
Annex: From Crisis to Commitment: Rethinking Policies and Partnerships for Heritage Protection in Conflict and Peacebuilding in the First 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.



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 graduated**

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

**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.

**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.

**Emma Cunliffe**

Dr. Emma Cunliffe is a Head of Operations for Blue Shield and a Senior Research Associate with the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace, where she focuses on developing sustainable approaches to cultural property protection (CPP) in times of conflict. Her research examines the destruction of cultural heritage during armed conflict, exploring the underlying causes of damage and creating proactive solutions to safeguard heritage. She specialises in the implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols, with a strong emphasis on the role of armed forces and the application of international law.

Emma earned her PhD at Durham University, where she used satellite imagery to analyse threats to archaeological sites in Syria from the 1960s to the present, a project that expanded into wider global studies on heritage in conflict. She has extensive expertise in remote sensing and geospatial analysis, having contributed to major initiatives such as the Fragile Crescent Project, EAMENA, and UNOSAT-UNITAR assessments in partnership with UNESCO.

Beyond academia, Emma plays a leading role in the Blue Shield Movement. As Chair of its Conflict Working Group and part of the Secretariat of Blue Shield International, she coordinates global efforts to protect cultural heritage in conflict and disaster, working closely with civil and military actors worldwide.

**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.

**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.

**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 Ramihyah, 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.