

Heritage for Peace • Hotel d'Entitats, Rutlla, 20-22 • 17002 Girona • Catalonia (SP)

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## CULTURAL HERITAGE AGENCIES RESPOND

### TO THE SYRIAN CRISIS VOL II

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Girona, Spain – UK based Archaeologist, Dr. Silvia Perini and Heritage consultant, Dr. Emma Cunliffe, in association with Heritage for Peace, have compiled a new list which provides details about cultural heritage organisations and the actions they are taking towards the preservation and protection of Syria's tangible cultural heritage. The authors' goal is to encourage better information sharing and greater cooperation. The document entitled, "*Towards a protection of the Syrian cultural heritage: A summary of the international responses Volume II (March 2014 - September 2014)*" can be downloaded at: <http://www.heritageforpeace.org/?p=4042>

Since the publication of the previous report covering projects from March 2011 - March 2014 and its dissemination by Heritage for Peace at the beginning of April 2014, we have received invaluable feedback from several heritage experts about new international activities. These comments, along with the growth of international activities towards the protection of the Syrian archaeological heritage, require the update of the April 2014 Report.

The first one is supported by the European Union (EU) and the Flemish Government: [UNESCO and other strategic partners](#) are creating an Observatory in Beirut for the safeguarding of Syria's cultural heritage. Also launched in March 2014 for a period of one year, [Penn Museum's Penn Cultural Heritage Center \(Penn CHC\) and the Smithsonian Institution \(SI\)](#) in cooperation with the Syrian Interim Government's Heritage Task Force, have come together to offer an emergency workshop, training and support for Syrian Museum Collections. Finally, the **US Department of State (DoS)** and the [American Schools of Oriental Research \(ASOR\)](#) signed an agreement on August 4, 2014 to cooperate in a project which aims at identifying immediate and future projects to assist the country's cultural heritage in danger. Furthermore the Institute of Urban Design and Landscape Planning, and the Information, Communication and Media Center (ICMC/IKMZ) of the Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) (Cottbus, Senftenberg), the association of "The Friends of the Old City of Aleppo", and the Secretariat of the Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development of the "Group of Friends of the Syrian People" organised a workshop called **Aleppo Archive in Exile** in January 2014. The new initiative **Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative and Network (SHIRĪN)** was born in response to a meeting held at the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE), held in Basel (Switzerland) from the 9th to 13th June, 2014. Here archaeologists gathered in an informal meeting called "The State of the Heritage of Syria in the Times of Civil War," which intended to more concretely define the possible role of the international archaeological community of scholars in safeguarding the Syrian cultural heritage. At the end of this workshop, the attendants charged Prof Marc Lebeau with the mandate of an exploratory coordination role in establishing a Committee intended to represent the global community of scholars.

Heritage for Peace aims to do all we can to enhance the peace process by entering into dialogue with the governments and all persons of any religion or ethnicity who matter the most in protecting and preserving irreplaceable cultural heritage. Heritage for Peace consists of leading Syrian and international experts who are academics, scholars, heritage professionals and independent advisors. For more information on Heritage for Peace and our activities, visit us online at: [http://www.heritageforpeace.org/.](http://www.heritageforpeace.org/)