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# Mainstreaming the concern for culture into peace, security, and humanitarian assistance



# The Role of UNESCO

- ❖ **Mission:** Contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information
- ❖ UNESCO is the only UN agency with a specific **mandate** in culture
- ❖ **Sets standards**, acting in the framework of its legal instruments:
  - **The 1954 Hague Convention** for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols
  - **The 1970 Convention** on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property
  - **The 1972 Convention** concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
  - **The 2001 Convention** on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
  - **The 2003 Convention** for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
  - **The 2005 Convention** on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
- ❖ **Mobilizes** international community
- ❖ Provides **coordination** and information sharing **platforms**
- ❖ Builds **capacity** and provides policy **advice**

By protecting culture and promoting cultural pluralism, UNESCO contributes to:

- ❖ Protecting **human rights**
- ❖ Preventing conflicts and **building peace**
- ❖ Upholding international **humanitarian law and security**
- ❖ Enhancing **resilience** and **building sustainability**
- ❖ Fostering **international cooperation and dialogue**

# Culture?

- Protecting culture and heritage is not about protecting monuments
- Identity, history, the sense of normalcy
- Ensuring full enjoyment of cultural rights through the participation to cultural life and the access to cultural heritage
- To strengthen resilience and social cohesion, promote dialogue, peace, and reconciliation



Al Nuri Mosque, Mosul, Feb. 2018 (UNESCO)

# Culture in crisis



Omayyad Mosque, Syria



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# Culture in crisis



Destruction of 14 Mausoleums, Timbuktu, Mali



# Culture in crisis



Nimrud & Mosul Museum, Iraq 2015



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# Culture in crisis



Taibul Tomb, Palmyra, Syria,  
November 2014



Christian homes marked with the letter « noun »

# Culture in crisis



Yezidi refugees, Iraq © Getty Images



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# Culture in crisis



# Role of culture in peace-building, rehabilitation and development

- Livelihood opportunities
- Psycho-social healing for trauma, restore memory and dignity.
- Promote inter-community reconciliation



# Working with partners outside the culture domaine

- ❖ Work with **Member States**
- ❖ Work with OHCHR, UNOCHA, UNOSAT, ICRC, ICC, INTERPOL, ICCROM, etc.
- ❖ United Nations **Security Council Resolutions**

Security Council hears calls for 'all of UN' approach to stop destruction, smuggling of cultural heritage

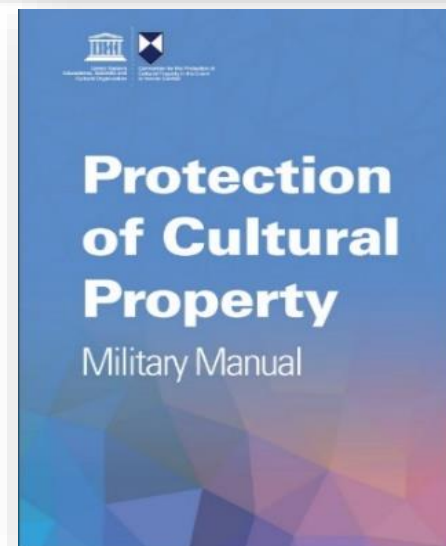


UN Photo/Rick Bajornas | Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO briefs the Security Council meeting on Maintenance of international peace and security, destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage by terrorist groups and in situations of armed conflict.

# Training and tools



Workshop for the MINUSMA staff (Mali)



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- Promote linkages between culture and human rights/cultural rights
- Understanding of the role of culture in emergency and humanitarian operations, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping
- Need for case studies
- Closer cooperation among culture sector, human rights sector, and humanitarian sector
- Tools for actors both in and outside culture and human rights domains

# Thank you

Learn more: [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

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