteastaíonn Gaeilgeoirí uathu, nuair a aimsítear bearnaí.
- Tá an aidhm uileghabhálach de 10% uailmhianach, agus tá sí ag teacht le cleachtas reatha sa Státseirbhís. De réir daonáireamh 2011 tá 10.65% den daonra ar féidir leo Gaeilge a labhairt. Mar sin ag tógáil an fhigiúir de 10%, níl an t-éileamh seo ach ag iarraidh go mbeidh an stát seirbhís ionadaíoch ar an tsochaí de réir an daonáirimh reatha.

9. An mbeidh Gaeilge de dhíth anois le post a fháil sa Státseirbhís?

- Ní bheidh an Ghaeilge ina chritéir riachtanach dóibh siúd ar lorg poist sa Státseirbhís – seachas má tá gá díreach le Gaeilge don phost, m.sh. Oifigeach Gaeilge; Oifigeach Oideachais don Ghaelscolaíocht srl.
- Ba chóir soláthar a chruthú má tá bearnaí ann, go háirithe le seirbhísí a phléann go mór leis an phobal (seirbhísí oideachais mar shampla).
- Moltar go ndéantar iniúchadh inmheánach den státseirbhís mar chéad chéim le measúnú a dhéanamh ar líon na bhfostaithe le Gaeilge líofa, agus plean a chur le chéile uaidh sin.

Frequently Asked Questions

8. Will there be quotas introduced into the Civil Service? (why does @CnaG document mention 10%?)

- Conradh na Gaeilge are not calling for or seeking an introduction of quotas.
- We already know that there are many people within the civil service who can speak Irish. The first recommendation is to identify those who may be able to provide their service through Irish and to publicise these services to the public.
- This could be done through a skills-audit within the civil service.
- Nobody would lose their job because they cannot speak Irish. Irish is a skill and some jobs will require the appointment of Irish speakers, where gaps are identified.
- The overarching aim of 10% is aspirational and is in keeping with current practice in the NICS. According to the 2011 Census there is 10.65% of the population that is able to speak Irish. The aspiration of 10% would reflect the current census figures and would make the civil service more representative of society.

9. Will people now need Irish to get a job in the Civil service?

- Irish will not become an essential criteria for those looking jobs with the civil service – unless the job specifically requires ability in Irish i.e an Irish Language Officer, Educational Specialist (Irish-medium Education)
- Where there are gaps in service delivery, especially in services with most contact with Irish speaking community (education services, for example), provision should be created.
- It is recommended however, that the first step should be to carry out an internal audit of the civil service to assess how many Irish speakers are currently employed and then to fill gaps in provision with existing staff.

Ceisteanna Coitianta

10. Nuair a deirtear gur mian le pobal na Gaeilge seirbhísí bheith ar fáil, cad iad na seirbhísí atá i gceist?

- Úsáideann cainteoirí Gaeilge na seirbhísí céanna a úsáideann Béarlóirí, mar sin ba chóir go mbeadh lucht na Gaeilge ábalta teacht ar na seirbhísí sin as Gaeilge, de réir éilimh ón phobal.
- Moltar, áfach, go ndéanfadh an Coimisinéir Teanga na seirbhísí sin a rangú nó a chur in ord tosaíochta de réir éilimh ó phobal na Gaeilge, chun aon chur amú a sheachtaint agus chun luach ceart airgid a chinntiú;
- Ní mór go mbíonn na seirbhísí Gaeilge ar chomh-chaighdeán leis na seirbhísí Béarla, nó léiríonn an taighde ar fad go roghnóidh an saoránach dátheangach an tseirbhís Bhéarla más gaiste agus más fusa í mar rogha. Tá tionchar dochrach aige seo ar an Ghaeilge. Féach modh an ‘Múnla Gníomhach’ atá i bhfeidhm fud fad na hEorpa.
- San iomlán, is féidir le soláthróirí seirbhísí an tseirbhís chéanna a chur ar fáil i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge gan chur isteach ar chearta nó ar theidlíocht an chinn eile.
- Ní mór cuimhniú go bhfuil an fhéidearthacht acu siúd atá ag cur na háiseanna trí Ghaeilge ar fáil an tseirbhís chéanna a chur ar fáil i mBéarla. Is buntáiste breise é an dátheangachas.

11. Ar mhian libh dul chuig an otharlann trí Ghaeilge, nó teacht bheith agaibh ar dochtúr le Gaeilge níos gaiste?

- Ní mar seo a bheadh rudaí ach an oiread. Ní tharlóidh sé go dtabharfaí tosaíocht do Ghaeilgeoir dá mbeadh dochtúir le Gaeilge ar fáil.
- Bheadh Béarla ag an Dochtúir fosta, agus pléifeadh an dochtúir sin le daoine ar an ghnáth-bhealach, de réir na ngnáth-chritéar in ord práinne a bhíonn acu faoi láthair.
- Ba chóir go mbeadh muid ag amharc ar lucht soláthar seirbhísí ilteangacha mar tháscaire iontach dearfach i dtaobh na sochaí ilchultúrtha go háirithe iad siúd atá ábalta seirbhís a chur ar fáil sa teanga dhúchais nuair a bhíonn éileamh ann di.

Frequently Asked Questions

10. When you say you want services in Irish, what services do you mean?

- Irish speakers use the same services that English speakers use. The Irish speaking community should be able to access those services in Irish as per demand from the community.
- It is recommended, however, that the Language Commissioner would rank those services in order of priority and demand from the Irish language community, to ensure best value for money.
- It is important that the Irish language service is on par with the English language service, otherwise the research shows that the citizen will simply opt to use the English language version to save themselves time and hassle. This has an obvious negative impact on the Irish language. See the 'Active Model' method employed across Europe.
- Basically, a bilingual service provider can offer the same service to both English and Irish speakers without affecting the rights or entitlements of either.
- Worth remembering that those delivering services through Irish can also deliver same service in English. Bilingualism is a benefit!

11. Do you expect to be able to go into the hospital and see your doctor as Gaeilge or that an Irish speaking doctor will prioritise an Irish speaker before an English speaker?

- It would not be the case that, if a doctor was able to offer the service in Irish, that the Irish speaking patient would be given priority.
- The doctor would also speak English, and would therefore deal with all enquiries in the normal way, based on their own criteria of urgency etc.
- It should be seen as an indicator of a diverse multicultural society that service providers can supply their service in local languages when there is demand for them.

Creideann an Dr Maguire gur chóir Acht Gaeilge a thabhairt isteach ó thuaidh “láithreach bonn”.

“Gné eile den obair atá ar bun agam i Muineachán....go bhfuil an deis agam mo chuid scileanna Gaeilge a úsáid. Sílim go bhfuil sé thar am agam dul agus a bheith ag obair in áit ar féidir liom a bheith dátheangach.”

“Is iontach an rud é a bheith ábalta í a sholáthar. Mura bhfuil duine ag iarraidh í a úsáid sa chlinic, déanaimid as Béarla é.”

Éiríonn dochtúir mór le rá as an tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte ‘nimhiúil’ le dhul ag obair i bPoblacht na hÉireann.

Foinse: The Irish News, 12/1/19



Dr Maguire believes an Irish Language Act should be introduced in the north "with immediate effect".

"By working in Monaghan another thing for me... is that I had the absolute ability to use my Irish language skills. I think it's time to go and work somewhere where I can be bilingual."

"It's absolutely lovely to be able to offer it. If someone doesn't want it in the clinic, we do it in English."

*Leading doctor quits 'toxic' NHS to work in Republic
(Source: The Irish News, 12/1/19)*

Ceisteanna Coitianta

12. Cad chuige nach féidir Gaeilge a úsáid sna Cúirteanna?

- Faoi láthair tá cosc ar úsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna anseo. Déantar freastail ar theangacha eile, áfach.
- Tagann seo ó Acht Dlí 1737 a chuireann bac ar úsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna. Is ceann de na Péindlíthe deireanacha atá go fóill i bhfeidhm é an tAcht seo, agus rinneadh aisghairm ar Achtanna cosúil leis seo i Sasana, in Albain agus sa Breatain Bheag in 1863. Is féidir an Bhreatnais a úsáid i gcóras dlí na Breataine Bige, rud nach gcuireann moill ar na cúirteanna ansin, rud a mhaítear go minic maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna anseo.
- Ba chóir go mbeadh rogha ag saoránaigh a bhfuil Gaeilge acu an teanga dhúchais a úsáid ar nós na hAlban agus na Breataine Bige.

13. Cad chuige a bhfuil an rialtas, cúrsaí oideachais, sláinte srl á gcur ar fuascailt de dheasca Acht na Gaeilge?

- Gealladh Acht Gaeilge mar chuid de Chomhaontú Chill Rìmhinn in 2006. Is Conradh dlíthiúil idirnáisiúnta é sin, atá sínithe ag Rialtas na Breataine agus Rialtas na hÉireann agus aontaithe ag na páirtithe.
- Tá reachtaíocht ag teangacha mionlaithe dúchasacha ar fud na hEorpa, sa Bhreatain Bheag agus in Albain, is tíortha ilteangacha seo agus tá córas sláinte, oideachais srl acu. Ní rogha é seo, teanga vs sláinte.
- Aithnítear cearta teanga mar chearta daonna ó bhí na 1990í ann agus roinnt conarthaí idirnáisiúnta daingnithe ag Rialtas na Breataine ar ár son, ina bhfuil dualgais shoiléire ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Is é cur i bhfeidhm na gconarthaí seo, áfach, atá iontach lag ar fad.
- Dar linn, is é séanadh na gceart seo atá ag cur baic ar athbhunú an Rialtais, ní éileamh na gceart sin.


Frequently Asked Questions

12. Why can't people use Irish in the Courts?

- Currently, the use of Irish in our Courts is prohibited. Other languages are facilitated by our courts.
- This comes from the 1737 Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) which bans Irish in courts.
- This is one of the last Penal Laws still in use and similar Acts in England, Scotland and Wales were repealed in 1863. You can use Welsh in the legal system in Wales although this hasn't led to 'courts being clogged' as some have alleged regarding the use of Irish here.
- Irish speaking citizens should be afforded the same choice as those in Scotland and Wales to use the indigenous language.

13. Why is the government, education, health, all being held to ransom over an Irish Language Act?

- An Irish Language Act was promised in 2006 St Andrew's Agreement. This is a legally binding, international accord and both the British and Irish governments are co-guarantors.
- Wales, Scotland, Ireland and numerous bilingual and multi-lingual countries around the world all have indigenous language laws AND have education and health. It is not one or the other.
- Language rights have been codified as Human Rights since the 1990s and the British Government has ratified a number of international treaties, on our behalf, with clear obligations relating to the Irish language. Compliance, however, is weak.
- In our view, it is the denial of these rights that is holding us to ransom, and not the assertion of those rights.



“Bheadh bonn le stádas na Gaeilge a d’fhéadfaí a chur i bhfeidhm de réir dlí, ach Acht a bheith ann”, arsa sé “agus dá dtiocfadh aighneas chun cinn maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an achta, d’fhéadfadh Gaeilgeoirí tuairim na hArd-Chúirte a iarraidh ar an cheist sin”.

“Thabharfadh sé le fios fosta oibleagáidí na Ríochta Aontaithe de réir na Cairte Eorpaí agus d’fhanfadh acht de chuid an Tionóil i bhfeidhm beag beann ar an chineál príomhaire a bheadh ann”.

Léiríonn **Ciaran White**, léachtóir sinsearach le dlí in Ollscoil Uladh, gur bonn seasmhach a bheadh i reachtaíocht chun deireadh a chur le polaitiú na teanga.

Foinse: The Irish News, 18/9/2017

"An act would give a legally enforceable basis to the status of Irish", he notes "which would mean that in the event of a dispute about the implementation of the act, Irish language users could seek the opinion of the High Court on that issue".

"Likewise it would also give concrete expression to the UK's obligations under the European Charter while an act of the assembly would continue to remain in effect notwithstanding changes in the identity of the occupant of a ministerial chair".

Ciaran White, senior lecturer in law at Ulster University, underscores that legislation would provide a secure footing from which to remove politicisation.

Source: The Irish News, 18/9/2017

Ceisteanna Coitianta

14. Cén fáth ar mhaith libh Acht Gaeilge ‘neamhspleách’?

- Aontáíodh go mbeadh reachtaíocht neamhspleách ann don Ghaeilge in 2006 “bunaithe ar an taithí sa Bhreatain Bheag agus in Éirinn”.
- Má chuirtear breis agus teanga amháin in aon phíosa reachtaíochta is féidir damáiste a dhéanamh don 2 theanga, de réir Chomhairle na hEorpa agus an Coimisiún um Chearta Daonna.
- Tá gach teanga ag pointí éagsúla forbartha agus insíonn gach comhairle deachleachtais dúinn gan iad a chaitheamh le chéile in aon rud amháin ach gur chóir dúinn plé le gach teanga de réir éilimh agus riachtanais agus píosaí reachtaíochta éagsúla saor-scartha a chruthú .
- Chuathas i mbun comhairliúcháin arís agus arís eile le Gaeilgeoirí maidir le hAcht na Gaeilge, agus tá tuairim mhaith acu ar an chuma a ba cheart a bheith air. Má tá daoine macánta faoi chearta phobal na teanga mhionlaithe a chur ar fáil, ba cheart dul i gcomhairle leo.

15. Ba mhaith leat comharthaí Gaeilge ar gach sráid? Fiú sna sráideanna nár mhaith le daoine é?

- Is iad na Comhairlí Áitiúla a cheapann rialacha na comharthaíochta dátheangaí, ach bíonn na rialacha sin difriúil in achan chomhairle.
- Rinne roinnt de na comhairlí seo iarracht cosc iomlán a chur ar pholasaithe dátheangacha , agus tá comhairlí ann a éascaíonn rogha de réir sráide.
- Ba chóir polasaithe a chur ar fáil a éascaíonn an rogha sin gach áit, nuair a bhíonn éileamh soiléir, daonlathach ann sa tsráid atá i gceist.
- Ba chóir go mbeadh seo bunaithe ar chritéir leanúnacha de 50%+1 de na daoine a fhreagraíonn suirbhé áitiúil don tsráid ar bhfuil siad.
- Ba cheart go nglacann comhairlí bearta réamhghníomhacha chun logainmneacha dúchasacha a chuimsiú i bhforbairtí nua, más féidir.

Frequently Asked Questions

14. Why does it have to be a standalone act?

- Standalone legislation for Irish was already agreed upon in 2006; “based on the experience of Wales and Ireland.”
- Having more than 1 language in a single piece of legislation can do both languages a huge disservice according to Council of Europe and the Human Rights Commission
- All languages are at different stages of development and all international best-practice tells us NOT to lump different languages into the same legislation; but to create separate, distinct acts, based on demand, needs and requirements.
- Irish speaking community have been extensively consulted on an Irish Language Act and have a good idea of what that should look like. If people are sincere about affording other minority language communities rights, they should consult with them.

15. So you want Irish language on every street sign? Even in streets where the people wouldn't want it?

- Local council policy currently dictate the rules on erecting bilingual street signs, but each council is different, some have attempted to bring forward policies banning Irish on all signs, and some promote the language through bilingual signage.
- Bilingual (Irish and English) Street signs should be facilitated where there is demonstrable demand from local residents.
- This should have a uniform criteria of 50% +1 of respondents to a council survey where people want signs.
- Councils should also take pro-active measures to include indigenous place-names in new developments, if this is applicable.

Ceisteanna Coitianta

16. Cad chuige a ba mhaith leat Gaeilge ar ár mbóithre agus i lár ár mbailte?

- De réir taighde idirnáisiúnta, spreagann ardú i bhfeiceálacht an mhionteanga normalú den mhionteanga agus mar sin de, níos mó measa, go háirithe i spásanna comhroinnte.
- Titeann comharthaí na bpríomhbhóithre agus ‘treoirchomharthaí’ faoi ríméid an rialtais, faoin Roinn Bonneagair.
- Ba chóir dár spásanna comhroinnte léiriú a dhéanamh ar na bunlogainmneacha.
- Tagann 95% dár logainmneacha ón Ghaeilge. Tugann comharthaíocht deis simplí neodrach dúinn plé leis an Ghaeilge.

17. Nach n-aontófa leis an argóint go gcrúthaíonn nó go gcothaíonn an chomharthaíocht dhátheangach “teach fuar” dóibh siúd nár mhian leo an Ghaeilge a fheiceáil, go háirithe in áiteanna oibre?

- Molann na saineolaithe ar fad an chomharthaíocht dhátheangach mar dhlúth-chuid de chur chun cinn teangacha mionlaithe de réir an dea-chleachtais idirnáisiúnta.
- Léiríonn an taighde go gcuireann feiceálacht na teanga go mór le normalú na teanga i measc an phobail, agus, chuige sin, go mór le comh-thuisctint agus meas i dtreo na teanga.
- Tá ráite ag an Coimisiún um Chearta Daonna anseo “...*gan chúis an teannais a réiteach fríd iolrachas a bhaint ar shúil*” agus, i dtaobh gníomhaíochtaí speisialta chun úsáid na mionteanga a chur chun cinn, “*nach ionann sin agus leatrom ar úsáideoirí na mór-theangacha*” (Béarla).
- Tá ráite ag an Choimisiún Comhionannais (CCTÉ) “*nach sárú ar chosaintí comhionannais*” iad comharthaí dátheangacha san áit oibre.
- Samhlaigh an argóint a chur chun tosaigh go gcrúthaíonn comharthaíocht aonteangach Bhéarla “tithe fuara” do Ghaeilgeoirí.
- Níl sé de chuspóir againn Béarla a bhaint agus an Ghaeilge a chur ina áit, ba mhaith linn comharthaíocht dhátheangach.

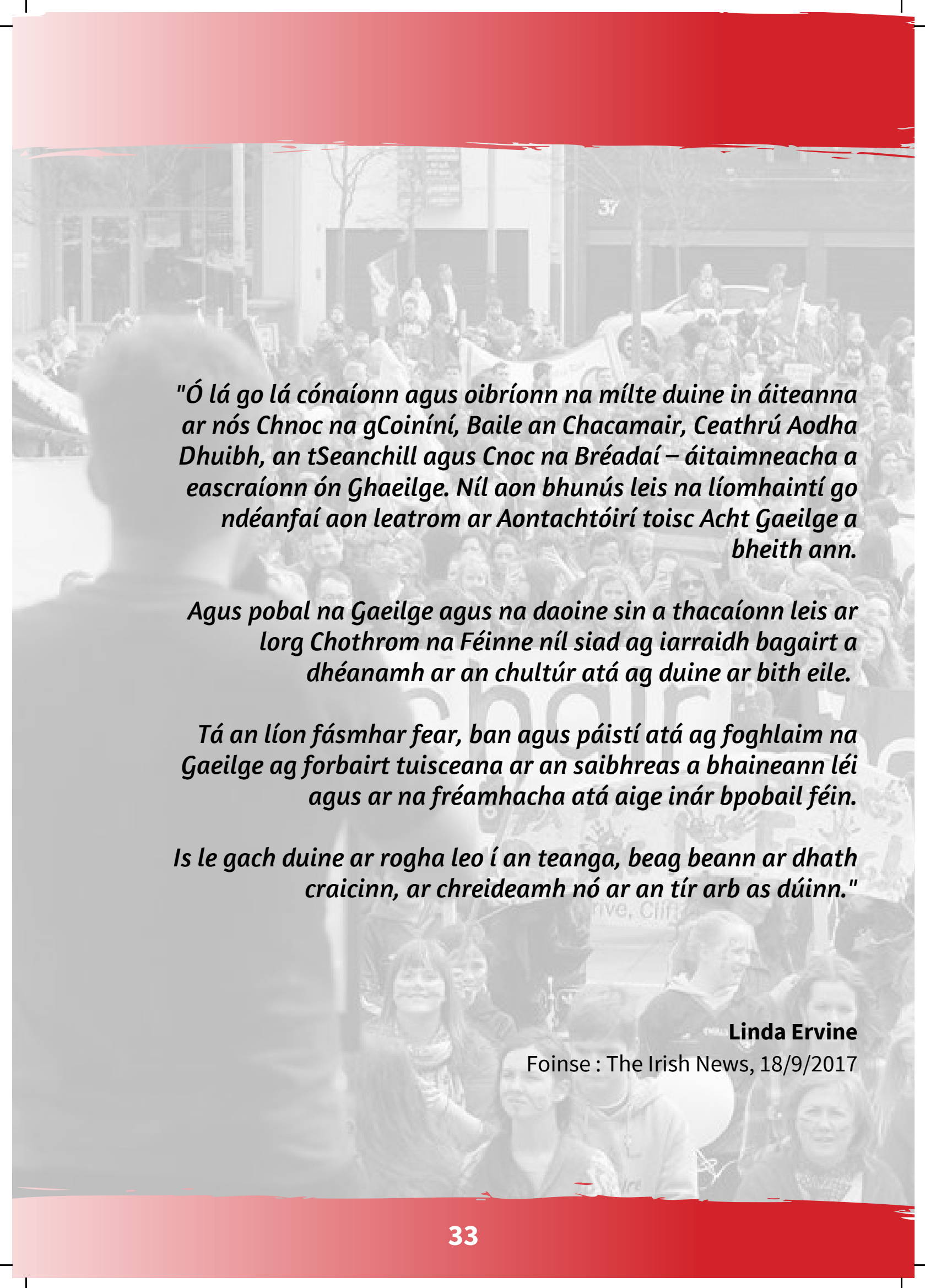
Frequently Asked Questions

16. Why do you want Irish on our roads and town centres?

- International research tells us that visibility leads to increased normalisation of indigenous languages and therefore to increased tolerance, especially in shared spaces.
- Main road signs and ‘directional signage’ fall under the remit of the government, namely Dep. of Infrastructure (DFI).
- Our shared spaces should reflect the original Gaelic names.
- If we are sincere about creating a new, shared, equal society, our shared spaces should reflect that, and the Irish language must be included in that vision.
- 95% of our placenames originally come from Irish. Signage provides a simple, neutral opportunity to allow us all to engage with Irish.

17. Wouldn't you agree that Irish language signage, especially in “neutral places”, like the workplace, creates “cold-houses” for Unionists?

- Public signage for indigenous, minoritised languages is recommended by experts as part of international best-practice.
- Research shows increased public visibility leads to increased normalisation and in turn increased tolerance towards the language.
- Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) have said “...*not to remove the cause of tension by eliminating pluralism*” and also that special measures to increase use of local minority language “*is not considered to be an act of discrimination against the users of more widely used languages*” (English).
- The Equality Commission (EQNI) has said bilingual signs in the workplace “*is not in contravention to equality protections*”.
- Imagine using the argument that English only signage makes that space a “cold house” for Irish language speakers.
- We are not talking about removing English and replacing it with Irish but ‘bilingual signage’.



"Ó lá go lá cónaíonn agus oibríonn na mílte duine in áiteanna ar nós Chnoc na gCoiníní, Baile an Chacamair, Ceathrú Aodha Dhuibh, an tSeanchill agus Cnoc na Bréadaí – áitaimneacha a eascraíonn ón Ghaeilge. Níl aon bhunús leis na líomhaintí go ndéanfaí aon leatrom ar Aontachtóirí toisc Acht Gaeilge a bheith ann.

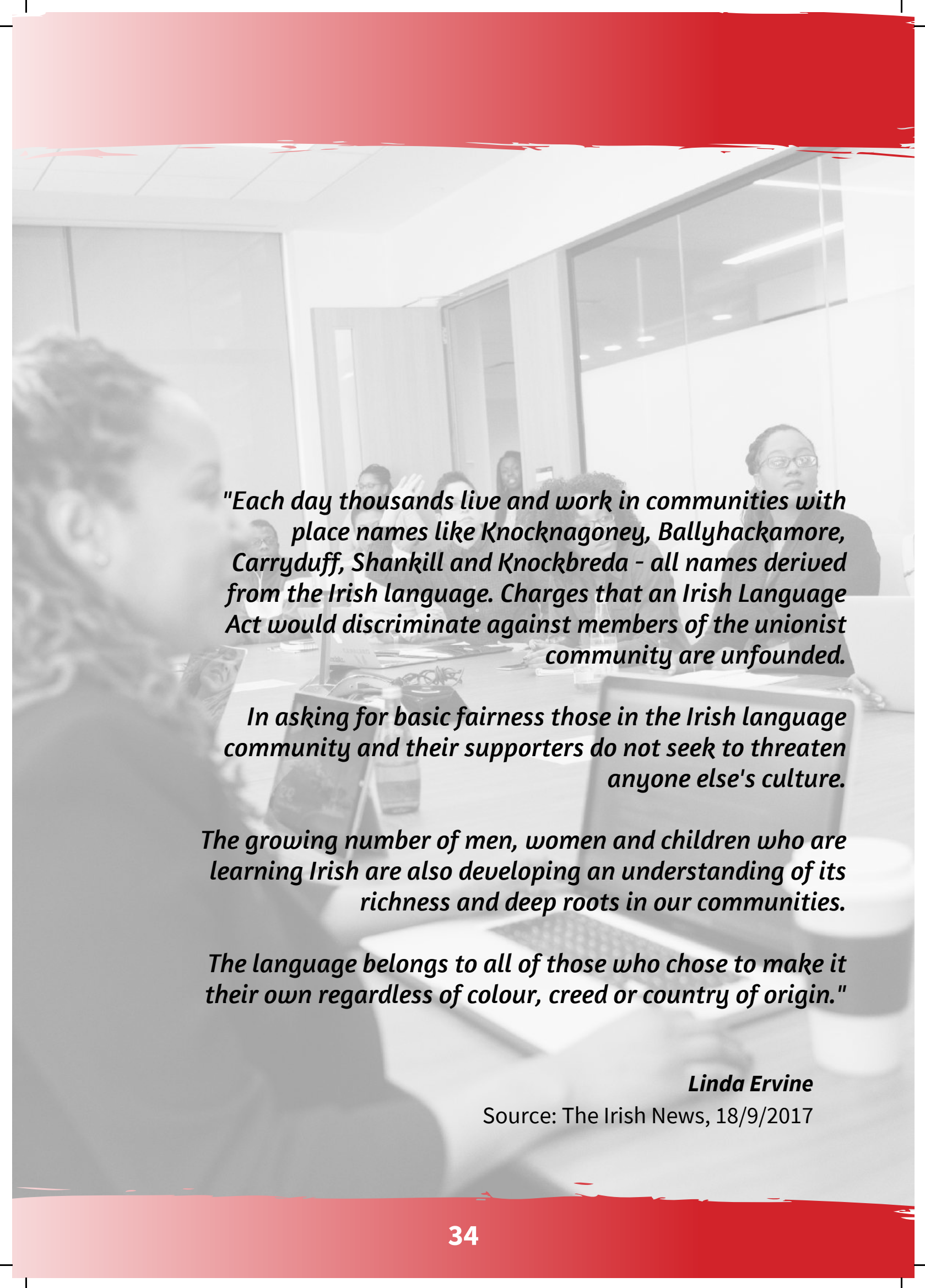
Agus pobal na Gaeilge agus na daoine sin a thacaíonn leis ar lorg Chothrom na Féinne níl siad ag iarraidh bagairt a dhéanamh ar an chultúr atá ag duine ar bith eile.

Tá an líon fásamhar fear, ban agus páistí atá ag foghlaim na Gaeilge ag forbairt tuisceana ar an saibhreas a bhaineann léi agus ar na fréamhacha atá aige inár bpobail féin.

Is le gach duine ar rogha leo í an teanga, beag beann ar dhath craicinn, ar chreideamh nó ar an tír arb as dúinn."

Linda Ervine

Foinse : The Irish News, 18/9/2017



"Each day thousands live and work in communities with place names like Knocknagoney, Ballyhackamore, Carryduff, Shankill and Knockbreda - all names derived from the Irish language. Charges that an Irish Language Act would discriminate against members of the unionist community are unfounded.

In asking for basic fairness those in the Irish language community and their supporters do not seek to threaten anyone else's culture.

The growing number of men, women and children who are learning Irish are also developing an understanding of its richness and deep roots in our communities.

The language belongs to all of those who chose to make it their own regardless of colour, creed or country of origin."

Linda Ervine

Source: The Irish News, 18/9/2017

Ceisteanna Coitianta

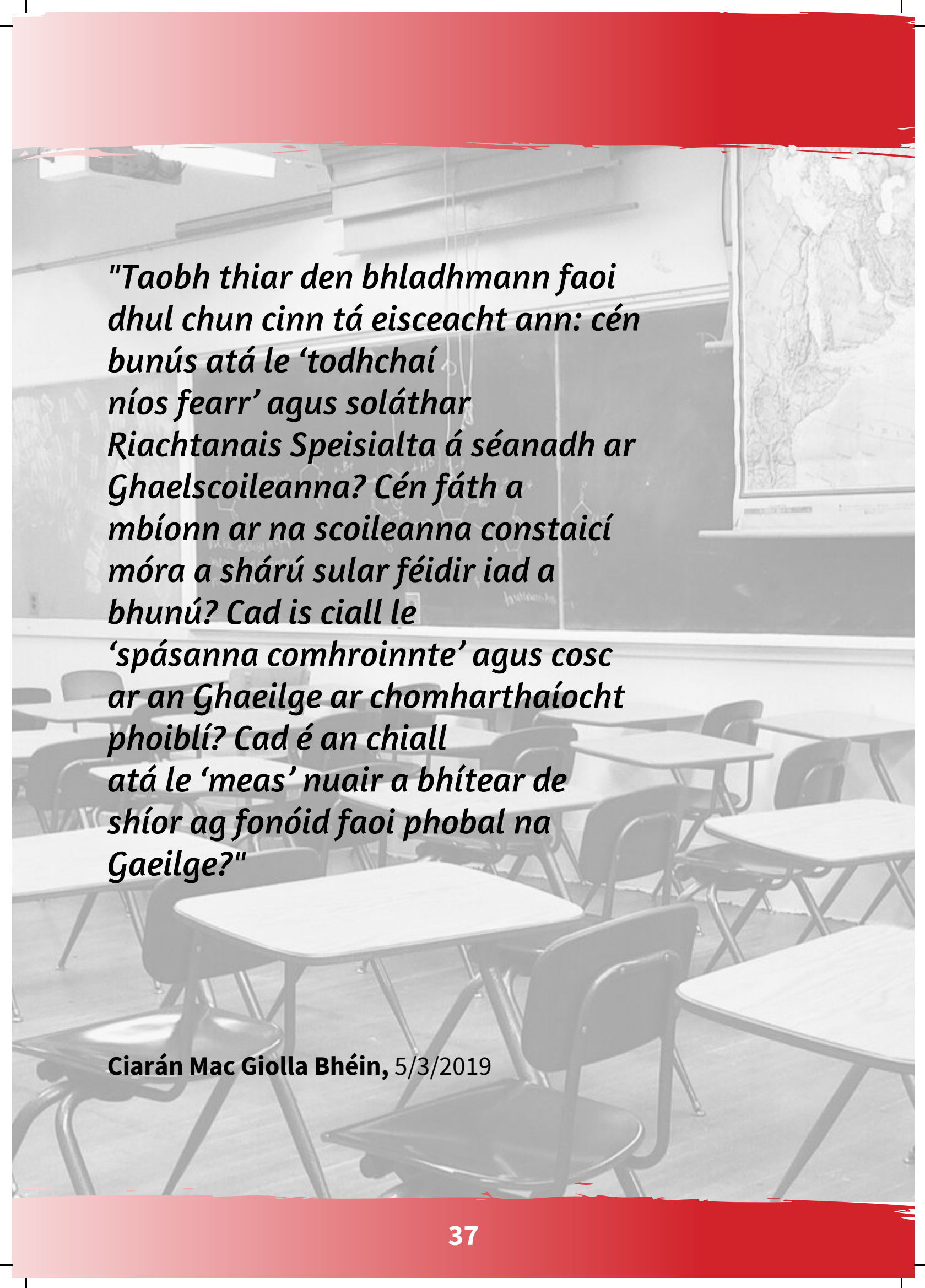
18. Caitheadh £190 milliún ar an Ghaeilge le 7 mbliana anuas cheana féin, nach cur amú airgid é seo ar fad?

- Tá sé ríthábhachtach go dtugann an pobal agus na páirtithe dúshlán aon eolais atá míchruinn nó bréagach ar na ceisteanna seo.
- Mar shampla, dúradh gur caitheadh £150m ar an Ghaeloideachas le 7 mbliana anuas; ach bheadh costas ann gach duine a chur ar scoil ar aon nós.
- Is iad na fíricí fíora sa chás seo, áfach, nach raibh ach caiteachas breise de £6.6m ar an Ghaeloideachas le 6 bliana anuas (£1.1m sa bhliain), agus sin dírithe ar bhearnaí áiseanna agus acmhainní nach mbíonn ar fáil.
- Go fóill níl na hacmhainní, an maoiniú nó na foirgnimh sásúil.
- Ó bhí 2008 ann gearradh maoiniú phobal na Gaeilge go mór mór.
- Tá neart samplaí ann d'Airí agus Údaráis Áitiúla ag caitheamh airgid chun bearta i bhfabhar na Gaeilge a shéanadh. Is cur amú d'airgead an cháiniócóra é!

Frequently Asked Questions

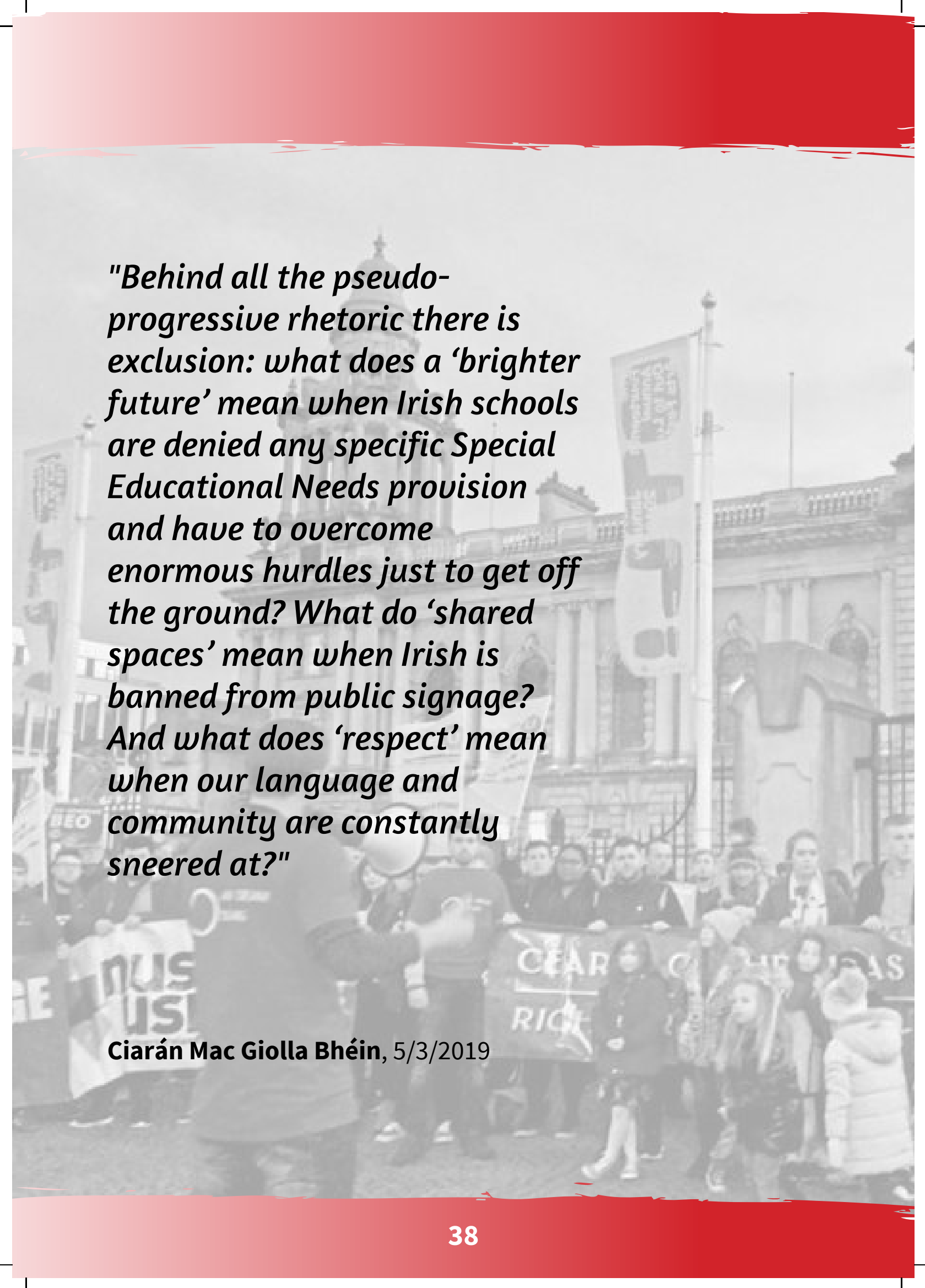
18. There is already £190 million spent on Irish in the last 7 years, is this not a waste of money?

- It is vitally important that the community and politicians challenge misinformation, fake news and scare tactics around an Irish Language Act.
- It is claimed £150m was spent on Irish-medium education (IME) alone in 7 years; all students would need to be educated regardless of language.
- But in fact the additional spending on IME over the last 6 years has been £1.1m per annum (£6.6m in total), to address lack of resources and teaching aids
- IME is still under resourced, with many schools in temporary, unsuitable accommodation.
- Funding for Irish language community services have been slashed annually since 2008.
- Numerous examples of Ministers and Local Authorities spending money to prevent measures in favour of Irish. Denying rights is a waste of taxpayers money!



"Taobh thiar den bhladhmaann faoi dhul chun cinn tá eisceacht ann: cén bunús atá le 'todhchaí níos fearr' agus soláthar Riachtanais Speisialta á séanadh ar Ghaelscoileanna? Cén fáth a mbíonn ar na scoileanna constaicí móra a shárú sular féidir iad a bhunú? Cad is ciall le 'spásanna comhroinnte' agus cosc ar an Ghaeilge ar chomharthaíocht phoiblí? Cad é an chiall atá le 'meas' nuair a bhítear de shíor ag fonóid faoi phobal na Gaeilge?"

Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, 5/3/2019



"Behind all the pseudo-progressive rhetoric there is exclusion: what does a 'brighter future' mean when Irish schools are denied any specific Special Educational Needs provision and have to overcome enormous hurdles just to get off the ground? What do 'shared spaces' mean when Irish is banned from public signage? And what does 'respect' mean when our language and community are constantly sneered at?"

Ciarán Mac Giolla Bhéin, 5/3/2019

Ceisteanna Coitianta

19. Tugtar barraíocht tacaíochta airgeadais do Ghaelscoileanna cheana féin. Nach gcuirfidh Acht Gaeilge go mór le córas a thugann tosaíocht mhí-chothrom don Ghaelscolaíocht cheana féin, i scoileanna beaga a mbíonn mionlach ag freastail orthu?

- Is miotas é seo amach is amach.
- Tá easpa maoinithe agus aitheantais curtha ar fáil do Ghaelscoileanna ó bunaíodh ó thuaidh iad sna luath 1970í fríd go dtí 1998, agus ar aghaidh.
- Bhí sé ráite le déanaí go mbíonn costas £11,000 in aghaidh an pháiste sa Ghaeloideachas i gcomparáid le £2,000 in aghaidh an pháiste atá san earnáil Bhéarla. Is #BréagNuacht í seo ar fad, agus níl aon bhonn fírinne leis.
- Thug anailís Chomhairle na Gaelscolaíochta ar an cheist seo le fios go gcaitear £2164 in aghaidh an pháiste i scoil Bhéarla i gcomparáid le £2274 (+£110) in earnáil na Gaeilge.
- Tá i bhfad níos lú acmhainní ag na Gaelscoileanna i gcomparáid leis an Earnáil Bhéarla agus is gá do na scoileanna Gaeilge go leor de na háiseanna foghlama a aistriú nó a chur in oiriúint an Ghaeloideachais.
- Tá ábhar breise (An Ghaeilge) le soláthar ag Gaelscoileanna mar aon leis na hábhair eile ar fad atá ar an churaclam reachtúil.
- Chun na dúshlán seo ar fad a sháru, tugtar maoiniú breise de £110 in aghaidh an dalta bunscoile sa bhliain agus £412 in aghaidh an dalta meánscoile sa bhliain. Is ionann seo agus 0.1% de bhuiséad iomlán comhiomlánaithe scoileanna le 6 bliana anuas agus is ionann sin agus £6.6m (£1.1m sa bhliain) – ní £150m mar a luadh sna meáin roimhe seo (#BréagNuacht arís eile).
- Tá bearnaí suntasacha ann go fóill sa chóras maidir leis an soláthar atá ar fáil ag daltaí Gaelscoile agus earnáil an Bhéarla i dtaca le : Cóiríocht agus suíomhanna na scoileanna; Uirlisí teagaisc agus measúnaithe; Seirbhísí tacaíochta oideachais; Seirbhísí Sain-Riachtanais Speisialta
- Cé ag an am céanna go bhfuil céatadán níos airde páistí ar Bhéiltí Scoile Saor in Aisce agus líon níos airde paistí le Sain-Riachtanais Speisialta in earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta ná mar atá in earnáil ar bith eile.
- Baineann an méadú fíor-bheag seo le forbairt acmhainní agus uirlisí teagaisc nó foghlama don scoil, rudaí nach gcuirtear ar fáil ar an chaighdeán chéanna do Ghaelscoileanna i gcomparáid le scoileanna Béarla.
- I gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, cuireadh “*dualgas reachtúil ar an Roinn Oideachais leis an Ghaelscolaíocht a chur chun cinn agus a éascú*”.
- Ó shin ar aghaidh tá fás agus forbairt ollmhór tagtha ar earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta, agus breis agus 6,000 dalta anois i scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge ó thuaidh;
- Maireann cinntí agus baic leatromacha sa chóras i gcónaí, áfach, agus roinnt Gaelscoileanna i lóistín nach bhfuil ar bhealach ar bith sásúil nó nach bhfuil oiriúnach don fheidhm, agus ag an am céanna, tá baic á gcur ar mholtaí forbartha na scoileanna sin ag an Roinn, bunaithe ar threoir ó iar-Aire Oideachais ;
- In ainneoin seo ar fad, thug Tuairisc an Phríomh-Chigire 2016-18 le fios go bhfuil an Ghaelscolaíocht ag dul ó neart go neart agus go bhfuil ag éirí leis na daltaí barr-fheabhais a bhaint amach.

Frequently Asked Questions

19. “Irish Medium Schools are already lavishly overfunded. Will An Irish Language Act not see even more money be prioritised for Irish Language schools with only minimal numbers?”

- It is a myth that Irish Medium schools are lavishly overfunded.
- To begin with, the sector has been historically underfunded, excluded and marginalised in the state here up until 1998.
- It has been claimed that it costs £2,000 to educate a child in an English-medium primary school, but that in the Irish sector it's £11,000. This is #FakeNews and has no basis in reality
- Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, the statutory body charged with the development of Irish-medium education debunked this myth, clarifying that according to the Common Funding Scheme 2017/18, it costs £2164 per child in English-medium primary schools, and £2274 (+ £110) per child in Irish-medium schools.
- Resources for use in Irish-medium schools are significantly less than within the English-medium sector and IME schools have to translate and repurpose many of their own teaching and learning materials.
- Irish-medium schools have an extra subject to deliver (i.e. Irish) in addition to all other areas of the statutory curriculum.
- In order to meet these additional challenges, IME receives a very modest extra sum that equates to around £110 per pupil for primary school children per annum and £412 for secondary school children. This equates to about 0.1% of the total aggregated schools budget over the past 6 years and in monetary terms this amounts to approximately £6.6 M in total (average £1.1 million per annum) over the past six years - not £150M as is implied in recent press features (#fakenews again).
- There are still substantial gaps between existing provision for Irish medium students and their English-medium counterparts regarding: accommodation and school sites; teaching and assessment tools; educational support services; and special educational needs services and support.
- At the same time a larger percentage of students in Irish Medium Education are on Free School Means and also require special educational needs support in comparison with other sectors.
- These small, almost negligible additional costs can be put down to Irish schools being drastically under resourced, with many having to develop their own teaching materials and classroom resources themselves.
- The Good Friday Agreement placed “*a statutory duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate Irish medium education in line with current provision for integrated education*”.
- Since then the sector had undoubtedly flourished, with over 6,000 students currently in Irish medium schools here.
- Discrimination and regressive decisions still remain and to this day some Irish medium schools are in accommodation and schools that are simply not fit for purpose, and development proposals have been consistently blocked, denied or delayed by the Department under previous ministerial directives.
- In spite of this, the The Chief Inspector’s Report - 2016-2018 revealed that IME here is going from strength to strength as students continue to academically achieve highly across the board.

Ceisteanna Coitianta

20. Deirtear go bhfuil ‘polaitiú’ déanta ar cheist na Gaeilge. Cad é a déarfá féin maidir leis sin?

- Fríd An Dream Dearg tá pobal na Gaeilge i ndiaidh guth nua a aimsiú.
- Is iad cothromas, cearta agus cóir mana an fheachtais, feachtas a chuardaigh tacaíocht ó réimse páirtithe agus a bhain an tacaíocht sin amach.
- Is iad na daoine atá ag séanadh agus ag diúltú cearta teanga ar phobal na Gaeilge atá i ndiaidh an cheist seo a dhéanamh ‘polaitiúil’.
- Do na daoine nár mhian leo an Ghaeilge a úsáid, ní dhéanfaidh Acht Gaeilge aon athrú ar a saoil.
- Baineann seo le rogha a thabhairt do dhaoine an teanga a úsáid.
- Má ghactar leis an argóint go bhfuil ‘polaitiú’ déanta ar cheist seo na Gaeilge, is é an réiteach is fearr ar an ghearán sin ná chun an teanga a leabú i reachtaíocht stáit.

21. Deir tú gur mhaith leat cearta. Cad é atá i gceist agat? Cearta ó thaobh cad é? Agus nach gcuirfidh na cearta seo isteach ar chearta lucht labhartha an Bhéarla?

- Tugann pobal na Gaeilge aitheantas do na cearta atá ar fáil do chainteoirí Breatnaise sa Bhreatain Beag agus do Ghaeilgeoirí ó dheas, agus éilíonn siad na cearta céanna dóibh féin anseo.
- Mar chuid dóibh, tá an ceart ann seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a fháil ón stát, agus dóibh siúd a ba mhaith leo, an ceart Gaeloideachas fóirsteanach a bheith curtha ar fáil.
- Le cinntiú nach bhfágtar cinntí faoin Ghaeilge ag airí nó oifigigh, agus go leanann siad le creatlach shoiléir dhlíthiúil. Ní féidir le cearta do mhionlaigh cuir isteach ar chearta an tromlaigh.

Frequently Asked Questions

20. People say Irish has been ‘weaponised’ and ‘politicised’. What would you say to that?

- The Irish language community through An Dream Dearg has found a single voice and is lobbying for equality.
- The campaign has sought and won the support of many parties and groups.
- It is the denial of rights, and the exclusion of the Irish language community, that has made this a political issue.
- For those who do not wish to use the Irish language, or engage with it, an ILA will not affect their lives.
- If we accept the argument that the language has been ‘politicised’ or ‘weaponised’, the best method to counter this would be to embed the language into state legislation.

21. You say you want rights. What rights do you mean? Rights to what? And will these rights not impinge on the rights of English-only speakers?

- The Irish speaking community recognise the rights afforded to speakers of Welsh in Wales and to Irish speakers in the south, and call for the same rights to be afforded to Irish speakers here.
- Those rights include being able to avail of services from the state for those who wish to do so, and the right to adequate and suitable Irish-medium education services and accommodation.
- To ensure decisions around Irish are not left to officials / ministers but adhere to a clear legal framework.
- Rights of the minority cannot and will not impinge on rights of the majority.

"Mar dhuine a bhfuil na blianta caite aige ag obair le cearta daonna d'fhoghlaim é rud amháin go luath – ní féidir cearta a chumadh.

Deimhnítear sa Chairt Eorpach seo nach gcuirfidh na forálacha do mhionteangacha ar ghlac an RA leo isteach ar chearta Béarlóirí, príomhtheanga na tíre.

Chun é a rá go simplí, ní chuirfear isteach ar chearta daoine nach labhraíonn Gaeilge óir beidh soláthar ann don Bhéarla go fóill....má bhíonn ar dhaoine éisteacht le daoine eile a labhraíonn Gaeilge, trí mhodh an aistriúcháin, nó má bhíonn orthu amharc ar lógó in aice leis an Bhéarla ar chomhartha bóthair ní chuirfear isteach ar chearta duine nach bhfuil acu ach Béarla."

Daniel Holder

Foinse: www.eamonmallie.com, 27/2/2018

"As someone who has spent many years working in human rights an early lesson I learned is that you cannot just make rights up.

This Council of Europe Charter ensures that the rights of speakers of English as the dominant language are not impinged on by the provisions signed up for minority languages by the UK.

Put simply the rights of non-speakers of Irish are not interfered with by also continuing to provide for English... having to listen to other people speak Irish, with translation, or look at a bilingual logo or Irish alongside English on a road sign does not impinge on the rights of people who only speak English."

Daniel Holder,

Source: www.eamonnmallie.com, 27/2/2018,



Ceisteanna Coitianta

22. Cad chuige an bhfuil Coimisinéir de dhíth oraibh agus cad iad na cumhachtaí a ba chóir a bheith ag an Choimisinéir?

- Ar fud an domhain, tá ról coimisinéara i gcónaí mar chuid den reachtaíocht teanga is éifeachtaí.
- Is é an príomhaidhm é ná an próiseas déanamh cinntí a bhaint amach ó láthair chonspóideach na bpáirtithe polaitiúla.
- Aontaíonn an Choimisinéir sraith caighdeán comhréireacha ar ghá d'fhorais phoiblí agus ranna rialtais a leanúint
- Go bunúsach, déanann an choimisinéir 'dípholaitiú' ar an teanga, agus is iad an t-eadranaí neodrach idir an pobal agus lucht-déanta beartais, airí rialtais, srl.
- Tugann an Coimisinéir fosta treoir agus comhairle don Rialtas maidir lena ndualgais agus freagrachtaí féin i dtaobh na reachtaíochta.

23. An ionann na héilimh seo agus 'forlámhas' cultúrtha do phobal na Gaeilge?

- Tugann forlámhas cultúrtha le fios go gcuirtear teanga nó cultúr amháin chun tosaigh ar cheann eile.
- Tá forlámhas cultúrtha ar siúl in Éirinn leis na céadta, ó Reachtanna Chill Cheannaigh (1367), na Péindlíthe, fríd pholasaithe an stáit anseo le glúnta a chur cosc ar an teanga, agus polasaithe, comharthaíocht agus cleachtais 'Béarla Amháin', trasna an bhoird.
- Ní bagairt d'aon duine é an comhionannas.
- Déanann polasaithe "Béarla Amháin" imeallú ar phobal na Gaeilge agus ar an teanga, a chinntíonn nach mbíonn soláthar cuí Gaeilge ar fáil.
- Níl "Béarla amháin" nádúrtha no neodrach ar aon tslí .

24. Tá níos mó cainteoirí Polainnise ná cainteoirí Gaeilge anseo. Cad chuige a bhfuil tús-áite ag an Ghaeilge?

- Tá sé barr-thábhachtach go mbíonn meas againn ar fad ar an éagsúlacht chultúrtha agus theangach go mbíonn muid beo i sochaí nua ilteangach agus ilchultúrtha.
- Ní mór dúinn na pobail nua anseo a aithint agus tacú leo mar aon leis na riachtanais theanga a bhíonn acu.
- Glactar leis go forleathan go bhfuil géarghá an teanga dhúchais a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn, agus gur ceart go mbeadh an teanga sin aitheanta sa dlí.
- Muna labhraítear an Pholainnis anseo, bheadh sé ina chailliúint dúinn uilig, ach bheadh go fóill na milliúin duine sa Pholainn ar féidir leo an Pholainnis a labhairt. Mura labhraítear an Ghaeilge anseo níos mó, tá an teanga marbh.
- I dtaobh chúrsaí oideachais tá earnáil na Gaelscolaíochta ar an dara earnáil is mó anseo, i ndiaidh na hearnála Béarla. Tá Acht Gaeilge de dhíth chun acmhainní, ar chóimhéid leis na scoileanna Béarla, a chinntiú agus chun an Ghaeilge a aithint mar theanga oifigiúil sa mhór-limistéar ina bhfuil na daoine óga sin á dteagaisc.

Frequently Asked Questions

22. Why do you need a Commissioner and what powers should a commissioner have?


- The most effective language legislation across the world includes the role of a Commissioner with executive powers.
- The main objective is to remove decision making from the contentious party political arena.
- The commissioner agrees a specific set of proportionate standards which public bodies and government departments must follow.
- The commissioner essentially ‘de-politicises’ the language and is the neutral arbitrator between community and policy makers, government ministers etc.
- The commissioner also guides and advises the Government regarding their duties and responsibilities as per the legislation.

23. Do these 'demands' not amount to 'cultural supremacy' for the Irish language community?

- Cultural supremacy suggests one culture being treated above and beyond another.
- The concept of cultural supremacy has been practiced and enforced in Ireland for centuries, from the Statutes of Kilkenny (1367), the Penal Laws, and through decades of state policy here the Irish language has been banned, and ‘English Only’ policies, signage and practices enforced across the board.
- Equality should not be a threat to anyone.
- “English only” policies are fundamentally exclusive of multilingualism and ensure ongoing exclusion of Irish language provision.
- “English only” is in no way natural or neutral.

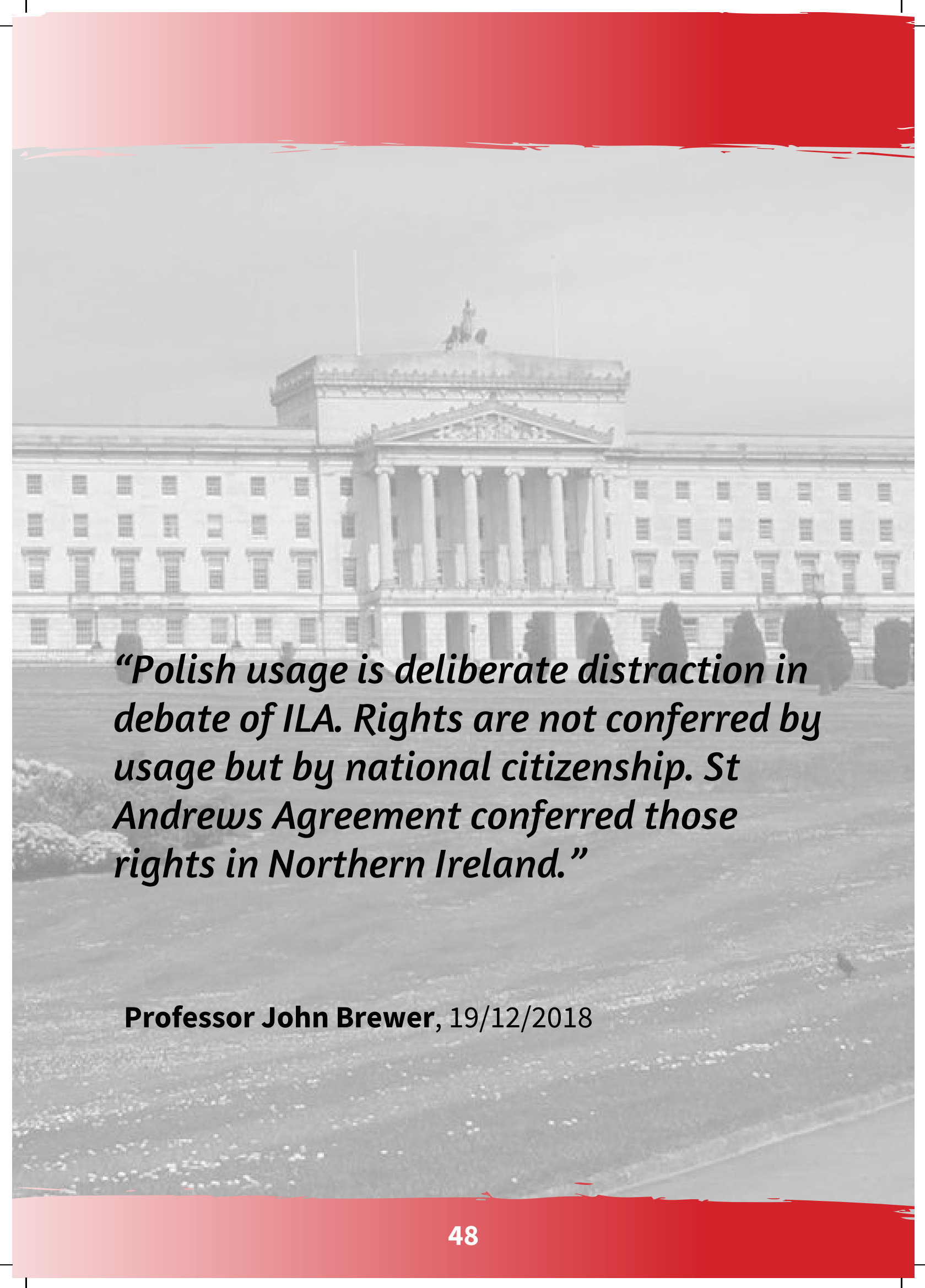
24. More people speak Polish than Irish, why should be put Irish first?

- It is vitally important that in a new multi-cultural, and multi-lingual, society that we all have respect for diversity; cultural and linguistic.
- It is important to recognise and support our new communities and their own specific linguistic needs.
- It is universally accepted, however, that the protection and promotion of the local indigenous language must be firmly recognised in law.
- If the Polish language is no longer spoken here it would be a loss to us all but there would still be millions of Polish speakers in Poland. If Irish is no longer spoken here, the language is dead.
- The Irish-medium education sector is second only to the English medium sector in terms of size. An Irish Language Act is needed to ensure equal and equitable resources for both sectors and to specifically recognise the Irish language as an official language of the region in which those young people are being educated.



“Baintear úsáid as ceist na Polainnise d’aon turas chun aird a tharraingt ón phríomhcheist sa phlé faoi Acht Gaeilge. Ní bhronntar cearta mar gheall ar úsáid ach mar gheall ar shaoránacht náisiúnta. Bhronn Comhaontú Chill Rímhinn na cearta seo ar Thuaisceart Éireann.”

An tOllamh John Brewer, 19/12/2018



“Polish usage is deliberate distraction in debate of ILA. Rights are not conferred by usage but by national citizenship. St Andrews Agreement conferred those rights in Northern Ireland.”

Professor John Brewer, 19/12/2018

Ceisteanna Coitianta

25. Cad é atá i gceist le cur chuige na gCaighdeán Teanga mar atá i bhfeidhm sa Bhreatain Bheag? An é seo an dóigh is fearr le tabhairt faoi?

- Aithnítear go bhfuil dhá chur chuige maidir le seirbhísí poiblí a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge: ‘caighdeán theanga’ agus ‘scéimeanna teanga’.
- Baineadh triail as na scéimeanna teanga ó dheas agus ba léir go raibh deacrachtaí móra ann iad a chur i bhfeidhm, nó nach raibh siad ró-éifeachtach.
- Is iad ‘na caighdeán’ an rogha is fearr a mholtar mar atá i bhfeidhm san Acht Teanga atá i bhfeidhm sa Bhreatain Bheag. Leoga, tá an rialtas i mBaile Átha Cliath anois ag bogadh i dtreo an mhúnla seo.
- Cinntíonn ‘na caighdeán’ go mbíonn dualgas ar na ranna rialtais siúd a mbíonn an teagmháil is mó agus is minice acu le pobal na Gaeilge, go mbíonn dualgas orthu na caighdeán is airde a chur ar fáil i dtaobh soláthair seirbhísí.
- Leis an tuiscint sin, go nádúrtha, ní bheadh na dualgais chéanna ar na ranna stáit sin nach mbíonn ag plé le riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge .
- Bíonn na ‘caighdeán’ seo deartha de réir scála atá leagtha amach agus aontaithe ag an Choimisinéir Teanga.

26. Ar mhaith libh go mbeadh an Ghaeilge ina teanga oifigiúil, nó aitheanta mar phríomh-theanga oifigiúil, nó aitheanta mar chomh-theanga oifigiúil taobh leis an Bhéarla? Cad é an difear idir na rudaí seo ar fad?

- Baineann Acht Gaeilge le “stádas oifigiúil” a bhaint amach don Ghaeilge mar “theanga oifigiúil” anseo.
- Ní thagann an stádas nó an t-aitheantas sin salach ar stádas oifigiúil reatha an Bhéarla.
- Faoi láthair, níl ann don Ghaeilge go hoifigiúil sa dlí, agus de dheasca sin ní féidir uirlisí idirnáisiúnta ar nós na Cairte Eorpaí do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh a chur i bhfeidhm go hiomlán sa dlí áitiúil, agus níl siad ach ar ‘luach léirmhínteach’;
- Go stairiúil, tá polasaithe, reachtanna agus teoracha oifigiúla curtha síos ag Rialtas na Breataine anseo a bhí dírithe ar an Ghaeilge a imeallú, a scrios agus a dhíbirt ar fad ó shaol na ndaoine agus an stáit. Don chéad uair, le cur i bhfeidhm Acht Gaeilge, bheadh dlíthe áitiúla i bhfeidhm ón stát a chuirfeadh ar bhealach dearfach le fás agus forbairt na Gaeilge, bunaithe ar an teanga bheith aitheanta mar theanga oifigiúil.
- Gan stádas “oifigiúil” don Ghaeilge mar “theanga oifigiúil” anseo, is cur amú iomlán a bheadh in aon Acht Gaeilge den chineál sin.

Frequently Asked Questions

25. What does an language-standards approach look like in Wales? Is this the preferred option?

- There are 2 common approaches to providing public services through Irish: ‘language standards’ and ‘language schemes’.
- Language ‘schemes’ have been trialled in the south of Ireland and have proved to be difficult to implement or not to be overly effective.
- Language ‘standards’ are the recommended method and this is the preferred option as per the Welsh Language Act. Indeed the Government in Dublin is now moving towards this model.
- Language ‘standards’ ensure that those Government bodies with the most daily, hands-on contact with the Irish language community are required to provide the highest standard of services.
- Those government bodies with the least interaction with the Irish language community have lower standards to meet
- These ‘standards’ are based on a sliding scale agreed set out by the Irish Language Commissioner.

26. Are you asking for the Irish language to be an official language, the official language or a joint official language alongside English? What’s the difference?

- An Irish language Act is about officially affording the Irish language legal status as “an official language” here.
- That official status does not challenge or undermine the current status of the English language.
- Currently, the Irish language does not legally exist, which means international instruments like the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages have no basis for implementation and are only of ‘interpretative value’.
- Historically, the British Government and the state have implemented policies, statutes and guidelines seeking to eliminate and undermine the use of the language. An Irish Language Act would see, for the first time, positive progressive measures from the state based upon official status for the language.
- Without “official status” as an “official language” any potential Irish language Act would be practically worthless.

Ceisteanna Coitianta

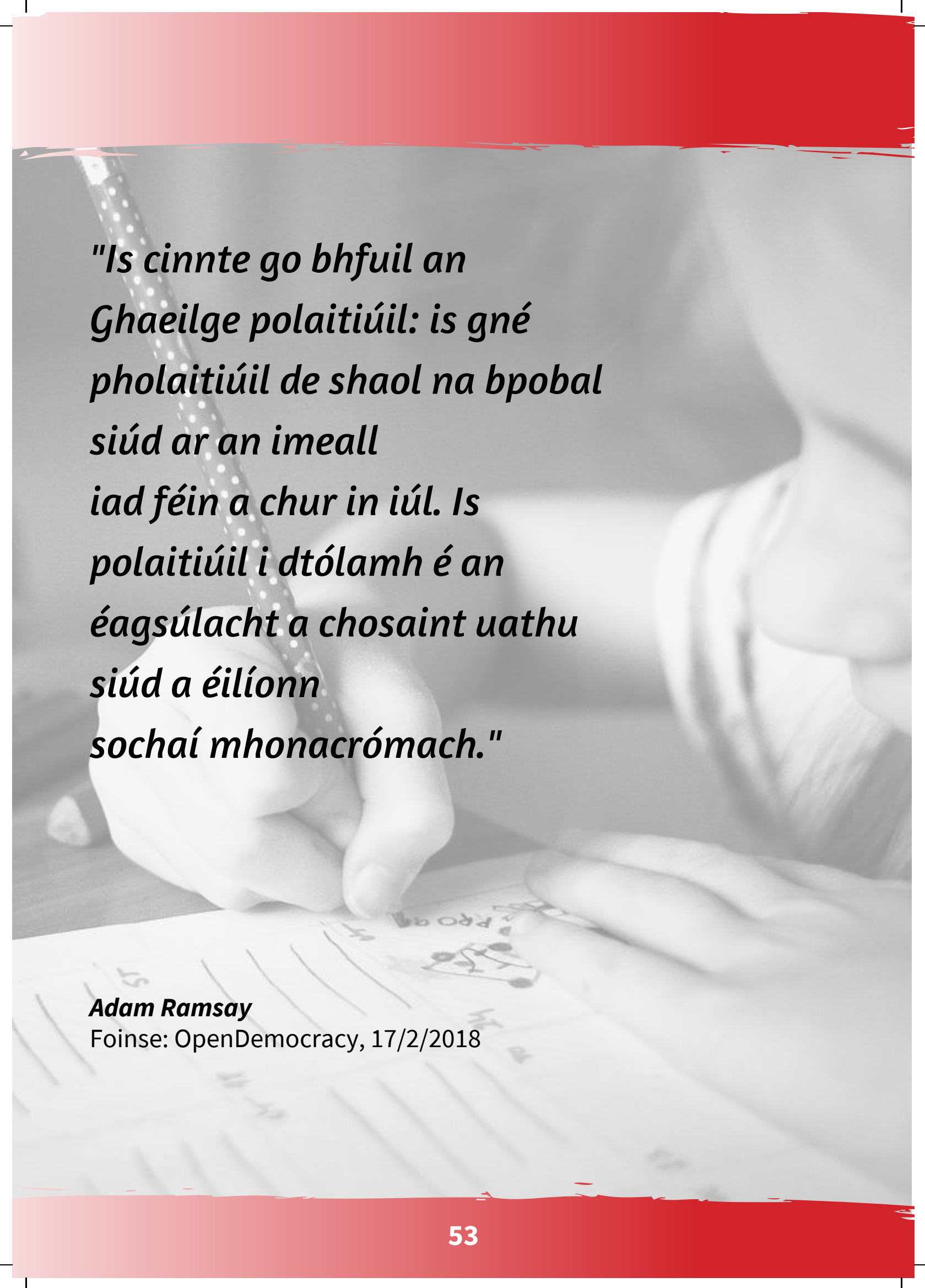
27. Cad é an ról atá ag an Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh sa chomhthéacs seo ar fad?

- Daingníodh An Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh ag Rialtas na Breataine ar son na Gaeilge in 2001.
- Cé go leagtar amach sa Chairt Eorpach treoracha agus polasaithe maithe, fiúntacha i dtaobh chur chun cinn agus fhorbairt mionteangacha, an Ghaeilge san áireamh, ní féidir le cúirteanna áitiúil í a aithint sa dlí de dheasca nach n-aithnítear an Ghaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil anseo, nó nach bhfuil aon dlí áitiúil againn a thugann aitheantas áitiúil don Ghaeilge sna comhairlí áitiúla agus sna ranna stáit srl.
- Is uirlis iontach tábhachtach í an Chairt Eorpach a fheidhmíonn mar tháscaire soiléir i dtaobh na seirbhísí Gaeilge ar chóir bheith ar fáil sna Comhairlí Áitiúla anseo – seirbhísí nach bhfuil á soláthar acu don chuid is mó.
- Trí Chomhairle na hEorpa, faighimid fosta aiseolas seachtrach, neamhspleách ar a bhfuil ag obair go maith, agus ar an áit a bhfuil na fadhbanna maidir le cosaint agus cur chun cinn ár dteangacha dúchasacha.

Frequently Asked Questions

27. How does the European Charter for regional and minority languages work here? Is this not enough already?

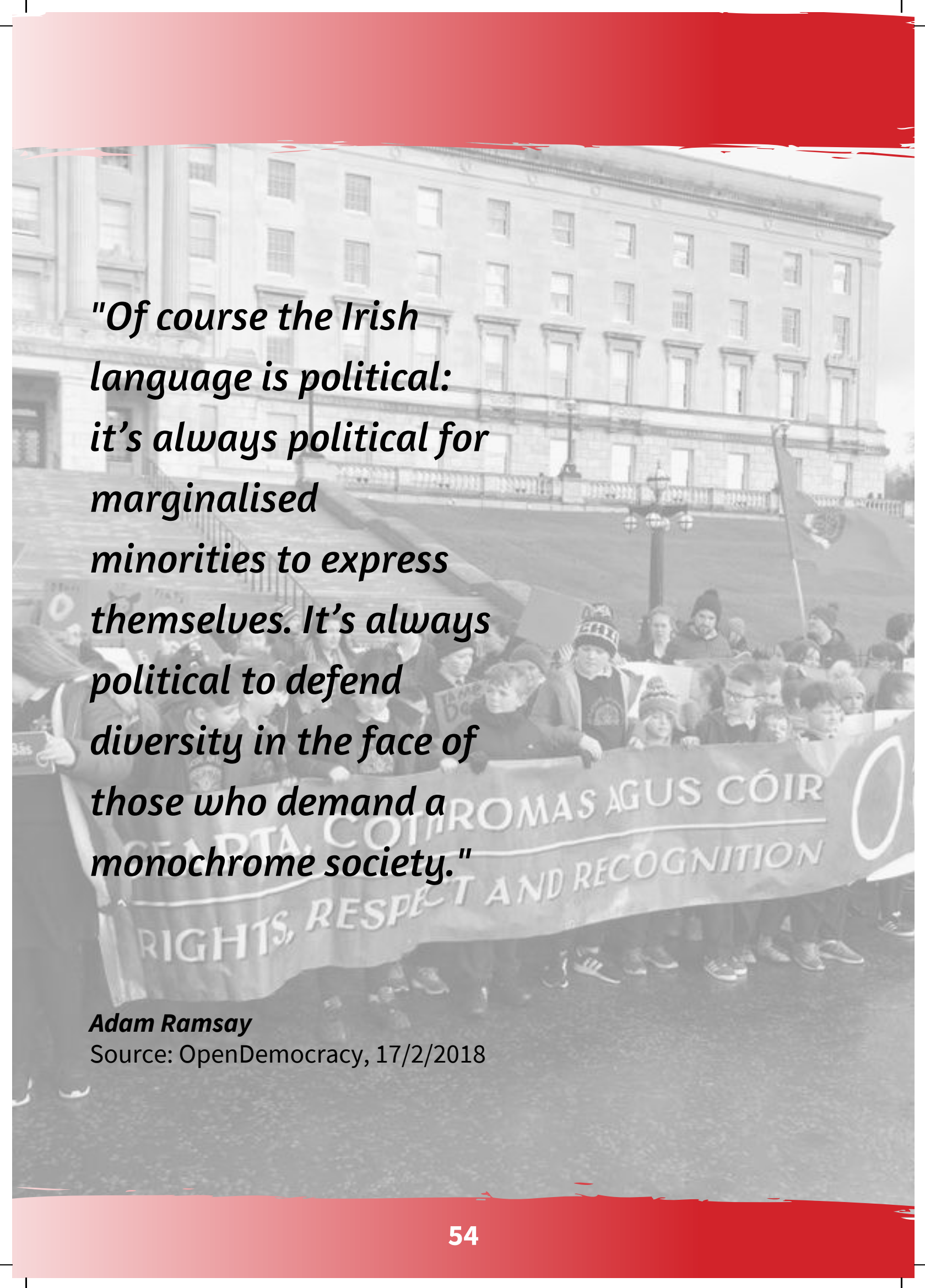
- The European Charter for Regional and Minority languages (ECRML) was ratified by the British Government for the Irish language in 2001.
- Although the ECRML sets out very practical and useful guidelines and policies around the promotion and protection of the Irish Language, it is not enforceable in law because there is no local Irish language Act (no domestic legislation affording the Irish language legal protection here).
- The ECRML is a very useful instrument and tool and acts as a barometer for the level of services local councils and state bodies etc. should be providing for the Irish language - many of which fail to do so.
- Through the Council of Europe, we also get external, independent feedback on what is working well and where the problems lie in relation to protection and promotion of our native languages.



*"Is cinnte go bhfuil an
Ghaeilge polaitiúil: is gné
pholaitiúil de shaol na bpobal
siúd ar an imeall
iad féin a chur in iúl. Is
polaitiúil i dtólamh é an
éagsúlacht a chosaint uathu
siúd a éilíonn
sochaí mhonacrómach."*

Adam Ramsay

Foinse: OpenDemocracy, 17/2/2018



"Of course the Irish language is political: it's always political for marginalised minorities to express themselves. It's always political to defend diversity in the face of those who demand a monochrome society."

Adam Ramsay

Source: OpenDemocracy, 17/2/2018

Ceisteanna Coitianta

28. Cad é atá ráite ag Comhairle na hEorpa nó ag na Náisiúin aontaithe sa chás seo maidir le hAcht Gaeilge ó thuaidh?

- Tá cáineadh láidir leanúnach déanta ag Coiste na Saineolaithe (COMEX) ó Chomhairle na hEorpa (CoE) ar Rialtas na Breataine de dheasca gur theip orthu arís agus arís eile Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm anseo (a gheall siad féin in 2006) agus de dheasca gur theip orthu An Chairt Eorpach (a dhaingnigh siad féin in 2001) a chur i bhfeidhm don Ghaeilge.
- I Márta 2017 d'fhógair an Coiste Comhairleach don Chreat-Choinbhinsiún um Chosaint na Mionlach Náisiúnta:
 - *“Go nglacann an Feidhmeannas ó thuaidh le reachtaíocht cosanta agus forbartha don Ghaeilge agus go nglacann siad na céimeanna chun dul chun cinn ar chearta teanga a chinntiú do dhaoine a bhaineann leis an mhionlach Gaeilge”;*
 - *“Go gcuideoidh Rialtas na Breataine an comhdhearcadh polaitiúil a chruthú atá de dhíth chun go nglacfaí leis an reachtaíocht seo”.*
- Tá cáineadh láidir leanúnach déanta ag Coiste na Saineolaithe (COMEX) ó Chomhairle na hEorpa (CoE) ar Rialtas na Breataine de dheasca gur theip orthu arís agus arís eile Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm anseo (a gheall siad féin in 2006) agus de dheasca gur theip orthu An Chairt Eorpach (a dhaingnigh siad féin in 2001) a chur i bhfeidhm don Ghaeilge.
- I Márta 2017 d'fhógair an Coiste Comhairleach don Chreat-Choinbhinsiún um Chosaint na Mionlach Náisiúnta:
- Tá cáineadh láidir leanúnach déanta fosta ag na Náisiúnta Aontaithe maidir le teip Rialtas na Breataine maidir leis an Chart Eorpach. De ghnáth, agus an t-ábhar seo á phlé ag na cruinnithe idirnáisiúnta, ní chuireann Rialtas na Breataine tuairisceoir nó ionadaí ann de bhrí go mbíonn siad chomh lochtach lag ar an cheist áirithe sin.
- In 2016, mhol an Coiste um Chearta Eacnamaíochta, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha (CESCR), a dhéanann imscrúdú ar chur i bhfeidhm ‘An Cúnant Idirnáisiúnta ar Chearta Eacnamaíochta, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha’ (ICESCR):
 - *“gur ábhar inní don Choiste an easpa gnímh atá déanta ag an Stát chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn ó thuaidh in Éirinn.”*
 - *“Chuige sin, molann Tuarascáil Thréimhsiúil ICESCR athuir, mar a mhol siad ina 5ú Tuarascáil Thréimhsiúil i Meitheamh 2009, go nglacann an Stát le hAcht Gaeilge”.*

Frequently Asked Questions

28. What has the European Council and the United Nations said on this and why would they be concerned by something like this?

- The Committee of Experts (COMEX) from the Council of Europe (CoE) have consistently criticised the British Government for their failure to implement an Irish Language Act (as was promised in 2006) and indeed the European Charter (ECRML) as was ratified by them in 2001.
- In March 2017 the Advisory Committee on The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities:
 - *Calls on the Executive to: “adopt appropriate legislation protecting and promoting the Irish language and take measures to ensure progress on language rights of persons belonging to the Irish minority”;*
 - *Calls on the UK Government to: “to help create the political consensus needed for such adoption.”*
- The Committee of Experts (COMEX) from the Council of Europe (CoE) have consistently criticised the British Government for their failure to implement and Irish Language Act (as was promised in 2006) and indeed the European Charter (ECRML) as was ratified by them in 2001.
- In March 2017 the Advisory Committee on The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities:
- The United Nations have consistently criticised the British Government concerning the lack of implementation of the European Charter (ECRML). Usually, when this is being discussed and reported upon, the British Government do not even send a representative to the UN meeting because their record is so bad on this issue.
- In 2016 the UN Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which investigates the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) recommended:

*the “Committee remains concerned about the lack of effective measures adopted by the State party to promote the use of Irish Language”; and
Alongside this, “the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (in 2009) that the State party adopt an Irish Language Act.”*

Ceisteanna Coitianta

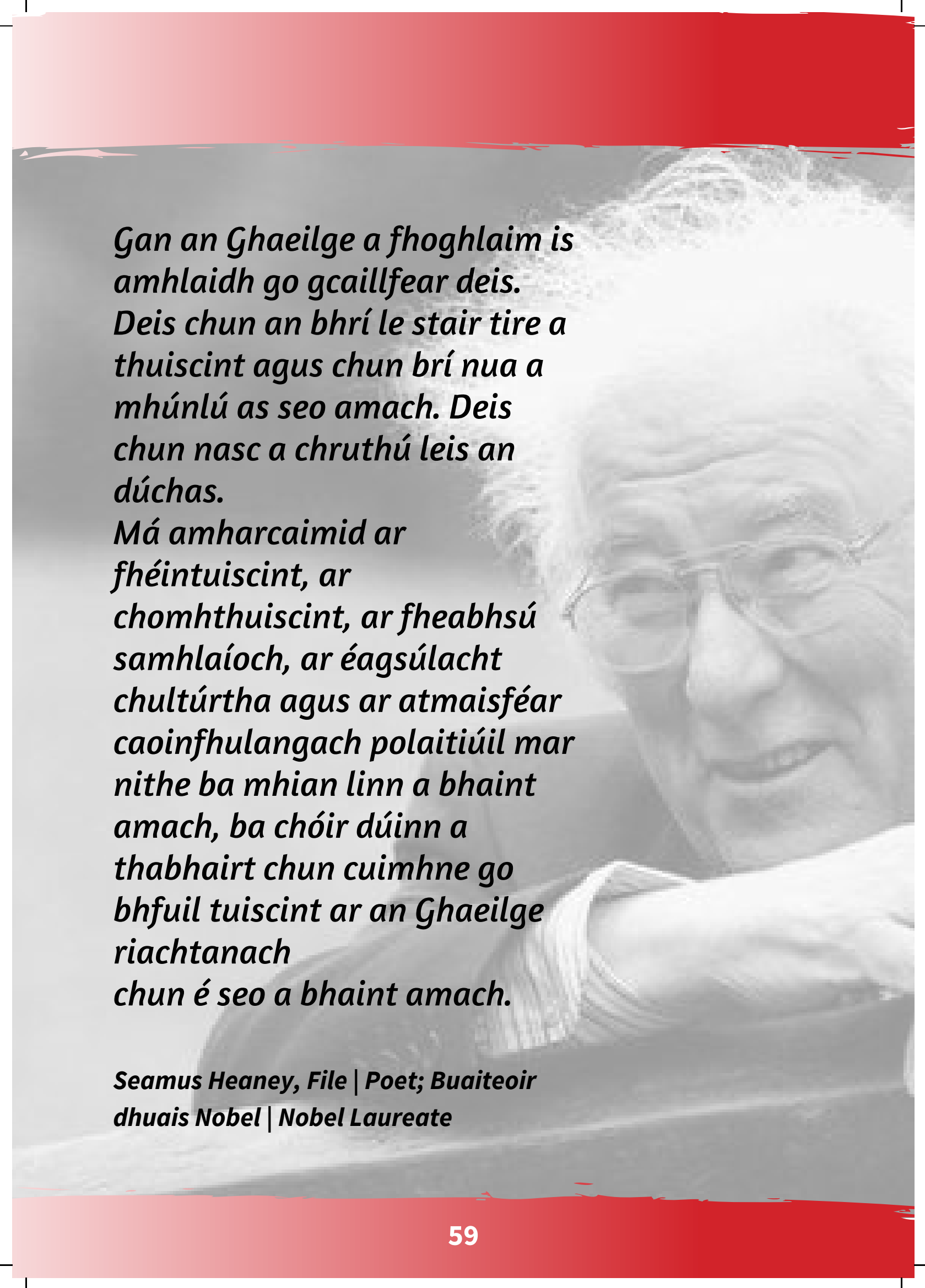
29. An athróidh an tAcht Gaeilge gach rud, maith nó olc, sa phróiseas athbheochana teanga ina bhfuil muid faoi láthair?

- Níl aon amhras ann ach go gcuirfidh Acht Gaeilge le fás , forbairt agus cosaint na Gaeilge anseo.
- Aithnítear reachtaíocht teanga mar cheann de bhunchlocha lárnacha i dtaobh athbheochan mionteanga, ach ní réitíonn sí gach ceist, ná baol air, ach bainfidh sé cuid de na baic reatha a chuirtear os comhair na teanga.
- Bíonn tionchar láidir fiúntach ag reachtaíocht teanga nuair a ghlacann an stát ról gníomhach i gcur chun cinn na teanga.
- Tá roinnt bunchloch eile ar ghá cur san áireamh go buan chun gluaiseacht athbheochana a chur ar bun go héifeachtach:
 - córas láidir scolaíochta (tum-oideachas agus laistigh den chóras mór-theanga) plean agus acmhainní forbartha agus tacaíochta do theaghlaigh atá ag tógáil clainne trí
 - Ghaeilge;
 - pleananna agus acmhainní forbartha pobail;
 - pobal beo bríomhar a úsáideann an teanga gach lá.

Frequently Asked Questions

29. Will the Irish Language Act be a total game changer in terms of the big picture of the Irish Language Revival here?

- An Irish Language Act will undoubtedly help to encourage, protect and facilitate the growth of the Irish language here.
- Legislation is considered one of the key components of language revival movements, but should not be seen as a quick fix although it will remove some of the current barriers the language faces.
- Legislation only works when implemented correctly and when the Government itself takes an active role in the promotion of the language.
- There are other key components that must be in place for a revival movement of a local indigenous language to be successful:
 - a strong education system (both immersion and non-immersion);
 - a strong family support plan for those families raising their children through the medium of Irish;
 - community development plans and resources;
 - a living community who use the language daily.



Gan an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim is amhlaidh go gcaillfear deis.

Deis chun an bhrí le stair tire a thuiscint agus chun brí nua a mhúnlú as seo amach. Deis chun nasc a chruthú leis an dúchas.

Má amharcaimid ar fhéintuiscint, ar chomhthuiscint, ar fheabhsú samhlaíoch, ar éagsúlacht chultúrtha agus ar atmaisféar caoinfhulangach polaitiúil mar nithe ba mhian linn a bhaint amach, ba chóir dúinn a thabhairt chun cuimhne go bhfuil tuiscint ar an Ghaeilge riachtanach chun é seo a bhaint amach.

Seamus Heaney, File | Poet; Buaiteoir dhuais Nobel | Nobel Laureate



"Not to learn Irish is to miss the opportunity of understanding what life in this country has meant and could mean in a better future. It is to cut oneself off from ways of being at home. If we regard self-understanding, mutual understanding, imaginative enhancement, cultural diversity and a tolerant political atmosphere as desirable attainments, we should remember that a knowledge of the Irish language is an essential element in their realisation."

Seamus Heaney,

File | Poet;

Buaiteoir dhuais Nobel | Nobel Laureate

Nótaí | Notes

Nótaí | Notes

IRISH LANGUAGE
ACT NOW



AN DREAM
DEARG



CEARTA,
COTHROMAS
AGUS CÓIR

EQUALIT
RIGHT
& FAIRNE



Dearg Le Fearg
Cearta Teanga Cearta Daonna

IRISH LANGUAGE
ACT NOW

RESPECT
RESPECT



bealfirste@cnag.ie



@cnagaeilge



@cnag #AchtAnois #Mythbusting



Conradh
na Gaeilge

Le tacaíocht ó:



Foras na Gaeilge