

<p><b>Co-chomhairleachadh air Còraichean is Dleastanasan Fearann na h-Alba Freagairt bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig 27 Faoilleach 2021</b></p>	<p><b>Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Consultation Response by Bòrd na Gàidhlig 27 January 2021</b></p>
<p>Mar a tha sgrìobhainn a’ cho-chomhairleachaidh a’ mìneachadh, ’s e meas air còraichean daonna aon de na seachd nithean sònraichte air am feum Ministearan beachdachadh nuair a thathar a’ toirt air adhart an Aithris air Còraichean is Dleastanasan Fearainn.</p> <p>An-dràsta, tha Prionnsapal #1 ag ràdh: “Bu chòir gu bheil am frèam-obrach iomlan de chòraichean, dleastanasan agus poileasaidhean poblach air fearann a’ cur air adhart, a’ coileanadh agus a’ cur meas air còraichean daonna buntainneach a thaobh fearann.” Bu chòir beachdachadh air taic airson na Gàidhlig mar phàirt den dleastanas ann an seilbheadaireachd an fhearainn. Bhiodh sin a’ comharrachadh gu bheil stèidh chànanach aig còraichean daonna, an àite stèidh chultarach a-mhàin.</p> <p>Bu chòir a’ phuing seo - agus iomradh sònraichte air a’ Ghàidhlig - a ghabhail a-steach san Aithris air Còraichean is Dleastanasan Fearainn. Bhiodh seo a’ daingneachadh an t-seasaimh aig an SLC fhèin gu bheil a’ Ghàidhlig a’ cluiche pàirt chudromach ann an cùisean an fhearainn ann an Alba. Tha Plana Gàidhlig na buidhne ag ràdh:</p> <p><i>Tha ceangal seasmhach ann eadar ath-leasachadh fearainn, fearann agus na daoine. Bha ‘An Tìr, an Cànan, ’s na Daoine’ na shluagh-ghairm aig Dionnasg an Fhearainn, buidheann san 19mh linn a rinn iomairt airson ath-leasachadh fearainn.</i></p> <p><i>Tha an abairt seo a’ sealltainn cho dlùth-cheangailte ’s a tha na trì eileamaidean. Tha an ceangal eadar cànan, daoine agus fearann a’ leantainn an-diugh. Tha dlùth-cheangal eachdraidheil eadar muinntir na h-Alba, an tìr air a bheil iad a’ fuireach is ag obair, agus a’ Ghàidhlig.</i></p>	<p>As the consultation document explains, respecting human rights is one of the seven specific aspects that Ministers must consider when developing the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement.</p> <p>The current Principle #1 states that: “The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies should promote, fulfil and respect relevant human rights in relation to land”. Support for the Gaelic language should be considered as part of the responsibility in land ownership. That reflects that human rights have a linguistic basis rather than simply a cultural one.</p> <p>This point - and specific mention of the Gaelic language - should be included within the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement. This would reflect SLC’s own position that the Gaelic language is an intrinsic part of land issues in Scotland. Its Gaelic Language Plan states that:</p> <p><i>There is a longstanding connection between land reform, land, and people. ‘An Tìr, an Cànan, ’s na Daoine’ – which translates as ‘the land, the language and the people’ – was the motto of the Highland Land League, a 19th century land reform association.</i></p> <p><i>Their choice of this phrase as their motto reflects how the three elements are so closely interlinked. This heritage of the connection between language, people and land continues today. There is a time-honoured interconnection between the people of Scotland, their close</i></p>

Tha mu 80 sa cheud den fhearann sna h-Eileanan an Iar ann an làmhnan na coimhearsnachd. Tha an sgìre a' gabhail a-steach coimhearsnachdan sam faighear na h-ìrean as àirde de chleachdadh na Gàidhlig - 's e teismheadhan Gàidhealtachd na h-Alba a th' innte. A rèir Cunntas-sluaigh 2011, tha a' cho-chuid as motha de dhaoine de dh'aois trì bliadhna is nas sine aig a bheil sgilean Gàidhlig a' fuireach san sgìre (61% -an coimeas ris an ìre chuibheasach airson Alba de 1.7%). Mar a tha Plana Gàidhlig an SLC ag ràdh:

*Tha a' Ghàidhlig aig a' mhòr-chuid ann an sgìre Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, sgìre anns a bheil Gàidhlig ga bruidhinn gu h-eachdraidheil agus gu traidiseanta.*

Mar sin, tha a' Ghàidhlig na pàirt fìor chudromach de chòraichean is dleastanasan an fhearainn ann an coimhearsnachdan nan Eileanan an Iar. Mar sin, ma thathar a' dearmad beachdachadh air seo ann an Aithris air Còraichean is Dleastanasan Fearainn, bithear a' toirt droch bhuaidh air leithid a choimhearsnachdan eileanach ann an dòigh a bhiodh, nar beachd-ne, diofaraichte bhon bhuaidh a bhiodh ann air sgìrean tìr-mhòir.

Tha SLC air Fòram Comhairleachaidh air Fearann is Còraichean Daonna a stèidheachadh gus beachdachadh air mar a tha seilbheadaireachd fearainn agus còraichean daonna ag eadar-oibreachadh. Bhon a tha còraichean cànan nam pàirt de chòraichean daonna, bu chòir gum bi an ceangal eadar fearann agus cànan mar phàirt de seo.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air comhairle a thoirt don Bhuidheann Ghnìomha air Còraichean Daonna aig Riaghaltas na h-Alba air cho cudromach 's a tha e a bhith a' dèanamh cinnteach gu bheil còraichean cànan air an comharrachadh air feadh gach taobh den obair aca, agus chan ann a-mhàin a thaobh chòraichean cultarach. Leis mar a tha SLC ag aithneachadh an dlùth-cheangail eadar coimhearsnachd, fearann agus cànan, bhiomaid a' cur fàilte air cothrom gus comhairle chosmhail a thoirt don Fhòram Chomhairleachaidh agus a bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann an cuid de na còmhraidhean aca.

*connection to living on and working the land, and the Gaelic language.*

Around 80% of land in the Western Isles is in community ownership. The area contains communities with the highest levels of Gaelic usage - it is the heartland of Gaelic in Scotland. The 2011 Census showed that it had by far the greatest proportion of people aged 3 and over with Gaelic skills (61% - compared to the Scottish average of 1.7%). As SLC's own Gaelic Language Plan states:

*Gaelic is spoken by a majority of people in the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles) council area, an area in which Gaelic is historically and traditionally spoken*

Thus, the Gaelic language is an especially intrinsic part of land rights and responsibilities in Western Isles communities. Thus, failure to consider this in the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement would produce a negative impact in such island communities in a way that could be considered different from the impact on mainland areas.

SLC has established a Land and Human Rights Advisory Forum to consider how land ownership and human rights interact. As linguistic rights are part of human rights, the link between land and language should be part of this.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has provided advice to Scottish Government's Human Rights Task Force on the importance of ensuring that linguistic rights are reflected through all aspects of their work, not only in relation to cultural rights. Given SLC's recognition of the strong links between community, land and the Gaelic language, we would welcome the opportunity to provide similar advice for the Advisory Forum and participate in some of its discussions.

