POBAL meet Framework Convention Advisory Committee

Irish language advocacy group POBAL met with experts from the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on Monday 7th March in Belfast, to discuss the implementation of the Framework Convention with regard to the Irish language in the north. The Framework Convention is designed to ensure that signatory states respect the rights of national minorities, undertaking to combat discrimination, promote equality, preserve and develop the culture and identity of national minorities, guarantee certain freedoms in relation to access to the media, minority languages and education and encourage the participation of national minorities in public life. Advisory Committee Vice-President Prof. Lidija Basta Fleiner welcomed the meeting with POBAL, and accepted the organisation's Preliminary Report to the Committee on the Framework's implementation.

POBAL's Chief Executive, Janet Muller said, 'In its last report in 2007, the Advisory Committee highlighted the Irish language Act and called for the legislation to be introduced. The experts were therefore very interested in what we had to say. We were able to raise a number of issues with them as to how Irish speakers are being treated in the North under the Framework Convention. In particular, we highlighted the British government's duty in relation to the Irish language Act, the ongoing operation of the 1737 Administration of Justice Act, the threat to funding of Irish language groups at present and Irish language broadcasting.'

The Advisory Committee will now report back to the Council of Europe on its findings and will then make public its report.

Buaileann POBAL le Coiste Comhairleach ar an Chreat-Choinbhinsiún

Bhuail grúpa abhcóideachta na Gaeilge POBAL le saineolaithe ón Choiste Comhairleach ar an Creat-Choinbhinsiún um Chosaint Mionlach Náisiúnta Dé Luain 7ú Márta i mBéal Feirste, le cur i bhfeidhm an Chreat-Choinbhinsiúin maidir leis an Ghaeilge sa tuaisceart a phlé. Ceapadh an Creat-Choinbhinsiún le cinntiú go n-aithníonn stáit sínithe cearta na mionlach náisiúnta, ag gabhail orthu féin dul i ngleic le leithcheala, comhionannas a chur chun cinn, cultúr agus céannacht na mionlach náisiúnta a chaomhnú agus a fhorbairt, saoirsí áirithe maidir le rochtain a ráthú ar na meáin, ar theangacha mionlaigh agus ar oideachas agus rannpháirtíocht na mionlach náisiúnta sa saol poiblí a spreagadh. Chuir leas-uachtarán an Choiste, an t-ollamh Lidija Basta Fleiner, fáilte roimh an chruinniú le POBAL, agus ghlac sí ar son an Choiste réamhthuarascáil na heagraíochta ar chur i bhfeidhm an Chreata.

Dúirt príomhfheidhmeannach POBAL, Janet Muller, 'Ina thuarascáil dheireanach sa bhliain 2007, leag an Coiste Comhairleach béim ar Acht na Gaeilge agus mhol siad reachtaíocht don Ghaeilge. Dá bhrí sin, bhí an-suim ag na saineolaithe i dtuairimí POBAL ar an ábhar. Bhí muid in ann roinnt saincheisteanna a ardú leo maidir le cóireáil lucht na Gaeilge sa Tuaisceart faoin Chreat-Choinbhinsiún. Leag muid béim áirithe ar dhualgas rialtas na Breataine i dtaca le hAcht na Gaeilge, feidhmiú leanúnach ar Acht 1737 um Riar na Córa, an bhagairt ar mhaoiniú na ngrúpaí Gaeilge faoi láthair agus craoltóireacht sa Ghaeilge.'

Tabharfaidh an Coiste Comhairleach tuairisc ar a thorthaí taighde go Comhairle na hEorpa anois agus ansin, foilseofar a thuarascáil go poiblí.

Eolas sa bhreis / More information: Janet Muller, 028 90 438132, 077 13 630325