



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01796

Name of petitioner

Màrtainn Mac a' Bhàillidh on behalf of Misneachd

Petition title

Equality, Inclusion and the Gaelic language

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review whether public bodies are complying with the Achd na Gàidhlig 2005 (Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005) to ensure that the Gaelic language, and therefore linguistic diversity, is fully recognised and promoted in Scotland.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

We have submitted formal complaints to the Highland Council, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government under the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Education (Scotland) Act 2016. We have also submitted a complaint to the Equalities Commissioner, as well as written letters to the relevant Councillors.

Petition background information

I am petitioning the Scottish Parliament on this issue to ensure that the Gaelic language, and therefore linguistic diversity, is recognised as essential in an open, inclusive Scotland and encouraged at all levels by local authorities, education bodies and the Scottish Government.

The intention and spirit of equalities legislation and inclusivity in public life must make provision for the use of languages other than English such as Gaelic, and events intended to support minority language groups, held through the medium of these languages, should not be characterised as exclusionary.

I am aware of cases of discrimination against minority languages, and specifically Gaelic, which have had a negative effect on children and their school education.

I refer to Part 6, 'Monitoring of implementation' of the Achd na Gàidhlig 2005 (Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005), and Part 15 of the Act, 'Duty to promote and support Gaelic medium education and learning' of the Achd an Fhoghlaim 2016 (Education (Scotland) Act 2016) to support my petition.

Comann nam Pàrant, Alasdair Allan MSP and Kate Forbes MSP have corresponded

with Highland Council on this issue.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/protectminorities>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

12

Closing date for collecting signatures online

17 / 03 / 2020

Comments to stimulate online discussion

1. A bheil thu a' smaoinichadh gum bi buidhnean poblach ag aithneachadh nan dleastanasan reachdail aca gu h-iomlan gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid a' Ghàidhlig, agus mar sin, iomadachd cànanach, a làn aithneachadh agus a bhrosnachadh ann an Alba?

2. A bheil thu a' smaoinichadh gu bheil am Plana Cànanain Nàiseanta Gàidhlig 2018-2023 a' coileanadh nan amasan aige, (is e sin gus barrachd dhaoine a bhrosnachadh gus Gàidhlig a chleachdadh nas trice agus ann am barrachd shuideachaidhean agus gus seo a chur an comas?) (Tha inbhe reachdail aig a' Phlana seo a chionn 's gun deach a dheasachadh mar thoradh air Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005).

1. Do you think public bodies fully recognise their statutory duties to ensure that the Gaelic language, and therefore linguistic diversity, is fully recognised and promoted in Scotland?

2. Do you think the Gaelic Language Plan 2018-2023 is achieving its aims, (which is to encourage and enable more people to use Gaelic more often and in a wider range of situations)? (This Plan has legal status because it has been made as a result of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005.)