



Cultural rights and heritage in crisis, conflict and peace building

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Key findings and recommendations

Culture, heritage and cultural rights in peace & security, humanitarian and disaster relief approaches: exploring challenges and opportunities

A joint UNESCO and OHCHR Report

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Growing media attention to heritage in the crossfire

- Risks of collateral damage
- Targeted destruction
- International community responses
- Yet, what does this mean for the resolution emphasis on tools development?



Joseph Eid, AFP

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Growing, yet uneven attention to heritage and cultural rights in crisis

- “hidden” heritage bias
- Main **focus on the material, tangible and monument-oriented** perspectives
- Integration of intangible heritage, cultural identity and cultural rights largely **incipient**
- **Cultural rights disconnected** from mainstream crisis and peace-building action



Antonio Dasiparu/AFP/Getty Images

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Reuters

Recognizing the cultural (rights) dimension of crisis, conflict and peace building

- Humanitarian crisis and conflict: high levels of risk and protection needs
- Human rights violations, impunity and strong cultural dimension
- Heritage, cultural identities and diversity weakened, instrumentalized or neglected.
- Cultural rights undermined

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The missing cultural rights link

Cultural identity, ethnicity and religion often central to crisis and conflict from matters of recognition to matters of redistribution

Yet, cultural rights often neglected compared to both heritage questions and wider human rights issues.

Diversity even reduced to staff skill rather than a question of organizational capacity

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The *central* need for a holistic approach to cultural rights and heritage in crisis, conflict & peace building

- Integration of culture and cultural rights often piece-meal and marginal
- A narrow, often material, take on culture and heritage predominant
- Concepts of cultural property, cultural heritage and cultural rights are at times used interchangeably obscuring differences
- Holistic approach needed to address cultural and identity complexity, resources and resilience effectively

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We can do more together

- Building a cross-sectoral UN wide alliance on cultural rights in humanitarian crises, conflict and peace building
- Integrating cultural rights and heritage approaches essential for tools development
- Building on good practice: e.g. examples of cultural rights part in peace-building or humanitarian programmes
- Core modules introducing basic concepts and sub-sector specific capacity building: there is a real demand

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