



Working for the republican ex-prisoner community

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Coiste Delegation meets with Minister

On 22 May a delegation from Coiste na n-Iarchimí, comprising of Mike Ritchie, Raymond McCartney, Carál ni Chuilin, Catherine Murphy and Laurence McKeown met with NIO Minister Adam Ingram. They were accompanied by Gerry Kelly, the Sinn Féin MLA spokesperson for prison-related issues.

The purpose of the meeting was to discover who would be responsible for political ex-prisoner issues once devolution was restored; to once again raise the issue of the need for core funding from the British Government for the Coiste structure; to highlight the areas of ongoing discrimination against ex-prisoners and the need for an amnesty process for them and those currently 'on the run'.

The Minister undertook to raise with the Executive, once it was restored, the need to identify within which

department lay responsibility for ex-prisoner issues. He said he recognised the importance of the issues raised and gave a reassurance that the British Government continues to have a clear understanding that the issue of re-integration has to be addressed, so that there are no barriers and no hostility to ex-prisoners.

On the question of direct government funding for the Coiste organisation there was no commitment given to this although the delegation highlighted the fact that the Dublin Government, via the Department of Community Social and Family Affairs, currently funds the Coiste's 26 County Office.

Overall, the meeting was a positive one. It provided the opportunity for issues to be raised, issues that will be followed up on in light of devolution.

The issue of re-integration has to be addressed, so that there are no barriers and no hostility to ex-prisoners.

Coiste.comm

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UN supports ex-prisoners' freedom of expression

A United Nations report on freedom of expression has endorsed complaints against the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) initiated by Coiste na n-Iarchimi. A report submitted by Special Rapporteur Abid Hussain to the UN Commission on Human Rights accuses the BBC of bias and criticises the corporation's attitude towards ex-prisoners, which it says inhibits reconciliation within the North of Ireland.

In January 1999, during a press conference to launch Coiste na n-Iarchimi, a BBC film and radio crew interviewed, at their own request, three republican ex-prisoners who had been recently released under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement. The former prisoners spoke of their hopes and fears for the future and the difficulties of re-integration. All three supported the Good Friday Agreement and Coiste's self-help ethos. Yet coverage of the launch and the interviews of the three ex-prisoners were never broadcast by the BBC.

According to a newspaper report at the time, the BBC had "pulled a planned radio item about the launch of a prisoners' rights group an hour before transmission". Following a formal complaint by Coiste Project Manager Mike Ritchie, the BBC cited guidelines drawn up by the corporation to deal with interviews with former and serving prisoners. However, in a submission to UN Special Rapporteur Abid Hussain, Coiste pointed out that the BBC's guidelines "are problematic in that they make no distinction between criminal and political convictions". Coiste pointed out that there was a danger that ex-prisoners will continue to be defined in media terms in relation to their victims rather than in their own right.

Dr David Miller of the Stirling Media Research Institute raised the issue with Andrew Coleman, the

head of news and current affairs of the BBC in the Six Counties. Miller asked why interviews with Irish republican ex-prisoners should be governed by guidelines drawn up to deal with criminals. Miller pointed out that there was a section within the guidelines which states: "Interviewing political dissidents and activists is an important part of providing a full understanding of events." The BBC's implementation of the guidelines was not only inappropriate it was arguably duplicitous, he contended.

In his judgment, the UN Special Rapporteur concluded that the BBC should "review its guidelines in this particular regard, taking into account the changing political situation in Northern Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement, which clearly indicates the difference between political prisoners and ordinary criminals".

Commenting on the UN report, Mike Ritchie said: "Abid Hussain has vindicated our challenge to the attitude of the BBC towards republican ex-prisoners. The UN report places the media's denial of political prisoners' rights to freedom of expression within the wider context of attempts by the British state to suppress the truth about their role in the conflict. It also places the onus on all of us to move into a new period of change based on truth and justice."

Attendance at the 2nd Forum of the Paulo Freire Institute

The name Paulo Freire, Brazilian educationalist and author of *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, is well known to any ex-prisoner who spent time in the H Blocks post-1983.



Laurence and Jackie pictured with the European Delegates

Freire's theories on pedagogy have been adopted in various situations and countries throughout the world but mainly in developing and under-developed countries and especially in regards to the teaching of literacy amongst adults. Freire writes of 'education for liberation' and attacks the 'banking system' of education whereby a 'teacher' imparts knowledge to the 'pupil' who 'banks' it and later regurgitates it for exams. Freire criticises this teacher/pupil dichotomy and argues that we must all become teacher and pupil simultaneously as we are all learning and learning from one another.

Republican prisoners found they could relate readily to the views of Freire and thus shaped their informal education programme in the latter 1980's around his methods - and to great effect. They have also carried that experience to the outside

where they now apply it to their work in the Coiste, especially in the political education programme.

In March of this year Laurence McKeown (Coiste's Development Worker) contacted the Paulo Freire Institute in Brazil to inform them of how republican prisoners had practised Freire's methods of pedagogy.

As a result of that correspondence Laurence and Jackie McMullan (Coiste's Political Education Officer) were invited to attend the Second Forum of the Paulo Freire Institute to be held in Bologna, Italy, between 28 March and 1 April.

Although it was too late to make an official presentation to the conference Laurence and Jackie prepared materials on the Coiste and on how Freire's works had been applied in an Irish republican prison context

(copies of which they had translated) and distributed these amongst the other delegates. As a result of this they had lengthy meetings with Moacir Gadotti, the Director of the Freire Institute and with the European and South American delegations. Both Jackie and Laurence regarded their attendance at the Conference as an invaluable opportunity to promote the work of the Coiste and of the role that republican ex-prisoners currently play within their communities.

One significant outcome from the Conference was the establishment of a Paulo Freire website maintained by one of the delegates from Berlin, which will facilitate communication amongst all of the European delegates to the 2nd Forum. Jackie and Laurence have already been in contact with the group since their return.

Coiste na n-Iarchimí wish to take this opportunity to thank NIACRO and the Community Relations Council for providing the funding for participation in the Conference.

Cultural and Political Tours

Earlier this year Coiste na n-Iarchimí branched out into the area of political tourism when 2 groups of students based at universities in America came to Ireland as part of their courses to study the conflict here. This kind of project was pioneered by the Coiste in March 1999 when the first tour was undertaken by Laurence Mc Keown. Due to the success of this initiative, three similar tours were secured, two of which have been completed to date.



An Evaluation Session during the tour

The first of these tours took place in March and involved the participation of 20 students from Colgate University in New York. This group was studying peace and conflict resolution, part of which meant them spending a 6 month semester outside of the United States. The group came to Bradford University where they studied for 2 months before coming to Ireland, where they were able to experience the conflict in the north of Ireland at first hand.

I organised a packed and diverse schedule of engagements over the 6 day period which brought these young people into contact with many of the key players in the conflict here. The proceedings kicked off in Belfast with a trip to the city centre followed by a tour of republican and loyalist murals and then a visit to Milltown cemetery.

Next on the agenda was a full day in Stormont where meetings had been arranged with representatives from all the main political parties as well as a person from the NIO. The following day was spent in Belfast meeting community groups in nationalist West Belfast in the morning and the loyalist

community on the Shankill in the afternoon.

The week flew by as the group travelled around the north meeting representatives from campaigning groups in South Armagh, Portadown and Derry as well as the peace people, Corrymeela and the Mediation Network. The students complained that there was not enough free time for them to sample the cultural side of life in Belfast so we managed to squeeze in some Irish dancing which received a massive thumbs-up by all who participated. A trip to the Giant's Causeway was also included, which provided a well-deserved break from the hectic schedule.

The April tour contained all of the above events and much more, because this group, hailing from the American University in Washington, was spending 17 days in Ireland. These extra features included meetings with the RUC, Community Relations Council, a women's group as well as attending Belfast's Easter parade and trips to Donegal and Dublin. These latter

'This was an amazing program and I would highly recommend it to others'

expeditions may sound as though they were holiday breaks but not so. While the trip to Donegal may have consisted of some leisurely pursuits such as visiting craft centres, taking a boat trip and watching locally made films, the Dublin experience had no such leisurely pace. Here the students were treated to a trip to Leinster House, the Dept of Foreign Affairs, Kilmainham Jail and a guided tour of the city. By this stage the gruelling schedule was beginning to take its toll and many of the young people arrived back in Belfast suffering severely from the effects of our typically bad weather. However, spirits remained high and most claimed to be enjoying themselves, despite the sniffles!

All in all, I would have to say that our venture into the world of political tourism has proved to be a resounding success. Feedback from the students has been very positive and encouraging. Some typical comments from the evaluation sheets were:-

'This was an amazing program and I would highly recommend it to others'

'I can't remember learning so much in less than one week'

'Everything I thought I knew about this place, people, conflict has been challenged'

'All of you have changed my life'

'Thank you so much for your hard work, insightful perspectives, unconditional kindness and hospitality'

'Amazing trip, I'll never forget it'

'I feel lucky to have had you guys as our tour leaders'

A degree of constructive criticism also emerged which has helped confirm some of the problems of which we had been conscious. The issue of Protestant/loyalist/unionist involvement was felt by some to have been lacking but despite my best efforts to accommodate a broad spectrum I was not able to cater for the fact that some groups were unable to participate. It was said many times also that the programme was too



Pictured with Joe Doherty on the New Lodge Road

packed with activities without allowing enough free time. Again, I was conscious that a balanced schedule should be produced and it proved difficult trying to ensure that those involved got value for money in a diverse programme while still finding time for leisure. The points raised have been helpful and will certainly be fed into the next round of preparations.

While much effort went into the planning and execution of these projects, the task was greatly alleviated by the assistance and support of everyone in the Coiste office, especially Laurence who co-facilitated parts of the April tour. Mention must also be made of the various individuals throughout the network who gave of their time and expertise in making these tours such a success. Finally, it would have been impossible to co-ordinate the tour beyond Belfast without our people in the Derry, South Armagh and Dublin offices who were very generous in taking on the organisational responsibility for those elements of the tour located in their respective areas. So, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a massive 'go raibh mile maith agaibh' to all who participated or helped in any way. I couldn't have done it without you.

'I feel lucky to have had you guys as our tour leaders'

Tar Anall - Belfast

Tar Anall was the first republican ex-prisoner group to be established back in 1995. Being the first and for a time the only such group available to republican ex-prisoners, Tar Anall has done much pioneering work throughout the six counties. As such it has built up a wealth of experience and networks which continues to be invaluable to republican ex-prisoners and their families



Carál Ní Chuilín - Co-ordinator



Shane Caldwell - Office Manager



Michael Ferguson - Advice & Welfare Rights Worker



Róisín Kelly - Training & Education Resource Worker

TRAINING AND EDUCATION RESOURCE WORK

All projects are interrelated which means, for instance, that trainees on the Diploma in Counselling and Groupwork skills will, when trained, become counsellors for Tar Anall as well as for others in need of their assistance. Likewise, those young people involved in the Oganaiigh le Chéile project are now trained peer educators and as such will facilitate other groups of young people formed within Tar Anall. A specific area of training developed by the unit has been the Training of Trainers to facilitate a number of courses requested by our user group.

The Training and Education Unit boasts the following services:

- Counselling training
- Career development
- Management training
- Facilitation skills training
- Parenting
- GCSEs
- AEB Basic Maths and English
- Youth Provision
- A fully stocked library
- Applications assistance
- Business Start Up training
- Women Returners training
- Residential work
- Social and Lifeskills training

IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

The aim of the Irish Political Prisoners Children's Holiday

programme is to send children of prisoners, ex-prisoners, dead volunteers and children of displaced families on a holiday to the USA. However, it must be understood that while it may be the much needed break or get away from it all chance for the children, there is a much more serious side for us to this programme.

Children are often overlooked in political conflicts. The aim of this programme is to provide respite care for 8 – 12 year olds. Older children are given special consideration.

For further information please contact **Leontia Mc Kenna – IPPCH Co-Ordinator**

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Research confirms (Tús Nua – Cost of Imprisonment 1998), that the effects of imprisonment can often be a collective experience. For family members the experience was also one of psychological and emotional trauma as they made the frequent trips to prisons in Ireland, England and abroad.

To further develop the outreach work that had been undertaken by Tar Anall staff, it was necessary to establish a dedicated support service to finally meet the needs of families of prisoners, ex-prisoners and those who have been bereaved or have

experienced loss as a result of 30 years of political conflict.

The Family Support Worker is a trained listener and is currently undertaking the Advanced Diploma in Counselling and Group-work skills.

We are now operating a confidential telephone service to those who need to talk to a trained listener, counsellor or youth befriender. The telephone number is (028) 90 624111.

ADVICE, REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

Michael Ferguson is our Advice & Welfare Rights Co-Ordinator. This is a confidential service to meet your needs and operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10.00 am to 4.00pm. For appointment phone 90 603368. Michael's unit covers all aspects of housing, social fund payments, Income Support, Disability Living Allowance, Care & Mobility, Working Families Tax Credit, Child Benefit and Child Support. For further information feel free to contact Michael on (028) 90 603368.

OGRA AONTAITHE

Ogra Aontaithe is the name given to the youth projects within Tar Anall i.e. Oganai gh le Cheile and Clar na nOg. The groups provide unique opportunities for children of currently serving prisoners, ex-prisoners or those bereaved, to come together.

OGANAIGH LE CHEILE

This is a peer education programme for 14-19 year olds. Trainees who participate in this 20 week programme will expect to gain accreditation in alcohol and drug awareness, facilitation skills, listening/befriending skills, first aid, health and sexuality and Child Protection issues. Other areas previously undertaken include stress management, assertiveness, career development and residential.

Trainees take part in one session per week from 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

Tar Anall currently have five Peer Educators trained to NVQ Level III in Training and Development.

CLAR na nOG

This programme is specifically designed for 10 – 14 year olds. Trainees undertake personal development training along with alcohol and drug awareness, health and sexuality. Focus is made on residential work including team building exercises, discussion around the effects of imprisonment and loss and arts & crafts work.

Clar na nOg training takes place one night a week from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

All the young people involved in our project are made aware of how to protect themselves and keep safe from harm. Parental consent is required for all aspects of our youth programmes.

Anyone interested please contact Roisin Kelly, Training & Education Resource Worker for an application form.



**Rose McLarnon - Family Support
Worker**



**Leontia McKenna - I.P.P.C.H.
Co-ordinator**



**Ann Bradley - Finance
Administrator**



**Dolores Craig - Voluntary
Worker**

Coiste Addresses Sinn Féin Ard Fhéis

At this year's Sinn Féin Ard Fhéis Coiste na n-Iarchimí was afforded an unrivalled opportunity to explain the work it does on behalf of current republican prisoners and the republican ex-prisoner community.



Coiste's Project Manager, Mike Ritchie, pictured with xs-prisoners, Gerry Hanratty, Pádraic Wilson and Jim Monaghan.

Dublin Coiste members including Jim Monaghan, Gabriel Cleary and Liam O' Dwyer spent the two days of the Ard Fhéis staffing an information stand at the entrance to the debating area. During this period a lot of useful work was completed including gathering names for the database of all ex-prisoners which the 26 County Coiste Office, in conjunction with Fáilte Cluain Eois, have been compiling. To this end questionnaires and survey forms were distributed as were fliers outlining the Coiste's work.

The findings of the survey will be central in helping to assess and document the effects imprisonment has had, and continues to have, on ex-POWs and their families. Some of these problems were highlighted in the address given by Eoghan Mac Cormaic when he spoke to the delegates on behalf of Coiste na n-Iarchimí at the Saturday session on Justice.

Eoghan outlined the history of Coiste and described some of its

ongoing work. He warned delegates not to be complacent, however, in thinking that July 28 will see all prisoners freed, that implementation of the Good Friday Agreement must include all our prisoners including those in Castlereagh.

But the issue of imprisonment remains for all ex-POWs as the effects of the criminalisation policy pursued by respective governments means that those released face discrimination and marginalisation. He pointed out that the fight against criminalisation was an area where Coiste - and all those who have worked for prisoners over the years - must remain active.

Eoghan reminded the delegates that the Hunger Strikes were to end criminalisation. 'We still have the effects of that policy - not in the gaols, but beyond the gaols since every ex-prisoner is left with a 'criminal' record and many suffer discrimination and exclusion as a result'.

On behalf of Coiste, and it would

"The findings of the survey will be central in helping to assess and document the effects imprisonment has had, and continues to have, on ex-POWs and their families"

be fair to say all ex-prisoners, Eoghan thanked again all those who had worked so hard, for so long, for so little recognition, on behalf of republican prisoners. Go maire siad an chéad.

A month previous to the Ard Fhéis Eoghan Mac Cormaic, in his role as 26 County Outreach Worker, and Mike Ritchie, Project Manager of Coiste na n-Iarchimí, completed a two day tour of the existing groups in the South.

The first group meeting was attended by mainly Tipperary ex-prisoners but this group also seeks to cover counties Offaly, Limerick and Clare. Mike outlined the work of Coiste and heard members of the group talk of plans for an extended history project in the town, the reclamation of a Famine graveyard and their ongoing struggle against the effects of criminalisation.

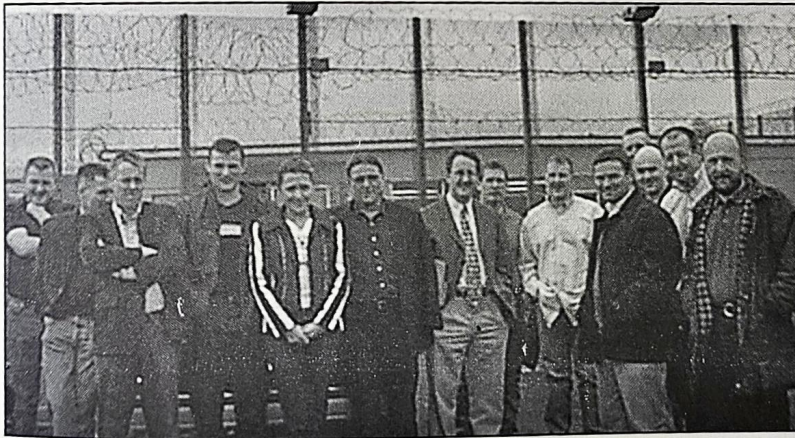
The Galway meeting was

representative of ex-prisoners in that county and in neighbouring Mayo. The group, known as Cruinniú, is hoping to eventually act as the main point of contact for all ex-prisoners in the West.

At present they have no specific plans laid to fund their work but they are hoping to build a tour company of the region which will offer a counter view to the revisionist and apolitical history of their catchment area.

Arising from these meetings work is well advanced for follow up work from the Economic Development Unit which include the 'twinning' of groups in the formation stage with groups in Dundalk and Clones which have been together longer and are more developed. Mike also used part of the tour to attend the AGM of one of these groups Fáilte Cluain Eois which has been vibrant since its formation almost three years ago.

LONG KESH DELEGATION



Coiste Delegation, pictured outside Long Kesh

A delegation from Coiste member groups went on a recent visit to the H-Blocks. Part of the Coiste's on going work is to help inform current prisoners as to what assistance is available to them upon their release and to make them aware of the geographical spread of the Coiste

support network. Under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement July 28th should see all republican prisoners released from prison, North and South, but some prisoners currently held in Long Kesh and in Castlereagh are likely to remain incarcerated after that date.

"We still have the effects of that policy (criminalisation) - not in the gaols, but beyond the gaols since every ex-prisoner is left with a 'criminal' record and many suffer discrimination and exclusion as a result"

Cumann na Fuiseoige

Mairfidh an dea-obair a rinneadh faoi ghlas ar son na teanga le bunaíodh agus maireachtáil Chumann na Fuiseoige ach cad é Cumann na Fuiseoige?

Téann bunús an Chumainn ar ais go Mí Aibreáin 1995 tar éis do chimí poblachtánacha sciathán amháin a chuir ar bun sa Cheis Fhada mar Ghaeltacht. Ba é an chéad rud a rinneadh ansin ná Gaeltacht na Fuiseoige a tabhairt uirthi ach ní raibh san oiread sin ach tús na hoibre.

Ba leir leis na blianta, go háirithe ó dheireadh agóid na pluide, go raibh meath ar an teanga sna Bloic-H. Creid daoine eigin gurbh é cailliúint na ngeailgeoirí a scaoileadh saor bliain i ndiaidh bliana aba chúis le meath na teanga ach bhí níos mó i gceist.

Chuaigh muid i dteagmháil le grúpaí Gaeilge ar an taobh amuigh chun na bhfadhbanna seo a phlé agus diaidh ar ndiaidh d'aithin muid go raibh scileanna agus modhanna teagaisc chomh maith le leabhair agus cúrsaí nua á gcur i bhfeidhm ag na grúpaí seo nár chuala muid trácht ar riamh. Mar sin, iarradh ar bhaill dena grúpaí éagsúla múinteoir nó aoichainteoir a chur isteach chuig Gaeltacht na Fuiseoige chun chuidiú linn an fhadhb a fhuascailt.

Tháinig múinteoirí agus léachtóirí ó Ghaeloiliúint agus Oideas Gael. Tháinig stairí, ceoltóirí agus aoichainteoirí ó TnaG, Iontaobhas Ultach agus Gael-Linn agus, seachas ag baint an-sult as an ábhar a bhí le rá ag na daoine seo, d'éirigh muid amhór le chuid mhaith acu agus, ar ndóigh, d'fhoghlaim muid go raibh a lán oibre le déanamh chan amháin ar Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige ach taobh amuigh di chomh maith.

Ó shin, chuaigh an Ghaeilge ó neart go neart agus chuaigh an Ghaeltacht i méid nuair a bunaíodh an dara sciathán mar chuid eile de Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige ach níor stop cimí poblachtánacha ag obair ar son na teanga fiú nuair a stop siad de bheith ina geimí

Ar 17 Nollag 1998, ag cruinniú iarchimí i gClubtheach Chumann na Meirleach, bunaíodh Cumann na Fuiseoige. Bhí an cruinniú d'aon intinn gur chóir do chumann a bhunú chun leanúint d'obair Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige lasmuigh den phríosún agus chun tabhairt faoi leasa, suimeanna agus fadhbanna na n-iarchimí Gaeilge.

Tá Coiste an Chumainn faoi scath Choiste na n-Iarchimí agus ó thús Mhí na Samhna 1999 tá oifig lonnaithe ag Coiste an Chumainn sa Chultúrlann, 216 Bóthar na bhfál, Béal Feirste, Uimhir Ghutháin: 90240966. Tá Mairtín Ó Maoilmhuaidh, iarchime é féin, fostaithe mar oibrí forbartha ann.

Tá roinnt mhaith Cuspóirí ag Cumann na Fuiseoige:

(i). seirbhísí a sholáthar do na cimí Gaeilge atá á scaoileadh saor faoi láthair agus a scaoileadh soar le tamall anuas

“D’fhoghlaim muid go raibh a lán oibre le déanamh chan amháin ar Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige ach taobh amuigh di chomh maith.”



Baill de Chumann na Fuiseoige ar bharr Earagáil

(ii). na cimid seo a iomlánú i bpobal na Gaeilge

(iii). deis a thabhairt dóibh bheith páirteach agus úsáid a bhaint as a gcuid scileanna áirithe i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge

Socraíodh gurbh í an Ghaeilge aon teanga amháin an Chumainn chan mar riail ardnósach ach chun an Ghaeilge a chothú. Socraíodh fosta go gcuirfeadh an Rúnaí bunachar sonraí d'iarchimí Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige le chéile agus go dtionólfáí le chéile iad le bheith páirteach i gCumann na Fuiseoige ach tá an dúshlán sin faoi chúram an oibrí forbartha anois agus tá tús maith déanta aige leis an bhunachar sonraí agus ceistneoir á chur amach chuig iarchimí faoi láthair. Lena chois sin, chuaigh Mairtín isteach ar chuairt toiscaireachta chuig na Bloic-H ag tús Mhí Meithimh chun an obair a dhéanamh leis na cimid atá ar Ghaeltacht na Fuiseoige go fóill.

Faoi láthair tá Cumann na Fuiseoige ag díriú ar riachtánais na n-iarchimí a scaoileadh saor le blianta beaga anuas nó a scaoilfear saor ar ball, ach ba mhaith leo go mbeadh gach iarchime a bhfuil suim aige / aici sa Ghaeilge páirteach sa Chumann i ndeireadh na dála. Tá fáilte roimh

gach iarchime Gaeilge (líofa nó ag foghlaim) bheith páirteach i gCumann na Fuiseoige.

Tá an Cumann ag dul ó neart go neart agus ag dul i méid. Tá ceantair éagsúla de ghrúpaí iarchimí Gaeilge bainte leis le breis agus bliain go leith; grúpaí ón tSraith Bhán, ón Lorgáin, ó Fhear Manach, ó Dhoire, ó Úir Cinn Trá, ó Chluain Eois agus, ar ndóigh, ó Bhéal Feirste.

Ag deireadh Mhí Bealtaine bhí an chéad chruinniú cinn bliana ag Cumann na Fuiseoige i nGaoth Dobhair agus d'éirigh go hiontach maith leis. Roghnaíodh 'Teac Jack' mar áit don chruinniú de bhrí gur thug sé deis d'iarchimí agus bunadh na háite aithne a chur ar a chéile agus seans eile bheith ag obair lena chéile i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Cuireadh tús le himeachtaí sóisialta oíche Aoine i dTigh Húdaí bhig agus lá arna mharach i ndiaidh chruinniú cinn bliana sásúla chuaigh dáréag acú amach chun Earagáil a dhreapadh ar son na ngaelscoileanna. Anois, tá siad thíos arís ar thalamh íseal agus ag leanúint ar aghaidh leis an dea-obair. Ádh mór orthú uilig.

“Tá an Cumann ag dul ó neart go neart agus ag dul i méid. Tá ceantair éagsúla de ghrúpaí iarchimí Gaeilge bainte leis le breis agus bliain go leith; grúpaí ón tSraith Bhán, ón Lorgáin, ó Fhear Manach, ó Dhoire, ó Úir Cinn Trá, ó Chluain Eois agus, ar ndóigh, ó Bhéal Feirste.”



COISTE NA N-IARCHIONN

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• Cairde, Strabane

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• POW Dept, Dublin

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• Tar Isteach, Belfast

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WORKING FOR THE REPUBLICAN EX-PRISONER COMMUNITY