

Celtic League AGM 2001

Resolutions Passed, Miner's Institute, Rhosllanerchrugog, Cymru

This AGM deploras the damage being done to fragile island and rural communities by the discriminatory high air and ferry fares and the inequitable fuel costs in these areas.

- a) We call on the Scottish Executive to introduce Road Equivalent tariff (RET) on ferries to all the islands and to use their funding to influence the Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) to reduce landing charges.
- b) We believe their transport policies should reflect the fact that vehicle pollution is not a problem in the rural areas, but despoliation and lack of employment is.

This AGM of the Celtic League:

- a) Calls on the British and French Governments to set up devolved governments for both Cornwall and Brittany respectively, based on the model of devolved government in Scotland.
- b) We emphasise, with regard to the French State that the government propositions for Corsica is no more than a base to build upon. Nevertheless we welcome this as a first breach in the bosom of the Jacobin Culture of the French State.
- c) We ask that the Breton Regional Council firmly commits itself to the Alsatian and Corsican demands.

Further to the AGM of 2000 in Ramsey, Mannin:

- a) We note that the change in minister Jack Lang and his comittment (V 28) to encourage the integration of Diwan in the National Scool System. According to this, Diwan will benefit from the same financial and material conditions as apply in the public schools.
- b) However, we remain watchful that teaching through immersion and teacher training are given particular attention to ensure that they are implemented correctly.

This AGM 2001 of the Celtic League calls upon:

The French government to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the prisoners held after the Pleven and Kever incidents are brought forward for judgement without delay. We condemn this prolonged detention, over a year without trial, as a violation of Human and Civil Rights (cf UN).

This AGM calls:

For the French Government to respect the wishes of 71% (cf Polls) of the population of the Loire Atlantique (44) to remain part of Brittany. We condemn any attempts by the right wing to bypass Breton demands by encouraging the emergence of the Wide West (Western Country).

This 2001 Annual General Meeting:

- a) Notes the recent decision of the Carmarthenshire County Council that its new Chief Executive need not be fluent in Welsh (Western main 4/8/01)
- b) Condemns the recent claim of Carmarthenshire County Council that it would be illegal to stipulate Welsh as a qualification for this post, which effectively asserts that English is the only acceptable language of internal administration.

This AGM:

Calls on the Irish Government and the EU member states to respect the Irish 'No to Nice' vote. The Nice treaty should now be abandoned and no attempt made to put the same treaty to a second vote. Enlargement should proceed as catered for in the Amsterdam Treaty. A debate should be initiated in all EU states with consultation with the electorate before any further treaty is proposed.

This AGM:

Condemns the negligence of the English government in allowing the foot and mouth epidemic to develop and spread. We call on the Ministers of Agriculture in both parts of Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man together with the farmers to Kernow, to make a joint demand for compensation to the London government for the damage caused to the Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Manx and Cornish economies.

This AGM of the Celtic League:

Is gravely concerned at the long delay in the introduction of an Irish language rights Bill in Dáil Éireann. We call on the Irish Government to expedite the publication of the Bill and to ensure that it contains the provisions endorsed over the years by the League and the Irish language organisations.

This AGM:

Supports the right of the GAA to make its own decisions with regard to its use of its national head quarter stadium, Croke Park, in Dublin without outside or Government interference. If it ever so chooses to facilitate other sports it should be allowed to do so on its own terms.

The Celtic League:

Calls on the Irish Government to introduce electoral reform to allow Irish citizens in the North and citizens overseas the right to exercise their franchise in Referenda, Presidential and National elections.

This AGM:

Calls on the British Government to fulfil its promises of full implementation of the Pattern Report and demilitarisation. It calls on the Irish and British Governments to stand by the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in full.

This AGM:

Expresses its opposition to the production of genetically modified crops in any of the Celtic countries and calls for the dissemination of work at any test sites, in the Celtic countries, at which any GM plants are being grown and for full decontamination of the site.

This AGM:

- a) Urges the Manx Government to meet its obligations under the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 19) relating to freedom of expression.
- b) Calls for reform of the Isle of Man's Data Protection Legislation and the removal of any restrictions in the current legislation, which limit freedom of expression.

This AGM:

- a) Notes with concern a series of court cases and tribunal hearings recently in Dublin during which reference frequently surfaced relating to offshore banking services in the Isle of Man.
- b) Calls on the Manx Government to set up an Independent Inquiry in to the use, over the past two decades by individuals and institutions from the Irish republic of financial services facilities in the Isle of Man to evade (Irish) income tax or support criminal activities.

This AGM:

- a) Recognises the danger of association by members of government with business interests subsequently found to be disreputable.
- a) Calls upon the Manx Government to be more aware of the ramifications of association with business interests, which may subsequently prove to be dubious.
- b) Calls upon the Chief Minister of the Isle of Man to introduce a Code of Conduct to regulate the behaviour of Ministers and members of Government to ensure strict regulation of situations that could be construed as bestowing patronage on such business ventures.

This AGM:

Calls on all branches and all members of the Celtic league to take the necessary steps to ensure that pressure is applied to the British Government, which has still not extended the protection offered by the conditions of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Convention for the Protection of Regional and Minority Languages to An pobel Kernow ha'n taves Kernewek (The Cornwall people and Cornish language).

This AGM:

Recognising that the United Nations has designated this year as the International Year for Mobilisation Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related intolerance, endorses in full the objectives of the World Conference Against racism.

The Right to a Home:

This 2001 Annual General Meeting of the Celtic League calls upon governments and local authorities throughout the Celtic countries to provide as a right to all people over age 18 born and/or raised in a particular locality independent affordable rented housing in their locality on request.

This AGM:

- a) Expresses its concern at the continuing series of incidents that have occurred in the past twelve months at British nuclear power stations around the Irish Sea.
- b) Calls for the reassessment by the British Government of plans to allow obsolescent nuclear power stations such as Chapelcross in South West Scotland and Wylfa in Wales to continue to operate.
- c) Deplores the decision by the British Government to consider third generation nuclear power stations to be located at existing sites.

This AGM:

- a) Calls for an independent assessment, funded by the British Government, into the epidemiological health impact of air operations by helicopters of the British armed forces in the past 20 years in the S Armagh area of the North of Ireland.
- b) Expresses its concern that no effective assessment of the extent of nuisance and damage to health has been undertaken despite repeated concerns expressed by individuals and community organisations.

This AGM:

Condemns the United Kingdom, Irish and Manx Governments for promoting income inequality by setting minimum wage levels at a derisory level. Calls on all three governments to establish, within two years, realistic minimum wage levels in line with national low pay thresholds, or the European Decency Level.

This AGM:

Aware of criticism by independent agencies and the UK Police Complaints Authority of the harmful side effects of incapacitate sprays, which has led to death and serious injury, expresses its opposition to the use by police forces in the United Kingdom and Isle of Man of CS spray.

This AGM:

Concerned at the large number of deaths and serious injuries caused by the use of Royal Ulster Constabulary and British Army of plastic baton rounds in the North condemns the introduction of a modified version of this weapon.