

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH

Le 28 MARS 2017

N° 0125



Oatlands Primary School,
Stillorgan,
County Dublin,
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

From both a personal and professional perspective I am delighted to support this application. Personally, I am currently a Senior Hurler with Ballyboden St. Enda's GAA Club and have been a member of the Club since the age of 5. The Club and the game of Hurling have played a defining role in my life through providing me with a sense of community, identity and belonging. Hurling has provided me with an opportunity to creatively express myself but also with the chance to develop long-lasting friendships and connections with others.

As a Primary School Teacher I believe I have a unique insight into how Hurling can assist children to develop and thrive as people. The children I teach are from diverse backgrounds in terms of their nationality and religions. Hurling becomes their common language that serves to breakdown any existing boundaries and prejudices. I coach Hurling in my role as class teacher but I also volunteer after work hours to take school teams. The joy and pleasure these children receive from participating in the game is my primary motivation and makes my job and life more fulfilling.

I have included some letters from the children I teach - I believe that the letters capture the children's love for the game in the simplest and purest form.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Le meas,

Eoghan O'Neill

Oneill.eoghan193@gmail.com

00353 83 310 3698

Dear UNESCO,

My name is Susie Dalton and I am 8 years old but I am turning 9 in May. I am from Ireland, and my Dad is from Linrick and my Mom is from Ethiopia.

I just want to say that I love Hurling and I play for a team called O'Leary and we win all of our matches. And I also play for the school hurling team.

The person who brought me to hurling was my Dad David and that's nice. Every time I play hurling makes me feel special.

I started hurling when I was 4 years old. So I just want to say that I love Hurling.

KIND REGARDS Susie Dalton



Oatlands Primary School,
Mount Merrion,
Dublin.

15/3/2016

Dear UNESCO,

I'm writing to you to describe how I love to play the game of hurling. I'm a 9 year old boy that lives Stillorgan, Dublin and I'm named John Gyo.

The first reason why I love hurling is, because, it requires you to play as a team. The second reason is because it makes us fit.

The third one is where you feel extremely good after you strike a brilliant shot. I hope that I have showed you just some of the virtues of this wonderful sport.

Sincerely  (John Gyo Loughlan)

to UNESCO

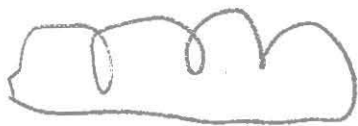
Dear UNESCO

Hi my name is Nahim Alam I am 9 years old. I love sports but my favourite sport is Hurling. I love hurling because it is fun. And I am from Bangladesh I go to school sometimes I watched many matches. I support Dublin. I love hurling and Gaelic football because you can have fun, it good for health



Hurling

Dear unesco. My name is Lughán. I am 9 years old and I just want to tell you about how much I love Hurling. I love Hurling so much that I would die if it did not exist. Did you know that Hurling is an ancient sport, and last but not least I am from Ireland. and I hope that you like my note. Kind Regards.



I Love

Hurling So
much

Dear UNESCO

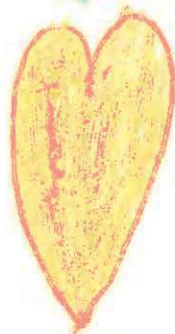
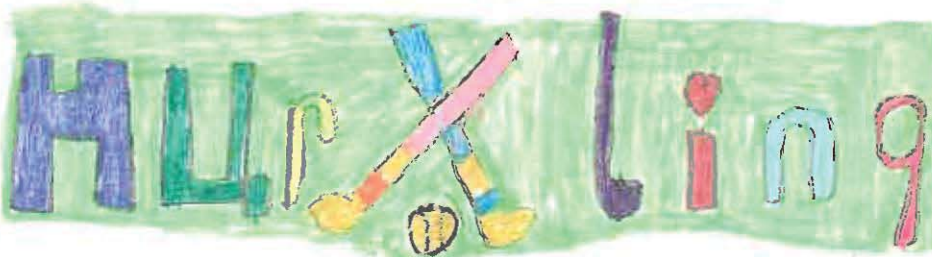
Hello my name is Joshua S. McCrea I am 9 years old. I am from Ireland Co. Dublin I love Hurling so much because you make new friends.

I like Hurling because you get fit in a fun way. And its a ancient game. But GAA was found in 1884.

I love Hurling so much I'll die for it.

I hoped you enjoyed my letter
GOOBYE

- Joshua Scott McCrea



Dear UNESCO my name is Liam
mulvey I am nine years old and I
just wanted to tell you how much hurling
means to me.

Hurling is part of Irish culture
and it is very important to everyone in
Ireland

Hurling helps people make friends for
life. Mr O'Neill still plays with friends
that he made when he was six.

So I hope you protect hurling.
Kind regards Liam Mulvey.



Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH

Le 20 SEP. 2017

N° 0419

Transcription of 'Letter from a pupil of the Oatlands primary school'

Dear UNESCO my name is Liam
mulvey. I am nine years old and I
just wanted to tell you how much hurling
means to me.

Hurling is part of Irish culcher
and it is very inportant to everyone in
Ireland.

Hurling hellps poepel make friends for
life. Mr O'Neill still plays with friends
that he made when he was six.

So I hope you protect hurling.
kind regards Liam mulvey.

Dear Unesco,

My name is Bayan - I'm a 7 years old. I live in Ireland I'm from Oatland primary school.

I love hurling its verrey fun and it makes you fit.

please protect hurling I really like it. If so can you please ensure that it is here for future generations

Hurling is a huge population in Ireland. I hope you listen to me and my class.

I hope you like hurling and me

From Bayan Alotaily *O*O *O*O



Dear UNESCO,

I am Ben. I go to school in oatlands primary in 3rd class and I am 9 years old and I am writing to you to tell you how much I love hurling.

I think it is a brilliant game to make friends. Although it isit the most graceful sport in the world it is important to Ireland's culture.

Also it keeps you fit and it is the fastest sport in the world and very ancient.



Yours Sincerely
Benjamin Lawton

Hurling

HURLING



Dear UNESCO

My Name is Max^M Guthrie I am 9 years old. I am from Ireland. I want to write about how much I love to play Hurling^{now}.

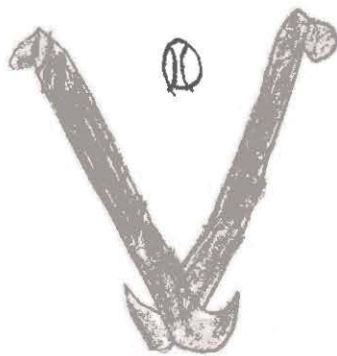
I love Hurling. It gives us an opportunity to make friends and have fun.

The history of Hurling means a lot to me. I learned at six. I train three times a week since. My Mom, Dad and Brother (Jack) support me so much in Hurling.

Hurling is perfect and never needs to change ever.

Kind regards

max m guthrie



GAA

(Gaelic Athletic Association)

I hope you can protect Hurling for me and other children who love Hurling as much as I do.

15/3/2016

Oatlands
primary
mount

merrian

Dear UNESCO,
I am writing this letter to explain
how I feel about hurling.

It makes me strong
alive and awake.

It gives me the
opportunity to make friends the game
makes me healthy.

The game hurling is
ancient and it is an honour to play
and that is why we need your
help to keep it alive.

I hope that I have shown
you just some of the virtues of
this wonderful sport. Your sincerely
Joshua Nolan.

Oatlands primary Mount Merrion 15/3/16

Dear sir/Madam

I am writing to you to describe my love for the game Hurling.

I love Hurling cause it inspire me.

I also love Hurling cause it is a nice sport.

I love Hurling cause it is ancient.

I'm Badu i am 9 years old i live in stillorgan.

I hope that i have shown just some of the virtues of this wonder fool sport.

Dear UNESCO. Hi my name is Leon and I'm 9 years old, I'm from England.

I Love hurling because you make amazing new friends and play against really good hurlers.

Hurling works your body strength you're pushing your self to the limits and working your self, getting very fit. Playing hurling is my dream please ensure that it is protected for the future.

I love that you get to play in very big places like Tip, Dublin, Cork, Kimerick and much more, The Stadiums as well like Croke park, but please please please will you save it. Its one of the best sports in the world and I dont want it to change.

Kind Regards Leon



WE Love
HURLING

Dear, Unesco

Hi! My name is Elsa. I am originally from Dublin in Ireland, but my mom is from Ethiopia in Africa and my dad is from Limerick. I Love Art and hurling. I just want to say I think Hurling magnificent, amazing sport Hurling is very unique in it's own way, and nobody can change that. It would be a big opportunity to be a hurling Player. By the way I play Hurling at Olaf's. Hurling is a great sport. It's a sport for all ages. I am 8 year old by the way.

I think everyone who likes Hurling should get an opportunity to be a Hurling player! And there should be a special place for people with sickness should play Hurling, I hope you agree.

Hurling has been around for over 200 years! Plus you and your family could, just go on a field with a hurley and sliotar and have the time of your life. So that's why I think Hurling is a magnificent Sport.

Thank you for your time,

-Elsa dalton

Hurling



Dear Unesco

I think hurling is a great sport because it makes you fit.
I also think it is a good opportunity to make new friends.
Hurling is also an ancient sport.

Sincerely *ew*

Name	Conor FC Shanahan
Hobbies	Playing video games, Playing hurling
Age	9
School	Oatlands
Home	6 Orpen Close – Blackrock – Co. Dublin



Dear UNESCO

Hello UNESCO my name is Bill. I am 9 years old, I am from Dublin and I love hurling.

When I played hurling with my class I loved it. I remember when I scored a goal when I was 5 and was so happy and so was I.

When I played hurling with with the other 3rd class I get into touch with alot of new people I don't see.

Hurling is a cultural sport. Its Irish and its unique in its own way.

Kind Regards Bill Brennan.



Hurling is good

15/3/15

Dear Unesco

I live in Dublin but I just moved from Limerick. My name is Sophie Jessica Moran. I am 9 years old. You should protect hurling because it is ^{an} ~~are~~ game and we should be proud of it. You can make lots of friends playing this sport. Hurling is a great way to get fit while having fun. I just want to tell you how much I love hurling. I think it's because it's part of my culture. I like watching a lot of Limerick matches. Gaa was founded in Tipperary.

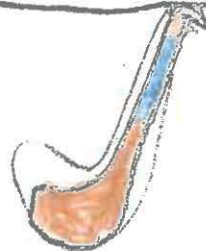
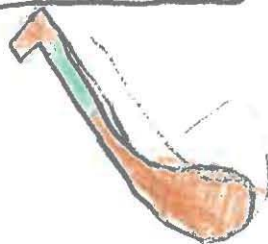
I think you should ensure that hurling is around forever. I really hope hurling stays the way it is. Me and my friend really hope it stays the way it is. Bye for now

Kind regards

Sophie Jessica
Moran

Limerick vs Dublin

Limerick - o Dublin



Dear UNESCO

I'm a good Hurler and I also play for a team called Killmawid. And my name is Honor Patrick Edward Kennedy. And if I was to rate Hurling I would give it 100%. And my age is 8 but I'm nearly nine and I'm from Dublin. + I go to Oatlands Primary school.

I love Hurling so much if Hurling were to be taken away I would literally kill myself and it that doesn't show enough respect for Hurling then I don't know what does.

Signed Mr. O'Neil from Honor &



15/3/2016

Dear UNESCO,

My Name Is "Euan", I Am 9 Years Old and I Live In Ireland. I Love Hurling With My Teacher. I Would Love If You Would Protect Hurling. Here Are Some Reasons Why!

Hurling Is An Ancient Sport, And It's Perfect The Way It Is!

Hurling Is Very Important To Irish Culture, And Should Not Be Forgotten About.

When People Play Hurling They Get Very Fit, They Make Lots of New Friends and Have Lots of Fun.

Hurling Was Found In Tipperary And It Is Now Played All Over Ireland And In Some Other Countries.

- Euan D.



Kind Regards

Euan Deyle

Gaelic Athletic Association
G.A.A.

Dear UNESCO

My name is Kinga McDonnell. I am nine years old. I'm from Poland. Hurling is the greatest game I have ever played. It helps develop muscles and helps keep fit. You can make great friends when playing hurling. It is also an ancient sport. Hurling means a lot to me.

Hope you have a great day.

Regards,
Kinga McDonnell



Dear UNESCO

My Name is Arnold. My Age is 9. I am from India.

I love Hurling because when ever I hit the ball it goes very high.

I actually enjoyed Hurling very much.

Hurling is a very old sport and it was founded in C.D. Tipperary.

Kind Regards Arnold Karukattu



Dear Unesco

My name is Emma Meehan,

I love hurling because it's fun to learn.

I'm 8 years old.

I am from Ireland.

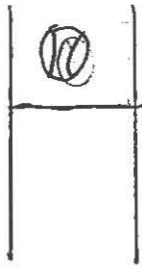
I go to Oaklands primary school. I'm in 3th class.

I think hurling is important to our culture.

Hurling works your mind and body.

Hurling gets you very very fit -

Kind Regards Emma Meehan.



Mariah

Dear UNESCO

March 15th

My name is Mariah Angela Bautista. I am eight years old. I am very very kind little girl. I am from Philippines.

I Love hurling because it keeps you fit and healthy.

I like to hear the history of the hurling match.

I hope you enjoy your Hurling



Dear Unesco My name is Mannir. I am 8 years old. I am from Nigeria. I am ^{Hurling} glad to tell you how much I love hurling. It is great fun.

Last year I went to hurling, the teachers were nice to all of the children and my friend came too and I had great fun at hurling.

I like hurling because it is a fun game.

Hurling is extremely fun to play.

Kind Regards Mannir Sani.



Dear UNESCO

I am writing to you to describe my love for game of Hurling.

The reason why I want Hurling to be safe is it's a ancient game and it should be kept.

Another reason is you can't only play it in Ireland, it is now a sport played across the globe

I hope that I have shown you just some of the virtues of this wonderful sport.

I'm Tanzeeb and I'm
8 years old.

Dear Unesco. My name is Bella. I'm 9
year's old. I live in Ireland. I'm
from Oatlands primary school.

I love hurling. It's very fun
and it makes you fit.

Please protect hurling. I
really like it. So can you
please ensure that it is
here for future generations.

Hurling is a hugely popular in
Ireland. I hope you listen to
me and my class.

I hope you like
hurling and me.

from Bella Cowley ♥ ★ ☺





UCD School of Archaeology,
University College Dublin,
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

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An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath,
Belfield, Baile Átha Cliath 4, Eire

archaeology@ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie/archaeology

18th March 2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

To whom it may concern,

I write to offer my support and consent for the Irish Government's nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling.

I am a Professor of Archaeology in Archaeology, at University College Dublin. My research and teaching expertise is in the daily life, material culture and societies of early medieval Ireland, AD 400-1100. I have an extensive list of publications, most notably my work of synthesis, *Early Medieval Ireland, AD 400-1100: The Evidence from Archaeological Excavations*, published by the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, in 2014.

Hurling is almost unique in the world, in that it has a well-studied and clearly demonstrable ancestry and heritage going back at least one thousand years. Hurling is described in several early medieval textual or historical sources, dating from the 7th-12th century AD. There are clear descriptions of hurling in the stick and ball games in the early Irish narrative literature (e.g. *Táin Bo Cuailgne*, dating from at least the 11th-/12th century AD), with references to the curved stick (the *lorg ane* or *camáin*); the ball (*liathroit*), as well as the tactics and means of scoring. There are also references in early Irish laws – such as *Mealbreatha*, 'judgements on sporting injuries') to the injuries that can be sustained in hurling games, to participants and spectators. It is also clear from early Irish laws, from the 7th/8th century, that hurleys were personal possessions and could be bound and made in various ways. There is also strong archaeological or material evidence for hurling in early Ireland. A curved hurling stick from a bog in Derries, Co. Offaly has been radiocarbon dated to the 15th century. A number of hurling balls, or *sliotars*, have also been radiocarbon dated to the 12th century AD and onwards. The historical and archaeological evidence combines to confirm that hurling has significant antiquity, giving further strength to its role as intangible heritage in modern Ireland.

In conclusion, as a life-long hurling fan, and as an Irish person, I would also certainly argue that hurling is regarded with great affection by Irish people around the world, signifying the important role of the GAA and our native games in Irish cultural expression. I would argue that hurling, with all its excitement and passion, and governed by arguably the greatest amateur sporting organisation in the world, is one of Ireland's gifts to the wider world.

Yours sincerely,
Professor Aidan O'Sullivan
UCD School of Archaeology

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UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, Rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

Since I can remember, I have been involved in hurling in some guise. As a child we played games of hurling up and down the street using gates as goals, imitating our heroes from the television. We had a readymade outlet to hone our skills in our local club, Bishopstown, where every child in my community congregated and honed their fledgling hurling talents. I was fortunate enough to represent my club at all levels from youth to adult and my association with hurling brought me all over the country. In my hurling career, I was also fortunate enough to represent my county at all levels and for my family and I, this was a tremendous honour. Since retiring from playing the game, I have continued my attachment with the sport both as coach and an administrator.

In my role as principal of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh Boys primary school I have continued to hand on the torch that I received as a child. The boys of our school walk to school with hurls in their hands and have the desire that some day they may get the chance to wear the red jersey of Cork. Hurling is very part of the school curriculum here and it is a joy to behold when I see boys as young as four developing their love for the game. A new phenomenon that we are beginning to experience is the attachment of the 'New Irish' to the game. It seems that their immersion into the Irish culture is a very positive experience and that hurling is becoming a means of developing the immersion process.

Hurling is a deep passion of mine – in my opinion there is nothing to rival the feeling of identity and community that one feels as a player, coach or spectator at the All Ireland Final in September. The game and skills and physical prowess it requires are unique and unrivalled.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,
Brian Cuthbert,
Principal.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



• UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives
• of People with Disabilities, their Families
• and Communities, Through Physical Education,
• Sport, Recreation and Fitness"

Institute of Technology Tralee,
Tralee
Co Kerry
Ireland

18th March 2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

To Whom It May Concern

As a UNESCO Chair we support the endeavours of UNESCO to recognise and act towards exemplifying the power of sport across educational, scientific and cultural domains.

As project Manager of the UNESCO Chair in the Institute of Technology Tralee in the domain of inclusion in Physical Education, Sport Recreation and Fitness, with a global remit, I am happy to testify that Hurling continues to retain an important social and cultural function in Irish Society today, a function it has maintained for hundreds of years. Across Ireland, Hurling is accepted as a cornerstone of intangible cultural heritage, its practice and significance passing from generation to generation. Hurling has been and continues to be represented in whole or in parts at festivals and sporting events of local, regional and National significance. The making of the Hurley and Sliotar can be tracked through history evidencing the evolution of traditional crafts through their making. The craft based production of these Items remains alive in Ireland today, and much national pride surrounds this.

Beyond Ireland, as Irish Diaspora have migrated across the world Hurling is recognised as a symbol of cultural identity and heritage for the many Irish emigrants who take up the sport in a desire to maintain links with their cultural heritage.

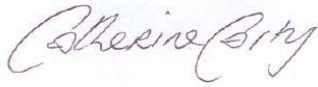
The UNESCO Chair 'Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities Their Families and Communities, through Physical Education, Sport Recreation and Fitness, was officially launched by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins in February 2015. At this launch we were very proud to showcase how hurling continues to evolve to enable the participatory inclusion of people with disabilities (see photo below). Section 1.18 of UNESCO's Berlin Declaration outlines that Ministers should '*provide opportunities for traditional sport and games as a means for wider inclusion*'. In the case of Hurling that is evidenced herein. Throughout history, regardless of ability or disability, Hurling has always been considered by all Irish people as an important part of Cultural Heritage.

Article 1 (point 1.5) of UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (2015) outlines how; "Traditional and indigenous games, dances and sports, also in their modern and emerging forms,

express the world's rich cultural heritage and must be protected and promoted". The Irish Government and the GAA have proven themselves to be outstanding gatekeepers in this regard.

I fully support the application being made by the Irish Government to UNESCO with regard to nomination of Heritage Status for Hurling.

Kind Regards



Catherine Carty UNESCO Chair Project Manager.





Daragh Sheridan
Head of Elite Coach Development
Irish Institute of Sport
National Sports Campus
Abbotstown
Dublin 15

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

17th March 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

In terms my background I work as a sport scientist with the Irish Institute of Sport. We are a government agency set up to support elite athletes and coaches who represent Ireland on the international stage. At present I consult across 22 sports and it is my belief the game of hurling and its unique ancient history represents the ultimate expression of Irish national identity through sport. The game's ancient origin combined with its incredible visual spectacle present the purest opportunity to showcase my country to any international visitor coming to Ireland. I am reminded of hurling's special cultural place amongst other nations when in 2013 I integrated hurling into the warm up practice as part of my role as head coach with the Irish paralympic football team. To see other nations observe us as we expressed our national identity through the game of hurling was an amazing experience. This galvanized my team and gave us great strength as a result of our open expression of Irishness kindly enabled through the wonderful game of hurling. We ended our competition on a world podium and we gifted our hurling sticks to our Japanese competitors who expressed a huge interest in the game given their experience playing baseball in Japan. I can not think of any other sport which could cross a diverse cultural boundary with such ease and impact.

On behalf of the Irish Institute of Sport I am delighted to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling. Hurling is a precious curator of so many wonderful social, cultural and historical effects and I believe it deserves a special and protected recognition from those who are responsible for safeguarding the world's cultural heritage.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

Daragh Sheridan
(dsheridan@instituteofsport.ie)

Dr. Brendan J. Cuddihy
FAMILY DOCTOR

L.R.C.P.S.I., M.B., B.C.S., R.A.O., D.C.H., D.O.M., M.R.C.G.P.

Phone 2877233 / 2875718

UNESCO Intangible Heritage section.

17/03/18
Trafalgar House
Trafalgar Road,
Greystones,
Co. Wicklow

Love Hurling

28732 Paris, 03/03/18

18/03/18

Dear Sir/Madam,

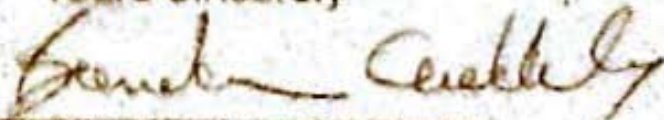
I am involved with the Irish sport of Hurling for over 50 years. I grew up in a part of Ireland where hurling is very strong and played it in school and later in my local club, Dicksboro, at a non elite level.

After graduating as a medical doctor I settled down in Co Wicklow and played with a nearby club till my knees wore out.

I then started to help with coaching kids in my local primary school for a few years, which led on to setting up a new underage hurling team in an area where none existed previously. Those kids have now grown up and my adopted town, Greystones, has two adult hurling teams and we are ranked fourth (and rising) in the county. I am manager of that adult club team. I have also managed the Wicklow County senior team some years back.

It is an amateur sport, based around community rooted clubs. It is a force for good in the land. Our summers are enriched by this wonderful game which values skill, athleticism, and good hand eye coordination. As a member of the Hurling Community in Ireland I would exhort you to list Hurling as an intangible heritage.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Brendan Cuddihy



UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
FRANCE

Kevin Sheehan
AFL National & International Talent Manager
AFL House
140 harbour Esplanade
DOCKLANDS
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 3008

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been an avid fan of Hurling for over 30 years initiated through the close association the Australian Football League, my employer, has with the Gaelic Athletic Association going back to 1984. Since, on an almost annual basis, our bodies have showcased International Rules matches featuring the great elements of Gaelic and Australian Football celebrating the unique skills of our respective Indigenous codes to crowds of up to 80,000 fans in Ireland and Australia and to millions on television throughout the world.

Often Hurling matches would be presented as part of the match day experience with the skills and physical prowess required being unique and unrivalled in world sport. Hurling, in my opinion, is the most spectacular field game in the world today and is well recognised in Australia as a product of the Irish way of life.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as I consider myself not only part of the world sporting community but also a member of the broader Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport

Kevin Sheehan OAM

Kevin.sheehan@afl.com.au

Australian Football League



AFL House 140 Harbour Esplanade Docklands Victoria 3008 Telephone 613 9643 1939 Facsimile 613 9643 1812
All correspondence to GPO Box 1449N Melbourne Victoria 3001 [Australia www.afl.com.au](http://www.afl.com.au) ABN 97 489 912 318

INSTITUTED 1896

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

15.03.2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to the application by the Government of Ireland through its Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been a fan of hurling since a very young age, and now, many years later, I consider myself to be a representative of the Hurling Community. I played with my home club, Bishopstown in Cork, then Thomond College in Limerick, the Raheny Club in Dublin, and with the Clare Hurling Club in New York. Despite a great enthusiasm for the game, my skill level never matched my passion, and so I was not very successful in terms of being on winning teams. However, that has not diminished my interest for what is the most spectacular field game in the world. Since finishing my playing career I have been involved with hurling administration, serving as Chairman of the New York GAA Board, which has responsibility for the development of hurling in the New York metropolitan area. While hurling is a uniquely Irish sport, games are played where ever there is an Irish diaspora.

As a professor of sport management, at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, I have a distinct perspective on the game. All the players are amateur, which in today's highly professional, globalized sport market makes the game even more unique. No other sport in the world has the combination of traditional cultural values and amateur sport ethos. It is unrivalled as sporting cultural phenomenon.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours in sport,
Larry McCarthy, Ph.D.
mccartla@shu.edu

The Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers
www.igahm.ie

Mary-Kay Murphy,
Secretary,
Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers,
Kilmagemogue,
Kilmeaden,
Co. Waterford.

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16th March 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

As a passionate supporter of the game of Hurling and advocate for the tradition and craftsmanship of hurley-making I consider myself privileged to hold the position of Secretary of the Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers. The Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers is the representative body for artisan hurley-makers across the 32 counties of Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Our members are dedicated professionals and skilled craftsmen, their craft, taking a piece of ash and honing it to produce the ideal hurley for the National Game of Ireland – Hurling. The objectives of the Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers are to strengthen, protect and foster the craft of Hurley Making, working to obtain recognition for the Hurley Maker's skill, to protect the Hurley Maker's craft & traditions and to ensure the integrity for the Hurley Maker's workmanship for future generations.

Hurley-makers are ideally placed to witness the impact Hurling makes on a social and cultural level. It bonds and unites communities at all levels encouraging community development and participation in sport, supporting local charities through player participation, increasing numbers of people involved in community participation and volunteering and enhancing local and national identity and pride.

The Hurley has become an emblem of Ireland along with shamrock and harp thus reflecting the importance Hurling plays culturally! One of the easiest ways the Irish Diaspora can feel linked to 'home' is through their GAA jerseys – which are worn with pride. The growth of GAA worldwide is evidence of this.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a representative of the Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

Mary-Kay Murphy

secretaryigahm@gmail.com



Niamh McCoy
Director
GAA Museum
Croke Park
Dublin 3
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

As a passionate supporter of the development of Hurling and Camogie, I consider myself privileged to hold the position of Director of the GAA Museum and I am dedicated to promoting an appreciation of the values, culture and history of Gaelic Games, in particular Hurling. The GAA museum does this by preserving, researching, interpreting, exhibiting and providing access to our heritage and honouring those who have made an outstanding contribution to our national game of Hurling.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a representative of the GAA Museum and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

Niamh McCoy

nmccoy@crokepark.ie

Dr. Patrick Bracken,
Clongour Road,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary
Ireland.

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been an avid fan of Hurling since the age of four, and now forty-five years later, I consider myself to be a representative of the Hurling Community. I have played with my Club, Moycarkey-Borris, since I was thirteen years old and it was my great honour to win a County Minor hurling title with them during my playing career. In addition to this, I represented my school, Thurles CBS for five years. Since finishing my playing career I moved from home and I now follow the fortunes of my son as he follows in my footsteps with his club, Durlas Óg, a club which only caters for juvenile players up to the age of sixteen. I have been a hurling mentor with this club since I moved to Thurles. Besides all that, I have retained an avid fascination for hurling, not only in the modern era but in the way hurling has grown and developed over the millennia.

Hurling is a deep passion of mine – in my opinion there is nothing to rival the feeling of identity and community that one feels as a player, coach or spectator at the All Ireland Final in September. The game and skills and physical prowess it requires are unique and unrivalled. I have exhaustively researched the growth and development of the game, not only in Ireland, but also in Australia, where the game meant so much to Irish immigrants in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

Coupled with this, I have had to balance my research by taking into account the growth and spread of hurling in both North and South America, where I read widely about how the game came to mean so much to the nascent Irish communities there in the nineteenth century.

I have written about the growth and development of the game in Ireland and Australia. I have also presented conference and lecture papers on the spread of hurling nationally and globally. My doctoral thesis, taken at the International Centre for Sports History and Culture at De Montfort University, Leicester, England, included aspects of the growth and development of hurling in Co. Tipperary, the birthplace of the Gaelic Athletic Association, between 1840 and 1880.

Apart from my thesis, I give a brief resume of my papers, conference and lecture presentations which were solely related to the growth and development of hurling and its importance to Ireland and the Irish race. The two radio lectures both included hurling in an examination of sport in Co. Kilkenny and Co. Tipperary.

Thesis:

The Growth and Development of Sport in Co. Tipperary, 1840 – 1880'. Thesis for the Award of PhD at the International Centre for Sports History and Culture, De Montfort University, Leicester. (November 2014).

Conference Papers:

'Hurling in Australia: The First 40 Years, 1877-1917'. Sports History Ireland Conference 2014, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. (20 September 2014)

'Not Quite Yet on Death's Door: Hurling 1840-1884.' Sports History Ireland Conference 2012, University College Cork. (September 2012)

Hurling in Australia Before the Foundation of the GAA. Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland Conference 2012, Mater Dei Institute, Dublin. (28 June 2012)

Lectures:

'Not Quite Yet on Death's Door: Hurling in Ireland and Australia 1840-1884'. Heritage Week 2015, Lár na Páirce GAA Museum, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. (27 August 2015)

Pre-GAA Hurling in Ireland and Australia. Sr. Áine Historical Society, Templemore, Co. Tipperary. (21 February 2013)

Published:

'The Emergence of Hurling in Australia, 1877-1917' in *Sport in Society*, Special Issue: Sport in Ireland – Social and Historical Perspectives. Vol. 19, No. 1. (January 2016), pp 62-73.

'Some more evidence for Hurling prior to the Foundation of the GAA' in *Tipperary GAA Yearbook 2016*, pp 94-97.

Radio Lectures:

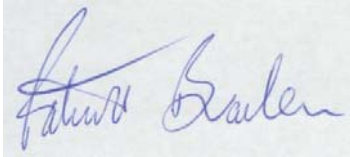
Local Background to the Foundation of the GAA. Radio Kilkenny, Spring 2001.

Sport in pre-Famine Kilkenny. Radio Kilkenny, Autumn 2000.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Patrick Bracken".

Dr. Patrick Bracken
(brackpat@gmail.com)



UNIVERSITY OF
STIRLING

Scotland's
University for
Sporting Excellence

Professor David Lavallee

School of Sport
University of Stirling
Stirling FK9 4LA
Scotland UK

T: 01786 466489
E: david.lavallee@stir.ac.uk
W: www.stir.ac.uk/sport

16 March 2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Re Letter of consent and support for UNESCO Heritage Status for Hurling

To whom it may concern

I am a Professor at the University of Stirling I am writing to letter of support for UNESCO Heritage Status for Hurling. I have been involved with the sport of hurling as an independent researcher over the last 3 years. The project evaluated the impact of the Super Games Centre, and through this I was able to see clear evidence of how hurling is part of Ireland's cultural heritage.

As a member of the Hurling Community I am happy to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Lavallee".

David Lavallee, PhD



Seamus Hughes
Dromore West
Cootehill
Co Cavan
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

17.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you to express my support for the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have played and followed Gaelic Games, and hurling in particular, for all of my life. Although my own area, County Cavan, is not one of the strongest areas in relation to hurling participation; there are still many passionate followers of hurling in this area and many hundreds of children and young people from Cavan play the game every year. My local Gaelic field is named after Hugh O'Reilly, who was a great champion of hurling in this area.

I have coached hurling for over ten years. In that time the local club, Cootehill Celtic, has been very successful and won many leagues and championships. The senior team has won the last two Cavan championships; for the first time in a generation. I have also coached at county level for 6 years and during that time the Cavan minor team (under 18 years of age) has won an Ulster championship, league and played in an All-Ireland final.

Hurling is more than simply a pastime or even a sport to the people who are active in hurling, especially here in the Province of Ulster. It is a part of who we are as a people, just like the Irish language, Irish traditional music or our history. It is a unique sport; which is the greatest and most skilful game in the world, in my humble opinion.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,
Seamus Hughes
sehughes32@gmail.com

26 Ladybrook Crescent ,
Belfast BT11 9ES,
Co. Antrim
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been an avid fan of Hurling since the age of 4, and now 35 years later, I consider myself to be a representative of the Hurling Community. I have played with my Club, Padraig Sairseil , since I was four years old and it was my great honour to play for my club in Gaelic football and hurling, which I captained both teams at senior level .I also represented my County at U21 level in football and Hurling and going on to play senior hurling for the county where we won 2 Ulster championships. I then went onto represent my County at Junior level in which we won the All-Ireland title in 2002. Since finishing my playing career I have been involved with coaching players at all levels. I have completed my level 2 coaching certificate in September 2015.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,
Sean Óg Mc Guinness

(sean_og06@hotmail.com)



T +353 (0)61 367228
F +353 (0)61 367229
E manager@torpeyhurleys.com

Torpey Wood Products Ltd.
Belvoir, Sixmilebridge
Co. Clare, Ireland.

Vat No. : 82531125
Company Reg. No.: 253112

torpeyhurleys.com

Date: 17/03/2015

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, Rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

To Whom It May Concern,

I Sean Torpey, a member of the Hurling community in Ireland currently hold the position of operations manager with Torpey Wood Products Ltd. We are a second generation business specializing in the traditional craft of Hurley manufacture, the wooden sports implement used in the sport of Hurling since the game began over a 1000 years ago. The heritage of this craft in the family dates back to the 1930's but possibly even further. Our Hurley products have come to symbolize the cultural diversity of Ireland having been presented to President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi-Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recent years.

As a member of the Hurling Community I am happy to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling.

Firstly, I believe that the sport of Hurling is unique to Ireland and is a powerful community sport that helps bind our society together.

Secondly, it is important in an era of globalisation that the cultural heritage and community ethos of the sport be preserved into the future to allow Hurling to benefit future generations both in Ireland and abroad.

I wish to thank you for reading my letter of support.

Sincerely,

Sean Torpey

Operations Manager



UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Incorporating the International Assembly of
National Organizations of Sport (IANOS)



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Prof. Dr. Ju-Ho CHANG, South Korea

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Mr. Dionysios KARAKASIS, Greece
Mr. Attila CZENE, Hungary

Frankfurt/Main, 17 March 2016

Subject: Letter of Support to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the Game of Hurling

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

TAFISA, as the leading international Sport for All organization, has for many years engaged in the safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games. This is documented by the various programs, events and political statements that have been developed over the years, including:

1. The organization of the TAFISA World Sport for All every four years since 1992, under the patronage of UNESCO.
2. The UNESCO / TAFISA Busan Appeal on the Promotion and Preservation of Traditional Sports and Games (2008),
3. The UNESCO / TAFISA Siauliai Call for Good Practices in "Traditional Sports and Games and Community Development" (2012),
4. The development of TAFISA Regional Traditional Sports and Games Centres all over the world.

More recently, TAFISA has led Project Recall: Games of the Past – Sports for Today, supported by the European Commission, which included the Gaelic Athletic Association as a main partner. The game of Hurling was an outstanding example how a Traditional Game could survive over the ages, playing a significant role in the Irish society.

We are today happy to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling.

Yours sincerely,

Wolfgang Baumann
Secretary General

TAFISA Office:

Dienstleistungszentrum
Mainzer Landstrasse 153
60621 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel. : 0049.69.9739359900
Fax : 0049.69.9739359925
Web : www.tafisa.net
E-mail : info@tafisa.net
Tax No. : 47 250 52 357

Bank Account:

Commerzbank Frankfurt
Account-Nr.: 738 900 000
BLZ : 500 400 00
IBAN: DE58500400000738900000
SWIFT-Code : COBADEFF002

www.tafisa.net

Champion of:

DESIGNED TO MOVE

A Physical Activity Action Agenda



Tony Devine
Kenley Road,
Bishopstown,
Co. Cork.
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been an avid fan of Hurling since I moved to Ireland from the US in 2001 and I consider myself to be a representative of the Hurling Community. My 5 year old son just started playing at our local club in Cork and the community that surrounds the game is unrivalled. Coming from an Irish-American background I felt an instant connection to the game and my heritage.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,
Tony Devine

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Devine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

devineaw@tcd.ie



**CAMANACHD
ASSOCIATION**
COMANN NA CAMANACHD

**THE GOVERNING
BODY FOR SHINTY**

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

16.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

On behalf of the Camanachd Association, Governing Body for the sport of Shinty, I am pleased to register our support for the above application. Shinty and Hurling have a shared history and a unique place in the sporting culture of Scotland and Ireland. It is entirely positive and appropriate that the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht seek to protect and celebrate the important role Hurling has played in communities across Ireland for many decades, and will continue to play for many more decades to come.

I am happy that we provide our consent and support as a member of the wider Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

Torquil Macleod
Chief Operating Officer

GAA
Páirc an Chrócaigh
Baile Átha Cliath 3
Guthán + 353 1 865 8600
Faics + 353 1 865 8650
www.gaa.ie

GAA
Croke Park
Dublin 3
Telephone + 353 1 865 8600
Fax + 353 1 865 8650
www.gaa.ie



UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

18.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

On behalf of the members of the World GAA Committee, which is the representative body of the 8 International Units and 411 overseas Clubs, I would like to wholeheartedly support the current application. The World GAA Committee believes that the role which Hurling plays in uniting and unifying communities across the globe is completely unique and utterly invaluable. The game of Hurling provides hundreds and thousands of people worldwide with irreplaceable experiences and invaluable memories – the friendships made at international tournaments, the sense of community at weekly training sessions, the thrill of playing hurling for the first time or indeed the warm familiarity of pucking a ball while thousands of miles from home. It is all of these experiences that remain with a person for life and explains why more and more people are motivated to spread Hurling to all four corners of the globe.

Unfortunately it is often in times of real sorrow that we witness the true strength and importance of the Hurling community. In June 2015 six young Irish students lost their lives in Berkeley, California, when the balcony they were standing on collapsed. It was a heart-breaking disaster that resonated with all Irish people both at home and abroad. However, the incident demonstrated the unparalleled significance of Gaelic games to communities overseas. Almost immediately after the tragedy occurred we were struck by images of hundreds of young Irish J1 students paying respects at the scene while wearing their various GAA jerseys – a symbol of unity and togetherness. At the same time the Hurling community rallied to support the family and friends of those involved by holding fundraising events and organising candlelight vigils in the USA and Ireland. It is this fundamental expression of Irishness, of community, of togetherness which Hurling captures and reflects – the importance of this cannot ever be understated.

I hope that the support of the World GAA Committee and the thousands of people it represents will be taken into account when considering the application.

Yours sincerely,

Aine Gibney,

Executive Officer, World GAA Committee (ann.gibney@gaa.ie; 00353 1 865 8620)

18th March 2016

Re: Letter of Support to achieve UNESCO Heritage Status for **Hurling**

Dear UNESCO commission,

Sport is a clear expression of a society's identity and their evolution. In fact, sport is a key part of cultural identity, and a mechanism for the protection and promotion of cultural diversity. Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) lie at the very foundation of our cultural traditions. European examples include Gaelic games (hurling, football, camogie, handball) in Ireland, Basque Pelota (and local variants) in Spain, Longue Paume in France, Tamburello in Italy among many others. These are the backbone of a community and many elements of traditional culture such as language, cuisine, music, dance, and the broader arts. Thus, retaining knowledge of our traditional sporting practices is vital in terms of preservation and promotion of sport as an expression of **Intangible Cultural Heritage** [refs 1].

Within Ireland the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) are the sports governing authority who oversee our Irish national sports, including hurling, which is one of our countries most popular sports. It attracts crowds of in excess of 80,000 for the national finals and as an organisation and sport (hurling) it truly permeates Irish society **more than any other national amateur sporting organisation in the world**. It has representation in every single village and small town in Ireland. Each village has its own club and teams, from 4 year olds upwards. **It uses sport/hurling as a means of anchoring our national identity, not only directly in terms of the traditional sports themselves, but also in fostering other aspects of our national identity, including: language, dance, music, poetry etc.** In addition, hurling is part of our vibrant story telling culture, including fairy tales known to all children such as Legend of Cu Chulainn (www.ancient-origins.net/myths-legends/irish-story-and-legend-cu-chulainn-002150), and Refereeing a Fairy Hurling Match.

In my academic opinion, and this is without exaggeration, **without the activity of the GAA, through its foundation sport of hurling, much of our current Irish culture (language, dance) would be significantly depleted**. As you are acutely aware, it is challenging for countries to maintain their national and cultural heritage in a time of mass globalisation, especially for smaller nations who do not play a significant role in International affairs or have international media penetration. The GAA, through hurling, has bucked this international trend of mass 'cultural' globalisation, and managed to continue to grow our national identity, not only at home within Ireland, but internationally in a very positive way through our diaspora (in excess of 70 million) [refs 2, 3]. See: Paul

For the past 3 years, I have been a Co-Principle Investigator on a **European FP7 project** €1.95 million, across 8 European partners (**RePlay: Reusable low-cost platform for digitizing and preserving traditional participative sports**, grant number 601170 ; www.fp7-replay.eu, ICT-2011.8.2: **ICT for access to cultural resources**). Its central tenant is **the preservation of tradition sports (one of which is hurling) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage**, and to provide an opportunity to allow the young to try to learn and emulate their heroes (www.fp7-replay.eu/index.php/en/project/objectives) [E.g. refs 4, 5, 6]. This testifies to the importance placed on **sport as an Intangible Cultural Heritage** (in line with UNESCO's policy) **and to the specific importance placed on hurling in this regard within Ireland.**

On behalf of my School of Health and Human Performance, and both as a research and academic, **I fully endorse and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling**

Dr Kieran Moran

Co-PI: RePlay

Previous Head, School of Health and Human Performance

00353 1 700 8011

Kieran.moran@dcu.ie

[1] M.L. Stefano et al., Eds., Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage: Touching the Intangible, Boydell & Brewer, 2012.

[2] Darby & David Hassan (2007) Introduction: Locating Sport in the Study of the Irish Diaspora, Sport in Society, 10:3, 333-346, DOI: 10.1080/17430430701333687 (Full text: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17430430701333687>)

[3] Darby, Paul, and David Hassan. Emigrant players: Sport and the Irish diaspora. Routledge, 2013.

[4] O'Connor, N Moran, K and Magnenat-Thalmann, N (2014) Interactive games for preservation and promotion of sporting movements. In: 22nd European Signal Processing Conference (EUSIPCO 2014), 1-5 Sept 2014, Lisbon, Portugal.

[5] Jon Goenetxea, Luis Unzueta, Maria T. Linaza, Mikel Rodriguez, Noel E. O'Connor, Kieran Moran, "Capturing the sporting heroes of our past by extracting 3D movements from legacy video content", International Conference on Cultural Heritage (EUROMED 2014), pp. 48-58, Nov 3, Cyprus, 2014.

[6] Maria T. Linaza, Kieran Moran, Noel E. O'Connor, "Traditional Sports and Games: A New Opportunity for Personalized Access to Cultural Heritage", 6th

International Workshop on Personalized Access to Cultural Heritage (PATCH 2013), Rome, Italy, June 10-14, 2013.

69 Carrycastle Rd,
Dungannon,
Co. Tyrone,
Ireland.

19/3/2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

To Whom It May Concern,

I write in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

From my own historical research and writings, the significance of hurling as one of the prime symbols of Irish national identity can be seen to stretch back to medieval times. Indeed, the game is a recurring motif in the mythology of Ireland. Since the fourteenth century at least, settlers and visitors to Ireland, as much as if not more so than the native Irish, identified hurling as the definitive game of the Irish. The game was specifically banned under the Statutes of Kilkenny in the year 1366 so as to keep the recent Anglo-Norman settlers from mingling with the native Irish. This symbolism of hurling as the Irish national game strengthened over the centuries that followed.

Wherever the Irish emigrated, they brought the game with them and presented it as a symbol of their national identity. Eighteenth-century American and British newspaper reports of hurling matches among Irish exiles bear testimony to this fact. Similar accounts of hurling matches among the Irish in Australia in the 1870s prove the point further.

After the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884 and the codification of hurling under its remit, the iconic cultural status of hurling never wavered. The hurling stick remained such a potent symbol for the Irish at home and abroad because the game was much more accessible to the populace, whereas other national characteristics - like the Irish language and Irish dancing - were practised and perfected more as minority interests.

For these reasons, aside even from the sheer aesthetic thrill of the sport, I would like to lend my name to support this application.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Dónal McAnallen

(Co-editor, *The Evolution of the GAA* (2009); author, *The Cups that Cheered: A History of the Sigerson, Fitzgibbon and Higher Education Gaelic Games* (2012); occasional lecturer in Sports Studies, Ulster University)

(dmcanallen@mail.com)

Hollywell,
Kilfenora,
Co. Clare.
19/03/2016.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to you in relation to the application by the Government of Ireland through its Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I was born in 1942 in the Civil Parish of Kilnaboy on the Southern edge of the Burren during WW2. I have been fascinated since early childhood with the heroic awesomeness attaching not only to this unique, ethnocentric game but also its mythos and folklore of its heroes in the continuum from Fianna Eireann and Setanta down through the ages to the Gaelic Athletic Associations's Hurling Immortals of the 20th and 21st centuries .

The micro cultural realm and the social conditions into which I was born hadn't changed much from those which Michael Cusack describes in his recollections of playing the game of hurling when growing up in the adjoining parish of Carron! He wrote: "The size of the hurling field didn't bother us. I played hurling in a room and I played it with goalposts...we made little of stone walls and roads and other obstacles. We played with sticks without bosses and we played with hurleys. We played when there were only two of us and we played it when there were more than sixty of us locked in deadly combat."

As a ten year old, I can remember joining in such inter-townland rivalry played on Sunday afternoons in well-disposed local farmers' fields. Temporary goalposts and the walls as boundaries to the playground were the norm! The games would continue from early afternoon till dusk. The stoppages were only occasioned when the ball went out of bounds or into a ' tor' of briars or copse or got lost. Such local contests were purely recreational, informal, inclusive of many age groups and rarely rancorous or mean-spirited.

I was not a successful hurler in terms of being on winning teams. I thought I was going to be a Christy Ring or Jimmy Smith when a hurling aficionado from Ruan (then a Hurling stronghold) made me a present of a brand new perfectly balanced and smoothed ash hurley stick, the boss tinned and riveted to resist cracking in the coming ' clash of the ash' encounters as well a black taped hand grip. Despite my enthusiastic and persistent practising of the multiplicity of hurling skills required to get on the Parish Team , when I graduated to the village Hurling Field , the townies were reluctant to make the ' outsider', unless he was exceptional, become an 'insider'! The apogee of my hurling trajectory to winning heights was being a player in a Minor B County Championship winning team of 1959 with Cumann Luthchleas Gael Cora Finne (Corofin G.A.A. Club), despite missing the Final!

However, I spent most of my adult life as a Primary School Teacher in the neighbouring Parish of Kilfenora, promoting the game of hurling among students who had ambitions to be dual stars, in a predominantly Gaelic Football Parish . I was also involved with Administration duties at County Board Level and in promoting an awareness of the socio-economic and cultural legacy of Michael Cusack who salvaged almost single handed our unique game of hurling from the detritus of dead epochs due to Colonial suppression of Gaelic customs since the Statutes of Kilkenny. I became involved in the centenary celebrations of Cusack's inaugural meeting of The Founding Fathers of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884. My focus became the Restoration and Preservation of his ancestral Homestead in Carron and the development of an appropriate Visitor Centre for exhibiting of memorabilia, his writings and publications, especially the extant issues of Celtic Times weekly, and an exposé of the sacrifices he made during his professional life as an educator, and his influence on the shaping of modern Ireland.

Is mise, le mormheas,

Sean P. O Cathain , O.S. , (Iar-phríomh Oide S.N.Fachtna Naofa , Cill Fhionnurach) ; Iar-leasrunai Coiste Chondae an Chlair CLG ; Former Director of the Michael Cusack Development Company Ltd. and Comhar Conradh na Boirne

Donal Óg Cusack,
Chapel Street,
Cloyne,
Co. Cork.
Ireland

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

20.03.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am contacting you in relation to the current application by the Irish Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to UNESCO to have Hurling listed as a cultural practice and expression of intangible heritage.

I have been a practitioner and fan of the game of Hurling since a very young age. I represented my Club Cloyne and the County of Cork at every level of the game winning three All-Ireland Senior medals along the way. I am now Coach to the Clare Senior Hurling Team. I was Chairman of the Gaelic Players Association for 13 years and also currently manage my club under eighteen and under twenty-one teams.

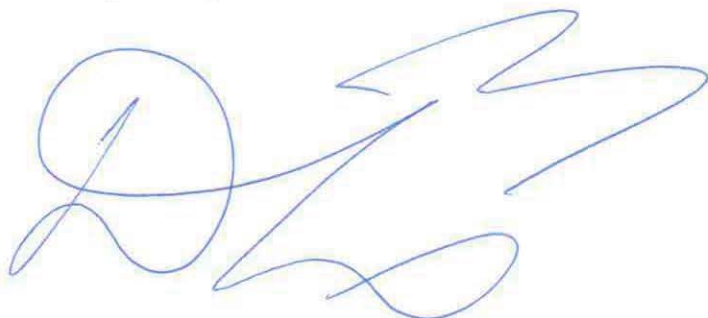
Hurling is a wonderful game but it is much more than a sport. It is part of the cultural fabric of this Country and plays a huge part in every community in our land. Ireland is famous for its poets, artists and musicians. To many people on this Island and beyond Hurling is our song, our dance our verse and the most beautiful expression we have of what it is to be Irish.

In relation to the application I am happy to provide my consent and support as a member of the Hurling community and look forward to hearing of the success of the application.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in sport,

Donal Óg Cusack
donalogcusack@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Óg Cusack', written in a cursive style.



**THE
CAMOGIE
ASSOCIATION**
An Cumann Camógaíochta

21st March 2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section

1, rue Miollis

75732 Paris Cedex 15

France

To whom it concerns

The Camogie Association is the national governing body that administers, legislates and promotes the game of Camogie. It is part of the wider Gaelic Games family, headed by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).

The objectives of the Camogie Association include:

- Promoting the active participation of women in sport
- Fostering an awareness of the richness of our national culture, including the Irish language
- Promote community development and community spirit.

The core values guiding the Association include:

- Inclusiveness
- Voluntarism
- Equality in accordance with relevant equality legislation and fair play.

As a representative of the Camogie Association, I am happy to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling and Camogie.

The Association understands that UNESCO deems traditional sports and games to be 'part of intangible heritage and a symbol of the cultural diversity of our societies. They are also an efficient means to convey values of solidarity, diversity, inclusiveness and cultural awareness'. UNESCO also considers indigenous and traditional sports 'as a bridge across cultures'.

This submission sets out the Camogie Association's support for the UNESCO designation of Hurling and Camogie with heritage status.

(a) Cultural importance

Camogie has a distinct cultural importance in the history of Irish women's social advancement and in the history of Irish sport.

It was established in 1904 as part of the cultural revival. Its formation was led by and hugely influenced by women and men who were deeply immersed in promoting the Irish language through its national movement The Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge).

Many of the first Camogie teams were attached to branches of the Gaelic League, notably the Keating and Cuchulainns branches in Dublin with the game spreading more widely including abroad, firstly to Gaelic League branches in Scotland.

The GAA was established in 1884 and Gaelic League branches were affiliates to it for hurling and football.

Women supported these teams from the Gaelic League branches, but soon began to ask '*what about us? We want a game of our own*' (Ref. 2011. Moran, M. *A Game of Our Own Camogie's Story*. Camogie Association: Dublin).

In 1903/04, The modification of the then Hurling rules, to establish Camogie, created something new and original – the first national and indigenous game for women.

This was a remarkable and courageous effort at a time when women's participation in sport was minimal and mostly socially unacceptable. The name Camogie is the anglicized version of Camóguidheacht which was a derivative of the Irish language term for hurling lománaíocht. The term 'Cam' is a derivative of 'camán' the Irish language term for hurley, used in both Hurling and Camogie.

The cultural and social significance of the newly named 'Camogie' is wider than the game itself.

The development of a popular female Gaelic games changes women's role in sport in Ireland. Irish women now had a sport that gave expression to their Irish identity through an active involvement in playing, as well as refereeing, training, coaching, organising and administering their '*own game*'.

Today, Camogie has an appeal across all socio economic groups, abilities, genders, age cohorts and regional locations.

Camogie is organised through a national network of 560 clubs; has a widespread presence in almost every primary school on the island; in over 250 post primary schools and in 24 third level educational institutions.

It is also growing internationally with playing activity in America, Australia, Europe and Asia.

In an Irish context of an increasingly diverse society, there is an increasing involvement of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in Camogie.

The Association's undertook a social inclusion initiative a number of years ago to outreach and create a bridge to new communities to participate in the sport. It also developed a project 'Camogie for All' which aimed to create a bridge to people with disabilities, their coaches and parents to participate in the sport.

(b) Resonance for the people of Ireland

Camogie is a sport with a growing public appeal. In the last the number of clubs has grown by 23%. The Association now has its highest ever number of playing members with a 5% increase in individual membership in the past 12 months.

The majority of the Association's playing membership is young. The largest cohort is the teenage cohort aged up to 19.

The All Ireland Senior Camogie Final is the annual showcase game for the sport since the first Final in 1932. The Final generates the most community interest by way of attendance at the game, media interest, and wider public interest on various social media platforms.

In 2015 there was a 30% increase in attendance, from the previous year, at the All-Ireland Finals – the highest prize in competitive Camogie.

This was also the highest attendance achieved over the past 5 years. The finals are played in the Croke Park Stadium, broadcast live on national TV.

Combined TV and spectator viewing for the event was 321,646 persons which was to the forefront for spectator interest in any women's sports event in Ireland last year.

Hurling and Camogie Mutual Identity and Affinity

Camogie's origins are intrinsically linked to the cultural tradition of Hurling and the Irish language.

Over the past century, the affinity between the male (Hurling) and female (Camogie) forms of our national and indigenous game is stronger than ever.

There are many collaborative and co-operative initiatives at many levels of the game. There are joint promotional initiatives; co-hosting of Hurling and Camogie games at national and local levels; joint commercial partnerships supporting national competitions; joint development work particularly with young people; linked coach education and training initiatives to name a few.

In the context of supporting the request for UNESCO joint designation of Hurling and Camogie, such a designation would be a strong recognition and promotion to the wider public of the equal cultural value of women's Gaelic games.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is split by a vertical line, with 'Joan O'Flynn' on the left and 'Siobhán Ní Fhloinn' on the right.

Joan O'Flynn/Siobhán Ní Fhloinn

Chief Executive/Ard Stiúrthóir

Camogie Association

Croke Park

Dublin 3

Joan.oflynn@camogie.ie

ST. FLANNAN'S COLLEGE

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland.



Co. Clare,

Ireland.

21/3/2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section,

1, rue Miollis,

75732 Paris Cedex 15,

France.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to offer my support and consent for the Irish Government nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage status for the game of Hurling.

I currently teach Business Studies and Economics in St. Flannans College in Ennis Co. Clare. With over 1,200 pupils, it is one of the biggest second level schools in the country, and its past pupils include the current President of Ireland, Mr Michael D. Higgins. However, it is as a hurling nursery, with a long and storied tradition in the game that the school is arguably best well known. With 14 All Ireland colleges' titles, we lie second on the roll of honour, behind St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny

As a student in St. Flannan's, I lost two successive All Ireland finals to our great Kilkenny rivals, but that only served as a springboard to greater things. In later years, I went on to play at the highest levels, winning two All Ireland senior medals with Clare in 1995 and 1997, and an All Ireland Club title in 1999, with my club St. Joseph's Doora Barefield.

Needless to say, akin to many former players, I am currently actively involved in coaching, both in the school, and at home in the local community with my club. Working with both boys and girls in the younger age categories has given me a greater appreciation in recent years of just how skillful and technically challenging the game is, and the sacrifices and hours the elite players put in to play at the level they do, which in my opinion has never been higher.

I may be biased, but I have always felt that the game is not just uniquely Irish, but a part of who we are as a people. There is no transfer market in our sport. You play with the club you were born in, live in or are working in. That sense of place, and pride in where you come from means the game is interwoven into the fabric of every town, village and parish in the country.

I have always felt, that if I was ever asked to show a visitor, the real Ireland, the essence of where I come from in County Clare on the west coast, I would take them to see the majesty of the Cliffs of Moher, and the unique beauty of the Burren. But I would also take them to a hurling match, ideally in the cauldron that is the Munster championship, to marvel at the speed and skill of the fastest, and in my mind greatest field sport in the world.

Yours sincerely,

James O Connor

Tel: 065-6828019. Fax: 065-6840644. e-mail: stflannans@eircom.net Web: www.stflannanscollege.ie

Mr Paul McGinley
Birch Walk
Fishers Wood
Sunningdale
Berkshire
SL5 0JF
Email: emma@golfmcginley.com

29th March 2016

UNESCO Intangible Heritage Section
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France

Dear Sirs,

My name is Paul McGinley and I am a professional golfer playing on the European Tour® for the past twenty-five years. In 2014, I was Captain of the European Ryder Cup Team who defeated the USA at Gleneagles, 16½ to 11½. In 2016, I will be the non-playing Team Captain of the Irish Olympic Team participating in Rio, Brazil. As a golfer I have always excelled as a Team player and I owe this on no small part to being a Gaelic Games player. I have played and managed five winning Ryder Cup Teams.

Although my career has been primarily being Golf, my first love of sport came through Gaelic, our National games of football and hurling. Unfortunately, as a 19-year-old, I suffered a knee injury as a Gaelic footballer and it ended my participation in the game. Playing our National game along with many of my friends thought me the importance of being a team player, in a group of 15 plus.

The game of Gaelic hurling is to me the most unique and skilful game in the World. Along with the team aspect, it teaches children and all its players disciplines not experienced in other sports. Most importantly, it is part of the fabric of Irish life for some 3,000 years and etched in the History of my Country, Ireland.

As a proud Irish person and a member of the Hurling Community I am happy to support and consent to the nomination seeking UNESCO Heritage Status for the game of Hurling.

Yours sincerely,



Paul McGinley