

Bìle Eucoir Gràin is Òrdugh Poblach (Alba)

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig a' cur fàilte air a' chothrom gus beachdan a thoirt do Chomataidh a' Cheartais aig Pàrlamaid na h-Alba air Bìle Eucoir Gràin is Òrdugh Poblach (Alba) ùr.

Thug am Bòrd fianais dhan leirmheas a chaidh a dhèanamh leis a' Mhorair Bracadal air laghan a thaobh eucoir gràin.

Tha sinn ag aithneachadh agus a' cur fàilte air amas an Riaghaltais gu bheil iad a' gabhail an cothrom gus a dhèanamh cinnteach gu bheil laghan eucoir gràin iomchaidh do dh'Alba san 21mh linn, agus gu bheil iad a' toirt dìon gu leòr dhaibhsan a tha feumach air.

Chan eil sinn mothachail gun deach 'eucoir-gràin' a dhèanamh air luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus tha fios againn gu bheil daoine ann an Alba san fharsaingeachd taiceil dhan Ghàidhlig agus do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig (Sgrùdaidhean air Beachdan Sòisealta na h-Alba).

Ge-tà, tha sinn mothachail gu bheil beachdan air nochdadh, agus bidh iad fhathast a' nochdadh, sna meadhanan sòisealta agus gu h-àraidh sna pàipearan-naidheachd a tha a' càineadh no a' nochdadh nàimhdeas dhan chànan agus do luchd-labhairt a' chànan, agus gu bheil claon-bhàidh fhathast ann dhan chànan is a luchd-labhairt. Feumar dèiligeadh ri claon-bhàidh an aghaidh na Gàidhlig, mar a dh'fheumar dèiligeadh ri claon-bhàidh de sheòrsa sam bith, agus tha e cudromach gum bi an siostam laghail a tha a' cur dìon air daoine ann an Alba bho leth-bhreith, agus gu dearbh, bho ghràin a' buntainn ri luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig cuideachd.

Ann an Alba an latha an-diugh, dùthaich a dh'aontaich Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) ann an 2005, chan urrainnear gabhail ris gum faod daoine a tha a' cleachdadh Gàidhlig, mar a' chiad chànan aca no mar chànan a thog iad às

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcomes the opportunity to give its views to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament on the new Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill.

The Bòrd submitted evidence to the review carried out by Lord Bracadale on hate crime legislation.

We recognise and welcome the Government's aim to shape hate crime legislation so that it is fit for 21st century Scotland and, most importantly, affords sufficient protection for those that need it.

We are not aware that Gaelic-speakers have been victims of 'hate crimes' and we know that people in Scotland are generally positive about the Gaelic language and Gaelic speakers (Scottish Social Attitudes Surveys).

However, we note that there has in the past and there continues to be comments, both in social media and in mainstream print media in particular, in which hostility to the language and its speakers is expressed, and that prejudice towards the language and its speakers remains. As with all forms of prejudice, anti-Gaelic prejudice must be addressed, and it is important that the legal regime which protects people in Scotland from acts of discrimination and, indeed, hatred applies to Gaelic-speakers as well.

It cannot be acceptable in modern Scotland, which passed the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act in 2005, that people who use Gaelic, as their first or subsequent language, can be belittled or

dèidh sin, a bhith air an cur an suarachas no gun rachadh ionnsaigh a thoirt orra air sgàth sin.

attacked because of that.

Tha am Meòrachan Poileasaidh¹ ag ràdh gur e iomadachd na h-Alba a neart; agus gu bheil luach ga chur air a h-uile coimhearsnachd agus gu bheilear a' cur fàilte air na tha iad a' cur ris an dùthaich. Gus dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil an teachdaireachd làidir agus soilleir, mholamaid gum biodh iomradh air luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig agus cho cudromach 's a tha iad do dh'iomadachd na h-Alba anns a' Bhile, leis a' Ghàidhlig air a h-aithneachadh anns a' bhile mar fheart dìonte.

The Policy Memorandum² states that Scotland's diversity is its strength; and all communities are valued and their contributions welcomed. To ensure that the message is strong and clear, we would recommend that Gaelic speakers and their importance to Scotland's diversity is referenced in the Bill, with Gaelic language included as a protected characteristic.

Mura h-eil iomradh air a' chànan no air a' chinneadh ann an Earrannan 1, 3 agus 5 den Bhile mar a tha e, dh'iarraimaid gun rachadh mìneachadh de chinneadh, a' gabhail a-steach luchd na Gàidhlig a chur ris na mìneachaidhean ann am Pàirt 3, Earrann 14.

If the language or ethnicity is not referenced in Sections 1, 3 and 5 of the Bill as it stands, then we would ask that a definition of race including Gaelic speakers be added to the definitions in Part 3, Section 14.

Bheachdaich am Morair Bracadal air a' cheist am bu chòir luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig a mheas mar bhuidheann cinnidh air leth agus cho-dhùin e gun robh argamaid làidir ann gun gabhadh an sònrachadh mar sin.

Lord Bracadale considered the question of Gaelic speakers as a distinct ethnic group and concluded that there was a strong argument that they could be defined as such.

Ge b' e dè an t-slighe as fheàrr leibh gus sin aithneachadh, is e a' phuuing as cudromaiche nach eil luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig air an dùnadh a-mach bhon dìon a tha am Bile a' toirt seachad.

Whichever is the preferred route to make that recognition, the most important point is that Gaelic speakers are not excluded from the protection afforded by the Bill.

Nan rachadh a' Ghàidhlig a chur a-steach dhan Bhile, chumadh e taic do na trì amasan (a) stannardachadh no cunbhalachd dòigh-obrach thar nam feartan dìonte, a' gabhail a-steach feartan ùra; (b) dèanamh cinnteach gum bi an reachdas freagarrach airson an àm ri teachd; gus am biodh e a rèir Alba an 21mh agus cho fad 's a ghabhas e dèanamh, gum bi an reachdas iomchaidh airson an am ri teachd, agus (c) Alba nas co-ionainne agus nas in-ghabhalta a thogail.

The inclusion of Gaelic would support the three aims of (a) a standardisation or consistency of approach across the protected characteristics including new characteristics; (b) future proofing legislation; to reflect 21st century Scotland and as far as possible make the legislation fit for purpose in the future, and (c) to build a more equal and inclusive Scotland.

¹ Para 9, <https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill.pdf>

² Para 9, <https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill.pdf>

