

The Irishman is denied the right of having a history, as he is denied the right of having a country.

- Roger Casement, *The Crime Against Ireland*, 87.

Task 1: You have been given parts of Irish history. There are three groups with different parts of Irish history.

Part 1: Please reassemble the chronology of your events within your group.

What do these events have in common? What do you think is their importance for an Irish national identity?

Part 2: Now change groups so that there are groups of three with one person of each previous group. Combine your events to reconstruct (some of) Irish history.

To what extent has the addition of other events changed your answers to Part 1?

How do the events connect to the introductory handout?

Part 3: Please add the events pertaining to Roger Casement into your Irish history.

How does his personal history pertain to the more general Irish history? What connections can you make out?

1367	Statutes of Kilkenny: The Irish native law is delegitimized. Intermarriage, wearing of Irish dress and speaking Irish Gaelic is now punishable by death.
1556	Catholic Mary Tudor renames the counties Laois and Offaly Queen's and King's County after herself and Philip of Spain.
1613	Derry is renamed Londonderry, after the city is turned over to a group of London speculators.
1845	Potato famine.
1851	According to the census, there are only approximately 1.5 million Irish speakers left. The Irish language has become increasingly associated with poverty.
1879	Potato famine. Within 50 years, the Irish population is almost halved.
1893	The Gaelic League (Conradh na Gaeilge) is founded in Dublin with the aim to restore the Irish language. This leads to a renaissance in Irish and Anglo-Irish literature.
1922	With the foundation of the Irish Free State, the Irish language at last has the official backing of the state, i.e. a political institution. The language is valued as central to the Irish national identity. Alongside, Queen's and King's County regain their old names of County Laois and County Offaly (Uíbh Fhailí).

1937	Article 8 in the Irish Constitution declares “The Irish language as the national language is the first official language”, while “The English language is recognised as the second official language”.
1984	The local government district of Londonderry (City Council) is renamed Derry. Sparking further debate about the name of the city.
1998	In the Good Friday Agreement (between British and Irish governments), a cross-border body Foras na Gaeilge is established with the responsibility to develop the Irish language in both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.
2007	An application to officially change the name of the city from Londonderry to Derry is rejected. The name change of the City Council has no bearing on the name of the city, it remains Londonderry.
2020	The BBC guidelines state that “The city and county are Londonderry. The city should be given the full name at first reference, but Derry can be used later”.
~Today	There are approximately 30.000 native speakers of Irish and a further 100.000 speakers who use the language regularly. The majority of Irish people regard the Irish language as a marker of national identity.