

Celtic League AGM 2003 (2/3 August)

Resolutions Passed, Dublin, Éire

Alba

This AGM condemns the UK Government under Blair for perpetuating the lies that Iraq was attacked on the basis that it possessed weapons of mass destruction;

Condemns the practice of recruiting and using Celtic nationals into what is still an imperial army.

Breizh

This Celtic League Annual General Meeting deplores their decision to put an end to Breton courses in Nantes university and calls for a reversal of this decision. This action coming on top of the continuing refusal to recognise Breton as part of the state school system (as the French language is the only language of the Republic), leads the Celtic League to actively consider participation in the possible boycott of French language courses (schools colleges, universities) in the Celtic counties which is under discussion by the Canadian Branch of the ICBL (International Committee for the Defence of the Breton Language).

This AGM of the Celtic League calls on the French Prime minister, JP Raffarin, to progress the process of devolution for a reunited Brittany and to at least go forward in the same manner as other European states (Britain, Spain) with regard to financial, political, cultural and linguistic affairs.

Cymru

The League supports the present Cymuned campaign against the use of names “Snowdon” and “Snowdonia” for “Yr Wyddfa” and “Eryri” respectively, as natives of some other countries in the world are starting to oppose colonial names like “Mount Everest”. The other national branches are invited to propose examples of particularly colonial names in their countries against the use of which it would be worth starting a campaign.

Éire

Whilst preferring a rights based language Bill the Celtic League AGM welcomes the passing of the Irish Language Bill as a first step in moving towards guaranteeing the rights of Irish speakers. We call on the Minister to ensure the speedy implementation of the provisions of the Bill. Improvements need to be made with regard to the use of Irish in the Courts and amending legislation should be introduced on this. Schemes such as those for public bodies should be extended to the large private companies in new or amending legislation.

The Celtic League AGM states its support for the reaffirmed aims of PANA (Peace and Neutrality Alliance):

To have neutrality enshrined in the Constitution

A role of a reformed UN in international affairs

A positive non-aligned role for the EU (opposing the development of the Rapid Reaction Force - RRF)

Any deployment of Irish Defence Forces or Gardai to be through UN or UN mandated operations

Kernow

An Scoren Kernewek/The Cornish Branch calls on the Westminster government to reverse the decision taken by Cornwall Education Authority to omit a Cornish tick box from the Department of Education and Science Survey conducted on 16th January 2003.

The Branch calls on the Government to conduct an investigation to establish the reason for the omission and for immediate action to be taken to ensure that children and young people of Cornish ethnicity to be included within the Department for Education and Science Schools Survey data base.

- This AGM:
 1. Expresses its continued concern at the unreasonably protracted nature of the detention of six Bretons by the French authorities.
 2. Calls on the French authorities in view of the period that has elapsed since the initial detention of these men, to release them without delay.
 3. Calls on the national branches of the League to initiate separate solidarity action in support of the prisoners. (Such solidarity action to include protest(s) at French trade exhibitions and legations, the raising of funds for the prisoners support groups and direct protest to the French Embassies in London and Dublin and the Justice Ministry in Paris).

Isle of Man

This AGM:

- a. Calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Education to address the deficiency in teaching resources (such as text books and learning schemes) for the Manx medium education school by engaging proficient Manx speakers to produce the same for meaningful recompense.
- b. Does not regard the simple translation of existing English language resources to be appropriate in many instances.

This AGM:

Welcomes the nine month moratorium on discharges of Technetium-99 from Sellafield announced by the British Environment Minister, Elliot Morley. Calls on the British to extend the moratorium indefinitely.

This AGM

Calls upon all authorities with jurisdiction over seas bordering and surrounding the Celtic countries to make compulsory use of the dolphin friendly fishing nets.

The AGM calls upon the Isle of Man Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture to cease the destruction of natural habitat and viable agricultural land with the widespread and largely unnecessary plantation with coniferous trees.

This AGM expresses concern at the failure of the Isle of Man Attorney General to take action against media sources or distributors who breached sub justice rules by publishing and distributing comment relating to the Solway Harvester tragedy.

This AGM commends Mr Bill Henderson MHK for giving prominence to the Manx language in the Tynwald.

Secretary General

This AGM:

Expresses concern that the Irish Government, which is ostensibly committed to human rights principles, continues to maintain on its statutes the provisions of the Offences Against the State Act.

It is unsure who originally moved the following motions:

- The Celtic League AGM does not view the outcome of the European Union Convention and proposed EU Constitution as beneficial to the smaller nation states such as Ireland as it does away with the principle of equality and shifts the balance of power to the bigger states and EU institutions.
- However this AGM of the Celtic League holds that the 5 Celtic countries within the multinational states of Britain and France have the right to develop to independence and become full member states of the EU. We call on the EU Convention to make changes to the proposed EU Constitution which would facilitate the Celtic countries (and indeed other national minorities within the multinational states) achieving full EU member status.
- This AGM:
 1. Refutes attacks on the Celtic League, in response to comment by the League on the Mount Murray corruption enquiry, by the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man.
 2. Reminds the Isle of Man Government and governments in the other Celtic states of the League's unswerving commitment to expose and publicise any

corruption, maladministration or institutional wrongdoing in any of the Celtic countries – in line with its decision of its 2002 AGM.

- This AGM:
 1. Bearing in mind the opposition of the Celtic League to the formation of the Royal Irish Regiment supports the call of Alex Atwood AM, and other concerned politicians for the disbandment of the regiment.
 2. Believes that the latest revelations about the regiment confirm concerns about its sectarian basis and makes its continued progress inimical to the progress towards peace in the North of Ireland.
 3. The Celtic League AGM demands that the British Government call immediate elections to the Assembly in the North and that they implement the Good Friday Agreement in full, particularly British promises on demilitarisation.

- This meeting of the Celtic League views with grave concern the new extradition treaty drawn up by the United States and British Governments.
 - In light of the harsh treatment of John Eddie McNicholl by the US Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE), the Celtic league believes that this legislation is contrary to the US commitment to the promotion of peace and justice in the North of Ireland and could be directed against Irish American organisations and their supporters.
 - We call for this treaty to be abandoned and call upon the US Senate to reject it.