

Blog 1)

Why the AchtAnois online activism became a talking point within Irish society?

2016 was a year when this online activism spread like a wildfire in a cornmaze. Immediately after the appointment of a new Minister of Education in Northern Ireland (Peter Weir), all Irish text was removed from the Department's website; this set a clear precedent for the treatment of Irish and the Irish language community that year.

That year, a myriad of people decided to join the AchtAnois movement on social media. This occurred after the passing of unlawful legislation to remove vital funding for the establishment of nurture units in Scoil an Droichid in Oirthear Bhéal Feirste (East Belfast). Also in Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin in Tuaisceart Bhéal Feirste (North Belfast). This was seen only as the beginning.

However, this particular online activism had not become too popular on social media for another four years. (Twenty-four years after the initial agreement to implement Irish language legislation and recognise An Ghaeilge as an official State language).

On May 12th 2022, Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland at the time, Michelle O'Neill, tweeted; "Thousands parading for Irish language rights today in Belfast. It's time for AchtGaeilge to be delivered. AchtAnois DeargLeFearg". This caused a plethora of an effect for the activism. Causing; 199 comments, 1070 retweets, and 6777 likes.

Blog 2:

Cén saghas éifeacht arbh leis an feachtas AchtAnois I bpolaitíocht?//

What effect the AchtAnois campaign had on politics?

Gaeilge//

English (Béarla)

Bhí éifeacht mó a bhaineann leis an feachtas AchtAnois ar athrú polaitíocht agus is gur féidir linn seo a fheiceáil go háirithe ar an bpolaitíocht I dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Is am éachtach, lonnrach, is bródúil í dár dteanga.//

The AchtAnois campaign has had an ample effect on political change and we can especially see this on the politics in Northern Ireland.

Go dtí cúpla mí ó shin. Níorbh seans ag na Gaeilgeoirí sa dTuaidh chun a mothú cosúil go bhfuil iad ina mball ina tsochaí mar gheall den choíche diúltadh chun an Ghaeilge a bheith mar theanga Stáit oifigiúla. Ba mhairg mhór í seo. //

Up until only couple of months ago, Gaeilgeoirí in the North felt they did not have the chance to feel apart of society as a result of the constant decline to make Irish an official State language. This really was a shame.

D'athraíodh gah rud I ndiaidh an feachtas AchtAnois ar líne. Cuirtear brú mó ar na bpolaiteoirí sa dTuaidh chun í an Ghaeilge a dhéan mar theanga oifigiúil sa stáit. D'fhógair an tAire (leas) gcéad Michelle O'Neill ag an tam go bhfuil "dualgas ag Rialtas na Ríocht Aontacha chun a ullmhú is a gcur I bhfeidhm seo".//

Everything changed after the online activism AchtAnois. A lot of pressure was put on politicians to make Irish an official state language. The (Deputy) First Minister ag the time Michelle O'Neill announced that the "UK Government has a duty to prepare and implement this".

Cúpla seachtain I ndiaidh sin, cuireadh moil ar rith na billí nua I Westminster ar an 6ú-Nollaig-2022. Is rud go hoifigiúil í chun a rá anois go bhfuil an Ghaeilge mar theanga oifigiúil I dTuaisceart na hÉireann. Creidfinn go gcaithfimis dúinn chun ár ngabh bhuíochas a thabhairt do na daoine mar bhall den fheachtas AchtAnois ar líne is mar gheall den sin na hagóidí ar na sráideanna I mBeal Feirste is I trasna na hOileáin chomh maith. Is rud stairiúlach é seo, gan aon agó I ndiaidh an tamall fada arbh ár dteanga ag tabhairt isteach leatrom. //

A couple of weeks after that, the passing of new legislation passed in Westminster on the 6th-December-2022. It is official to now say that Irish is an official State language in Northern Ireland. I would believe that we should thank the people involved in AchtAnois campaign online and as a result the protesters on the streets in Belfast and across the island. This is without a doubt an historic thing after the oppression our language had faced for so long.

Mar a deirtear an tseanfhocail, Tír gan teanga tír gan anam.

Blog 3: The importance of online activism to political change?

One cannot deny the importance online activism has and continuously has in the development of political change in our society. This is particularly evident over recent years in the development of technology and online usage.

Firstly, online activism helps reach a wider audience when one is trying to share their ideas or viewpoints for political change. It can target certain age groups based on the platform used.

Furthermore, it also provides a space for people to voice their concerns. An example of this can be on basic fundamental human rights violations. This community can be a chance for people to express these opinions in a more accessible, understandable, and influenced way.

Moreover, the fact that the vast majority of online social media platforms are free must not be taken for granted. It is this free price that grants users the ability to join online activism from the comfort of their own home.