



Department for
Communities
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An Roinn
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Department for
Commonities

Helping the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture

What the Government should do

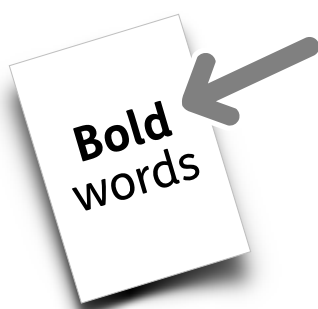


**easy
read**

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In this easy read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

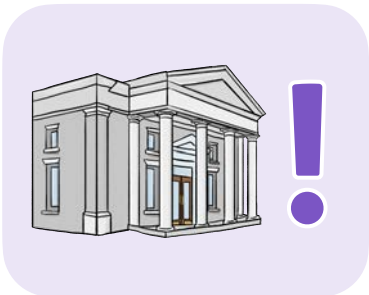


Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The Northern Ireland Government set up a group to look at how to help the Ulster-Scots language, **heritage** and **culture**.



Heritage means buildings and **culture** from the past that are still important now.



Culture means writing, stories, songs, music and arts.

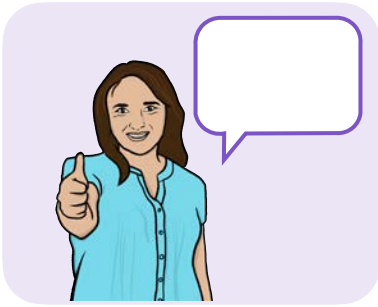


The group is called the Expert Advisory Panel.

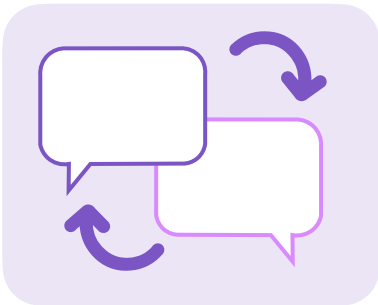


We have written this report to explain what the Northern Ireland Government should do in the next 20 years.

Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture



Ulster-Scots is a language that is close to the Lowland Scots language. The Ulster-Scots culture has its roots in Scotland.



It has many words that are the same as English words, but also many other words.



Ulster-Scots was spoken more often in the past, but not many people use the language these days.



There are about 15,000 people in Northern Ireland who can speak Ulster-Scots well, and about 150,000 people who can speak a little of the language.



People who speak Ulster-Scots come from all communities in Northern Ireland.



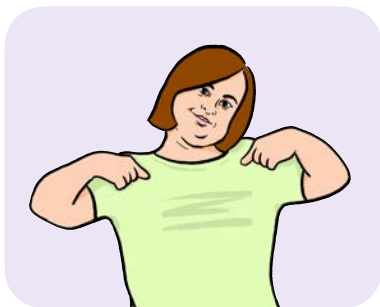
People who use Ulster-Scots have an important history and culture.

How we should help Ulster-Scots

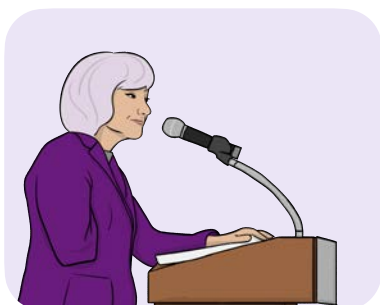
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We should show that Northern Ireland Culture comes equally from 3 backgrounds: Scottish, Irish and English.

We should:



- be proud of all 3 backgrounds.



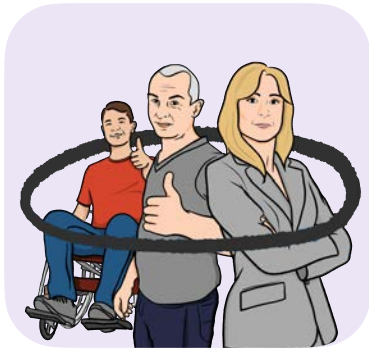
- hold events that show off these 3 backgrounds.



- treat each of these backgrounds equally.



- make sure that no one background is more important than any other.



- help people to enjoy the 3 cultures equally. We should not try to use any culture to say that one background is better than another.

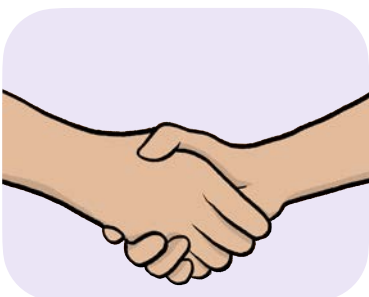


When we think about different cultures, we should:

- treat all different cultures fairly.



- be proud of all the different cultures.



- help people from different backgrounds to work and live together.

We should also:



- make sure that the cultures of people from all different backgrounds are included when we organise things.



- show people from all different backgrounds that we think that their culture is important to all of us.



- give money in a fair way to help communities with their culture.



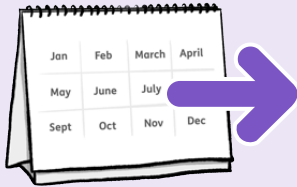
- help people from all different communities to run organisations that work for our culture.



People around the world have family and historical links to Northern Ireland.

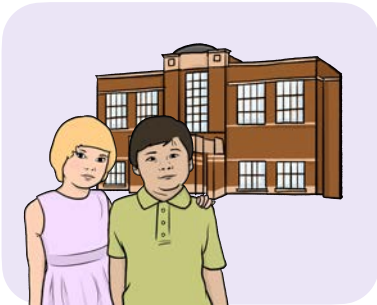
We should remember that the Ulster-Scots language, history and culture is important for many people around the world.

What we want



It will take many years for Ulster-Scots to get to its proper place in the culture of Northern Ireland.

We want:



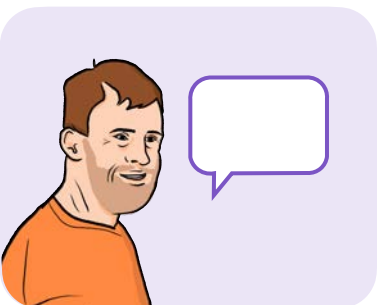
- children to be able to learn more about Ulster-Scots at school.



- universities to find out more about the history of Ulster-Scots and how we can help more people to understand it.



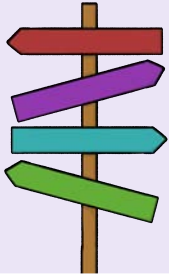
- more communities to use Ulster-Scots and be involved in its culture.



- more people to use the Ulster-Scots language in their everyday lives.



- more TV, radio, newspapers and information online using Ulster-Scots.



- to have more signs in Ulster-Scots in our communities and in our public buildings.



- to give people who speak Ulster-Scots the same **rights** as everyone else.

Rights are the things that everyone should have by law.



- people to have more ways to connect with people in Scotland and people who speak Ulster-Scots in other countries.



- to show how Ulster-Scots is good for business in Northern Ireland.

What we should do



We should look at different ways we can help Ulster-Scots and make new laws to help people to use it.

Schools, colleges and universities

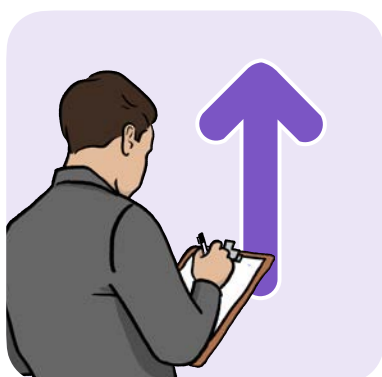
We should set up a new:



- organisation in a university to look at the language, heritage and culture of Ulster-Scots.



- college to help schools and other colleges teach their students about Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture.

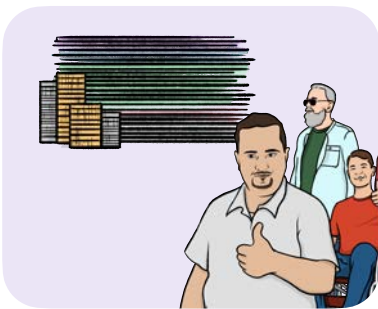


- Ulster-Scots language organisation. This would look into the language and think about ways to improve it.



Language

We should help people who use the Ulster-Scots language to work together, and to work with other communities.



Communities

We should:

- give money to communities to help them use Ulster-Scots language.



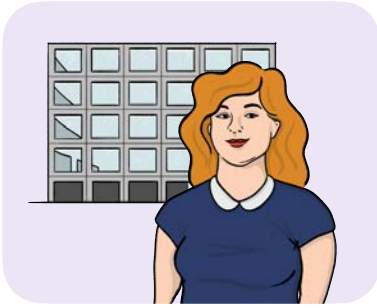
- give money to repair historic Ulster-Scots buildings and churches.



- help communities to be able to run projects about Ulster-Scots.



- help local councils to support local Ulster-Scots communities.



- help organisations that support the Ulster-Scots community.



- help students to find out more about Ulster-Scots.



- help Ulster-Scots communities to speak up about their work to the Government and everyone else.

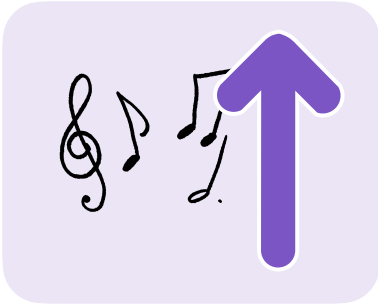


- help **marching bands** from different Ulster-Scots communities to work together.

Marching bands are an important part of the Ulster-Scots culture.



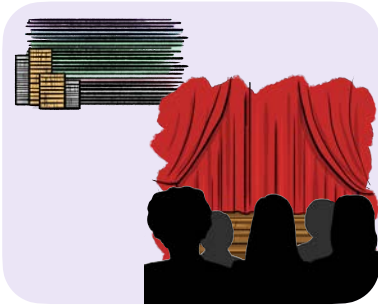
- help the best Ulster-Scots musicians, writers and artists to visit people who speak Ulster-Scots in the rest of the world.



- find ways to improve the music, writing and art of Ulster-Scots people.



- set up an organisation to help people learn about Ulster-Scots dancing.



- give money to community festivals of Ulster-Scots culture.



- help to pay for a big festival of Ulster-Scots culture for people from around the world and local people.



- set up an **exhibition** about Ulster-Scots that can travel around and help people understand more about the history and culture.

An **exhibition** is a display of pictures and writing that explain more about a certain thing.



- set up training sessions about Ulster-Scots.



- set up a base for the Ulster-Scots culture in Belfast run by an Ulster-Scots organisation.



- give money to help community centres and halls that can show Ulster-Scots culture.



- give young people ways to get involved in Ulster-Scots culture in their local community.



- help set up youth bands, groups and dancing in the communities.

We should give money to schools and youth services to help with this.

TV, radio, newspapers and online

We should:



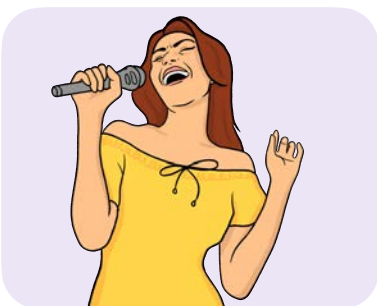
- set up a group to look into how to have more Ulster-Scots on the TV, radio, in newspapers and online.



- give money so that TV companies can put more programmes in Ulster-Scots online.



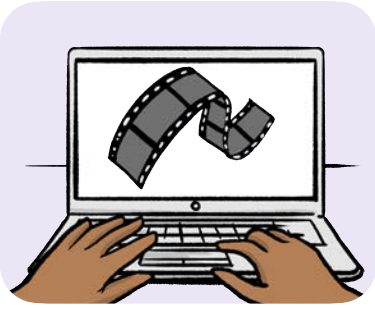
- give money to help train more people working in TV and radio in Ulster-Scots.



- help more musicians create songs and music in Ulster-Scots.



- help writers create new plays and TV programmes in Ulster-Scots.



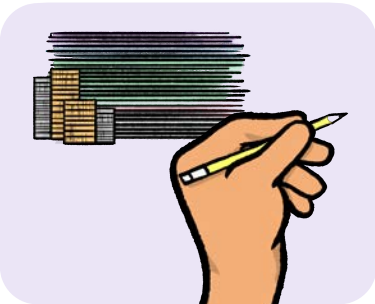
- put old film and video about Ulster-Scots online, so that people can see it.



- help people to set up community radio stations in Ulster-Scots.



- train some people to be able to go out and speak to other people about Ulster-Scots.



- give money to help new writing in Ulster-Scots.



Human Rights

Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.

We should:



- set up a new organisation that supports people in the Ulster-Scots community to have their rights.



- set up a new job for someone in government who can speak up for Ulster-Scots communities and help them get their rights.



- give money to help people Ulster-Scots people get their human rights.



- work to tell everyone about Ulster-Scots so that people understand their rights.



- make sure the law says that Ulster-Scots people should get their human rights.

Links with communities in other countries

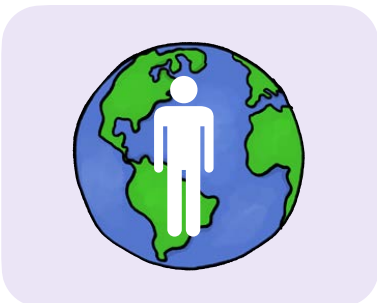
We should:



- give money to help Ulster-Scots people in Northern Ireland work together with Ulster-Scots people in Scotland.



- set up a new job for someone who will help Ulster-Scots people in Northern Ireland work together with Ulster-Scots people in North America.



Business

We want people with an Ulster-Scots background from around the world to come and visit Northern Ireland.

We should:



- support Ulster-Scots people from around the world to come and visit Northern Ireland.



- look into ways that Ulster-Scots people around the world can help business in Northern Ireland.



- set up a company to look at ways Ulster-Scots people can do business better.



- look into ways that people can come to visit Northern Ireland to find out more about Ulster-Scots.



- look at running big events in Northern Ireland so that Ulster-Scots people who live in other countries come to visit.

What should happen first?

These things should happen first:



- Each part of the Government should set up a new job for someone to speak up for Ulster-Scots.

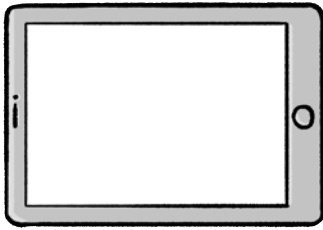


- We should set up a group with Government people and experts from outside the Government to make sure the ideas in this report happen.



- We should set up a way of checking that each part of the Government is working to help Ulster-Scots in the way that they should.

For more information



You can look at our website here:
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

If you need more information please contact us by:



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