

**Petition to Secretary of State for Scotland signed by the
islanders of St Kilda requesting government assistance to leave
the island, 10 May 1930**

National Records of Scotland, Agriculture and Fisheries files,
AF57/26/3

SCOTTISH
28 MAY 1930
OFFICE

St Kilda
Scotland
10th May 1930

The Right Hon. W. Adamson M.P.,
Secretary of State for Scotland,
Westminster.

Sir,

We the undersigned the natives
of St Kilda, hereby respectfully pray
and petition H.M. Government, to
assist us all to leave the island
this year and to find homes and
occupation for us on the mainland.
For some years the manpower has
been decreasing, now the total
population of the island is reduced
to thirty six. Several men out
of this number have definitely
made up our minds to go away
this year to seek employment on
the mainland, this will really cause
a crisis, as the present number
are hardly sufficient to carry
on the necessary work of the place.
These men are the mainstay of
the island at present, as they
tend the sheep, do the weeding
and look after the general wel-
fare of the wives. Should they
leave the conditions of the rest
of the community would be such that
it would be impossible for us to
to

[Date Stamp: Scottish Office 29 May 1930]

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remain on the island another
winter.

The reason why assistance is
necessary is, that for many years
Saint Hilda has not been self
supporting, and with no facilities
to better our position, we are there-
fore without the means to pay
for the costs of removing ourselves
and furniture elsewhere.

We do not ask to be
settled together as a separate
community, but in ^{the} meantime
we would collectively be very grate-
ful of assistance, and transfer-
ence elsewhere, where there
would be a better opportunity of
securing our livelihood.

We are Sir,

Yours Respectfully,

Lachlan Mc Donald	no 16	✓
Finlay Mackinnon	no 1	✓
Donald E McKinnon	no 1	✓
Norman M'Kinnon Sen	no 1	✓
Norman M'Kinnon Jun	no 1	✓
Finlay ^{His} Mark Gillies	no 7	✓
Finlay ^{His} Mark Mackinnon	no 2	✓
Donald Gillies	no 13	✓
Ewen Mc Donald	no 16	✓
John Macdonald	no 2	✓
Neil Ferguson Jun	no 5	✓
Neil Ferguson	no 5	✓

remain on the island another winter.

The reason why assistance is necessary is, that for many years Saint Kilda has not been self supporting, and with no facilities to better our position, we are therefore without the means to pay for the costs of removing ourselves and furniture elsewhere.

We do not ask to be settled together as a separate community, but in the meantime we would collectively be very grateful of assistance, and transference elsewhere, where there would be a better opportunity of securing our livelihood.

We are Sir

Yours Respectfully,

Lachlan McDonald	no16
Finlay Mackinnon	no 1
Donald E McKinnon	no 1
Norman McKinnon Sen	no 1
Norman McKinnon Jun	no 1
Finlay His mark Gillies	no 7
Finaly His mark MacQueen	no 2
Donald Gillies	no 13
Ewen McDonald	no 16
John R MacDonald	no 9
Neil Ferguson Jun	no 8
Neil Ferguson	no 5



- Wid Christina McPhee No 11 ✓
- Wid Annie J. Gillies sen no 15 ✓
- Wid Annie D. Gillies No 14 ✓
- Mrs Rachel Ann Gillies No 14 ✓
- Mrs Rachel MacDonald 16 ✓
- Mrs Wid N. Gillies No 7 ✓
- Mrs Wid Ewen Gillies No 12 ✓
- Mary Ann Gillies No 12 ✓

I do hereby testify that the
foregoing statement is correct.

Signed
Dug. Munro (Mrs. Munro)
Williamina M. Barclay (Scurthorn)

Wid Christina McQueen	no 11
Wid Annie J. Gillies sen	no 18
Wid Annie D. Gillies	no 14
Mrs Rachel Ann Gillies	no 14
Mrs Rachel MacDonald	16
Mrs Wid N Gillies	no 7
Mrs Wid Ewen Gillies	no 12
Mary Ann Gillies	no 12

We the undersigned testify that the foregoing statement is correct.

Signed

Doug. Munro (Missionary)

Williamina M. Barclay (Queen's Nurse)