Dréacht Chlár Rialtais

Oifig an Fheidhmeannais

Meitheamh 2016 | June 2016

Cúlra:

Is fóram daonlathach é Conradh na Gaeilge do phobal na Gaeilge. Oibríonn an eagraíocht ar son na Gaeilge agus ar son na ndaoine a bhaineann úsáid as an teanga timpeall oileann hÉireann agus fud fad an domhain.

Is é príomh-aidhm na heagraíochta ná an Ghaeilge a fheiceáil mar ghnáth-theanga labhartha na hÉireann. Ó a bunaíodh an eagraíocht ar 31ú Iúil 1893, tá baill Chonradh na Gaeilge gníomhach leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i ngach gné i saol na tíre seo, ó chúrsaí dlí, chúrsaí oideachais, go bhforbairtí sna meáin agus seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge.

Tá 180 Craobh agus neart ball aonar de Chonradh na Gaeilge, agus oibríonn baill de Chonradh na Gaeilge go léir go dian le húsáid na Gaeilge ina gceantracha féin a fhorbairt.

Tá níos mó eolais faoi obair Chonradh na Gaeilge ar fail ag www.cnag.ie.

Conradh na Gaeilge is a democratic forum for the Irish language community. The organisation works on behalf of the Irish language and the people who use it throughout the island of Ireland and around the world.

The main aim of the organisation is to see Irish used as the ordinary language in Ireland. From its establishment on the 31st July 1893, members of Conradh na Gaeilge have been active in promoting the Irish language in every aspect of this country's life, from legal matters, to education, to developments in the media and Irish language services.

There are 180 branches and many individual members of Conradh na Gaeilge. All members of Conradh na Gaeilge work hard to develop the use of Irish in their own areas.

More information about the work of Conradh na Gaeilge is available at www.cnag.ie.

Intreoir

Cuireann Conradh na Gaeilge fáilte roimh an deis seo aighneacht a chur isteach maidir le Creat Dhréacht-Chlár an Rialtais 2016-2021.
Tá díomá ar Chonradh na Gaeilge nach bhfuil aon tagairt sonrach déanta don Ghaeilge nó do phobal na Gaeilge sa dréacht seo den Chlár Rialtais. Déanann sé seo neamhaird iomlán ar phobal beo bríomhar atá ag fás bliain i ndiaidh bliana, atá mar ghné lárnach don sochaí anseo agus a bhfuil cearta agus riachtanais i leith aige. Chuige sin, is culú seo, mar atá molta, ar an aitheantas a tugadh don Ghaeilge i gCláracha Rialtais roimhe seo.
Go deimhin, sa Chlár Rialtais 2011-2015, rinneadh choimitmint go gcuirfear 'Stráitéis le Forbairt na Gaeilge a Fheabhsú agus a Chosaint 2015-2035' i bhfeidhm le linn tréimhse an rialtais sin. Bhí an straitéis luaite faoi Thosaíocht 4 den Chlár; 'Pobal Láidir agus Comhroinnte A Chothú'. Ar an drochuair, theip ar an Fheidhmeannas an dualgas sin a chomhlíonadh nuair a dhiúltaigh siad glacadh leis an Straitéis i mí Mhárta 2016. Ag amharc chun tosaigh áfach, tá deis ag an Fheidhmeannas reatha cinntiú go bhfuil a gcuid dualgas, mar atá leagtha amach sa cháipéis seo thíos, comhlíonta i dtaca le forbairt agus feabhsú na Gaeilge de. Ba cheart go ndéanann seo freastal ar mhianta phobal na Gaeilge agus orthu siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge. Cuirfidh gnímh straitéiseacha dearfacha ón Fheidhmeannas go mór le normalú na teanga agus beirfidh sé deis do gach duine sa sochaí seo seilbh a ghlacadh uirthi in atmaisféar atá oscailte. D'fhéadfadh leis an Ghaeilge, sa chás sin, a bheith ina foinse athmhuintearais seachas ina foinse easaontais.
Conradh na Gaeilge welcomes this opportunity to make a submission to the Draft Prgramme for Government Framework 2016-2021.

Introduction

Conradh na Gaeilge is disappointed that there is nó specific mention of the Irish language or of the Irish language community in the draft Programme for Government. This completely ignores a developing and vibrant community which is growing year on year, which is a central aspect of society here and which has particular rights and needs. As it stands, this document is reducing the recognition that has been given to the Irish language in previous Programmes for Governemnt.
The Programme for Government 2015-2015 made a clear committment to implement the 'Strategy for the Protection and Enhancement of the Growth of the Irish Language 2015-2035' during the lifetime of that Government. The strategy was mentioned under Priority 4 of the Programme 'Promoting a Strong and Shared Community.' Unfortunately, the Executive failed to fulfil its committment when it refused to accept the Strategy in March 2016. However, moving forwad, the current Executive has an opportunity to ensure that its obligations, as set out in this document below, are fulfilled and in relation to the development and improvement of the Irish language. This should meet the needs of the Irish language community and those who have an interest in the Irish language.
Positive, strategic actions by the Executive will greatly contibute to the normalisation of the languaeg and will given everyone in this society the opportunity to take ownership of it in an open environment. In this way, the Irish language could be used as a valuable reconcilation tool instead of a cause for division.

Tá trí phríomh-mholadh san aighneacht seo maidir leis an bhealach is fearr le cinntiú go líonfar riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge sa Chlár Rialtais seo:

1. Cúrsaí Gaeilge a phríomhshruthú mar dhlúthchuid de ghach ceann de na 14 chuspóir atá leagtha amach.
2. Táscaire sa bhreis atá dírithe ar an Ghaeilge a chur isteach le dul chun cinn a dhíriú ar sprioc aontaithe.
3. Tomhas sprioc-dhírithe a chur i bhfeidhm le dul chun cinn an táscaire a mheas.

Tríd an trí phointe thuasluaite a chur i gcrích, beidh aitheantas cuí tughta do phobal na Gaeilge agus doíbh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge sa Chlár Rialtais seo agus beidh dul chun cinn ar seirbhísí, aitheantas agus meas don Ghaeilge príomhshruthaithe mar chuid lárnach den Chlár. Cinnteoidh seo fosta go mbeidh an Fheidhmeannas ag comhlíonadh á gcuid dualgais i leith na cairteanna agus conarthaí idirnáisiúnta atá i bhfeidhm ó thuaidh.
Tá roinnt dualgas éagsúil ar an Fheidhmeannas i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge agus le pobal na Gaeilge. Tagann na dualgais seo ó reachtaíocht náisiúnta agus idirnáisúnta agus ní mór go mbíonn an Chlár Rialtais seo ag cloí le forálacha na cairteanna sin trí chinntiú go ndéanfar polasaithe agus cinntithe amach anseo a thacaíonn le comhlíonadh na ndualgas seo. Is féidir cur síos de na dualgais seo a aimsiú ag Aguisín 1. Tá cáineadh leanúnach déanta ag coistí monatóireachta na cairteanna seo le blianta beaga anuas maidir le cuir i bhfeidhm na conarthaí/cairteanna i dtaca le ceartaí teanga agus pobal na Gaeilge de. Trí glacadh leis na moltaí san aighneacht seo, is féidir leis an Fheidhmeannas céim suntasach a ghlacadh i dtreo aitheantas do phobal na Gaeilge, á gcuid dualgais idirnáisiúnta a chomhlíonadh agus torthaí á gClár rialtais féin a bhaint amach.

This submission contains three main recommendations in order to ensure that the needs of the Irish language community are taken into consideration in this Programme for Government:

1. Irish language matters should be mainstreamed as an integral part of the 14 outcomes which are set out.
2. An additional indicator focussed on the Irish language should be included to focus development
3. A target focussed measure should be used to assess this indicator.

Through implementing these three points above, the Irish language community and those with an interest in the Irish language will receive appropriate recognition, and the development of services, recognition and respect for the Irish language will be mainstreamed as a central part of the Programme. This will also ensure that the Executive will fuldil its obligations in terms of the international charters and conventions which apply to the north.
The Executive has a range of various duties in relation to the Irish langauge and the Irish language community. These duties come from various pieces of legislation, both national and international, and the Programme for Government must be in keeping with these provisions to ensure that future policies and decisons fulfil these obligations. A description of these duties can be found at Appendix 1. Monitoring Committees have consistently criticised the implementation of these charters and conventions over recent years in relation to language rights and the Irish language community. Through accepting the recommendations in this submission, the Executive can take a substantive step towards recognising the Irish language community, fulfilling its international obligations and achieving the results of their own Programme for Government.

Moltaí:

Cuspóirí an Chláir

I measc na cuspóirí atá leagtha amach sa chlár seo, tá roinnt acu a bhaineann go dlúth le riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge agus doíbh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge, cé nach bhfuil sim luaite aon áit sa dréacht-chlár. Tá sé rí-thábhachtach go gcuirtear na riachtanais seo in san áireamh le linn na próisis pleanála ag leibhéal an rialtais leis na dualgais uilig in Aguisín 1 a chomhlíonadh mar is cuí. Tá gnéithe de ghach cuspóir atá leagtha síos a bhaineann le pobal na Gaeilge agus doíbh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge, ach tá roinnt cuspóirí atá mar thosaíocht do phobal na Gaeilge agus dóibh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge. Is ar na cuspóirí atá mar thosaíocht atá muid ag díriú isteach orthu san aighneacht seo.

Cuspóirí

Tá sochaí níos cothroime againn

Le sochaí níos cothroime a bhaint amach, ba chóir go bhfuil gach saoránach i dteideal a gcuid cearta a fhíorú gan cheist ná choinníoll, 'is cuma cén féiniúlacht atá acu'. Níor chóir go ndéanfar neamhaird ar riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge ag leibhéal an Fheidhmeannais, Rialtais áitiúil, údarás stáit nó eile. Ba chóir go léireofar meas agus tuiscint ar phobal na Gaeilge i gcónaí mar phobal beo bríomhar atá ag cur go mór le saolta daoine agus atá mar chuid lárnach, dearfach don sochaí anseo. Leis seo a chur i gcrích ar bhonn praiticiúil, ba chóir go mbeadh an Ghaeilge curtha san áireamh i ngach próisis pleanála, go háirithe sa Roinn Oideachais, sa Roinn Pobail agus in Oifig an Fheidhmeannais.

Programme Objectives

Among the objectives set out in this programme, there are some which deal very specidifcally with the Irih language, even though that is not expressly mentioned in the draft. It is highly important that these needs are included in the planning process at governmental level to appropriately fulfil all the duties which are outlined in Appendix 1. There are elements of every objective which impact the Irish language community and those who have an interest in the language, but there are some objectives which are a prioritiy for the Irish language community and those with an interest in it in the Draft Programme. This submission focusses on those objectives:

Objectives

We have a more equal society

To achieve a more equal society, every citizen should be entitled to exercise their rights with question or conditions, 'whatever their identity.' The Irish language community should not be ignored at Executive lebel, local government, state authority etc. The Irish language community should always be shown respect and understanding as a vibrant community which contributes greatly to people's lives and is a central, positive aspect of society here. In order to achieve this in a practical way, the Irish language should be included in every planning process, especially in the Department of Education, the Department of Communities and the Office of the Executive.

Neartaíonn agus saibhríonn an éagsúlacht an sochaí anseo go mór. Tá sé ráite faoi 'Ról an Fheidhmeannais' faoin chuspóir seo go mbeidh orthu 'Comhlíonadh oibleagáidí reachtúla a chinntiú'. Cuirimid fáilte roimhe seo agus ba mhian go gcuirtear na dualgais reachtúla agus idirnáisiúnta i leith na Gaeilge gan mhoill agus le hacmhainní cuí. Creidimid go mór go gcuideoidh seo leis an Fheidhmeannas 'an t-athmhuintearas a mhéadú' agus 'Ár gclú idirnáisiúnta a mhéadú'.

Diversity strengthens and greatly enhances society. It is stated under 'Role of the Executive' for this objective that they will 'ensure the fulfilment of statutory obligations.' We welcome this and would like to see the statutory and international duties relating to the Irish languaeg implemented and properly resourced. We fully believe that this will help the Executive to 'increase reconciliation' and 'Improve our international profile.

Tá pobal sábháilte againn áit a bhfuil meas ar an dlí agus ar a chéile; Is sochaí chomhroinnte muid agus meas againn ar an ilchineálacht; Is sochaí mhuiníneach, fháilteach, leathanaigeantach muid

Is féidir an trí chuspóir seo sa chlár a mhíniú le chéile i dtaca leis an tábhacht a bhaineann leo ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. Ní bheidh sochaí mhuiníneach, fháilteach, leathanaigeantach againn go dtí go bhfuil meas cearta againn ar a chéile agus ar na cultúir éagsúla a bhaineann leis sin. Ní féidir meas a léiriú ar ilchineálacht gan mheas a léiriú ar phobal na Gaeilge, agus caithfear é seo a dhéanamh tríd aitheantas agus na seirbhisí cuí atá á éileamh ag an phobal sin a chur ar fáil. Trí chearta phobal na Gaeilge agus dóibh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge a fhíorú agus a chosaint, déanfar normalú ar úsáid agus ar fheiceálacht na Gaeilge. Chuige sin, neartóidh sé na hiarrachtaí 'go méadaítear an chomhthuiscint agus go laghdaítear eagla agus mímhuinín i measc daoine dar aois, féiniúlacht agus cúlra difriúil' sa chomhphobal ó thuaidh. Tá seo sonraithe i dtíortha eile fud na hEorpa, áit a bhfuil ceartaí teanga aitheanta mar chearta daonna ó bhí na 1990'aidí ann.

Má léiríonn an Fheidhmeannas 'ceannaireacht' ar ról na Gaeilge sa sochaí ó thuaidh, tacóidh sé go láidir le cuspóir an fheidhmeannais i dtaobh a 'aithint go gcruthaíonn an ilchineálacht neart agus go gcuireann sí le luach ár bpobail, agus a bheith ag obair chun an ilchineálacht a chur chun cinn agus a cheiliúradh gach áit a dtig linn.'

We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other; We are a shared society that respects diversity; We are a confident, welcoming, outward-looking society

These three outcomes van be considered together in relation to the importance that they have for the Irish language. We won't have a confident, welcoming and outward-looking society until we have proper respect for each other and for the different cultures that this entails. Respect can't be shown for diversity until respect is shown for the Irish langauge community, and this has to be done through ensuring the recognition and services that the Irish language community are entitled to are delivered. Through protecting the rights of the Irish language community and of those who have an interest in the language, the use and visibility of the language will be normalised. Efforts to increase mutual understanding and reduce fear and mistrust between people of different ages, identities and backgrounds will be streghtnened. This has been shown in other countries throughout Europe, where language rights have been considered human rights since 1990s.

If the Executive shows leadership on the role of the Irish langauge in society, this will support the aim of 'Acknowledging that diversity builds strength and adds value to our community, and working to encourage and celebrate diversity where we can.'

Tugaimid an tús is fearr ina saol dár bpáistí agus daoine óga

Tá na buntáistí a bhaineann le dátheangachas do pháistí agus do dhaoine óga fad-bhunaithe. Cuireann an dara teanga go mór leis na scileanna cognaíocha, sóisialta agus oideachasúla atá ag an duine óg. Tá seo fíor, ach go háirithe, i dtaca le buntáistí an luath-thumoideachais de. Ba chóir, mar sin, béim a chur ar fhoghlaim teangacha do dhaoine óga sna luathbhlianta ar aghaidh trí infheistíocht a dhéanamh i Naíscoileanna, Gaelscoileanna, Clubanna Óige agus trí seirbhísí eile a chur ar fáil do dhaoine óga. Fosta, cosúil le gach straitéis atá le foilsiú amach anseo, ba chóir go mbeadh ról sonrach ag an Ghaeilge sa Stráitéis Chúram Leanaí agus sa Straitéis do Dhaoine Óga. Cuidíonn príomhshruthú seirbhísí Gaeilge sna straitéis seo le soláthar seirbhísí Gaeilge trí chéile ag gach leibhéal.

We give our children and young people the best start in life

The advantages associated with bilingualism for children and young people are well-established. A second language adds greatly to the congitive, social and educational skills that a young person has. This is especially true for the advantages of early-immersion education. Therefore, the should be an emphasis placed ón languaeg learning for children in early years onward through investment in Naíscoileanna, Gaelscoileanna, Clubana Óige and through providing other services for young people. Also, as with every strategy that is to be published in the future the Irish language should have a specific role in the Childcare Strategy and in the Strategy for Young People. The mainstreaming of Irish language services in these strategies helps the overall provision of services through the medium of Irish at every level.

Táscaire don Ghaeilge

Le cinntiú go gcuirtear riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge san áireamh mar is cuí sna cuspóirí thuasluaite, ba chóir go mbeadh táscaire i leith sa chlár atá dírithe ar phobal na Gaeilge amháin. Cosúil le táscairí eile luaite sa dréacht-chlár, baineann an táscaire seo le níos mó na cuspóir amháin, agus ceanglaíonn sé roinnt cuspóirí le chéile.

Is é an táscaire atá molta anseo ná:

"*Straitéis na Gaeilge le Forbairt na Gaeilge a Fheabhsú agus a Chosaint a chur i bhfeidhm*."

Clúdaíonn an táscaire seo réimse leathan rudaí atá de dhíth le freastal ar phobal na Gaeilge anseo. D'fhorbair an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta an straitéis seo anuraidh i ndiaidh próisis fada comhairliúcháin poiblí agus anois níl de dhíth ach go nglacfaidh an Fheidhmeannas leis an straitéis seo agus é a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhonn tras-rannógach, le hacmhainní cuí.

Bheadh na gnímh istigh sa straitéis seo ag teacht go mór leis na cuspóirí thuasluaite, agus tá infreastruchtúr réidh leis an straitéis féin a chur i gcrích, mar atá sonraithe i dTuarascáil na Roinne Cultúrtha, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i Márta 2016, 'Straitéis na Gaeilge – Bliain níos moille'.

Indicator for the Irish Language

To ensure that the needs of the Irish language community are properly considered in the mentioned objectives, there should be éan indicator in the Prohramme focussed solely on the Irish language community. Like the other indicators in the draft-Programme, this indicator relates to more than one objective, and it connects several objectives together.

The recommended indicator is:

"*Implementation of the Strategy for the Promotion and Protection of the Development of the Irish Language*"

This indicator includes a range of measures needed to meet the needs of the Irish language community here. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure developed this strategy last year following a long period of public consultation and all that is left to do is for the Executvie to adopt this strategy and to implement it on a cross-departmental basis, with appropriate resources. The actions within the strategy would greatly contribute to the objectives mentioned above and there is already an infastructure in place to implement it, as set out in the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Report, March 2016 'Irish Language Strategy – One Year On.'

Tomhas

Is féidir céatadán de Straitéis le Forbairt na Gaeilge a Fheabhsú agus a Chosaint atá bainte amach a úsáid mar thomhas ar an táscaire seo. Tá spriocanna intomhaiste leagtha síos sa straitéis sin cheánna féin, agus rinneadh tuairisc i mí an Mhárta 2016 maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na straitéise sa bhliain ónár foilsíodh é. Moltar go gcruthófar 'Grúpa Soláthar Straitéise'. Is ar Ghrúpa Soláthar Straitéise a bheas freagracht fhoriomlán as a chinntiú go gcomhlíonfar aidhmeanna na Straitéise. Níl le déanamh ach tógáil ar an obair seo atá déanta go dtí seo agus an stráitéis a chur i gcrích ina iomlán.

Measure

This indicator can be measured using a percentage of the Strategy to Protect and Enhance the Development of the Irish Language that has been implemented. Measurable targets have been set down within that strategy already, and a report was complted in March 2016 in relation to the implementation of the Strategy one year since in was published. The report recommended that a 'Strategy Provision Team' is established. This Strategy Provision Team woul be responsible for ensuring that the aims of the Strategy are fulfilled. This work can be built ón to ensure the full implementation of the Strategy.

Conclúid

Ní bheidh an Clár Rialtais 2016-2021 in ann riachtanais an phobail an chomhlíonadh mar is ceart mura bhfuil riachtanais phobal na Gaeilge curtha san áireamh. Leis na dualgais reachtúla atá ar an Fheidhmeannas a chur i gcrích mar is cuí, is gá go mbeadh pleanáil cuimsitheach leanúnach a dhéanamh ar cad é mar is féidir na riachtanais seo a chomhlíonadh. Is féidir é seo a dhéanamh tríd an Straitéis le Forbairt na Gaeilge a Chosaint agus a Fheabhsú a chur i bhfeidhm ina iomlán. Cuireann an straitéis seo spriocanna intomhaiste síos do réimse leathan oibre a bhaineann leis an Ghaeilge. Is féidir díriú ar céatadán áirithe de na spriocanna seo a bhaint amach le linn tréimhse an Rialtais mar chuid den Chlár seo.

Conclusion

The Programme for Government 2016-2012 will not be able to fully meet the needs of the community if it doesn't include the needs of the Irish language community. For the Executive to properly fulfil its obligations, there must be comprehensive, continuous planning ón how best to fulfill these needs. This can be done through the full

Aguisín 1: Dualgais i leith na Gaeilge:

Sna paragraif thíos, leagtar amach na dualgais atá ar an Fheidhmeannas i dtaca leis an Ghaeilge, a mhíníonn an tábhacht a bhaineann le cinntiú go bhfuil an Ghaeilge a bheith luaite go sonrach sa Chlár Rialtais seo.

Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta:

Chuir Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta 1998 dualgas ar na sínitheoirí '*to take resolute action to promote the language*' agus bhí sraith céimeanna luaite a bhí de dhíth le cinntiú go bhfaigheadh an Ghaeilge aitheantas cuí.[1] Bhí na céimeanna seo aontaithe bunaithe ar thábhacht an aitheantais don teanga agus ar mheas agus chaoinfhulaingt a chinntiú don teanga.

Cé gur pléadh le cuid de na cúrsaí a bhí luaite sa Chomhaontú bealach amháin nó bealach eile, tá cuid mhór fós le déanamh sula gcomhlíontar an Chomhaontú maidir le meas agus aitheantas a chinntiú don teanga. Ciallaíonn sé seo go gcaithfear plé leis an teanga agus pobal na Gaeilge agus doibh siúd le spéis sa Ghaeilge i gcoitinne ar bhonn comhionannais, agus go gcaithfear céimeanna a ghlacadh leis na forálacha eile sa Chomhaontú a chomhlíonadh. Ní rud teibí atá i gceist anseo, ach tá plean cuimsitheach, straitéiseach de dhíth leis an dualgas seo a chomhlíonadh.

implementation of the Strategy to Protect and Enhance the Devlopment of the Irish Language. This Strategy sets out measurable targets in a wide range of areas in relation to the Irish language. Achieveing a certain percentage of those aims during the lifetime of this government can be used as a measurable aim in this Programme.

Appendix 1: Responisbilities in relation to the Irish Language

In the paragraphs below, the Executive's repsonibilities in relation to the Irish language are set out, explaining the importance of ensuring that the Irish language is explicity included in this Programme for Government.

The Good Friday Agreement

The Good Friday Agreement 1998 committed the signatories to '*take resolute action to promote the language'* and contained a range of measures which would be needed in order to ensure that the Irish language received due recognition. The agreed measures were based in recognising the importance of the language and ensuring that it was treated in such a way that would ensure tolerance and respect for the language.

Although some issues which were mentioned in the Agreement have been addressed to one extent or another, this is a far cry from fully realising the potential of the Agreement to ensure respect and recognition for the language. This means that the language, and the Irish language community in general, need to be treated with equality and that steps

[1] The Good Friday Agreement 1998, Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity: Economic, Social and Cultural Issues, para 3 and 4

need to be taken to fulfil the remaining provisions of the Agreement. This is not something which is abstract, it is something which requires comprehensive, strategic planning ón order to fulfil this duty.

Cairt Eorpach um Theangacha Mionlaigh agus Réigiúnacha (CETMR)

Is coinbhinsiún idirnáisiúnta é an CETMR atá dearbhaithe le teangacha mionlaigh agus réigiúnacha a chosaint mar ghnéithe de chultúr na hEorpa atá faoi bhagairt. Mar gheall air seo, ní amháin go bpléann sé le forálacha atá in éadan idirdhealuithe i dtaobh úsáid na dteangacha de, ach tá forálacha praiticiúla ann le tacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh fosta. Cuireann an Chairt, daingnithe i 2001, cur chuige ilchultúrtha chun cinn ar son na dteangacha a ndéanann sí cosaint orthu. An aidhm atá ag an Chairt ná timpeallacht a chruthú inar féidir le teangacha mionlaigh agus réigiúnacha forbairt taobh le mór-theangacha an Stáit. Is céim shuntasach riachtanach í reachtaíocht a chuirfidh go mór le stádas na Gaeilge.

I ndiaidh Tuairisc Choiste na Saineolaithe don Chairt don 4ú Babhta Monatóireachta, molann Coiste na hAirí (COMEX) Chomhairle na hEorpa gur chóir do na húdaráis, mar thosaíocht "*adopt and implement a comprehensive Irish language policy, preferably through the adoption of legislation providing statutory rights for the Irish speakers*." [2] Bhí an moladh seo mar chuid de shraith céimeanna praiticiúla eile gur chóir a ghlacadh chun cur i bhfeidhm iomlán na Cairte a chinntiú.

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) is an international convention designed to protect and promote regional and minority languages as a threatened aspect of Europe's cultural heritage. For this reason, as well as containing a non-discrimination clause that concerns the use of these languages, it also provides for practical measures that offer active support for them. The Charter, ratified in 2001, promotes a multi-cultural approach to the languages it protects. Its aim is to create an environment where regional and minority languages can flourish and along with the majority language of the state. Legislation is a significant and necessary measure that will support, enhance and protect the status of the Irish language.

Following the Report of the Committee of Experts on the Charter for the 4th Monitoring Cycle, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers (COMEX) recommended that, as a matter of priority, the authorities should, "adopt and implement a comprehensive Irish language policy, preferably through the adoption of legislation providing statutory rights for the Irish speakers." This was in addition to a range of other practical steps which should be taken in order to ensure full implementation of the Charter.

[2] COMEX Report, 4th Monitoring Cycle, 2014 pg 45

Comhaontú Chill Rìmhinn 2006

Chuir Comhaontú Chill Rìmhinn 2006 leis na dualgais a bhí ann i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, ag rá

"*The 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."*[3]

In ainneoin trí chomhairliúchán poiblí a léirigh tacaíocht d'Acht Gaeilge ó a bhí Comhaontú Chill Rìmhinn ann, diúltaíodh aon dul chun cinn ar Bhille na Gaeilge a thabhairt isteach ag leibhéal an Fheidhmeannais.

An Forógra Náisiúin Aontaithe ar Chearta Daoine atá ina mball de Mhionlach Eiteach, Reiligiúin nó Teanga 1992

Bheadh reachtaíocht ar chosaint na Gaeilge ag cloí leis an Fhorógra seo, tógtha ag na Náisiún Aontaithe ar 18 Nollaig 1992 a chlúdaíonn an gá le cearta a chur chun cinn agus a chosaint do dhaoine atá ina mball de mhionlach reiligiúin nó teanga. Déanann na hairteagail san fhorógra seo cur síos ar an cheart atá ag daoine "*sult a bhaint as a gcultúr féin*" agus "*úsáid a bhaint as a dteanga féin… gan aon saghas baic nó idirdhealuithe*."

St Andrews Agreement 2006

The St Andrews Agreement of 2006 built on the commitments in the Good Friday Agreement, stating that

"*The 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*."

In spite of three public consultations which have shown support for an Irish Language Act since the St. Andrew's Agreement, any moves to introduce an Irish Language Bill have been rejected by the Executive.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities 1992

The introduction of Irish Language legislation would be consistent with this Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1992 which includes the need to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The articles of the declaration outline the rights of people belonging to these minorities to "enjoy their own culture" and "use their own language…without interference or any form of discrimination."

[3] St. Andrew's Agreement, *Human Rights, Equality, Victims and Other Issues*, 2006

Comhdháil na Náisiúin Aontaithe ar Chearta Sóisialta, Eacnamaíochta agus Cultúrtha 2009

Tá sé ráite ag an Choiste Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Eacnamaíochta, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha go bhfuil imní orthu nach bhfuil aon chosaint ann i léith na Gaeilge ó thuaidh, ach go bhfuil cosaint ann don Bhreatnais sa Bhreatain Beag agus don Ghàidhlig in Albain. Molann an Coiste go dtugann "*the State party, or the devolved administration in Northern Ireland, adopt an Irish Language Act, with a view to preserving and promoting minority languages and cultural heritage*."

United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2009

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has expressed concern that "there is still no protection in respect of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, whereas the Welsh and the Gaelic languages are protected.[4]

The Committee recommends that "the State party, or the devolved administration in Northern Ireland, adopt an Irish Language Act, with a view to preserving and promoting minority languages and cultural heritage."

Creat-Choinbhinsiún le Mionlaigh Náisiúnta a Chosaint

Is cairt de chuid Comhairle na hEorpa é seo a dhaingnigh Rialtas na Breataine i 1998. Tá sé ráite go minic ag coiste monatóireachta na cairte seo go bhfuil siad *'thar a bheith imníoch faoi teip leanúnach reachtaíocht a fhorbairt don Ghaeilge ó thuaidh mar gheall ar an easpa aontais polaitiúil san Fheidhmeannas.'* Is mar gheall air sin gur éiligh siad ar Rialtas na Breataine *'reachtaíocht cuimsitheach teanga'* a fhorbairt don Ghaeilge ó thuaidh agus le *'céimeanna diongbháilte a chur i bhfeidhm chun cearta teanga pobal na Gaeilge a chosaint agus a chur i bhfeidhm ar bhonn níos éifeachtaí.'*

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

This is a Council of Europe Charter which was ratified by the British Government in 1998. The monitoring committees often state that they are '*very concerned at the continued failure to develop Irish language legislation in the north because of a lack of political consensus in the Executive*.' It's because of this that they demand that the British Government develops 'comprehensive language legislation' for te north and implements decisive measures to protect the language rights of the Irish language community in a more effective manner.

[4] Welsh Language Act 1993 / Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005