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**Annex: From Crisis to Commitment: Rethinking Policies and Partnerships for Heritage Protection in Conflict and Peacebuilding on the 1st of October 2025.**

## Speckers



### Isber Sabrine

Dr. Isber Sabrine is a Syrian-Spanish researcher at the Milá and Fontanals Institute for Humanities Research of the Spanish national Research Council (IMF–CSIC). He is also the President of Heritage for Peace, an international NGO dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict zones.

Throughout his career, Isber has led numerous initiatives focused on the protection of endangered cultural sites, fostering both local and international partnerships, and supporting sustainable heritage recovery. His work has involved close collaboration with international organizations, contributing to research, policy development, and emergency response strategies related to cultural heritage.

He actively participates in global discussions on heritage protection, contributing regularly to academic publications, international conferences, and expert forums that explore the intersection between cultural heritage, conflict, and peacebuilding.



### Princess Dana Firas

HRH Princess Dana Firas is the President of the Petra National Trust, founding President of ICOMOS-Jordan, and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador (since 2017) for cultural heritage, sustainable development, and responsible tourism. She also serves as Chair of the International National Trusts Organization (INTO), and is a board member of the Turquoise Mountain Trust and the European Heritage Hub Advisory Council. In 2023, she was elected Vice President for the Arab Region of ICOMOS.

Internationally, Princess Dana plays a leading role in advancing culture-based climate action as Envoy of the Climate Heritage Network to the Group of Friends of Culture at COP28, and has co-chaired the Network's working groups for COP27 and COP28.

Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Arab Heritage Person Award (2018), the World Monuments Fund Watch Award (2019), an Honorary Doctorate from Coventry University (2019), and Jordan's Order of the State Centennial (2022). She is the author of *Unique and Outstanding: Jordan's World Heritage Sites* (2022) and has published extensively on heritage, sustainable development, and tourism. Princess Dana holds degrees from Boston University, the London School of Economics, and Harvard Kennedy School, where she was a Fulbright Scholar. She is married to HRH Prince Firas bin Raad and is the mother of three children.

**Vanessa Fraga Prol**

Vanessa Fraga Prol is the new Manager of Advocacy and Partnerships at Europa Nostra, the European voice for civil society committed to heritage. Prior to this, she was the Head of Programmes at Cultural Emergency. Response (CER), where she led initiatives focused on emergency aid, expert training, the development of regional hubs, and advocacy for heritage protection.

With over 15 years of experience in the United Nations system, Vanessa has worked on disarmament and peacebuilding. In 2013, she contributed to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

A PRINCE2® certified project manager, Vanessa holds master's degrees in World Heritage and Management of Heritage Projects for Development from ITC-ILO and in Information Sciences from Complutense University in Madrid.

She is dedicated to bridging heritage preservation, humanitarian aid, and peacebuilding globally.

**Gala-Alexa Amagat**

Gala-Alexa Amagat is a project manager at ALIPH, where she coordinates ALIPH's Action Plan for Gaza, launched in early 2024 in response to the ongoing conflict. ALIPH is the main global fund exclusively dedicated to the protection and rehabilitation of cultural heritage impacted by war, climate change, and disasters. It works in conflict, post-conflict, and crisis areas. Prior to joining ALIPH, Gala-Alexa Amagat worked in cultural diplomacy and international museum cooperation.

**Neil Brodie**

Neil Brodie graduated from the University of Liverpool with a PhD Archaeology in 1991 and has held positions at the British School at Athens, the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge, where he was Research Director of the Illicit Antiquities Research Centre, Stanford University's Archaeology Center, and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research at the University of Glasgow.

Most recently he was Senior Research Fellow on the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project at the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology. He is currently a member of the Trafficking Culture project and of the Blue Shield International Illicit Trade Working Group. He has published widely on issues concerning the market in cultural objects, with more than fifty papers and book chapters devoted to the subject.

**Christian Enrique De La Torre Sánchez**

Architect, Master in Built Heritage Conservation, and PhD in Territorial Processes (BUAP). Professor at BUAP with research focused on accessibility, social inclusion, and heritage. Co-author of *Barrio Rojo San Antonio* (2014) and co-editor of *Hacia una participación ciudadana* (2022).

He has received international recognition, including the UIA Golden Cubes Special Mention (2021) and the Design for All Foundation Best Practices Award (2020). Since 2018, he has co-led the Casa Analco project at BUAP and collaborated with Re Genera Espacio and UNESCO's World Heritage Volunteers program.

**Adriana Hernández Sánchez**

Architect (BUAP), MA in Architectural Design (UNAM), PhD in Public Space, Urban Regeneration and Heritage Conservation (University of Barcelona). Research Professor at BUAP's Faculty of Architecture in the Architecture, Territorial Planning, and Territorial Processes programs. General Coordinator of Re Genera Espacio and leader of the Casa Analco FABUAP project.

Member of the National System of Researchers (SNI, SECITHI), Level II (2025–2029), and Mexican ICOMOS. Former Coordinator of the BUAP College of Architecture (2020–2025). Promoter of the Neighborhood Arts and Crafts Workshop (UNESCO WHV, 2018–2022). Recognitions include the UIA Golden Cubes Award (2021), Design for All Best Practices Award (2020), and inclusion of participatory architecture projects in the Mexico Digital Book at the 2016 Venice Biennale

**Krista Pikkat**

Krista Pikkat, an Estonian national, is the Director of the Culture and Emergencies Entity within UNESCO's Culture Sector, a role she assumed in March 2022. She has built a distinguished international career at UNESCO spanning more than 25 years, with expertise in cultural heritage protection, international cooperation, and crisis response.

Ms. Pikkat holds two master's degrees: in English Language and Literature from the University of Tartu, Estonia (1993), and in Development Management from the Open University, United Kingdom (2007). She began her career at the Estonian Ministry of Culture as Deputy Secretary-General of the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO before joining UNESCO in 1998 through the Young Professionals Programme.

Over the years, she has served in a range of senior positions, including as Executive Officer in the Office of the Director-General, Programme Planning Administrator in the Bureau of Strategic Planning, and Head of the UNESCO Office in Tashkent, where

she represented UNESCO in Uzbekistan. From 2017 to 2022, she directed the UNESCO Office in Almaty, covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. With her wide-ranging experience, Krista Pikkat continues to lead UNESCO's efforts to safeguard culture in emergencies and foster resilience through heritage protection worldwide.



### **Mohammed Jumei**

PhD in Text Translation (Arabic-English) from University of Wales-Lampeter. 2006. BA and MA in Arabic language and Literature from Sana'a university. He published three collections of poems. He works as a journalist, columnist and managing editor at some Arabic Newspapers in London, covering some political and cultural issues. He is now the ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Yemen to UNESCO.



### **Salih Rajab Al-augap Abdullah**

He is the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Libya to UNESCO. An archaeologist and academic from Benghazi, he has over four decades of experience in Mediterranean and North African cultural heritage, combining archaeological fieldwork, heritage management, and international cooperation.

He studied Arts at Garyounis University (1983), completed postgraduate training in archaeology at the University of Leicester (1998), and earned his PhD at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan (2004). He has taught at the University of Benghazi and held senior posts such as Director General of the Libyan Antiquities Authority (2009–2013) and Director of Archaeological Research (2016–2018).

Dr. Abdullah has led numerous Libyan and international archaeological missions, notably at Cyrene, Eusperides, and Leptis Magna, in collaboration with institutions from Italy, France, the UK, and the USA. His research focuses on ancient agriculture, industrial activities, and heritage protection in post-conflict settings.

Widely published in Libyan Studies, Libya Antiqua, and other journals, he has also contributed to international reports and organized major conferences on cultural heritage protection, digitization, and combating illicit trafficking. He continues to play a key role in advancing cultural heritage preservation and international cooperation at UNESCO.



**Andrew Potts**

Andrew Potts is Director of Policy and Practice for the National Geographic Society-funded Preserving Legacies project, which supports custodians around the world to assess climate risk and to adapt heritage places. Potts helps manage the Heritage Adapts! 3000 x 2030 campaign which aims to inspire and support thousands more heritage sites and cultural practices to work to adapt to climate change by 2030 in line with the UN Global Goal on Adaptation cultural heritage thematic target. In addition, Potts serves as Heritage and Climate Action Adviser to the Europa Nostra European Heritage Hub and as manager of the Heritage Adapts to Climate Alliance (HACA), a joint initiative of the Climate Heritage Network, ICOMOS and Preserving Legacies.

**Emma Cunliffe**

Dr Emma Cunliffe is the Head of Operations for the Blue Shield, an independent, impartial, neutral, international organisation that protects cultural heritage, in the event of armed conflict, natural- or human-made disaster. She is also a Senior Research Associate in the UNESCO Chair Cultural Property Protection (CPP) and Peace team at Newcastle University, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. She Chairs the Conflict and Military Activity Working Group for the UK National Committee of the Blue Shield. She has over a decade of experience in cultural property protection.

Emma has a PhD in Archaeology from Durham University, and worked there, and at Oxford University before taking up her current post. She teaches cultural property protection and its intersections with human security and international humanitarian law for students, heritage professionals, and armed forces, and provides CPP subject matter expertise on military exercises, as well as training heritage professionals. She is widely published: her research and policy work focus on the protection and destruction of cultural heritage during armed conflict, examining the reasons for damage, and developing proactive solutions to protect it, with particular focus on the role of the armed forces, and the place of national and international law, particularly the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols. She also specialises in satellite imagery analysis and geo-spatial data in no-strike lists.



### Stephen Stenning

Stephen Stenning now leads British Council's cross disciplinary portfolio that uses creative, cultural and innovative approaches to global challenges. He joined British Council in 2011 as Director Arts Middle East North Africa based in Cairo developing work that highlighted the role of the Arts and artists in social change. Later heading up a global portfolio he returned to the UK as Director Culture & Development and lead the set up the UK's ground-breaking Cultural Protection Fund. The Fund initially started with £30m funding in 2016 responding to the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq but now in its tenth year supports the protection of cultural heritage at risk in 17 countries. A unifying theme for the work that Stephen leads for British Council is the contribution Arts and Culture makes to sustainable development. Stephen has a track record of running and programming successful arts organisations, events and venues, he originally working in London as a published playwright and director then moving to Scotland as a theatre director and Festival Producer. Stephen was director Edinburgh Mela and on the Board of *Festivals Edinburgh*. He was on the Board of the *UK Independent Street Arts Network* and produced successful Scottish events – 'Big in Falkirk' (*Scotland's National Street Arts Festival*), 'Merchant City Festival' and 'Glasgow Art Fair'. He worked with artists on commissions and co-productions including for international theatre company Wildworks, and 'Home' launching the National Theatre of Scotland. Stephen is currently on the Board of Pitlochry Festival Theatre as well as chairing his local community council in Perthshire.



### Kristen Hopper

Dr Kristen Hopper is Assistant Professor in the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. She is specialist in GIS and remote sensing applications in archaeology, and as the senior researcher on the EAMENA project at Durham, she has been engaged in leading knowledge exchange and capacity building with heritage professionals, NGOs, and civil society groups from across southwest Asia. In particular, she has been engaged in documenting damage to cultural heritage in through co-produced research with Syrian academics and civil society (Almohamad et al. 2025; Al Kassem et al. 2024; Mamo et al. 2022). As a landscape archaeologist, her research explores landscape transformations from the mid first millennium BC through the Islamic period in Southwest and Central Asia, and the South Caucasus. She has led survey projects in Georgia, Iran, and Oman, and she currently co-directs the joint archaeological investigations in the environs of Tell Ramihiyah, led by the Universities of Al Qadisiyah and Durham, which aims to build equitable and sustainable international partnerships through research into the Sasanian and Early Islamic landscapes of Iraq.