

Gaelic Awakening

Principles of Purpose

Gaelic Awakening is a people's movement encompassing much more than just the political, but includes contesting and winning elections to place liberty-loving individuals in power. We are for peace, justice, kindness, love, togetherness, respect, independence, community. We see value and beauty in all cultures and believe in humanism, international cooperation, learning from our differences, and the fundamental unity and equality of the human race; however, we hold it our sacred duty to put our own family and tribe first, as do all nations, and so we see the wisdom of a return to nourishing the roots of Irish identity, life and spirit. Our mission encompasses seven levels or aspects of personal transformation, as follows: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical, political, economic and cultural awakening. Among these, the first is most vital; enlightened consciousness is the one essential element. When you see you are a branch on the tree of life, who is hurt by chopping other branches? But we do not need all Ireland to awaken; a devoted core is enough to seed a soulful rebirth.

Though we are united in our purpose by shared awareness, aims, activities and fellowship, Gaelic Awakening is at its heart a self-directed enterprise for one's own self-realisation. When we understand and act upon the truth that our personal highest good comes from harmony and cooperation with others in a spirit of oneness and mutual respect, we thrive. Yet it is paradoxically essential to serve the universe starting in that little patch called Me. Internally the individual is thus peaceful, happy, healthy, strong, wise; externally, altruistic. When a large enough minority of individuals in a culture so transform, a critical mass is reached and the whole culture experiences a change of gravitational centre, toward love. There will always – or at least for the foreseeable future – be bad actors who seek to harm; yet they are powerless to do the kind of damage we now witness all around us, when a core element of the society is strictly devoted to awakened perspective. Life comes into balance.

Ireland, like all countries and indeed like all composite things in the wide world of creation, shall change with time and inevitably come to look very different from the place and people we know and love. This is all well and good. It has always been so, and Ireland has changed gracefully through traumas and golden ages both, just as we may hope to do as individuals. Our goal is not to prevent change, but to guide it as best we can toward the dreams of our heart of hearts; to shape masterfully the future with our daily thoughts, feelings, words and actions, together as a nation with destiny and chance co-creating Ireland, Europe and Earth. Unfortunately, there is an organised moneyed minority among us who seek to radically alter the nature of our country and all lives within it, without our consent. This must be resisted. Not only because they deceive and dominate by force; but because their dreams destroy us.

One day the human race may indeed all look the same, speak the same, think the same and act the same, with the whole globe politically unified under one superstate authority. But if this should come to pass, it must be by the voluntary choices of individual human beings, not the iron fist of conspiratorial and duplicitous bureaucracy mandating the dissolution of such rich webs of tradition as this planet abounds in, commanding and cajoling the nations of the Earth to submit to centralised control by those whose tyranny disqualifies their rule.

Humanity is already one big family – all the more beautiful for our diversity – and should our various customs, genetics and worldviews merge into a single global synthesis, it will doubtless be beautiful and ripe for fruition into life's highest virtues. But it is not necessary to have such a global monoculture, to be virtuous and enjoy the achievement of world peace. Yet Ireland's moneyed elite and their globalist masters are religiously set upon forcing this.

It is very odd that Irish politicians are so determined to change Ireland beyond recognition, when most Irish people – and much of the billions abroad – actually love Ireland the way it is; or indeed the way it was, before the elite began their initially subtle cultural revolution. Irishness is certainly ever evolving, like music; but the state's enforcing of mass immigration and regressive leftist ideology is a whole new genre. We are told our music needs changing. It is as if we still believe the imperial brainwashing: Our uniqueness isn't worth preserving. But every culture is precious that abides by the laws of love. And ours is even exceptional. Ireland, Éire, is overflowing with wit, humour, beauty, literature, tale-tellers, music, the craic. We have learnt much wisdom from the furnace of imperialism and the near-obliteration of our language and traditions, and are blessed with a rich inheritance from the ancient Gaels. We can share our eyes and voice with the world – but only if we dare to remain ourselves.

Just as each individual has the ability to be their own favourite person among their friends, even while the whole social circle love, celebrate and support one another, so too can the whole globe uphold and deepen friendship, diplomacy and connection among all nations, even while each nation prefers its own ways and naturally seeks to protect its self-expression and freedom to differ from its peers. We do not need billionaire networks pushing unique friend-nations into monotonous conformity in the name of 'progress'; we need individuality. As we each go our own way, our virtues and vices will be an unending experiment and lesson for the whole circle – or sphere – and progress will be the natural fruit of freedom and truth. Each culture has a role to play, a song to sing, a point to make; may we merge as we so choose. Against an unprecedented conspiracy to claim power over sovereign souls and nation states, the Holy Grail from which redemption flows is a return to invigorated liberty in nationhood. Let us teach the world, as in ages past. It is time for Ireland to let go of our inferiority complex once and for all. We are enough. We are plenty. Let us heal and humbly set our boundaries. Let us lay a fair foundation for Irish souls to flourish, that we may encourage our awakening. By daring to do right by ourselves, we can once again inspire the uplifting of other peoples.

Gaelic Awakening – and the awakening movements of all nations, whatever name they shall take for the quest of truth, justice, balance and freedom – shall do our utmost to restore our rightful power to choose our life and destiny, and thus bring history onto the best possible path for any eventual melting together of the human mosaic: for individuals to choose freely. The ends never justify the means; only peaceful, just and mindful action can bear good fruit. But our movement is not confined to resisting the bad, but far more so is devoted to the good. We defend individual liberty and national sovereignty, but even these are secondary to the awakening and weaving of our own divine consciousness; cultivation of the garden within. Evolving ourselves in seven essential aspects of human potential, we experience and express the happy life of *eudaimonea* – personal flourishing – and so serve wisdom while whistling. There is no guarantee of external success in our aims, but trying cannot hurt, and with faith we shall surely prevail. It might take a long time, but after all, the real fun is in the journey. In the meantime, as long as Ireland is a tribe and an island with a great heart for hospitality but a fiery will to be ourselves, Gaelic Awakening shall fight for Irish liberty and sovereignty so as to see our island home flourish as we haven't in a millennium. The best is yet to come. In fact, the best is right now. We need only open our eyes, our hearts, our minds to the truth.

SPIRITUAL

Awakening to our true identity as one branch of the tree of the one universal consciousness, i.e. Love; thereby realising the root cause of and true solution to the increasing dysfunction we see in the world; how to wake up

Unbelievable as stories of ‘enlightenment’ may sound, it is in fact a very real phenomenon and experience; actually, the realest experience there is, for it means to become truly awake. Thinking is an improvement on animal present-moment instinctivity, but present-moment awareness with the ability to turn thinking on and off at will is where true sanity awaits us. Most human beings are not yet aware of this possibility, and those who are are mostly yet to master the skill and overcome the momentum of false identification with constant self-talk. Addressing this root ignorance is the necessary and sufficient condition for complete peace; individual, interpersonal and global, once enough of us begin to so transform our thinking.

An important aspect of this is the resulting understanding that we live in a world of people who “know not what they do” and are very much in a kind of sleepwalking autopilot mode where their true self in its inherent loving trustworthiness is hijacked and made unconscious by what could best be considered a psychic parasite or mental virus: the Voice in the Head. The true self is silence; able to speak from its intelligent stillness, but not itself mere sound. The challenge for each of us is to rise above the familiar opiating trance of endless thinking. However, thought is a power and not itself evil; just as fire can cook food or burn your house down, thought must be used carefully. The mind is the perfect servant but a terrible master. There are many roads to evolve this awareness, but *The Power of Now* is a good place to start.

EMOTIONAL

Awareness of one’s emotions & prevalent inner blocks against this; elite manipulation of emotional blindspots; Ireland’s emotional turmoil and unprecedented psychological malaise; healthy emotivity and self-expression

Individual well-being requires that one acknowledges, accepts and adjusts one’s emotions. As much as one might think it stupid, lame, boring, uncool, ‘New Age’, or undesirable to look within and keep a constant watch over the feelings that course through oneself, the truth is that one lives as a slave to one’s ego (unobserved thought patterns) as long as one is unaware of the emotions one is experiencing on a moment-to-moment basis. Self-control and sanity are impossible without knowing why we are thinking, interpreting, resisting or acting the way we are. For instance, the Irish in particular have a strong inherited tendency to feel guilt – despite being unusually innocent as far as historical grievances go – largely due to the gaslighting mind-games of the British Empire, then Catholic Church and now the Woke globalist establishment which really runs Leinster House via unseen webs of money. If we wish to change Ireland (or the world) for the better, we must above all *see clearly*. This means we must be able to notice when irrational thoughts are arising due to our emotions.

If we take an honest look at contemporary Ireland, how healthy are we in psychological terms? The fact that physiological illness is prevalent and rising suggests we also have some mental imbalances, as bodily health is so affected by lifestyle. Indeed, we see widespread unhappiness, depression, anxiety, breakdown in social skills, involuntary celibacy, compulsive promiscuity, fear of long-term relationship, addiction, extremist ideologues spreading intolerance while professing to be fighting intolerance, great demand for “fear porn” media, propaganda going unnoticed, state authoritarianism, gender dysphoria and transexual evangelism, self-censorship, taboos against questioning “progressive” sacred cows, apathy and hopelessness about political corruption and folly, internalised colonialism

in the form of obedience to authority figures, suppressing one's opinion or feelings so as not to offend, us-against-them hostility based on group identity. And on and on. How many of these have you felt? How often do you feel them? Are you aware of their presence when they arise? How do these emotional currents affect your thoughts, perceptions and actions? While you might feel some reluctance to ask such uncomfortable, vexing questions, this is where freedom lives. We can treat this negativity with an interested neutrality, simply taking stock of what's what; no need for drama, just practically assessing what clear vision shows.

INTELLECTUAL

Dependence of political change on intellectual change; importance of an organised minority of truth-seekers for the defeat of tyranny; self-mastery; stoicism & practical philosophy; logic, ethics, rhetoric; history; politics; economics; health; literature; science; pressing problems & solutions; etiquette; other cultures; self-sufficiency

Upon the foundation of spiritual self-honesty and integrity, with emotional awareness and pragmatic habits of engaging with one's instincts, reactions and motivations, it becomes far simpler for one to discover, verify and refine the true nature of what is and what should be. Knowledge essentially has two kinds: descriptive and prescriptive. What is right and wrong can mean what is true/false and what is good/bad. One is fact, the other is our orienting ideal. Politics is downstream from culture (our dominant descriptions and prescriptions en masse) but culture is downstream from consciousness; in particular, the understandings of the few among us who are obsessively interested in figuring out just what is right and wrong. Not all are adequately capable, interested or devoted to serve such a crucial societal function, and indeed most of us instead specialise in masteries of other domains; sport, art, business, love. An endless list. But without ego and with maximum humility at least a minority must always be thinking through the state of things, where we want to go, and how we can get there. This is the proper role of the intelligentsia; not smirking and swapping buzzwords over cocktails, but rolling up one's sleeves just like the plumber, for the dirty work of facing our own minds. Bias and misperception are ubiquitous even among the genuinely truth-seeking, so we must be diligent and link into networks of thinkers who can inform, inspire, critique and persuade one another by iterative interactions to gradually home in on an accurate mapping of reality. We will always be a little bit wrong – in both senses – just as yang always has a bit of yin in it, and vice versa; but what matters is that we try our best, assess, adapt, and repeat onward.

Politics is the negotiation of compromise between opposing forces on the issues confronting a given society – its challenges and opportunities – but political agents are only as useful as the ideas and forces which propel and empower them. We cannot change Irish politics for the better until enough of us (luckily, about 1% should be enough; perhaps 15% with the gist) wield a clear understanding of the terrain upon which the political agendas are competing. This boils down to you and me doing a lot of reading, listening, thinking, writing and talking; getting into books, Substacks, podcasts, independent news, neighbours' anecdotes, debates. This goes very deep and is ultimately an unending quest for ever greater clarity on questions whose answers generate further questions; it encompasses at minimum a vague awareness of the big picture of what a happy world looks like, and in many areas will require detailed knowledge – say, of ethics, health, history, political economy, psychology – but culminating in a sound grasp of the nature of the beast that stalks us, our children and our grandchildren. We are confronted with a meticulously organised conspiracy to replace individual liberty and national sovereignty with globally centralised control; it matters not whether the agents thereof truly believe this to be in our best interests or are simply deceptive and malicious. What matters is that we attain a crystal clear picture in our minds and hearts of what is and what should be, so that we can mobilise popular resistance to this attempted enslavement.

In terms of what specifically the intellectual awakening involves, notable mention goes to: self-mastery, in the sense of becoming aware of and in control of one's internal processes; stoicism and practical philosophy, being the use of logic and experience to guide one's will and ingrained habits toward wisdom; rhetoric, being the art and science of communication; history, especially of Ireland and Europe, including the essentials of political and economic schools of thought and their track-records; health, to ensure the mind has an optimal body for the challenging work of our sevenfold awakening; literature, for its many subtle but vital lessons not easily teachable except through narrative; science, being the Method itself and a basic grasp of the nature of the physical universe; knowledge of our pressing problems and potential solutions; critical thinking skills; etiquette; awareness of other cultural positions; and so on, with the focus on developing oneself to be a self-sufficient centre of social order.

PHYSICAL

Golden zone combining brain & brawn; health & fitness for clear thinking; natural lifestyle fundamentals; energy & confidence to endure attacks from status quo; self-discipline & personal growth via physical mastery

Counterintuitive though it may seem, a true intellectual cares deeply about physical health and fitness; including building a decent degree of musculature and cardiovascular stamina, not merely because it makes one look more attractive (though that does have many benefits) but because a devotee of wisdom can only think as well as the physical brain and the systems which support it, and can only act for justice with as much power as the hand, foot and spine. Not to mention there are life lessons only available via such physicality as dancing or sport. We are sentient beings, but embodied, and we must respect our animalistic aspect if we wish to access the full potential of our higher capacities. A tree's branches can only reach heaven if its roots reach down to hell; this originally refers to the need to be familiar with one's dark side to prosper as a being of light, but in a similar way a human being is only as sophisticated as he is grounded in a firm foundation of physical balance – clean diet, vigorous exercise, quality sleep, social bonding, being in nature, detoxing, stretching, breathwork, sexuality. The wise find a golden zone between bodybuilder and bookworm; the best of both worlds.

It is not only that an unhealthy or inactive body experiences physical disregulations which impair the ability of the nervous system to process input and produce appropriate cognition; it is also that achieving physical vitality, power and adaptability requires one confront and master the messier realms of human experience: our inner victim, critic, saboteur, liar, sloth, addict, rogue, doubter, fool, tyrant, coward and many other masks the subconscious wears. These are instinctive elements of the psyche which are largely out of conscious control, but whose whispers of poor counsel become more audible the more they frustrate our progress. We develop self-discipline in the quest to prove ourselves capable of being true to our word and achieving what we have set out to achieve in physical transformation; we learn to detect the difference between the will of the maladaptive mental mechanisms that hold us back, and the will of our own higher self battling for balance like a surfer upon a charging wave. Mastering the body requires us to master the mind, and so is a fine method of finding sanity.

The other reason physicality is essential to the peaceful warrior who seeks to fight for justice is that weaklings win no revolutions; the paradigm shift history now calls us to make within ourselves and our communities demands extreme strength and stamina of body and mind to overcome the intense attacks of the status quo whose dysfunction has awoken us to action. Let us hope we will not need to defend ourselves from naked force – foreign or domestic – but it is essential we be prepared; here, as in other areas, martial arts is beneficial. More vital, however, is the sustained energy, mental clarity and confidence that a powerful body brings.

POLITICAL

Longstanding injustices in Ireland; recent government madness awakening the public; globalist tyranny now increasingly noticed; hindsight damning and incriminating the Covid response; communicating carefully; our coming electoral power grab; elite unprepared due to arrogance; cycling wisdom into politics; libertarianism

Ireland has long suffered unjust political leadership. Luckily for us, things here and around the world have gotten so bad that our way of life is in grave danger of collapsing; thus, more people than ever are looking around and asking themselves if the establishment really are all that wise and trustworthy, and whether those deranged and hateful conspiracy theorists might actually be normal questioning citizens whom ruthless power needed to demonise. To begin with, it is sufficient to note how insanely out of balance basic government policy has become: unchecked mass immigration, attacks on free speech, bowing to Brussels as if they be the new London, importing culturally toxic ideology into our schools, jeopardising our precious military neutrality – and much besides. But a true political awakening requires we admit that the problem goes much deeper than this. In truth, we are witnessing all round the world a massive expansion and centralisation of state and corporate power and control over the lives of individual human beings; often in the name of helping people and planet to avoid fearsome fates, but in many cases such drastic changes are occurring in total secrecy. The Bildeberg Group, the WEF, the WHO, the UN itself; all seem to want centralised power. We can speculate about the intentions of those behind such moves, but the result is the same as regards what we must do: refuse to cede our divine rights to our life, liberty and property. In so doing, let us be powerful and self-sovereign but always work from love and oneness, seeing our would-be overlords as fellow branches on the one beloved tree of life; accusing the elite of evil is unnecessary when we can simply point out the wisdom of decentralisation and make it clear that we do not consent to a world government under corporate authority. Irish freedom is intimately bound with the like freedom of every other nation of the Earth; by forming common cause with other liberty movements, we can transform Europe and the wider world toward a more conscious and individualistic paradigm of localised governance.

The slow-motion globalist takeover of individual liberty and national sovereignty all across the West has entered territory of such obvious injustice that its gains of power are coming at an ever steeper price, as the public awakens to the truth. The World Trade Centre attacks were a bit odd, as was The War on Terror with its oily corruption, so too the 2008 financial crisis and bankster bailouts, and the revelations of Julian Assange and Edward Snowden, as well as the way the mainstream media kept seeming to overlook essential aspects of all the above to the benefit of the powerful, even while they seemed to go the exact opposite way with political candidates who didn't do right by the powers-that-be. Then Covid came along. The cure was deadlier than the disease and so-called 'lockdowns' and a barrage of similarly sinister vocabulary were foisted down our throats in a pandemonium of fear-mongering during an unprecedented assault on civil liberties and traditional western norms, furthered and strung out by repeated goalpost shifting, selective reporting, twisted statistics, outright lying, gaslighting, coordinated public shaming, peer-pressure, carrot-and-stick incentives, cultlike fixation on in-group concepts, and never a mention by our 'leaders' of any mistakes made or goals modified in the course of their newfound mission, no candid explanations for why the story kept changing and why things didn't seem to completely fit. The public learnt not to ask questions – or else went the other way entirely, and began to question everything.

A few years later, it is now clear as day and undeniable that the virus was nowhere near as deadly as we were told, and was almost certainly an escaped laboratory creation of the very scientists who were tasked with overseeing the global response; we know the experimental injections forced upon us were both unsafe and ineffective, and are the chief culprit for the

unprecedented rise in excess deaths we are seeing all around the world, and yet enormous sums of money were allowed to be made (free of any liability) by the pharmaceutical giants; we know the lockdowns destroyed businesses, homes, marriages, health, happiness, dreams, and caused countless injuries and deaths that dwarf anything the virus could have inflicted upon us had we left it to run its natural course; we also know this period saw the greatest wealth transfer in human history, from the already hobbled middle-class, to the billionaires. It turns out Vanguard and BlackRock own Big Media and Big Pharma; a conflict of interest? Yet far from admitting any failures, the WHO treaty seeks to normalise such Orwellianism. Thus it is that we the truthseekers of this age are coming to understand the fight we have been in all along without realising; our eyes are adapting to the dark and see clearly enough the shapes of a global order built upon technocratic collectivism and mass media deception.

Our struggle with tyranny is a spiritual war; of ideas, energies, states of being. Love over fear. Waging it wisely takes clear but careful communication; the true yang gives yin just enough. We can tailor our words to meet each listener where they are – though never shirking from stating controversial truths if asked – and swell the ranks of those who know we are at war. When at last a small but focused core of the reasonably awakened Irish join forces to speak the truth – with ferocity and directness, but heart and kindness – we will snap the sleepers out of their trance and turn the tables on our would-be overlords: storm their power centres in sudden landslide election victories which put servants of liberty and sovereignty in office. It seems likely the tyrannical systems encroaching upon us due to a lack of faith in humanity are for that very same reason blinded to the possibility that we can marshal such a response. Were our intellectual and political awakening to occur gradually, they would set up defense mechanisms to ensure democratic elections be either fraudulent or unable to change much; but arising as fast as Ireland now is, we have great hope that we have been underestimated. Due to the severe risks involved in election interference while genuine journalists can easily be contacted by whistleblowers, it seems most likely we are being corralled into servitude by politicians who are genuinely elected but by a sleepy, manipulated electorate, and are for the most part unaware of the agenda they serve. Thus democracy is the dragon's soft belly. Alternatively, if elections are already rigged and unable to be won by popular uprising, our movement will by its mass support be eloquent evidence of such criminal machinations and so provide the best possible circumstance for concerted public pressure and investigation to uncover proof of the crime and so mobilise the whole population to take back our freedom. Either way, developing our intellectual potential to the utmost and deploying it in service to achieving a landslide reclamation of the legislature is our best move for defeating tyranny.

Practically, for each individual, the political awakening means studying the principles that underly proper government policy and then allowing this wisdom to flow back out into the world: having conversations, creating or joining political projects, and voting where we can. At its core, wise politics is that founded on a reverence for individualism: the fact that a soul who truly goes deep into doing right by oneself comes to see that we are all branches of one great tree, and that my highest self-interest is also yours; so I help myself, my family, friends, countrymen and all human beings – all *beings* – simply by being self-sufficient enough to reach a point of overflowing abundance. This is love, kindness, charity, leadership, justice. There are many nuances and aspects to something as complex as running a society, but we can begin with libertarianism and classical liberalism and begin to build upon this, filling in the gaps in our own ways, as we come to know the leaderless perfection of natural systems. Yet we must also understand the many other schools of thought; and why they fall short. Along the way, we can politely disagree with others – and among ourselves – about the exact nature of the political ideal; so long as we are growing spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and physically, our grasp of what is and ought to be in politics shall blossom with wisdom.

ECONOMIC

Self-sufficiency and productive contribution to Ireland; economic freedom bringing political freedom; practical investments; the home as foundation for freedom; acquiring sought-after skills; rootedness in local community

Economic awakening is all about self-sufficiency and productive contribution to society; we are physical beings whose needs and reasonable wants must be provided for by honest work. Each must put in time, energy, attention and intelligence to create a good or service that the human next to you wants or needs; do this at a high enough quality or low enough price, and the people will beg you to take their money – for they need it less than what you offer. If you fail, you will have learnt a great deal and be better placed for whatever comes next; you can rejoin the majority of the population as an employee, and perhaps later try again. Not only will this community-enriching virtuous activity boost your emotional life, but also make it slightly easier for Ireland as a whole to be wealthy enough to pay political attention.

For they who prefer employment to the risks and responsibilities of entrepreneurship, there are ethical businesses one may join; but an employee must keep enough savings to ride out any unexpected termination on foot of refusing to bow to government-enforced orthodoxy. Independence reduces the risk and thus leverage of political interference in one's livelihood. It is unwise to be dependant on the state or some politically-affiliated corporation for one's resources; these can be withheld in order to pressure the conscientious individual to forsake integrity in order to continue feeding one's family and enjoying the dignities of normal life. Furthermore, the indebted wage-slave earning peanuts in a soul-destroying job is doomed to come home tired, frustrated, depressed, and numb, any free time spent on base pleasures. This leaves little room for willingness or ability to be politically active; conveniently enough for those wishing to conceal the fundamental unfairness of the crony capitalism we endure. By building one's own personal kingdom of economic independence, the door is opened for paying attention to current affairs, studying the underlying causes, pondering solutions, and taking a stand for justice. Economic freedom is essential to any enduring political freedom.

Let's get practical. Apart from bringing in more money by establishing our own businesses or working as an employee and putting away significant savings in case of sudden storms, there are many less obvious ways to win our freedom from the systems governments control. First, we can keep some of our savings in assets more worthy than inflatable paper money; bullion of gold and silver, dividend-paying stocks in companies with sustainable prospects, bonds, real estate – for those with the means – or riskier investments such as cryptocurrency; a small amount of which could prove lucrative should it ultimately succeed as a currency. But perhaps the best of all is investing in one's own home; not in aesthetic improvements but in installing a raintank and filter system, a greenhouse with tools and supplies, a chicken coop to provide high-quality nutrition for the price of your vegetable scraps, equipment for fermenting yoghurt, cheese, kombucha, beer, and pickles. Solar panels and a gas generator. Not only will this save you vast sums of money; your health will improve, and independence. Beyond these basics, we can also upgrade our skillsets in a number of ways that will save us money but also expand our personal power and ability to stand strong in the face of attack. Availing of the internet or paid classes, one can learn the essentials of plumbing, electricity, carpentry, brickwork, roofing, flooring and insulation; so as to take care of oneself as well as potentially enjoy a sidestream of income by doing favours for others in one's local network. We can also master first aid, survival skills, cooking, hunting, fishing, mechanics, and so on. Naturally, most of us will not feel compelled to do all these things, but this is to illustrate the field of possibilities for self-sufficiency. With a foundation of a productive home, one's own business, sought-after skills, pragmatic investments, thrifty spending and a network of locals who appreciate your presence, the state will find it hard to uproot such a force of freedom.

CULTURAL

Room for growth in Irish culture; effects of historical trauma; prioritising native traditions; setting boundaries; diversity and uniformity; reviving Gaelic traditions; cultural immersion; creativity; empowering awakening

At last we reach culture, our collective personality; the beliefs and behaviours of the Irish. On one level these are perfect just as they are; but from a deeper perspective we can grow. Given the troubles we have endured, the Irish are remarkably friendly, lively and grounded. Ireland is ever flourishing with music, social buzz, sport, literature and much besides; but we still experience the legacy of historical trauma, which drives crime, poverty, addiction and emotional dysfunction. This may be passed down through epigenetic programming, but it certainly is inherited through the cultural programming we receive from those who raise us and the choices they make in showing us what is and what should be in every little thing. We also wrestle with a strong cultural vein urging us to obey authority – pounded into us by the British, then rogue clergy, and now the EU and NGOs disseminating extremist identity politics and cultural marxism. A final example is the almost total loss of our language, which not only causes unconscious shame, sorrow and outrage (even to those who profess to wish it dead) but also in the period of mass transition from Gaeilge to Béarla some two centuries ago, a whole generation of parents took the sacrifice of being unable to communicate clearly with their children (they wouldn't speak Irish to them, to cultivate this language they lacked) and so raised a generation necessarily less intimate with their family. Given the unfortunate tendency in many Irish families for emotions and inner struggles to be repressed and wished away, it seems plausible this is yet another maladaptive cultural legacy of ancestral troubles. Let us agree we are not perfect; at times we are a mess. Cultural awakening means healing these wounds but also growing the good we already have, and seeing what else we can find.

Gaelic Awakening advocates taking the best from culture anywhere and everywhere – and to that end encourages all Irish people to travel far and wide – but we believe the traditions handed down to us are beautiful, sacred and nourishing, deserving endorsement above that afforded to foreign cultures. Exchange of ways is an enriching thing, but not knowing which way you are going or which sport you are playing is indecent. We are Irish, and that is fair. We can have immigrants or visitors live among us according to their own ways, and take the good with the bad; but like their home countries would for us, we must convey our limits. No woman should fear walking at night without a male companion. Disrespecting another's religion can not justify attacking life, liberty or property. Some things are not up for debate. We need not say our ways are *objectively* best, but we can say they deserve priority in Ireland. The time has come for us to clarify just what it is that we modern Irish men and women hold dear; what is the ideal pattern of belief and behaviour we ask our children to be aiming at? There will be debate on some issues due to philosophy, locality, class and occupation, but we can agree on fundamentals: freedom of speech and religion, equal rights for all citizens, the need for honesty, empathy, hard work, kindness, courage, humour, humility and service. Ireland is a jewel but riddled with contradictions; so let us strive to clarify our truest nature.

We can start by reviving or revving up the best of Gaelic tradition, and build on this with the best of other European culture that resonates with us, as well as culture from further afield. We are blessed to live in a universe where new ways of believing and behaving are always available, but for the purposes of regrounding our culture, we need not reinvent the wheel. Each of us can immerse ourselves in Irish mythology, folklore, history, biographies, poetry, song, literature, drama, proverbs, Brehon law, art, sean nós, trad, modern music, Gaeilge. We can learn and play instruments; study and speak Irish; write music, poetry and stories. Imagine an Ireland where a good minority are living like this. Would you like to live there? By taking a conscious role in rebalancing our culture, each of us empowers Irish awakening.