



# KELC'H AN DAEL CERCLE DU PARLEMENT DE BRETAGNE

REPRESENTED BY THOMAS RADOUBÉ

## 10<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM OF THE MINORITY ISSUES

MINORITY YOUTH TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE SOCIETIES

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> & DECEMBER 01<sup>st</sup>, 2017

### BRITTANY'S ADRESS TO THE FORUM

Good afternoon everybody,  
Thank you for inviting the Circle for the Parliament of Brittany to speak out today.

///added just before the meeting :

I have many things to say, but I'll try to be as brief as possible. I can only deplore today, after I listened to many other minorities speaking, that we all face the same story, the same difficulties. Sure, with different levels, different methods from the states, but principles seem to be the same everywhere. ///

We're getting close to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Declaration for the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities**, adopted on december 18<sup>th</sup> 1992 by the united nations. The first article of this 1992 declaration stipulates that **States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity**, and that **States shall adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to achieve those ends**.

But who has in charge to give sanctions against states failing to this chart ? States that trample this declaration they adopt themselves de facto ? Better to ask this way : who does simply watch the application of this declaration ?

25 years have passed. Then, how can we talk about inclusivity today ?

This is the question I invite all UNPO members – present or not – to work on. And then, we could compile proofs, elements, articles, to form a book of grievance that we may then present out, why not next year before the forum.

France, this western powerful state, on which planet's eyes are always set ; France, eternally seen as an exemple for its actions, and statements ; yes, this France, the one from postcards, from liberty, from human rights... This France is not exempt of blame. Far from that.

**Inclusivity, for all youth from national minorities on french territory (Brittany, Savoy, Alsace...) could be easily outlined in few words : be french or shut up !**

France, gradually but surely made of absolute jacobinism its unshakable politic line, for generations. Almost all politicians today assimilated this concept into their own programs. France is jacobine. It's deeply anchored in manners, and why not, in DNA. This is right for all french political parties. All, with no exception.

«France is one and indivisible», «There is no breton people, no alsacian people, there is only french people», «Republic's language is and can only be french language», «Pseudo-specific dialects, forgotten cultures... Republic doesn't accept and recognize anything but french language and heritage»... Only a few recent exemples of what french leaders say and think about minorities within France.

Thus, how can we talk about inclusivity when it simply doesn't exist ? How can we imagine inclusivity when there is no choice ? The words of the republic show us for 2 centuries that the only chance for youth minorities to succeed in France is to accept without any condition their motto : be french or shut up.

A young breton student, freshly out of university, or a young breton craft master, should only speak french, think french, speak jacobine, think jacobine. Shall they reject their mother tongue, this idiotic and forgotten breton dialect, forget their history, and success may be expected. This is what we face today.

To take a change, and step forward unto inclusivity for our youth minorities, way is long, and needs to begin straight out of the cradle. Public school of french Republic teaches everything in and only in french, only in french, and nothing else is accepted. We now have in Brittany, a network of bilingual education, from kindergarden til university level. However, this system is undersized, and undermeaned. They are self-financed, and remain stigmatized by the population (even from the inside of Brittany), brainwashed by anti-breton propaganda. Some politicians even consider these schools as «sects», «deeply lost in the past and refusing french modernity». The very first step would be extend this possibility of a bilingual scholarship. In 2017, only 17 000 follow bilingual scholarship in Brittany. It's around 2% of the total amount of scolarized youth. History of Brittany have also been removed from educational system, where only France's history is taught. No roots : no pride, no minority.

To step forward unto inclusivity, we could also ask police to deactivate its section created to watch young breton nationalists or activists acting for their language and their culture. Since 2013, this section uses repression, intimidation, intelligence and up to jailing against our minority, as soon as someone revendicates interest for breton's heritage. Myself, I'm under a heavy and long court procedure as I am listed in France and Shengen Information System.

Be french or shut up ! Not long ago, any young breton girl trying to get included in Paris' society ended up automatically as a maid, and came back to Brittany after few months, broken, and most of times pregnant. In our days, method has changed, but the result is the same, and breton youth will meet success in Paris only if they recuse their identity. On the other side, France sends only jacobine minded managers to take in charge their administrations or large companies in Brittany.

To step forward unto a real inclusivity, France could allow us to give breton names to our children. This year, anger rose up in Brittany when the state refused (twice) the right for a breton family to give a breton name to their son, because «France recognizes only french language in France». Loads of families from any foreign origin can name their children the way they want without a question. Then, why do the state refuses us to give breton names to our children ? The answer is simple : because it's not french.

France is not always stingy for recognition of minorities and has often been exemplary in recognition of rights for minorities such as LGBTQ or international minorities they support. It's a luck and a pride and I congratulate all of these minorities for these successes. I think any fighting minority whose fight remains unsuccessful should never criticize a victorious minority.

So, to conclude, we want to use all the means in our possession to alert general opinion, and united nations themselves, on the fact that this tool adopted 25 years ago is kept unused, and generally ignored in absolute indifference. We want to ask immediate resolutions to be taken for this chart to be followed, and sanctions to be applied against refractory states.

If we are totally powerless before France's dismantling of minorities, we regret that there is no authority to watch this and prevent abuses.

Because it's precisely by hiding his history, his language to a young individual, that a state prevents him to belong to his minority. Developing ignorance flanges discovery and inclusivity. To step forward to inclusivity of youth minorities, the only key is to give them the chance to be themselves.