

TRACS Policy on Leids

Airts an Tradeetions Scotland (TRACS) is stickin in wi a policy o takin fu tent o an supportin aa Scotland's leids gien a richt herty welcum tae oor multi-tongit identitie, wi English, Gaelic, Scots an a when o ither leids.

Gaelic an Scots in parteclar cairry a wecht o cultur an tradeetion, an TRACS hauds that they hae fu an equal places baith as national leids o lang standin an as the livin an spoken leids o their folk.¹ They are praicious tae the nation, cairryin a hie tradeetion that comes doon tae us in the spoken word an in music an sang. Be it in the performin o the tradeetions they cairry, in print, or jist in the speak an blether o oor daily lives, their worth maunna be nay-sayit. The leid is oors, the responsibility is oors and we maun tak it. It is there tae be seen in mony walks o life – in prentit literature as weel as spoken tradeetion, in namin oor launskips an oor environs (urban an aa) in oor history an heritage an in the steer an bustle that is the life o oor communities.² It's weill tae merk that the yaise o baith Scots an Gaelic in daily leevin gies rise tae sharin atween the generations in a byordinar an special wey.

Forby aa thon, TRACS is supportin in this policy an throu aa that may be wrocht by it, the notion that ilka leid is in an o itsel a praicious thing. Oo get the guid o bein acquentit wi mair nor ane leid in mony weys: it adds tae oor unnerstanin o ither weys o luikin at the warld. Ilk leid his its ain wey o gettin ower tae us the exack meanin, the exack picter, an this helps us tae learn about an unnerstan ithir cultur an ithir folk. A kennin in ithir leids brings folk thegithir an gies the kinna smeddum that it taks tae be shair an creative, an this is uisfae in the kinna eddication in the airts that TRACS is aimin fur, mindfu as it is o UNESCO conventions lik the *Seoul Agenda for Arts Education*, an ithir conventions anent cultural diversity

The main aim o this TRACS Languages Policy is tae mak clear the obleegement that we hae in Scotland an in TRACS tae gie a lift tae Scots an Gaelic, tae help folk tae see their worth an tae tak up the walth o possibeelities they hae atween thaim. Oo hae this aim cause Gaelic an Scots are thirlt intae the tradeetional airts in Scotland an needfu gif they are aye tae come on. It is guid tae leuk tae thaim thegithir: they are linkit in mony creative weys, an wi English besides.

Tho Gaelic an Scots hae this poseetion as tradeetional leids in Scotland, *TRACS* is here tae support oor ithir minority leids an aa. Oo are taskit wi leukin efter oor *Intangible Cultural*

¹ Baith leids are bielidit unner the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages*. Gaelic his an offeecial stannin as a "national language" of Scotland unner the *Gaelic Language Act* o 2005, an fur Scots, see the Scottish Government Scots Language Policy o 2011.

² Ane o the aims o the *Seoul Agenda* is tae "support and enhance the role of arts education in the promotion of social responsibility, social cohesion, cultural diversity and intercultural exchange."

Heritage (ICH) an leukin oot fur the airts in general here in Scotland. British Sign Language as yaised in Scotland maun tak its place an aa amang oor walth o minority leids.

Mindfu o this, TRACS aims tae mak an inpit intae a cultur that is braid an sindrie, whaur screivers an stortellers, aa kinna artists, wi a mixer-maxter o forefolk an leids, maun tak pairt thegithir. In this we are mindfu in parteeclar o the *UNESCO Conventions on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* an the *Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, that uphauks this:

The Universal Declaration makes it clear that each individual must acknowledge not only otherness in all its forms but also the plurality of his or her own identity, within societies that are themselves plural. Only in this way can cultural diversity be preserved as an adaptive process and as a capacity for expression, creation and innovation.

TRACS aims tae cairry forrit its policy on leids in three main weys:

1. Oor listin o ongauns, takkin fu tent the tradeetional airts, the maist namely bein the twa fests, the *Scottish International Storytelling Festival*, an *Tradfest*. There is forbye a listin o day-by-day ongauns at the Scottish Storytelling Centre.
2. Buik-leir an Oncome :
 - a. Throu the expairience o weel-sortit teachin an learnin acteevities, baith at the Scottish Storytelling Centre an furth o Embro.
 - b. Rax-oot acteevities, including veesits tae scuils, an means tae leir providit online.
3. The weelness an thegitherness o the commonality, throu ploys the like o *The People's Parish*.

The three weys set oot abin sall be met by

- strowin the means tae leir free online, includin the kinna digital technology that uphauks learnin the naitur o leids an maks them appen tae aa.
- ongauns whaur Scots an Gaelic are weel representit
- contracttin wark frae screivers an makars in Scots an Gaelic
- providin first-haun screevins an recordins in Scots an Gaelic

- gein a lift tae haein a kennin o twa leids or mair by providin the means tae lairn or tae become acquent
- a clear policy o yaisin Scots an Gaelic whauriver it suits in aa oor traffeck wi folk intendit tae acquent them wi ongauns connectit tae TRACS or the Storytelling Centre, that they micht get yaised wi seein (or hearin) baith leids in yiss.

TRACS is tae be fun at an warks in near pairtnery wi the *Scottish Storytelling Centre*, an thegither oo hae an inpit intae keepin Embro namelie fur fests. Embro's fests are a muckle stage, a means o sharin oor cultur wi ithirs, an arena whaur mony folk an mony leids mix and share. This maks clear hoo necassar it is no tae sunder the aim o diverse leids frae the aim o diverse cultur. TRACS is aye mindfu o this in pittin forrit a braid mix o the tradeetional airts.

The Scottish International Storytelling Festival gaes hail-heidit fur a new pairt o the warld ilk year, bringin storytellers frae that airt tae Embro tae tak pairt in a sharin o cultur. This micht be an exchyng o stories, muisic an sangs in a naitural kinna roon-the-fire hooley or a mair guidit twa-leid affair. Whitivver wey, this maks a shaw o Scottish culture an leids alongside ithir warld tradeetions.

Tradfest is the ithir main fest thocht oot an guidit by TRACS an the *Scottish Storytelling Centre*, wi on-gauns happnin aa ower Embro at the end o Aprill, ower May Day an intae Embro's Beltane fest. *Tradfest* will be workin in pairtnery wi *BEMIS (Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland)* tae mak an tae brace traffeck wi an atween minority groups, an this sall gie mair o a lift tae the braid line-up o leids an cultur pit forrit throu *Tradfest*.

Haudin wi sic a wey o thinkin an daein, TRACS his jist newlins shapit an *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan* fur 2016-2018. This is follaein *Creative Scotland's* airtins, whaur the gist is tae promuive an steer bodies connectit wi the tradeetional airts tae aye be warstlin towards e'eenliness for aa. The swatch that follaes will gie mair o a feelin fur the naitur o TRACS' wark wi leids:

TRACS will aye ettle at a braid listin o ongauns that aabody micht be interestit in, bringin in the kennin an unnerstaunin o folk in smaa an mair oan-the-edge groups an makin it somethin oo aa micht owe. The kennin o sic groups is in muckle pairt the wall that folk an traditional airts spring frae, an it is aye needfu gif they are tae growe an bide oan the thrive. Aa ower the warld, folk an tradeetional airts are at the wall-spring o oor creativeness, oor sense o worth, they gie a lift tae a braid reenge an mix o cultur, an haud commonalities o folk thegither. TRACS sees these airts as a muckle pairt o Scotland's ain cultural weelness, an a gey vauntie instance o whit commonalities o folk micht bring tae ane anithir an gie oot tae the wide warld.