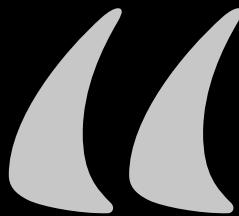


Tír gan Teanga, Tír gan anam

Sinn Féin ar son na Gaeilge

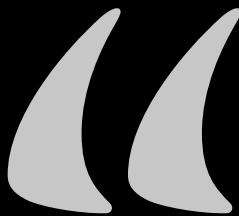


Pléchéipéis Ghaeilge Shinn Féin



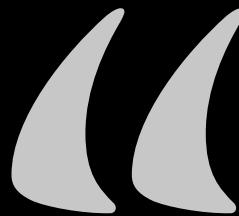
Tír gan teanga,
tír gan anam.
A country
without a
language is
a country
without a soul.

Pádraig Mac Piarais



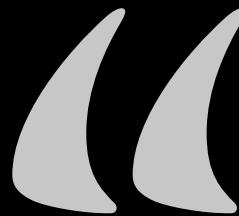
A people without
a language of
its own is only
half a nation. A
nation should
guard its
language more.

Thomas Davis



When we speak of
the necessity for
de-anglicising the
Irish nation, we
mean to show the
folly of neglecting
what is Irish.

Dubhghlás de híde



Is í an Ghaeilge
athghabháil na
hÉireann, agus
is í athghabháil
na hÉireann
slánú na
Gaeilge.

Máirtín Ó Cadhain



Clár

Réamhrá	3
Achoimre Fheidhmeach	5
Cearta Gaeilge	6
Pobal na Gaeilge	7
Na Gaeltachtaí	8
An Ghaeilge sa Chórás Oideachais	11
An Ghaeilge san Earnáil Phoiblí	13
An Ghaeilge sa Chórás Dlí	16
Na Meáin Chumarsáide Gaeilge	17

Réamhrá

Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta an Ghaeilge a thabhairt ar ais mar theanga labhartha in Éirinn agus a hardréim a athbhunú i sochaí iltheangach.

Tacaímid le hobair phobal na Gaeilge, lena ghníomhairescaí agus eagraíochtaí ionadúla, mar phríomh-mheán na hoibre seo. Measaimid, i Sinn Féin áfach, gur cuid de phobal na Gaeilge muid agus tá muid tiomanta do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge taobh istigh dár bpáirtí féin.

Is féidir le Sinn Féin leanúint ar aghaidh lena ról trí thacaíocht don Ghaeilge a chothú sna hinstiúidí polaitiúla, – i dTeach Laighean, sa Tionól, san Eoraip, sa Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh / Theas, sna comhlachtaí trastearann, agus laistigh de chomhairlí áitiúla – trí leanúint leis an stocaireacht agus leis an soláthar, ó thaobh cearta Gaelgeoirí .

Thuig na glúnta de cheannairí réabhlóideacha agus de ghníomhaithe teanga - Tomás Dáibhís, Dubhghlás de híde, Pádraig Mac Piarsais, Máirtín Ó Cadhain agus Bobby Sands, gan ach cúpla duine a lua - thuig siad uile ról ríthábhachtach na Gaeilge agus a hathbheochana i sochaí na hÉireann. Theastaigh ón gCadhna nasc a dhéanamh idir athbheochan na Gaeilge agus bunathrú shochaí na hÉireann trína thagairt ar athghabháil na hÉireann. Bunathrú ar son shaoránaigh fud fad na tíre.

Is sochaí ilchultúrtha í sochaí na hÉireann sa 21ú hAois. Trí dhátheangachas a ghríosú mar acmhainn don athmuintearas agus trí mheas a chothú d'éagsúlacht, beidh tacaíocht mhéadaithe an phobail agus rannpháirtíocht mar eochair ríthábhachtach do theimpléad ar Éirinn ilchultúrach comhaontaithe. Níl amhras ann ach go bhfuil ár gcomhstair agus ár n-éagsúlacht cultúrtha ina mbuntáiste dár sochaí.

Tá sé in am an Ghaeilge a chaomhnú.

Tá an-dochar déanta ag páirtithe rialtais sa Deisceart don Ghaeilge mar theanga labhartha. Bhí polasaithe agus cur chuige an rialtais, agus na rialtas roimhe seo, dochrach agus naimhdeach fiú, i leith fhorbairt na Gaeilge. Le linn a dtréimhse in oifig, bhí drochchlú an easpa maoirseachta, ceannaireachta agus tacaiochta don Ghaeilge orthu.

Ag am nuair atá na ceantair Ghaeltachta ag iarraidh tacaiochta agus infeistíochta, tá freagra an Rialtais ina chuíos náire. Tá rialtas i ndiaidh rialtais tar éis faillí eacnamaiochta a chur i bhfeidhm trí

easpa infheistíochta is pleanála; marbhántacht shóisialta a chinntíú trí eisimirce agus easpa deiseanna; trí neamhghníomh agus séanadh a léiriú.

Mar mhalaire ar sin, tá Sinn Féin tiomanta don Ghaeilge a thabhairt ar ais mar theanga labhartha ag muintir na hÉireann taobh amuigh agus taobh istigh den Ghaeltacht.

Sna hidirbheartaíochtaí go léir le Rialtais na hÉireann agus na Breataine chuireamar saincheist chearta na Gaeilge ar an gclár oibre. Le linn chomhaontuithe Chill Rimhinn (2006), dhaingníomar tiomantas d'Acht na Gaeilge a thabhairt isteach chun cosaint a dhéanamh ar chearta Gaeilgeoirí sa Se Chontae. Tá sé seo fós le déanamh.

D'éisigh agus bhain Sinn Féin aitheantas oifigiúil na Gaeilge amach; bunú comhlachta uile-Éireann (Foras na Gaeilge) leis an nGaeilge a thacú agus a chur chun cinn; síniú na Cairte Eorpaí um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh ag na Breatainigh; leathnú ar chraoltóireacht Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart; an tiomantas le hAcht na Gaeilge a thabhairt isteach (a bhfuil teip ar na Briotanaigh a chomhlíonadh go dtí seo); maoiniú do Chiste Craoltóireachta na Gaeilge a dhaingniú; agus brú ó Shinn Féin ar Rialtas na Breataine Acht na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm; agus cistíú leantach don Chiste Craoltóireachta a aimsiú, chomh maith le cistíú nua do Chiste Infheistíochta Caipilí na Gaeilge – Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge.

Leanann Sinn Féin ar aghaidh ag feachtasaíocht d'Acht na Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart, agus tá roinnt céimeanna tógtha trínár nAireacht sa Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon & Fóillíochta (RCEF) a áiríonn dréacht-mholtaí agus comhairliú poiblí ar Acht na Gaeilge. I mí an Mhárta 2016 vótáil na hAontachtóirí I gcoinne Acht na Gaeilge san Fheidhmeannas. Tá an dualgas ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus na Breataine a chinntiu go dtabhfar an tiomantas seo chun críche.

Tá an cháil ar an bhfeachtas Liofa a bhfuil mar sprioc aige líon na bhfoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge a mhéadú. De thairbhe láinseáil agus rath an fheachtais, a seoladh sa bláthain 2011 agus a raibh an tAire Carál Ní Chuilín ina ceannródaí ina thaobh, tá Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (CLG) i ndiaidh glacadh leis an bhfeachtas ar bhonn uile-Éireann.

Táimid fós tiomanta d'aisghairm ar Acht um

Riaradh an Cheartais 1737 a chuireann cosc ar úsáid na Gaeilge sna cúirteanna sa Tuaisceart chomh maith.

I dtaca le cúrsaí oideachais, tá athrú as cuimse tagtha ar earnáil an Ghaeloideachais de thairbhe obair an tAire Oideachais John O'Dowd agus Airí eile de chuid Shinn Féin roimhe. Tá oideachas agus soláthar seirbhísí óige trí Ghaeilgeanois i gcroílár an chóras oideachais ó thuaidh, agus tá cearta na dtuisimtheoirí, na bpáistí agus an aosa óig fite fuaité sa Roinn Oideachais. Tá infeistíocht gan fasach i stair an stáit déanta ag Airí Shinn Féin ó thaobh gaeloideachais agus seirbhísí de. Leanaimd ar aghaidh leis an idirghníomhacht le earnáil an Ghaeloideachais agus na chéad chéimeanna eile á bplé againn.

Thacaigh Sinn Féin leis an bhfeachtas Stádas sa Deisceart agus leanfaimid ar aghaidh ag obair d'aitheantas ionmlán na Gaeilge laistigh den Aontas Eorpach. Leanfaidh ár bhFeisirí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa ag obair chun cinntíú le cinneadh an Chomhairle Eorpáigh a gcuirfidh deireadh le maolú na Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm.

Ghlac an páirtí rannpháirt agus thug tacaíocht ionmlán d'fheachtas Dearnag le Fearn agus tá

tiomanta fós do throid ar son chearta na nGaeilgeoirí agus iad a thabhairt laistigh agus lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht.

Tacaíonn an páirtí le cumhactaí Oifig an Choimisiún Teanga a neartú go reachtúil; cioruithe ar eagraíochtaí agus ar thograí Gaeilge a aisiompú; agus Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 a neartú le go dtabharfaidh eifeacht reachtúla do chearta Gaeilgeoirí sna 26 Contae.

Tacaímid chomh maith le ceapúchán Aire Sinsearach ag Bord an Rialtais le freagracht don Ghaeilge agus don Ghaeltacht agus Buan-Chomhchoiste an Oireachtas a chinnteoidh go gcuireann an Stát toil pholaitiúil ríthábhachtach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta.

Sa bheartas polasaí seo léiríonn an páirtí cuid de na céimeanna de dhíth chun na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge a chosaint ó thuilleadh creimidh agus tú a chur le hathbhunú uirthi mar theanga bheo bheoga do shaoránaigh na hÉireann uile mar is ceart dó bheith. Tá neart fós le déanamh le cinntíú go gcúmhdófar ár dteanga, ár gcultúr agus ár n-oidhreacht dhúchais do na glúnta atá le teacht.

Is seod í ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr Gaelach.

Achoimre Fheidhmeach

- Tá cur chuige uile-Éireannach ag Sinn Féin i leith chur chun cinn na Gaeilge.
- Creideann Sinn Féin gurb ionann comhionannas agus cuid lárnoch de shocháí dhaonlathach, agus foláonn sé seo seasamh le cearta Gaeilgeoirí.
- Creideann Sinn Féin go mbraitheann todhchaí na Gaeilge ar phobail inbhuanaithe Gaeltachta, ina mbeidh an Ghaelige ina mhórtheanga pobail.
- Creideann Sinn Féin gur cheart Aire Sinsearach na Gaeilge bheith ann ag Bord an Rialtais a bhfuil freagrachtaí na Gaeilge agus na Gaeltachta air / uirthi.
- Creideann Sinn Féin go gcuireann an t-ainmniú mar Cheathrú Gaeltachta úsáid na Gaeilge chun cinn ar bhonn laethúil agus cuidíonn sé seo le deiseanna sóisialta, cultúrtha is eacnamaíochta a uasmhéadú.
- Creideann Sinn Féin gur cheart oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge, ón réamhscolaíocht go dtí stáidéir iarchéime, bheith ar fáil sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart dóibh siúd a roghnaíonn é. Credimid gur chóir ceart a bheith ag an tuismithoir a chuid páistí a chur chuig Gaelscoil.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le tumoideachas ag gach leibhéal sa chórás oideachais, go háirithe tumoideachas ag an luathchéim.
- Tá Sinn Féin i gcoinne aon iarracht stádas na Gaeilge a athrú mar ábhar éigeantach sna scrúduithe ar nós an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus na hArdteistiméireachta.
- Is bunghné dearfach de dhualgaisí na húdaráis áitiúla cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus ár n-oidhreachta.
- Creideann Sinn Féin go bhfuil ceart ag saoránaigh a gcuid gnó a dhéanamh leis an stát trí mheán na Gaeilge agus go gcaith an córas dlí agus gníomhaireseachtaí poiblí seo a éascú.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin leis an sprioc go mbeadh níos mó ná 20% de státsheirbhísí inniúil sa Ghaeilge
- Éilíonn Sinn Féin go mbunóidh an stát clár earcaíochta i bhfostaíocht lucht labhartha na Gaeilge le go gcinnteofar gur féidir gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.
- Fáiltíonn Sinn Féin roimh chinneadh an Chomhairle Eorpáigh chun deireadh a chur le Maolú Stádais na Gaeilge agus cinnteoidh Sinn Féin go gcuirfear an cinneadh seo i bhfeidhm.
- Cinnteoidh Sinn Féin go bhfoilseofar na Billí go léir agus na leasuithe molta i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla as seo amach agus go rithfear Billí i bhformáid dhátheangach sa Dáil agus sa Seanad.
- Creideann Sinn Féin nach mór teilifís, raidió agus meáin chlóite agus ar líne na Gaeilge bheith ar fáil go forleathan ar fud na hÉireann, ó thuaidh agus ó dheas.
- Creideann Sinn Féin gur gá lántacaíocht a thabhairt don Ghaeilge agus acmhainní iomlána a chur ar fáil do phobal na Gaeilge chun leas a bhaint as a gcuid iarrachtaí an infraestructúr riachtanach pobail a thógáil.

Cearta na Gaeilge

Creideann Sinn Féin nach mór go mbeadh comhionannas cultúrtha agus teangeolaíoch mar chuid thábhachtach de shochaí dhaonlathach in Éirinn. Cuimsionn sé seo aitheantas oifigiúil na Gaeilge, sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart, agus cearta na nGaeilgeoirí a bheith cumhdaithe i reachtaíocht.

Creidimid gur cheart stádas bunreachtúil na Gaeilge sa Deisceart a chur i bhfeidhm le beart de réir an fhoráil bhunreachtúla.

Tacaíonn an páirtí le cumhactaí Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga a neartú go reachtúil; cioruithe ar eagraíochtaí agus ar thograí Gaeilge a aisiompú; athbhreithniú ar na scéimeanna teanga, ag breathnú ar rialachán a chur i bhfeidhm ina n-áit, rud ata molta ag an gCoimisinér Teanga cheana féin; agus Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 a neartú le go dtabharfaidh éifeacht reachtúla do chearta Gaeilgeoirí sna 26 Contae.

Go dtí go gcuirfear Acht na Gaeilge do na Sé Chontae i bhfeidhm, ba cheart go ndaingneofai agus go n-achtófaí i reachtaíocht bearta breise na Cairte Eorpaí um Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh.

Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta do chomhaontú ar shleachta sa bhreis don Ghaeilge faoi na

ceannteidil go léir le go cuirfear Cuid III den Chairt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh i bhfeidhm.

Oibreoidh Sinn Féin le go gcuirfear na nithe seo a leanas i bhfeidhm:

- Aitheantas don Ghaeilge ó Thuaidh agus ó Dheas, cearta teanga lucht labhartha na Gaeilge cumhdaithe sa reachtaíocht agus stádas bunreachtúil don Ghaeilge i gcomhréir le Bunreacht na hÉireann.
- Cosaint ar chearta teanga trí fheidhmiú forchéimnitheach na dtiomantas a tugadh faoin gCreat-Choinbhinsiún do Mhionlaigh Náisiúnta a Chosaint agus faoin gCáirt Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh ag údaráis phoiblí.
- Aisghairmfear nó leasófar an tAcht um Riaradh an Cheartais 1737 (Administration of Justice Act 1737), chun deireadh a chur leis an toirmeasc i dtaobh úsáid na Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart.
- Achtófar reachtaíocht le go gcinnteoidh go mbeadh gach aon chomhlacht a úsáideann córais ar líne in ann glacadh le litriú Gaeilge (ar nós sínte fada, srl.).

Pobal na Gaeilge

Is páirtí uile-Éireannach é Sinn Féin a chreideann go láidir go bhfuil géarghá le cur chuige trasphobail uile-Éireannach ar gach ní a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge.

Admhaíonn agus tréasláionn Sinn Féin an méid suntasach sároibre a rinneadh agus a dheántar, ag leibhéal na dtograí Gaeilge áitiúil.

Creideann Sinn Féin nach mór do phobal na Gaeilge bheith maoinithe níos fearr ina n-iarrachtaí líon na gcainteoiri Gaeilge a mhéadú agus bonneagar pobail chun tacú le hathbheochan na Gaeilge a thógál.

Iarrann Sinn Féin ar an dá rialtas a chinntíú go bhfuil an tacaíocht agus an shaineolas phleanáil teanga chuí ag na eagraíochtaí deonacha Gaeilge do tabhairt faoina ról i ré nua an phleanáil theanga.

Creideann Sinn Féin go bhfreastlaítear níos fearr ar leasa na Gaeilge trí chomhoibriú laistigh den earnáil agus trí straitéisí ionlána.

Tá Sinn Féin mar chuid de phobal na Gaeilge, agus mar acmhainn pholaitiúil, fheachtasaíochta is stocaireachta dóibh siúd atá ag lorg sochaí détheangach a chruthú, sochaí a chinntíonn soláthar seirbhísí ón gcliabhán go dtí an uaigh trí mheán na Gaeilge, dóibh siúd a dhéanann an rogha sin.

Aithníonn Sinn Féin an géarghá le húsáid na Gaeilge a uchtú ar fud na bpobal uile in Éirinn. Admhaímid an acmhainneacht don teanga bheith mar mheicníocht chun caidrimh níos fearr a chothú le daoine ón bpobal aontachtaí. Feictear ar nascálacha le pobail labhartha na Gàidhlige in Albain mar chomhghualluimh dóchúla sna iarrachtaí seo.

Is cuid lárnoch d'aon straitéis cuimsithe an tábhacht chun dul i dteagmháil go dearfach le mionlaigh eitneacha agus le pobail urnua agus

misneoidh Sinn Féin na hiarrachtaí seo in áit gur féidir.

Feiniméan ag éirí níos idirnáisiúnta is ea Pobal na Gaeilge. Tá an-dul chun cinn déanta i dtaobh an Ghaeilge a theagasc ar fud na Cruinne agus i dtaobh ghréasáin na gcainteoiri Gaeilge a ghríosú. Tréasláionn Sinn Féin go mór an obair seo agus féachfaimid chuige an gréasán seo a thacú agus a leathnú ar shlí inlaimhsithe. Tá na teicneolaíochtaí nua mar uirlisí tábhachtacha chun cabhrú le nasacadh leis na baill éagsula is scaipithe seo ó Phobal na Gaeilge a thugann féidearthachtaí den scoth an teanga a chur chun cinn ar fud na Cruinne agus daoine is grúpaí a ghríosú chun filleadh ar ais ar Éirinn chun saibhreas agus beogacht na teanga a chomhroinnt.

Le go gcabhrófar i gcur chun cinn agus i dtóigáil ar an obair roimhe, tá Sinn Féin tiomanta:

- Na hiarrachtaí ar fud an oileáin a athdhíriú le húsáid agus cosaint na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a thacú.
- Cuspóirí, straitéisí agus gníomhaíochtaí soiléire a shonrú le go mbainfear seo amach ar leibhéal náisiúnta is áitiúil.
- Múnlai seachadtha deartha a chruthú le go dtabharfar aghaidh ar na riachtanais éagsúla sa Tuaisceart, sa Deisceart, san Iarthar agus san Oirthear, chomh maith le pobail thuaithe is chathrach.
- Cur chuige comhdhearach a ghríosú agus a chur chun cinn do na nithe seo go léir i measc cainteoiri Gaeilge agus eagraíochtaí gníomhuithe teanga.
- Tabhairt faoin leithcheal stairiúil agus faoi na dearctaí diúltacha i dtaobh na Gaeilge agus phobal na Gaeilge, go háirithe sa Tuaisceart.

Na Gaeltachtaí

Creideann Sinn Féin go bhfuil todhchaí na Gaeilge ag brath ar mhaireachtáil leantach na bpobal inbhuanaithe Gaeltachta, áit ina bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar phríomhtheanga an phobail. Tá go leor moltaí inár mbeartas "Margadh Nua don larthar" (Eanair 2016), a rachadh chun tairbhe na ceantair Ghaeltachta.

Teastaíonn ó na pobail seo straitéis shoileir rialtais ar mhaithé lena maireachtáil agus lena bhforbairt, rud a chuimsíonn bearta forbartha sóisialta, cultúrtha agus geilleagraí atá ceangailte le straitéis inmharthana teanga do cheantair Ghaeltachta agus iar-Ghaeltachta araon.

Ní éireoidh leis an gcineál seo straitéise ach trí chomhaontú agus trí thacaíocht na ndaoine sna pobail Ghaeltachta. Ní foláir acmhainní dá réir a chur ar fáil leis an straitéis a chur i bhfeidhm.

D'fháiltigh Sinn Féin roimh an Straitéis Fiche Bliain don Ghaeilge sa Deisceart, ach tá díomá mhór orainn faoin easpa chur i bhfeidhm. Táimid den tuairim go gcaithfear fócas as an nua a thabhairt don Straitéis sin nó cur chuige nua a dhearadh a bheidh in oiriúint do riachtanas níos práinní atá sonraithe anois ó thaobh meath na Gaeilge de sna ceantair Ghaeltachta. Táimid ag moladh cur i bhfeidhm straitéise cuimsíthí le creimeadh phríomhaíochta na Gaeilge i gceantair Ghaeltachta a aisiompú agus, ina theannta sin, ceantair Ghaeltachta nua a chruthú, go háirithe i gceantair uirbeacha sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart.

- Molann Sinn Féin gur cheart Aire Sinsearach na Gaeilge bheith ann ag Bord an Rialtais le freagrachtaí na Gaeilge & na Gaeltachta amháin air / uirthi.
- Molaimid gur cheart Buánchoiste Oireachtas bheith ann le freagrachtaí don Ghaeilge agus don Ghaeltacht amháin orthu chun freastal ar shaincheisteanna a bhaineann leis an teanga.
- Molann Sinn Féin gur cheart Údarás na Gaeltachta an phríomhfheidhm d'fhorbairt gheilleagair agus bhonneagair na Gaeltachta a choinneáil agus gur gá acmhainní dá réir a chur ar fáil dóibh chun go gcuirfí sin i gcrích níos fíorr. Tabharfaidh Sinn Féin na toghcháin ar ais le haghaidh Bhord Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta do bhunú ionaid bharr feabhasí thionsclaíocha lonnaithe i réigiún Ghæltachta in earnálacha ar nós na meán cumarsáide nua, fuinnimh in-athnuaithe, táirgíúlachta bia nideoige agus turasóireachta cultúrtha chun moill eacnamaíocha a mhaolú agus ionaid ghnó a fhorbairt le fás agus le fostáiocht a chothú do phobail áitiúla.

- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le forbairt scéime na Roinne Oideachais, sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart, le cúnamh airgeadais a chur ar fáil do thuismitheoirí ar mhaith leo a bpáistí bunscoile agus meánscoile a chur chun na Gaeltachta.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le creidmheas cánach a thosú do thuismitheoirí leanaí a fhreastlaíonn ar chúrsaí Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht.
- Tá Sinn Féin i bhfábhar méadú ar lón na scoláireachtaí do mhic léinn chun freastal ar scoileanna na nOileán Gaeltachta agus go mbeadh ar a laghad beirt oide i ngach bunscoil oileánda.
- Fáiltíonn Sinn Féin roimh athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla sna 26 Chontae chun forálacha an Achta a neartú agus comhghéilliúlacht na ranna agus na n-eagras Stáit a chinntí. Molaimid reachtaíochta a bhunóidh córas cuntasachta agus deá-chleachtais do gach roinn agus gníomhaireacht rialtais a chinnteoidh go gcomhlíonfar gach ceann acu a bhfreagrachtaí i ndáil le cur i bhfeidhm an Achta agus a chinnteoidh seirbhís 'gan cheist, gan choinníoll' trí mheán na Gaeilge sna Gaeltachtaí do shaoránuithe ansin.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le scéim a thabhairt isteach laistigh den Aontas Eorpach ar an gcaighdeán céanna ar a bhfuil an Scéim Erasmus do Theangacha Mionlaigh, lena n-áirítear tréimhsí foghlama sa Ghaeltacht mar chuid de chúrsaí céime sa Ghaeilge.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le cearta mhuintir na háite leanúint ar aghaigh le gnásanna traidisiúnta ar nós sleádóireachta, iascaireachta locha agus cladaigh agus feirmeoireachta beagsheilbhe i réigiún Ghæltachta mar chúrsa atá suntasach ó thaobh cultúr de.

- Iarrann Sinn Féin ar cheapachán breitheamh atá inniúil ar an nGaeilge do chúirteanna dúiche agus cuarda lonnaithe sna ceantair Ghaeltachta, mar a cheanglaíonn an tAcht Cúirteanna Breithiúnais 1924 agus do ghardaí atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge bheith ar fáil chun freastal ar chúirteanna agus pobal na Gaeltachta.
- Iarrann Sinn Féin ar ghníomhairesreachtaí rialtais agus ar údarás áitiúla, mar aon le gnóthais phríobháideacha, tionscnaimh gheilleagracha nó reachtaíochta, a chinntiú go soláthrófar na seirbhísí trí mheán na Gaeilge sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.
- Iarrann Sinn Féin ar Phleananna Ceantair Áitiúil a forbairt do na Gaeltachtaí, i gcomhairle le saineolaithe sochtheangeolaíochta, leis an nGaeilge a chosaint mar theanga phobail agus le hinmharthanacht na gceantar seo a mhéadú araon.
- Iarrann Sinn Féin ar Rialtas na hÉireann cúrsaí Gaeilge a leanúint sna ceantair Ghaeltachta, dírithe go sonrach ar theangairí agus ar aistritheoirí ó chúlraí difriúla teanga.
- Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta do thacaíocht agus forbairt leantach ar oideachas tríú leibhéal agus ar oideachas aosaigh, go háirithe gairmchúrsaí agus cúrsaí gairmiúla trí mheán na Gaeilge sna réigiúin Ghaeltachta.
- Iarrann Sinn Féin ar chistíú méadaithe agus tacaíocht mhéadaithe d'eagraíochtaí a sholáthraíonn cláir ghníomhaíochtaí trí mheán na Gaeilge, go háirithe do dhaoine óga, do dhaoine aosta, do dhaoine faoi mhíchumas agus do ghrúpaí eile faoi mhíbhuntáiste sna ceantair Ghaeltachta.
- Molann Sinn Féin athbhreithniú agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar Scéim na gCúntóirí Teanga le tabhaint faoi riachtanais shaibhrithe teanga na n-ógánach Gaeltachta chomh maith le riachtanas na bhfoghlameoirí.
- Thabharfadh Sinn Féin an Liúntas Teagasc ar Óileán ar ais dóibh siúd a mhúineann ar na hÓileáin.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le tacaíochtaí a forbairt, ar nós ranganna Gaeilge agus cúrsaí do dhaoine nach bhfuil Gaeilge acu atá lonnaithe sa Ghaeltacht le cuidiú a thabhairt dóibh.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le cistíú leantach d'Ealaín na Gaeltachta agus iarraimid ar forbairt bhreise agus ar shaothrú breise na n-ealaion traidisiúnta agus comhaimseartha chun forbairt chultúrtha agus eacnamaíoch a chothú sna réigiúin Ghaeltachta go léir agus thar lear.
- Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le forbairt leantach áiseanna pobail agus fóillíochta a chuirfidh feabhas ar an gcaighdeán maireachtála i gceantair Ghaeltachta.
- Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta do níos mó aitheantas agus tacaíocht le haghaidh cumas cósta agus muirí na réigiún Ghaeltachta a fheabhsú. Tacaímid le cearta iascairí cladaigh iascach a dhéanamh feedh na gcóstai agus iarraimid tacaíocht agus forbairt an tionscail mhuijrshaothraithe, iascaireachta agus phróiseála sa Ghaeltacht.
- Ba mhaith le Sinn Féin córas teileachumarsáide idirnáisiunta ar ardchaighdéan a sholáthair I ngach ceantair ghaeltachta chun go mbeadh rochtain chuí ag an bpobal do chórais fhón, leathanbhandá is araile ar bhonn iomaioch is leantach.
- Scrúdóidh Sinn Féin forbairt ar bhealach artaireach, a cheanglaíonn réigiúin Ghaeltachta le chéile agus aithint ar na bealaí seo mar bhealaí a bhfuil tábhacht straitéiseach réigiúnach ag baint leo a nascann na bealaí ó Ghaillimh go Scríb, ó Ghaillimh go dtí an Clochán, ó Thrá Lí go dtí An Daingean go hlarthar Chorcaí agus ó Leitir Ceanainn go Gaoth Dobhair go dtí An Clochán Liath go Gleann Colmcille.
- Molann Sinn Féin go gcuirí macasamhail an Scéim Bóithre Áise sa Ghaeltacht ar bun in athuair chun cur ar chumas pobail bóithre nach boithre údarás áitiúl a choinneáil i gcaoi mhaith le rochtain a thabhairt do cheantair scoite agus do láithreacha oidhreachta.
- Tá Sinn Féin i bhfábhar tacaíocht leanúnach a thabhairt don tseirbhís aer as Conamara chuig na trí Oileáin Árainn, chomh maith le tacaíocht do sheirbhísí farantóireachta chuig na hoileáin Ghaeltachta ar fad agus go mbeadh

pobal na n-oileáin rannpháirteach sa phlé
maidir leis na córais a thairiscítear do na
bealaí iompair éagsúla.

Ceathrú Gaeltachta

Dualgas dlíthiúil is ea ainmniú stádas oifigiúil
Gaeltachta sa Deisceart cé nach bhfuil dualgas
don reachtaíocht seo sa Tuaisceart.

Sheol an tAire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóilíochta
Carál Ní Chuilín agus an tAire Oideachais
John O'Dowd, beirt ó Shinn Féin, an Ceathrú
Gaeltachta go hoifigiúil i mBéal Feirste i mí Mheán
Fómhair 2013. Is é an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus
Fóilíochta (RCEF) an príomh-roinn ar fhorbairt an
Cheantair Ghaeilge, a chuimsíonn Bóthar na
bhFál ón gCarraig Gheal go Cluain Ard.

Faoi láthair, d'ainmnigh muintir Sleaacht Néill
i gCarn Tóchair iad féin mar Ghaeltacht thuaithe
agus tá pleannann ann le Ceathrú Gaeltachta a
fhorbairt i gCathair Dhoire.

Cuireann an t-ainmniú mar Cheathrú
Gaeltachta úsáid na Gaeilge chun cinn ar bhonn
laethúil agus cuidíonn sé seo le deiseanna
sóisialta, cultúrtha is eacnamaíochta a
uasmhéadú.

Cuireann an Ceathrú Gaeltachta féidearthachaí
ar fáil chun úsáid laethúil na Gaeilge mar theanga
labhartha a mhéadú chomh maith le deiseanna
do thurasóireacht chultúrtha agus oidhreachta,
réimse fáis sa gheilleagar, a mhéadú.

Tá Ceathrú Gaeltachta Bhéal Feirste lonnaithe
i gceann de na ceantair is diothaithe sa Tuaisceart

agus cabhraíonn an láthair chun dul i ngleic le
bochtanas, le diothacht agus le heisiamh sóisialta.

Ag tógáil ar an spéis mhéadaithe sa
ghaelscolaíocht, tá Ceathrú Gaeltachta Bhéal
Feirste mar láthair do Ghaelscoil an Lonnáin,
Gaelcoil na bhFál, Bunscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh
and Coláiste Feirste.

Is í fí Shinn Féin ná na Ceathrúna Gaeltachta
bheith aitheanta go hidirnáisiúnta mar thairbhe
ar fud an oileáin, chomh maith le deiseanna
eacnamaíochta a sholáthar do dhaoine áitiúla
agus le cuairteoirí foghlama na Gaeilge ó cheithre
airde na Cruinne, le go mbreiseofar iad.

Sa tslí seo, bheadh na Ceathrúna Gaeltachta
in ann sochair chultúrtha, shóisialta agus
eacnamaíochta a thabhairt don tsochai i
gcoitinne.

Tacaionn Sinn Féin le:

- Bunú chlár comhroinnte oideachais is
eolais a bhunú sna Ceathrúna Gaeltachta,
ag obair i bpáirtnéireacht le rannóga
rialtais, sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart
chun tacú le daoine óga dul isteach san
ardoideachas agus sa bhreisoideachas trí
dheiseanna san ionad oibre a fhorbairt
agus a oscailt, go háirithe sna tionscail
shainithe agus theicniúla, as Gaeilge.
- Moill thithíochta Gaeilge a bhféadfadh
freastal ar dhaoine áitiúla agus ar scoláirí
Gaeilge araon inár féidir leo cuairt a
thabhairt air agus tumadh in aisling na
gCeathrúna Gaeltachta.

An Ghaeilge sa Chóras Oideachais

Cumhdaíonn Sinn Féin teanga dúchais na hÉireann agus maímid as a páirt mar shuaitheantas feiniúlachta dár ndaoine, a lárnacht agus a hábharthacht do chultúir agus stair an náisiúin.

Creidimid nach mór don Ghaeilge bheith tacaithe agus maoinithe go hiomlán sna córais oideachais sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart, de réir riachtanais.

Creidimid gur cheart oideachas trí mheán na Gaeilge, ón réamhscolaíocht go dtí stáidéir iarchéime, bheith ar fáil sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart dóibh siúd a roghnaíonn é.

Tacaíonn Sinn Féin le:

- Maoiniú cuí do Ghaeloideachas ó na blianta luaithe go dtí an tríú leibhéal.
- Cothromaíocht sholáthair an Ghaeloideachais ar chomhchéim leis an mBéarla ar a laghad le bheith maoinithe ag an dá Roinn Oideachais. Beidh sé seo mar dhualgas ar an dá roinn, ní hamhán le héileamh an Ghaeloideachais a shásamh, ach an t-éileamh céanna a chruthú.
- Bunú cláir phleanálte ar thógáil Gaelscoileanna bunaithe ar éileamh agus ar inmharthanacht ag an dá Roinn Oideachais agus na gníomhaireachtaí faoi seach a mhaoiniú, agus go mbeadh éascú ar an bpróiseas aistrithe go Gaelscoileanna do scoileanna agus do thuismitheoirí.
- Na ranna oideachais sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart, agus a gníomhaireachtaí faoi seach dul i ngleic le for-rochtain do gníomhaithe na Gaeilge ag na céimeanna is luaithe i bhforbairt na gaelscoile le go mbainfear an leas is fearr as a n-eolas, a dtáithí agus a bhfeasacht ar riachtanais áitiúla.
- Gaeilge tumoideachais ag gach leibhéal sa chóras oideachais, go hairithe an luath-thumoideachas. Tacaímid le tumoideachas páirteach bheith ar fáil do gach páiste sa Deisceart, do chéad dá bliaín na scolaíochta bheith müinte trí Ghaeilge agus go muintear dhá ábhar sa bhrefis trí Ghaeilge sa bhunscoil (Ealaín agus Spórt).
- Feidhmeoidh na scoileanna go léir sa Ghaeltacht oifigiúil trí Ghaeilge amháin.

- Úsáideofar Gaeilge i ngach réamhscoil a fhaigheann cúnamh ón stát.
- Cinntíu go dtabharfar clár an cheartchaighdeáin Ghaeilge dóibh siúd a oibríonn i réamhscoileanna, mar chuid dá n-oiliúint sna modúil CDBOO ag leibhéal 5 go 8.
- Líon na ndaltaí díolúnaithe ón nGaeilge a laghdú – go háirithe na daltaí a tháinig thar lear. I gcásanna na ndaltaí seo, ba cheart ábhar nua Staidéar na Gaeilge a bhunú ina múinfear dóibh bunús na Gaeilge chomh maith le stair na teanga.
- Aghaidh a thabhairt ar theaghlaigh oibre sa Deisceart agus ar inbhuanaitheacht na gceantar Gaeltachta trí creidmheas cánach ar 20 a sholáthar, ar aon chaiteachas suas go €950 a ghearrtar ar tuismitheoirí do chúrsaí sa Ghaeltacht. Do pháistí nach bhfuil a dtuismitheoirí ag obair, bhronnfad Sinn Féin aisbhaint ag an bhfoinse ar 20% na dtáillí dóibh siúd le cártai Leighis.
- Cláir a sholáthar a chinntíonn go gcumasaítear müinteoir in úsáid agus i múineadh na Gaeilge. Go solathraítear cláir athbhreithnithe agus athnuachana mar chuid de dhualgaisí an mhúinteora chun cinntíu go dtagtar ar agus go gcothaítear an caighdeán ceart Gaeilge.
- Stádas na Gaeilge a chothú mar ábhar éigeantach i scrúduithe an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus na hArdteiste.
- Leanúint ar aghaidh le 40% ar a laghad a bhronnadh don Bhéaltríail Gaeilge i scrúduithe an Teastais Shóisearaigh agus na hArdteiste agus bronnfar pointí sa bhrefis don Ghaeilge Ardléibhéil san Ardteist mar a dhéantar in ábhar na Matamaitice.
- Soláthar ar chúrsa nua Gaeilge do mhic léinn na Gaeltachta agus do mhic léinn ag freastal ar gaelscoileanna, ina gcuirfear treoir ar scribhneoireacht chruthaitheach, ar litriocht sa brefis agus ar theangeolaíocht fheidhmeach. D'fhéadfadh an cursa seo bheith oiriúnach do chainteoirí dúchasacha nó d'fhoghlaimeoirí neamhdhúchasacha uaillmhanacha.

- Cur i bhfeidhm na moltaí sa Straitéis 20 Bliain maidir leis An Chomhairle Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta agus go gcuirfear na hacmhainní daonna agus airgid de dhith ar fáil le go mbainfidh sí a dualgaisí reachtúla amach.
- Struchtúr foirméálta a chur in áit idir An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) agus An Comhairle um Churaclain, Mheasúnuithe & Scrúduithe (CMS) le háiseanna múinteoireachta a tháirgeadh agus a roinnt ar mhaithe le hearnáil na Gaeilge, an oideachais agus luach an airgid.
- Forbairt leanúnach na mbrateagraíochtaí ar nós Gaelscoileanna, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, lontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta agus an Foras Pátrúnachta.
- Forbairt ar chlár Gaeilge d'oiliúint mhúinteoirí bunaithe sa Ghaeltacht.
- Fáil ar cháilíochtaí 'chaighdeán íosmhéid' do shocruithe oideachasúla a thabhairt trí mheán na Gaeilge.
- Fáil ar ghaeloideachais do dhaltaí le sainriachtanais oideachasúla sa bheis nó le deacrachaí foghlama chomh maith le soláthar Shainriachtanais Oideachasúla trí Ghaeilge ag leibhéal bunscoile is iarbhunscoile.
- Bunú ranganna Gaeilge ar fud na hÉireann do dhaoine fásta saor in aisce d'úsáideoirí le go méadófar líon cumasach úsáidte na Gaeilge i saol laethúil s'acu.
- Feidhmniú céimneach do Líofa a chur i bhfeidhm, nó scéim cosúil leis a mbeadh tacáiocht an stáit ag gabháil leis, sna 26 Contae.
- Dearadh cursa foghlama na Gaeilge do thuismitheoirí a chur ar fáil, a éascóidh a dtacaíocht dá bpáistí ag foghlaim ar scoil.
- Go gcuirfear maoiniú ar fáil chun an détheangachas a ghríosú sna scoileanna Béarla sna 26 Contae.
- Go mbeidh paireacht mheasa ag an nGaeilge agus go dtaispeánfar í ar chomhchéim leis an mBéarla, i ngach institiúid tríú leibhéal, i ngach coláiste agus i ngach ollscoil ar fud na hÉireann lena áiritear fógraí, cáipéisí agus treoracha.
- Comhaontú rialtais ar chlár forbartha maoinithe d'oideachas tríú leibhéal trí mheán na Gaeilge i gcomhar le gach ollscoil ar an oileán, sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart, ar mhian leo rannpháirt a ghlacadh, le bunú ollscoil Gaeilge tiomanta mar aidhm fhadtéarmach.
- An riachtanas do Ghaeilge na hArdteiste a choimeád chun freastal ar chúrsaí tríú leibhéal in Ollscoil na hÉireann.

An Ghaeilge san Earnáil Phoiblí

Creideann Sinn Féin go bhfuil cothromáiocht chultúrtha agus teangeolaíochta laistigh den saol saoránach ríthábhachtach do bhunú sochaí daonlathach in Éirinn. Dá réir sin, creideann Sinn Féin go bhfuil sé de cheart ag gaelgeoirí a gcuid gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge leis na rannóga rialtais áitiúla agus stáit, agus ní mór don chóras díl agus do chomhlachtaí na hearnála poioblí úsáid na Gaeilge ó shaoránaigh a éascú.

Cuirfimí s iacall ar na Comhairlí go léir glacadh le Straitéis Chur Chun Cinn na Gaeilge, ag díriú ar fhorbairt Theanga sa Phobail, i gcomhar leis na heagraíochtaí cui, chomh maith lena gcuid dualgaisí a chomhlíonadh faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (sna 26 Chontae).

Ba cheart do na hÚdarás Áitiúla seirbhís a sholáthar ar ardcháilíocht do shaoránaigh ar mhian leo seirbhís trí Ghaeilge a fháil. Cinnteoimid go gcuirfear fior-éifeacht le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla agus go gcuirfear i bhfeidhm mar is ceart, agus go mbeidh ar gach Údarás Áitiúil, chomh maith leis na Comhlachtaí Stát eile.

Chuige seo, tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhfuil leor céatadáin ag an bhfoireann in ann a gcuid dualgaisí a chomhlíonadh trí Ghaeilge. Tá Sinn Féin ar son polasaí idirdhealaithe dhearfaigh i bhfábhar gaeilgeoirí, agus a chinnteoidh tréandeiseanna tréanála d'fhoireann an údarás áitiúil chomh maith. Bheadh sé seo laistigh de chreatlach Theastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG).

Ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar an leithcheal stairiúil i gcoinne cultúr na nGael agus an faillí a rinneadh ar riachtanais gaeleoirí, sa Tuaisceart agus sa Deisceart.

Creideann Sinn Féin gur cheart caitheamh leis an nGaeilge agus leis an Ultais ar bhonn riachtanais aonair an ceann seachas glacadh gur ionann an stádas eatarthu nach gciollódh ach amháin moill a chur le forbairt na Gaeilge. Faoi láthair, aithnítear Ultais faoi Páirt II, agus Gaeilge faoi Páirt III den Chairt Eorpach do Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh.

Éilíonn Sinn Féin cearta na Gaeilge a áireamh i mbille Cearta don Tuaisceart.

Tá Sinn Féin tiomanta do:

- Bunú clár earcaíochta i bhfostaíocht lucht labhartha na Gaeilge ag an stát le go gcinnteofar gur féidir gnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge.
- An sprioc go mbeadh níos mó ná 20% de

státsheirbhísí inniúil sa Ghaeilge.

- Forchinntí ó na ranna go bhfuil a ndóthain ball foirne acu atá inniúil sa Ghaeilge ar féidir leo seirbhís a fhreastal trí Ghaeilge.
- Ath-thabhairt isteach na bpointí breise don phróiseas earcaíochta sa Státhóras.
- Iacall a chur ar ard-rúnuithe na rannóga sa Státhóras a chinntí go bhfuil a bplean teanga curtha i bhfeidhm acu mar atá siad ceangailte faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (The Language Act). Caithfear cumhactaí neartaithe a thabhairt don Coimisinéir Teanga a chinntí go ndéanfar seo.
- Ceapachán Coimisinéir sna Sé Chontae chun maoiriú ar bhirt don Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn laistigh de ghníomhaireachtaí agus ranna rialtais.
- Oiliúint teanga inseirbhíse a reachtáil d'fhoireann an Státhórais.
- Cáipéisíocht ón Rialtas Lárnach agus Áitiúil do scoileanna bheith curtha ar fáil i nGaeilge d'earnáil an Ghaeloidéachais.
- Deireadh a chur le hainmneacha galldaithe d'eargraíochtaí Stát ina áit a bhfuil ainmneacha Gaeilge acu cheana.
- Cur chun cinn gníomhach na Gaeilge ó na húdarás aitiúla mar ghné dheardach agus chomhtháite i leith dualgaisí don teanga agus dár gcultúr.
- Caomhnú cuí agus cuaille eolais chuí ar logaimmneacha Gaeilge agus in ainmniú forbairtí nua titheacha a léiríonn dúchas áitiúil nó oidhreacht náisiúnta.
- Reachtáiocht a cheadaíonn d'fhógraí sráide bheith dátheangach sna Sé Chontae (i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla) ach amháin i sráideanna ina bhfuil móramh na gcónaitheoirí i gcoinne, nó i gcás thráchtáil gnó ina bhfuil dhá thrian na ngnóthas i gcoinne.
- Iachall a chur ar na húdarás áitiúla na comharthaí bóithre ina gceantair faoi seach a chriathrú agus a scagadh agus a chinntí go mbeidh an fhoirm cheart Ghaeilge acu go léir.
- Cinntí go n-úsáidtear an leagan Gaeilge amháin ar chomharthaí bóithre sa Ghaeltacht.
- Cinntí go bhfuil an leagan Gaeilge ar

- chomharthaí bóithre agus sráide níos mó ná an leagan Béarla.
- Soláthar ó na húdarás áitiúil d'fhis dhátheangach ar gach foilseacháin, cáipéisí oifigiúla agus foirmeacha i gcomhréir leis an gCait Eorpach um Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlacha agus le hAcht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla sna 26 Contae agus sna 6 Chontae.
 - An riachtanas bheith ar gach Comhairle Contae agus Cathrach sna 26 contae a chinnteoidh go bhfuil freaghracht ag ceann dá gcuid Choiste um Beartais Straitéiseacha do chur chun cinn na Gaeilge, agus ba cheart go mbeidh Coiste na Gaeilge bunaithe faoin CBS ag feidhmiú trí Ghaeilge a chuimsíonn comhairleoirí, feidhmeannaigh, leasuithe spéise ó Phobal na Gaeilge.
 - An ceart bheith ag Údarás na Gaeltachta ball a aimníú don Choiste seo, i gceantair ina bhfuil ceantair Ghaeltacha laistigh de Chomhairlí áitiúla.
 - Comhairleoirí Shinn Féin, trína ngníomhaíochtaí féin agus tríd an bPolasaí, ag dul sa lorg chun gríosú d'úsáid méadaithe na Gaeilge le linn chrúinnithe na Comhairle.
 - An Páirtí ag gríosú na gComhairlí chun a chintiú go mbeidh maoiniú ealaíon áitiúil agus spóirt ag tabhairt gníomhaíochtaí a chuireann an Ghaeilge chun cinn san áireamh, agus go háirithe ba cheart méid áirithe maoinithe do scéimeanna spóirt a dhíriú ar ghníomhaíochtaí a chuireann ealaíona na Gaeilge chun cinn, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs ról méadaithe na n-údarás áitiúil faoi Straitéis an Chomhairle Ealaíon 'Feidhmiú Ealaín den Scoth' 2016-2025.
 - Ranganna Gaeilge a chur ar fáil ag leibhéal éagsúla d'fhoireann agus do bhail an Chomhairle ar bhonn seachtainiúil laistigh d'uaireanta oibre, agus go mbeidh scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta ar fáil d'fhoireann in áit atá cuí.
 - Ghósóimis ar na Comhairlí Áitiúla Straitéis Cumarsáide Gaeilge bheith acu, ag úsáid agus ag baint uasfheidhm as an nGaeilge sna Meáin Shóisialta, agus in aon chomhfhreagras. Bheadh tréanriachtanas ann do láithreacht na Gaeilge i; féiniúlacht Chorparáideach, comhfhreagras, cumarsáid trí ghuthán, foilseacháin agus eolas leictreonach, teagmháil le meán na Gaeilge, cuir i láthair / óráidíocht phoiblí, imeachtaí, comharthaíocht agus infheiceacht.
 - Oibreoidh gníomhairí Shinn Féin le heagraiochtaí earnála na Gaeilge chun tosaíochtaí a aithint agus iacall a chur ar na Comhairlí Áitiúla bheith níos freagrúla do riachtanais s'acu.
 - Líon na gComhairlí le hOifigeach Gaeilge tiomanta a mhéadú. Tá roinnt Comhairlí le foireann i dteideal Oifigeach Gaeilge, ach go mbíonn ról seo fite fuaite le dualgaisí eile. Creidimid go mba cheart an ról seo bheith lánamseartha. Chomh maith leis sin, cinnteodh Sinn Féin go nglacfaidh na hOifigigh Ghaeilge sa Deisceart níos leithne. Cinnteoimis go n-aireofar Forbairt na Teanga sa Phobal mar chuid dá dtéarmaí tagartha chomh maith le go gcinnteofar go dtabharfaidh an Comhairle ar a seirbhísí de réir Acharta na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003.

D' Fheadfadh an Oifigeach Gaeilge:

- Naisc a fhorbairt le pobail ghaeilgeoiri sa cheantar Comhairle, agus bunachar teagmhála daoine / grúpaí a thógáil. Úsáidfear seo chun deiseanna maoinithe a léiriú a bhféadfáil bheith ar oscailt do Ghrúpaí Gaeilge tríd an gComhairle, trí Fhoras na Gaeilge, nó trí aon fhoinsí eile.
- Comhoibriú le Glór na nGael chun pobail a aithint inár féidir gréasáin Ghaeilge a thógáil, na tacaíochtaí atá de dhíth uathu, agus chun cabhrú le Glór na nGael a leithéid de ghréasáin a fhorbairt, chomh maith leo a nascadh leis an mórbhobal teanga sa Chontae / sa Chathair trí ghréasáin bheith tóghtha suas ag an Oifigeach Gaeilge.
- Úsáid chruthaitheach an idirlín, na meán sóisialta agus na teicneolaíochta a chur chun cinn le go gcuirfear seirbhísí, idir phoiblí is phríomháideach, ar fáil i nGaeilge (is féidir teacht ar shamplaí dóibh seo i gComhairle Chontae Chiarrai), chomh maith le gníomhaíocht an phobail a chur chun cinn.
- Tacaíocht ghníomhach a thacú, trí OFÁ (Oifigí Fointair Áitiúla) agus i gcomhairle le Foras na Gaeilge, do ghnóthas ar mhian leo Gaeilge a úsáid, agus gnóthais a léiriú agus a luaíocht ar shampla Deá-Chleachtais iad, b'fhéidir trí dhuaiseanna a dhéanann aithris orthu siúd a eagraíonn Gaillimh Le Gaeilge agus Gael Taca.
- Obair le heagraiochta óige cui chun clubanna óige a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

An Ghaeilge sa Chóras Dlí

Tá géarghá le hAlt a 7 den Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, 2003, a phorálann gur cheart Achtanna an Oireachtas a fhoilsiú go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla, a thabhairt ar ais. Ba chóir deireadh a chur leis an míchleachtas an leagan Gaeilge de reachtaíocht a fhoilsiú i bhfad i ndiadh feidhmiú an Acharta.

Oibreodh Sinn Féin le cinntiú, ina áiríonn reachtaíocht in áit gur ghá:

- Go bhfoilseofar na Billí go léir agus na leasuithe molta i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla as seo amach agus go rithfear Billí i bhformáid dhátheangach sa Dáil agus sa Seanad.
- Go mbeidh aistriúchán comhuaineach ar fáil i dTithe an Oireachtas agus sna coistí de Thithe an Oireachtas.
- Reachtaíocht a chinnteoidh go n-eiseofar gach lonstraim Reachtúil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla.
- Reachtaíocht a chinnteoidh go n-eiseofar Rialacha na Cúirte go comhuaineach i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla ach go háirithe.
- Chomh fada agus gur féidir, in áit a roghnaítear an Ghaeilge mar theanga ag aon pháirtí d'imeachtaí sibhialta nó coiriúla os comhar cúirte nó binse ina n-éisteann an breitheamh nó ba(i)ll an bhinse leis na himeachtaí, agus aon oifigeach cúirte nó binse, atá freagrach d'iompar na héisteachta, bheith in ann an fhianaise agus an aighneacht a thuiscint, gan cúnamh ó theangaire.
- Má chloistear cás trí Ghaeilge, nó má úsáideann aon cheann de na páirtithe an teanga le linn na himeachtaí, go dtabharfar aon ordú nó aon bhreith sa teanga sin.
- In áit a úsáideann ceann de na páirtithe Béarla sna himeachtaí, cinnteofar go dtabharfar aon ordú nó aon bhreith sa teanga sin.
- Go reachtálfar trí Ghaeilge imeachtaí go léir a thagann os comhar cúirte nó bhinse sa Gheltacht, bíodh gur imeachtaí sibhialta nó coiriúla, gan chlaonadh ar chearta de cheachtar na bpáirtithe nó na bhfianaisí a dteanga féin a úsaid le soláthar cuí aistriúcháin.
- Chomh fada agus gur féidir, go forghníomhófar aon chonradh nó aon choimhinsiún idir Éirinn agus aon Stát eile i nGaeilge ar an chéad dul síos.
- Go ndéanfar dréacht ar phlean a chuífidh iacall ar na cúirteanna arda a ngnó a dhéanamh trí Ghaeilge tar éis tréimhse ama áirithe. Ciallóidh sé seo go mbeidh leagan Gaeilge ar bhreitheanna na cúirte ar fáil. Bheadh tú sáite ag an leagan Gaeilge. Laistigh de dheich mblíana, bainfeair feidhm as an nGaeilge sa Chúirt Uachtarach.

Meáin na Gaeilge

Aontaíonn Sinn Féin leis an aitheantas atá tugtha i gComhaontú Aoine an Chéasta ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le húsáid na Gaeilge sa chaint agus sa scriobh a éascú agus a spreagadh sa saol poiblí agus príobháideach.

Creideann Sinn Féin nach mór teilifís, raidió agus meáin chlóite na Gaeilge bheith ar fáil go forleathan, go háirithe maidir lena leathnú sna Sé Chontae.

Rachadh Sinn Féin i gcomhairle le craoltóirí uile ar oiléan na hÉireann, idir phoiblí is phríomháideach, le leibhéal cláreagruithetrí mheán na Gaeilge a mhéadú agus plé a dhéanamh ar thógáil toirte laistigh de na heagraiocháin le go dtabharfarar na spriocanna seo. Tabharfadh Sinn Féin faoi pholasáí agus faoi thionscnamh ar conas is fearr gur féidir úsáid na Gaeilge a mhéadú thar an speictream craolacháin.

Aontaíonn Sinn Féin le tiomantas na Cairete Eorpáí do Theangacha Réigiúnacha agus Mionlaigh, maidir le soláthar cuí a dhéanamh le go dtairgfidh craoltóirí cláir i nGaeilge. Creidimid gur cheart céatadán suntasach bheith craoltaí trí Ghaeilge, ag tosú ar 12.5% ar a laghad sa chéad bhliain ag teacht suas go 25% faoin gcúigiú bliain, do chraoltóirí uile a fhraigheann maioniú ón stát.

Aontaíonn Sinn Féin leis an aitheantas atá tugtha i gCairt Raidió Pobail an AMARC don Eoraip gur sárblealach í an raidió pobail chun saoirse chainte agus eolais, forbairt chultúir, saorise le tuairimí a fhoirmíú agus aghaidh a thabhairt orthu agus rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach sa saol áitiúil a chothú.

Aontaíonn Sinn Féin le tuairim Údarás Craolacháin na hÉireann gur thaispeáin eispéireas na Gaeilge gur féidir le stáisiún phobail forbairt bheith ina snáithe inmharthana ar leith i gCraolachán na hÉireann, agus go n-éileoidh comhlíonadh an chumais seo leibhéal suntasach tiomantais leanúnaigh agus tacaíochta leanúnaí ó ghníomhaireachtaí tacaíochta cuí.

Aithníonn Sinn Féin an tábhacht a bhaineann le meáin chlóite na Gaeilge agus tacófar le hiarrachtaí chun tacaíocht a thabhairt d'fhás agus d'fhorbairt san earnáil seo, agus gur cheart fógraí ón stát agus ón earnáil phoiblí bheith i nGaeilge nó bheith sa dá theanga oifigiúla go hionannach.

Aithníonn Sinn Féin an ról a imríonn stáisiúin reatha raidió pobail na Gaeilge, lena n-áirítear Raidió na Life i mBaile Átha Cliath agus Raidió

Fálte i mBéal Feirste go sonrach, maidir le raidió Gaeilge bunaithe sa phobal atá éifeachtach ó thaobh costais de, atá cuimsitheach agus atá ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar, maidir le guthanna bríomhara nua pobail do phobal na Gaeilge a chruthú, maidir le hoiliúint agus rochtain ar na meáin do chuid mhór Gaelgeoirí a sholáthar, maidir le fócas gníomhaiochta cruthaithí agus sóisialta do lón mór Gaelgeoirí a sholáthar, maidir le hacmhainn bheoga bhríomhar do dhaoine atá ag foghlaim na teanga a sholáthar, agus maidir le hardán, ina féidir le daoine agus eagraíochtaí a oibríonn i bpobail na Gaeilge a gcuid oibre a thaispeáint, a sholáthar.

Aontaíonn Sinn Féin le ráiteas Ofcom, údarás rialála cumarsáide na Breataine, go bhfuil Raidió Pobail chun tosaigh maidir le 'sealbhú sóisialta a sholáthar' agus aontaíonn Sinn Féin leis an aidhm atá ag Ofcom chun seirbhísí pobail a áirithíú do gach pobal a bhfuil siad uaidh, agus creidimid go cuirfear an dualgas ar na stáisiúin raidió leis na cláir a thabhairt.

Léiríonn an fhreagra ó Ofcom (Bealtaine 2010) do leiriú spéise ó ghrúpaí a bhfuil suim acu i mbunú stáisiún raidió pobail ina raibh breis is 20 'léiriú spéise' ann ó ghrúpaí sa Tuaisceart ar mhian leo stáisiún pobail Ghaeilge, an fheidearthacht do ghréasán cuimsitheach stáisiún pobail Gaeilge ar fud na tíre.

Creideann Sinn Féin:

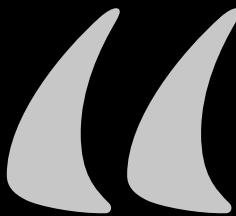
- Gur cheart maioniú stáit, cosúil le maioniú an Chiste Craoltóireachta, a chur ar fáil sa Deisceart le haghaidh oiliúint iriseoirí, chraoltóirí agus lucht déanta clár na Gaeilge agus le haghaidh comhoibrithe ar bhonn uile-oileáin.
- Go bhfuil an Ciste Craoltóireachta Gaeilge ina chuid dhílis d'athbheochan na Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart. Ba cheart go gcuirfi na hacmhainní cuí ar fáil dó, agus go ndéanfaí monatóireacht chuí air agus go ndíreodh sé ar léiriúchán agus ar oiliúint fhadtéarmach na nGaelgeoirí.
- Gur cheart reachtaíocht a achtú le go gcuirfear iallach ar chomhlachtaí craoltóireachta méid áirithe a chur amach trí Ghaeilge.
- Gur cheart cuidiú chun údarásí chraoltóireachta sa dá dhlínse le cruthú

líonra Raidió pobail na Gaeilge a éascú trí cheadúnais Raidió Pobail agus ceadúnais leas an phobail a dheonú ar phobail na Gaeilge ar fud an oiléáin taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh de cheantair na Gaeltachta chun clúdach uasta craolta, comhoibriú agus comhordú Raidió pobail na Gaeilge a cheadú ar fud oiléán na hÉireann.

- Cé go bhfuil múnla an Raidió Pobail, bunaithe ar oibrithe deonacha, an bealach is éifeachtai i dtaobh costais de chun seirbhís raidió Gaeilge a sholáthar, tá géarghá le maioniú cuí chun infhaighteacht fhoireann na n-oibrithe lárnacha ag na stáisiúin raidió pobail

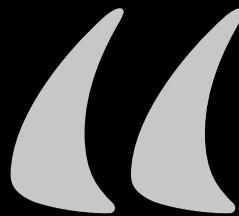
a chinntiú le go mbeidh bainistíocht, riarrachán, oiliúint, seirbhísí teicniúla agus aon tacailocht eile atá cui ar fáil d'oibrithe deonacha. Féachfaidh Sinn Féin lena chinntiú go gcuirfear maioniú den sórt sin ar fáil.

- Gur cheart speictream digiteach a chur ar fáil do Raidió Pobail na Gaeilge ar phraghas réasúnta, i gcomhthéacs an athraithe go raidió digiteach.
- Go n-aithnímid tábhacht mhéadaitheach an idirlín mar mheán cumarsáide. Oibreoidim le go gcinnteofar acmhainní a chur ar fáil do láithreacht don teanga ar an idirlíon.



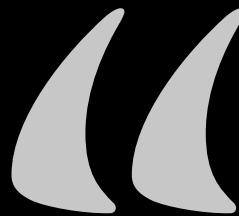
Tír gan teanga,
tír gan anam.
A country
without a
language is
a country
without a soul.

Pádraig Mac Piarais



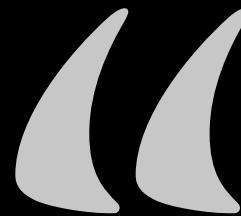
A people without
a language of
its own is only
half a nation. A
nation should
guard its
language more.

Thomas Davis



When we speak of
the necessity for
de-anglicising the
Irish nation, we
mean to show the
folly of neglecting
what is Irish.

Dubhghlás de híde



Is í an Ghaeilge
athghabháil na
hÉireann, agus
is í athghabháil
na hÉireann
slánú na
Gaeilge.

Máirtín Ó Cadhain



Clár

Réamhrá	18
Executive Summary	20
Irish Language Rights	21
Pobal na Gaeilge (Irish Language Community)	22
Na Gaeltachtaí (Gaeltacht regions)	23
Irish Language in the Education System	26
Irish Language in the Public Sector	28
Irish Language and the Legal System	30
Irish Language Media	31

Réamhrá

Sinn Féin is dedicated to the restoration of the Irish language as a spoken language throughout Ireland and to its prominence in a multilingual society.

Sinn Féin support the work of the Irish language community, its representative agencies and organisations, as the main vehicle for the restoration of the Irish Language. We see ourselves as part of the Irish language community and remain committed to the increased use and promotion of an Ghaeilge within our own party also.

Sinn Féin will continue to play its part by garnering support for an Ghaeilge in the political institutions – in Europe, Leinster House, the Assembly, the North/South Ministerial Council, cross-Border bodies, and within local councils - and by continuing to lobby and deliver for the rights of Irish speakers at every opportunity.

Generations of Irish language activists and revolutionary leaders - Thomas Davis, Dubhghlás de híde, Pádraig Mac Piarais, Máirtín Ó Cadhain, and Bobby Sands, to name but a few – have all understood that the Irish language and Irish language revival has a seminal role to play in Irish society. Indeed, Ó Cadhain's famous reference to the re-conquest of Ireland seeks to link directly the revival of the language to the transformation of Irish society. A transformation for all our citizens.

Ireland of the 21st Century is a multi-cultural society. By encouraging bilingualism as a resource for reconciliation and by promoting respect for difference, increased participation in the Irish language can contribute to an agreed, multicultural Ireland. There is no doubt that our society can only benefit from both our shared cultural history and from our cultural diversity.

It is time to cherish the seed that is the Irish Language.

The Government parties in the 26 Counties have done immense damage to the Irish language as a living language. The policies and decisions of successive governments have been damaging and even hostile to the development of the language. Their time in office has been synonymous with a lack of stewardship, leadership or support for an Ghaeilge.

At a time when the Gaeltacht areas need support and investment the response of the Government has been nothing short of shameful. Successive governments have delivered economic neglect through lack of investment and planning; social stagnation through emigration and lack of opportunities; inaction and denial.

Sinn Féin, by contrast, is committed to tackling the issues faced by our citizens in the Gaeltacht and to the restoration of the language outside the Gaeltacht.

In all of the negotiations with the Irish and British governments we have put the issue of Irish language rights on the agenda. In the St. Andrews Agreement (2006) we secured a commitment to the introduction of an Acht na Gaeilge to protect the rights of Irish language speakers in the North. This remains outstanding.

Sinn Féin demanded and achieved official recognition for the Irish language; the establishment of an all-Ireland body to support and promote it (Foras na Gaeilge); the signing of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages by the British government; the extension of Irish language broadcasting into the North; the commitment to introduce the Irish Language Act (a commitment the British government has failed to fulfil); secured continued funding for an Irish Language Broadcasting Fund; as well as new funding for an Irish Language Capital Investment Fund – Ciste Infheistíochta Ghaeilge.

Sinn Féin continues to campaign for Acht na Gaeilge in the North, and has taken numerous measures through our Ministry in the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) including the publication of draft proposals and a public consultation on Acht na Gaeilge. In March 2016 Unionists voted against Acht na Gaelige in the Executive. The onus is on the British and Irish governments to ensure this commitment is delivered.

The 2011 launch and success of the Líofa campaign rolled out by Sinn Féin Minister Carál Ní Chuilin in the DCAL Ministry, aimed at encouraging more people to learn the language, has led to the official adoption and launch of this all-Ireland campaign by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

We also remain committed to repealing the 1737 Administration of Justice Act, which bans the use of Irish in the courts in the North.

In education, Sinn Féin Education Minister John O'Dowd, and previous Sinn Féin Ministers, have transformed the situation for the Irish Medium sector. Irish Medium Education and youth service provision is now at the centre of the education system in the north, with the rights of parents, children and young people embedded within the Department of Education. Sinn Féin ministers have delivered unprecedented investment in Irish Medium schools and services and continue

to engage with the sector on the next steps for Gaeloideachas.

Sinn Féin supported the Stádas campaign in the South and continues to work for the full recognition of the Irish language within the EU. Our team of MEPs will continue to work to ensure the European Council decision to end the derogation of the status of an Ghaeilge is implemented.

The party took part in and fully supported the Dearg le Fearg campaign and remains committed to fighting for and delivering on the rights of Irish speakers both inside and outside the Gaeltacht.

We support strengthening the powers of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga through legislation; the reversal of cuts to Irish language organisations and projects; a review of language schemes, with a view to the implementation of regulation in their place, as has been advocated

by an Coimisinéir Teanga; and the strengthening of the Official Languages Act of 2003 to give legislative effect to the rights of Irish speakers in the 26 Counties.

Sinn Féin also support the appointment of a senior cabinet minister with responsibility for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht and a permanent Joint Oireachtas Committee to ensure that vital political will is injected into the State's promotion of an Ghaeilge and the Gaeltacht.

In this policy document the party outlines some of the steps required to protect the Gaeltacht and the Irish language from further erosion and to begin re-establishing it as the vibrant, living language for all of our citizens. Much remains to be done to ensure that our native language, culture and heritage are safeguarded for generations to come.

Is seod í ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr Gaelach.

Executive Summary

- Sinn Féin has an all-Ireland approach to the promotion of the Irish Language.
- Sinn Féin believes that equality is vital to democratic society, and this includes upholding the rights of Irish language speakers.
- Sinn Féin believes that cultural and linguistic equality must be an integral part of a democratic society in Ireland. This includes official recognition of Irish, North and South, the rights of the Irish speakers to be enshrined in legislation, and that the constitutional status of Irish be actively implemented in accordance with the wording of the constitution.
- Sinn Féin believes that the future of the Irish language depends on the continued survival of sustainable Gaeltacht communities, where the Irish language is the main language of the community.
- Sinn Féin believes there should be a senior government Minister for the Irish language at the cabinet with responsibility for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht.
- Sinn Féin believes that the designation of Gaeltacht Quarters promotes the use of the Irish language on an everyday basis and helps maximise social, cultural and economic opportunities.
- Sinn Féin believes that education through the medium of Irish, from pre-school through to post-graduate studies, should be available North and South to those who choose it. Sinn Féin believe parents should have the right to send their children to a Gaelscoil.
- Sinn Féin supports Irish language immersion education at every level of the education system, especially early immersion.
- Sinn Féin is opposed to any attempt to alter the status of Irish as a compulsory subject in examinations such as the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert.
- Sinn Féin support the active promotion by local authorities of the Irish language as a positive and integral aspect of their duties to the language and our culture.
- Sinn Féin believes that Irish speakers have the right to conduct their business through Irish with all local government and state departments, and that the legal system and public sector bodies must facilitate the use of Irish by citizens.
- Sinn Féin supports an increased target of 20% of civil servants being proficient in Irish.
- Sinn Féin calls for the establishment of a programme of recruitment into state employment for Irish-speakers, to ensure that business can be conducted through Irish.
- Sinn Féin welcomes the decision of the European Council to end the Derogation of the Status of the Irish language and will continue our work in the European Parliament to ensure that this decision will be implemented.
- Sinn Féin believes that all Bills and proposed amendments thereto should be published in Irish and in English and that Bills be passed in bilingual format by the Dáil and Seanad.
- Sinn Féin believes that Irish language television, radio, online and print media must be widely available and supported throughout Ireland, North and South.
- Sinn Féin believes that the Irish language community must be better resourced in their efforts to increase the number of Irish speakers and to build the community infrastructure needed to support Irish language revival.

Irish Language Rights

Sinn Féin believes that cultural and linguistic equality must be an integral part of a democratic society in Ireland. This includes official recognition of Irish, North and South, and the rights of the Irish speakers to be enshrined in legislation.

We believe that the constitutional status of Irish should be actively implemented in accordance with the wording of the constitution.

Pending the enactment of an Irish Language Act for the Six Counties, further measures of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages should be ratified and enacted into legislation.

Sinn Féin is committed to seeing further paragraphs agreed for Irish under all headings in order to implement Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Sinn Féin will work to have the following implemented:

- Official recognition of Irish, North and

South, the rights of Irish speakers to be enshrined in legislation, and the constitutional status of Irish actively implemented in accordance with the wording of the constitution.

- Language rights shall be protected through the progressive implementation by public authorities of the commitments made under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- The 1737 Administration of Justice Act shall be repealed or amended to end the prohibition of Irish in the courts in the North.
- A legislative requirement that organisations using online systems facilitate the use of Irish spelling.

Pobal na Gaeilge (Irish Language Community)

Sinn Féin is an all-Ireland party and firmly believes that an all-Ireland, cross community approach is needed on all matters relating to the Irish language.

Sinn Féin acknowledges and commends the significant amount of excellent work which has been and is being done, at the level of local Irish language projects.

Sinn Féin believes that the Irish language community must be better resourced in their efforts to increase the number of Irish speakers and to build the community infrastructure to support Irish language revival.

Sinn Féin calls on both governments to ensure that Irish language voluntary organisations have the appropriate support and language planning expertise to play their part in a new era of language planning.

Sinn Féin believes that the interests of the Irish language community are best served by co-operation within the sector and by holistic strategies.

Sinn Féin is part of the Irish language community, and is also a political, campaigning and lobbying resource for those seeking to create a bilingual society, one which provides services that ensure cradle to the grave opportunities to live through the medium of Irish, for those whose choice that is.

Sinn Féin recognises the need to foster the use of the Irish language across all communities in Ireland. We acknowledge in particular the potential for the language to be a mechanism for fostering better relations with people of the unionist tradition. Linkages with the Gaelic speaking communities in Scotland are seen as potential allies in these efforts.

The importance of engaging ethnic minorities

and new communities positively with the Irish language is a central part of any proper inclusion strategy and will be encouraged by Sinn Féin wherever possible.

Pobal na Gaeilge is an increasingly international phenomenon. Great progress has been made in the teaching of Irish across the globe and in fostering networks of Gaelic speakers. Sinn Féin highly commends this work and would seek to see this network supported and expanded in a tangible manner. New technologies are also important tools in helping to connect these diverse and dispersed members of Pobal na Gaeilge which give great possibilities for promoting the language globally and encouraging individuals and groups to return to Ireland to share in the richness and vibrancy of the language.

In order to assist in advancing and building on previous work Sinn Féin is committed to:

- A refocusing of endeavours across the island to promote and support the use and protection of Irish.
- The specification of clear objectives, strategies and activities to attain this at both national and local level.
- Creating models of delivery designed to address the varying needs of North, South, East and West, as well as rural and urban communities.
- Encouraging and promoting a consensus approach to all of this amongst Irish language speakers and language activist organisations.
- Addressing historical discrimination and negative attitudes towards the Irish language and the Irish language community, particularly in the North.

The Gaeltachtaí (Gaeltacht Regions)

Sinn Féin believes that the future of the Irish language depends on the continued survival of sustainable Gaeltacht communities, where the Irish language is the main language of the community. Our policy document "A New Deal 4 the West" (January 2016), contains many measures that will benefit na Gaeltachtaí.

These communities want a clear government strategy for their survival and development which focuses on policies of social, cultural and economic development that ties in with a strategy for language viability in current and former Gaeltacht regions alike.

This kind of strategy will not succeed except through agreement and support of the people and the communities of the Gaeltacht. And it is necessary to provide the resources required to implement such a strategy.

Sinn Féin welcomes the Twenty Year Strategy for the Irish Language in the South, but we are very disappointed with its lack of implementation. We are of the view that a new focus must be given to this Strategy or a new approach must be designed that will be suitable for the more pressing requirements regarding the decline of the Irish language in the Gaeltacht. We are proposing the implementation of a comprehensive strategy to reverse the erosion of Irish as the main language of Gaeltacht areas, as well as creating new Gaeltacht areas, especially in urban areas in the North and the South.

- Sinn Féin proposes that there should be a senior government Minister for the Irish language at the cabinet with responsibilities for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht.
- We propose that there should be a permanent Oireachtas Committee with responsibilities for the Irish language and the Gaeltacht, to deal with particular issues regarding the language.
- Sinn Féin proposes that Údarás na Gaeltachta should maintain its prime function of developing the economy and infrastructure in the Gaeltacht and that it is necessary to provide the required resources for its better implementation. Sinn Féin would reinstate elections to the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.
- Sinn Féin is committed to the establishment of first class industrial centres situated in the Gaeltacht regions in sectors such as new media, renewable energy, niche food production and cultural tourism in order to halt the economic decline and to develop business centres in order to foster growth and employment for local communities.
- Sinn Féin supports the development of a scheme by the Departments of Education, North and South, to provide financial assistance to parents who wish to send their primary and secondary school children to the Gaeltacht.
- Sinn Féin supports the commencement of support via a tax credit in the South for parents of children who attend Irish language courses in the Gaeltacht.
- Sinn Féin is in favour of increasing the number of scholarships for attending school on Gaeltacht islands and that there will be at least two teachers in each island primary school.
- Sinn Féin welcomed the review of Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (The Language Act) in the South to strengthen the provisions of the Act and to ensure the compliance of state departments and organisations. We propose legislation that will establish a system of accountability and best practice for every government department and agency and ensure every one of their responsibilities are fulfilled together with the implementation of the act that will ensure a service 'without question and without condition' through the medium of Irish for citizens in the Gaeltacht regions.
- Sinn Féin supports the introduction of a scheme within the European Union along the same standard as the Erasmus Scheme for Minority Languages, which includes learning periods in the Gaeltacht as part of degree courses in Irish.
- Sinn Féin supports the rights of local people to continue traditional customs such as turfcutting, lake and shore fishing, and smallholding farming in Gaeltacht regions as a lifestyle which is significant from a cultural point of view.

- Sinn Féin calls for the appointment of judges who can use Irish in district and circuit courts that are situated in Gaeltacht areas, as bound by the Courts of Justice Act of 1924, and that Gardáí are sufficiently competent in Irish to be able to deal with courts and communities in the Gaeltacht.
- Sinn Féin calls on government agencies and local authorities, as well as private enterprises, economic or legislative projects, to ensure that the services provided in the Gaeltacht areas are provided through the medium of Irish.
- Sinn Féin calls for the development of Local Area Plans for the Gaeltacht regions, in consultation with sociolinguistic experts, to protect Irish as a community language and to augment the viability of all of these areas.
- Sinn Féin calls for the Irish Government to continue Irish language courses in Gaeltacht areas, focused in particular on interpreters and translators from different language backgrounds.
- Sinn Féin is committed to the continued support and development of third level education and of adult education, especially vocational and professional courses through the medium of Irish in Gaeltacht regions.
- Sinn Féin calls for increased funding and support for organisations that provide activity programmes through the medium of Irish, especially for young people, senior citizens, people with special needs and for other disadvantaged groups in Gaeltacht areas.
- Sinn Féin proposes a review and development of the Language Assistants' Scheme to cater for the needs of language enrichment of Gaeltacht youth as well as the needs of learners.
- Sinn Féin would reinstate the Island Allowance payable to teachers serving in schools on islands.
- Sinn Féin supports the development of Irish language classes and courses for people in the Gaeltacht who don't speak Irish, to help them understand and master the learning of the language in a positive supportive manner.
- Sinn Féin supports continuing funding of Ealaín na Gaeltachta and additional development and expansion of traditional arts to foster cultural and economic development in all of the Gaeltacht regions and abroad.
- Sinn Féin supports the continued development of community and leisure facilities that will improve the quality of life in Gaeltacht areas.
- Sinn Féin is committed to giving more recognition and support to improve the coastal and maritime capabilities of Gaeltacht regions. We support the rights of shore fishermen to fish coastal zones and we call for the support and development of the maricultural, fishing and processing industry in the Gaeltacht.
- Sinn Féin wants to provide a high standard international telecommunication system in every Gaeltacht area so that people will have appropriate access to phone systems, broadband, etc. on a competitive and continuous basis.
- Sinn Féin will examine the development of an arterial route that connects Gaeltacht regions together and recognition of these routes as routes which have strategic regional importance that connects routes from Galway to Scríb (Screeb), from Galway – Clifden, from Tralee to An Daingean to West Cork and Letterkenny to Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore) to An Clochán Liath (Dungloe) to Gleann Colmcille (Glencolumkill).
- Sinn Féin proposes that the Amenity Road Scheme in the Gaeltacht be reinstated to enable the maintenance of public roads, that are not local authority roads, in a good state to provide access for remote areas and to heritage sites.
- Sinn Féin are in favour of continued support for an air service between Connemara and the three Aran Islands, and also support the ferry services to all of the Gaeltacht islands and that the island communities be included in the discussion regarding the systems offered by the various transportation modes.

Gaeltacht Quarters

The designation of official Gaeltacht status is a

legal obligation in the South whereas in the North legislation is not needed.

Sinn Féin Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín and Sinn Féin Education Minister, John O'Dowd, officially launched the Gaeltacht Quarter in Belfast in September 2013. DCAL are the lead department on the development of the Gaeltacht Quarter, which encompasses the Falls Road from Whiterock to Clonard.

Currently in Slaughtneill, Carn Togher have designated themselves as a rural Gaeltacht and there are also plans for Derry City to develop a Gaeltacht Quarter.

The designation of a Gaeltacht Quarter promotes the use of the Irish language on an everyday basis and helps maximise social, cultural and economic opportunities.

A Gaeltacht Quarter offers potential for increasing the daily use of Irish as a spoken language as well as increasing opportunities for cultural and heritage tourism, a growth area for the economy.

The Belfast Gaeltacht Quarter is located in one of the most deprived areas of the North and its location and promotion also helps tackle poverty, deprivation and social exclusion.

Building on the growing interest in Irish Medium

Education the Belfast Gaeltacht Quarter is home to Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Gaelscoil na bhFál, Bunscoil an tSléibhe Dhuibh and Coláiste Feirste.

Sinn Féin's vision is to make the Gaeltacht Quarters internationally recognised assets for the whole island, as well as providing economic opportunities for local people and attracting Irish language visitors from across the world, to further enhance them. In this way, Gaeltacht Quarters would deliver cultural, social and economic benefits to all of society.

Sinn Féin supports:

- The establishment of an education and knowledge sharing programme across Gaeltacht Quarters, working in partnership with government departments, North and South, to support young people going onto higher and further education by developing and opening up opportunities in the workplace particularly in specialised and technical industries, as Gaeilge.
- Irish language housing hubs to accommodate both local people and Irish language students who could visit and immerse themselves in the Gaeltacht Quarter experience.

Irish Language in the Education System

Sinn Féin cherishes Ireland's native language and celebrates its contribution as a mark of identity for our people, its centrality and relevance to the nation's culture and history.

We believe that the Irish Language must be fully supported and resourced in the education systems North and South, according to need.

We believe that education through the medium of Irish, from pre-school through to post-graduate studies, should be available North and South to those who choose it.

Sinn Féin supports:

- Appropriate funding for Irish Medium Education from early years through to third level.
- Equality of provision of Irish Medium Education at least on a par with English Medium Education to be funded and driven by the two Education Departments. Establishing a duty for both departments not only to satisfy the demand for Irish Medium Education but to create it.
- The two Education Departments establishing a planned programme of new Irish Medium school builds based on demand and viability, to fund the respective agencies, and the process of transferring schools into Gaelscoileanna to be easier for the school and for parents.
- Education departments North and South, and their respective agencies engaging in outreach to Irish language activists at the earliest stages of new Irish Medium school development in order to utilise to the best possible advantage their particular knowledge, experience and awareness of local needs.
- Irish language immersion education at every level of the education system, especially early immersion. We support partial immersion being available to every child in the South, for the first two years of schooling to be taught through Irish and that two additional subjects taught through Irish in primary school (Art and Sport).
- All schools in the official Gaeltacht functioning through Irish alone.
- Irish being used in every pre-school that receives state assistance.
- Ensuring that a programme of the correct standard of Irish is delivered to those who work in pre-schools, as part of their training modules FETAC Levels 5 to 8.
- Reducing the number of students exempted from Irish – particularly those from overseas. In the cases of these students, a new Irish Studies should be established that will teach them the basics of Irish as well as the history of the language.
- Addressing affordability for working families in the South and the sustainability of the Gaeltacht regions by providing a 20% tax credit, on expenditure incurred of up to €950, by parents for Gaeltacht courses. For children whose parents are not working, Sinn Féin would grant a deduction at source of 20% of fees for those with medical cards.
- Providing programmes to ensure that teachers are enabled to use and teach Irish. That review and renewal programmes are provided as part of the duties of teachers to ensure that the correct standard of Irish is attained and maintained.
- Maintaining the status of Irish as a compulsory subject in examinations such as the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert.
- Continuing to award at least 40% for the Oral Irish exam in the Junior and Leaving Certificate exams and awarding bonus points for Irish in the Leaving Certificate at honours level, as is the case for maths.
- The provision of a new Irish language course for Gaeltacht students and students attending Gaelscoileanna, which would provide instruction on creative writing, extra literature and applied linguistics. This course may suit native speakers or ambitious non-native speakers.
- Implementing the recommendations in the 20 Year Strategy regarding An Chomhairle Oideachas Gaeltachta &

Gaelscolaíochta and making the requisite human and financial resources available for it to fulfil its statutory duties.

- Putting in place a formal structure between An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta & Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) and the Council for Curriculum, Assessments & Examinations (CEA) to produce and share teaching aids for the benefit of the Irish language sector, education and value for money.
- The continued development of umbrella organisations such as Gaelscoileanna, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaíochta and an Foras Pátrúnachta.
- The development of an all-Irish medium teacher-training programme based in the Gaeltachtaí.
- Availability of ‘minimum standard’ qualifications for educational settings to be delivered through the medium of Irish.
- Availability of Irish Medium Education for pupils with additional educational needs or learning difficulties, as well as adequate Irish Medium Special Educational Needs provision at primary and post primary level.
- The establishment across Ireland of Irish classes for adults that are free of charge

to users, with a view to increasing the numbers capable of using Irish in their daily lives.

- The roll out of Líofa, or a similar scheme with the support of the state, in the South.
- The design of a language learning course for the Irish language which will facilitate parents to support their child’s learning of Irish in school.
- Making funding available for the stimulation of bilingualism in English speaking schools in the South.
- The Irish language having parity of esteem and being displayed equally with English, in all third level institutions, colleges and universities throughout Ireland including signs, documents and directives.
- Government agreement on a financed development programme of third level education through the medium of Irish in conjunction with every university on the island, North and South, which wishes to participate, with the constitution of a dedicated Irish language university as a longer term goal.
- Maintaining the requirement for Leaving Certificate Irish to attend third level courses in the National University of Ireland.

Irish Language in the Public Sector

Sinn Féin believes that cultural and linguistic equality within civic life is crucial to the establishment of a democratic society in Ireland. Accordingly, Sinn Féin believes that Irish speakers have the right to conduct their business through Irish with all local government and state departments, and that the legal system and public sector bodies must facilitate the use of Irish by citizens.

We would require all Councils to adopt an Irish Language Promotion Strategy, focused on developing the Language in the Community, in cooperation with the relevant organisations, in addition to carrying out its obligations under the Official Languages Act in the South.

Local Authorities should provide a high quality service to citizens who wish to avail of its services in Irish. We would ensure that the Official Languages Act is given real effect, and is properly implemented, and that every Local Authority, along with other Public Bodies, is enforcing it appropriately.

To this end it is essential that staff, or at the very least a sufficient portion of staff, are capable of carrying out their duties in Irish. Sinn Féin favours a policy of positive discrimination towards Irish speakers, and would also ensure strong training opportunities for local authority staff. This would be within the framework of Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG).

The historic discrimination against Irish culture and the negligence of the needs of Irish speakers, North and South, must be redressed.

Sinn Féin believes that the Irish language and Ulster Scots should be treated on the basis of the individual needs of each rather than a presumption of equal status which will only serve to delay the development of Irish. Currently Ulster Scots is recognized under Part II, and Irish is recognized under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

Sinn Féin calls for the inclusion of Irish language rights in a Bill of Rights for the North.

Sinn Féin is committed to:

- The establishment of a programme of recruitment into state employment of Irish-speakers in order to ensure that business can be conducted through Irish.
 - An increased target of 20% of civil servants
- being proficient in Irish.
- An assurance from departments that they have sufficient members of staff competent in Irish who can facilitate service through the Irish language.
 - The reintroduction of bonus points for the recruitment process in the Civil Service.
 - The compelling of secretary-generals to ensure that language plans currently are implemented. Additional powers must be given to An Coimisinéir Teanga to enforce this.
 - The appointment of a Commissioner in the Six Counties to oversee the promotion of Irish language measures within government agencies and departments.
 - The holding of in-service language training for Civil Service personnel.
 - All Central and Local Government documentation for schools being provided in Irish for the Irish Medium Education Sector.
 - Ending the use of anglicising names for State organisations where they already have an Irish language name.
 - The active promotion by local authorities of the Irish language as a positive and integral aspect of their duties to the language and our culture.
 - The proper preservation and signposting of Irish placenames and the naming of new housing developments to reflect local or national heritage.
 - Legislation to allow street signs in the Six Counties to be bilingual (Irish and English) except in streets where the majority of residents oppose them, or in case of business only streets where two thirds of businesses oppose them.
 - The compelling of all local authorities to screen and refine the road signs in their respective areas and ensure that they all have the correct Irish language form.
 - Ensuring that the Irish language version of road signs only is used in the Gaeltacht .
 - Ensuring that the Irish version of placenames on road signs and street signs is given priority over the English version.
 - The provision by local authorities of a bilingual version of publications, official

- documents and forms in line with the European Charter for Regional & Minority Languages and the Official Languages Act.
- A requirement that every County and City Council in the South shall ensure that one of its Strategic Policy Committees (Coiste um Beartais Straitéiseachá) has promotion of the Irish Language as one of its responsibilities, and that an Irish Language Committee, should be established under this SPC, functioning through the Irish Language, comprising of councillors, officials, and interested parties from the Irish Language Community.
 - Údarás na Gaeltachta having the right to nominate a member onto this Committee, where there are Gaeltacht areas within the jurisdiction of Councils.
 - Sinn Féin Councillors, through their own actions and through Policy, seeking to encourage the increased use of Irish during Council meetings.
 - Encouraging Councils to ensure that local arts and sports funding is inclusive of activities which promote the Irish language. In particular a proportion of funding for Arts schemes should be dedicated to the Irish Language arts particularly in light of the increased role of Local Authorities under the Arts Council Strategy 'Making Great Art Work' 2016-2025.
 - Irish language classes being made available at various levels to Council Staff and members on a weekly basis within working hours, and Gaeltacht scholarships being available to staff, where appropriate.
 - Encouraging Local Authorities to have a strong Irish Language Communications Strategy, using and maximising use of Irish in Social Media, and in any correspondence. This would require a strong Irish Language presence in; Corporate identity, correspondence, communication by telephone, publications and e.knowledge, contact with Irish language media, presentations, public oration, events and signage.
 - Working with local Irish language sectoral

organisations to identify priorities and make local councils more responsive to their needs.

- Increasing the number of Councils that have a dedicated Irish Language Officer. Many Councils have staff who are entitled to an Irish Language officer however this is usually a responsibility taken on with another role. We believe it should be a full time position. Sinn Féin would also ensure that Irish Language Officers in the South take a wider role. We would ensure that their remit includes developing the Language in the Community as well as ensuring the Council is delivering its services in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003.

The Irish Language Officer would:

- Develop links with the Irish-speaking community in the Council area and build a database of contacts. This could be used to further highlight funding opportunities which may be open to Irish Language Groups through the Council, through Foras na Gaeilge, or other sources.
- Work with Glór na nGael to identify communities where Irish Language networks can be built, the supports they require, and to assist Glór na nGael to develop such networks as well as tying them into the wider Language community in that County/City through networks built up by the Irish Language officer.
- Promote creative use of internet, social media and technology to promote services, public and private, available in Irish (examples to be found in Kerry County Council), and community activity.
- Actively support, through LEO (Local Enterprise Offices) and in Liaison with Foras na Gaeilge, businesses who wish to use Irish and highlight businesses that are examples of good practice, perhaps through awards replicating those organised by Gaillimh Le Gaelige and Gael Taca.
- Work with the relevant national organisations to promote youth clubs functioning through Irish.

Irish Language in the Legal System

Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 2003, which provided that Acts of the Oireachtas should be published simultaneously in English and in Irish, needs to be restored. The practice of only publishing the Irish version of legislation long after an Act has come into force must be discontinued.

Sinn Féin would work to ensure, including through legislation where necessary:

- All Bills and proposed amendments thereto are published simultaneously in Irish and in English and that Bills be passed in bilingual format by the Dáil and Seanad.
- Simultaneous translation is available in the Houses of the Oireachtas and in the committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas.
- All Statutory Instruments are issued in Irish and in English.
- The Rules of Court are issued simultaneously in Irish and English.
- As far as is practicable where Irish is the language chosen by any party to civil or criminal proceedings before a court or tribunal the judge or member(s) of the tribunal who hears the proceedings, and any other officer of the court or tribunal, responsible for the conduct of the hearing, will be capable of understanding evidence and submissions without the assistance of an interpreter.
- If a case is heard through Irish, or if any of the parties uses that language in the course of the proceedings, any order or judgment shall be delivered in that language.
- Where one of the parties uses English in the proceedings any order or judgment shall also be delivered in that language.
- All proceedings before any court or Tribunal in the Gaeltacht, whether civil or criminal, are conducted through Irish, without prejudice to the right of either of the parties to use their own language and to have adequate translation services provided.
- In so far as is possible any treaty or convention between Ireland and another State or international body will be executed in Irish in the first instance.
- A plan is drafted that will compel the higher courts to do their business in Irish after a certain period of time. This will mean that there will be an Irish language version of court judgements available. The Irish version shall always take precedence. Within ten years, Irish will be used in the Supreme Court.

Irish Language Media

Sinn Féin agrees with the recognition in the Good Friday Agreement of the importance of facilitating and encouraging the use of the Irish language in speech and writing in public and private life.

Sinn Féin believes that Irish language television, radio and print media must be widely available, particularly in its extension to the Six Counties.

Sinn Féin would engage with all broadcasters on the island of Ireland, both state and private to increase the level of programming through the medium of Irish, and to discuss capacity building within those organisations in order to deliver on these targets. Sinn Féin would undertake a policy and consultation initiative about how best to increase the use of Irish across the broadcasting spectrum.

Sinn Féin agrees with the commitment of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in Irish, we believe that a substantial percentage should be through Irish starting at a minimum of 12.5% in year one working up to 25% by year 5, for all broadcasters in receipt of state funding.

Sinn Féin agrees with the recognition of the AMARC Community Radio Charter for Europe that community radio is an ideal means of fostering freedom of expression and information, the development of culture, the freedom to form and confront opinions and active participation in local life.

Sinn Féin agrees with the view of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland that the Irish experience has demonstrated that community stations can develop into a viable distinct strand in Irish broadcasting. Realising this potential requires a substantial level of ongoing commitment and support from relevant support agencies.

Sinn Féin recognises the importance of the Irish Language print media and will support efforts to grow and develop this sector. All state and public sector advertisements should be in Irish or equally in both official languages.

Sinn Féin acknowledges the role played by existing Irish language Community Radio stations in Ireland including Raidió na Life in Dublin and Raidió Fáilte in Belfast in providing cost effective, comprehensive and good quality community based Irish language radio, in creating vibrant new community voices for the Irish speaking

community, in providing training and access to the media for many Irish speakers, a focus of creative and social activity for a large number of Irish speakers, a vibrant and lively resource for people learning the language, and a platform where people and organisations working in the Irish language communities can showcase their work.

Sinn Féin agrees with the statement of Ofcom, the British communications regulatory authority that Community Radio takes the lead in 'providing social gain'. Sinn Féin concurs with Ofcom's aim of securing community services for every community that wants one. We believe that puts an onus on radio stations for the delivery of Irish language programmes.

The response to the call by Ofcom (May 2010) for 'Expressions of Interest' from groups interested in setting up community radio stations, which resulted in more than 20 'Expressions of Interest' from groups in the north wishing to set up Irish language community stations, indicates the potential for a comprehensive nationwide network of Irish language community stations.

Sinn Féin believes that:

- State funding, similar to that of An Ciste Craoltóireachta, should be made available in the South for the training of Irish language journalists, broadcasters and programme makers and for co-operation on an all-island basis.
- The Irish Language Broadcasting Fund is an integral part of Irish language revival in the North. It should be properly resourced, and properly monitored and focused both on production and on long term training of Irish speakers.
- Legislation should be enacted to compel broadcasting companies to produce a certain amount of output in Irish.
- Broadcasting authorities in both jurisdictions should help facilitate the creation of an Irish language community radio network through the granting of Community Radio licences and Community of Interest licences for Irish language communities throughout the island inside and outside the Gaeltacht areas in order to allow maximum

- broadcast coverage, co-operation and co-ordination of Irish language community radio throughout the Island of Ireland.
- While the community radio model, based on volunteer workers, is a cost effective way of providing an Irish language radio service, adequate funding is required to ensure the availability of a team of core workers at the community radio stations to ensure proper management,

- administration, training, technical services, and other necessary support, is available for the volunteer workers. Sinn Féin will endeavour to ensure that such funding will be made available.
- In the context of a switch over to digital radio, digital spectrum should be made available for Irish Language Community Radio at an affordable price.
 - A greater presence for the language on the internet should be resourced.

Bí le Shinn Féin

Bí le Téacs: Seol an focal SINN FEIN ansin d'ainm agus seoladh chuig :

51444 (26 Chondae) 60060 (6 Chondae)

Ar Líne: www.sinnfein.ie/join-sinn-fein

Ríomhphost: admin@sinnfein.ie

Sinn Féin, 44 Cearnóg Pharnell, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Éire

Fón: (353) 1872 6100

Sinn Féin, 53 Bóthar na bhFál, Béal Feirste, BT12 4PD, Éire

Fón: 028 90 347350

www.sinnfein.ie

