

**THE NICOSIA CONVENTION:
A CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO OFFENCES RELATING TO CULTURAL PROPERTY**

National Library, 15 - 16 June
Riga, Latvia

**Damage to cultural heritage as a result of criminal
acts**

Kristian Schneider, vice president E.C.C.O.

**E.C.C.O. - European Confederation of Conservator-restorers'
Organisations**



War

Concept on Cultural heritage in conflicts and crises. A component for peace and security in European Union's external action

In numerous conflicts and crises around the world, **attacks on cultural heritage have been an instrument of symbolic violence**, both as a collateral as a direct target for belligerents who use the destruction of cultural heritage as a means to foster violence and hatred.



© AFP/Getty Images

Aleppo, since 2011



Stari Most Mostar, 1993



Ukraine, since 2022

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Terrorism

Concept on Cultural heritage in conflicts and crises. A component for peace and security in European Union's external action

In numerous conflicts and crises around the world, **attacks on cultural heritage have been an instrument of symbolic violence**, both as a collateral damage and as a direct target for belligerents who use the destruction of cultural heritage as a means to foster violence and hatred.



Al-Nuri M

Buddahs of

Mausuleums, Timbuktu



Theft

Communication from the commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

The three main illegal activities associated with trafficking in cultural goods are (1.) theft and robbery, (2.) looting (the illicit removal of ancient relics from archaeological sites, buildings or monuments and (3.) forgery of cultural goods.



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Illicit Trafficking

Sam Hardy, "Antiquities Looting under Regime, Rebels and Jihadists in Syria," Conflict Antiquities (blog)

By the time the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) conquered northern Iraq in the summer of 2014, the organization was already involved in trafficking antiquities. **Indeed, just about every faction in the Syrian conflict was already trafficking in antiquities** to help fund their activities, just as terrorists and insurgents had done previously in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Vandalism, Political Activism

Cultural heritage as a political and symbolic component in conflicts and crises

Cultural heritage is by nature politically sensitive, highly complex with a high degree of symbolic significance, emotionally charged and with a risk of political manipulation concerning its history, ownership and use.



Social unrest

Black Lives Matter



Climate Protest, 2022, London

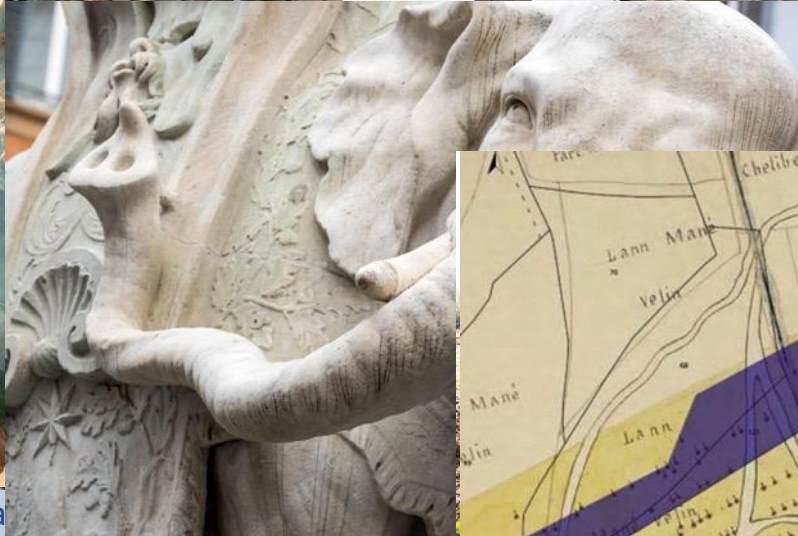
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Stupidity



Theater, La Fenice, Venice, 1996: a



Statue Little Elephant, Bernini



Menhirs du chemin, Carnac, 2023: building project



Physical Damage



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Context Damage



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Community Damage

OMC Report on Participatory Governance (2018)

- People and **society will benefit from new participatory governance** approaches to cultural heritage protection, involvement and management. And our **heritage will benefit when people and society discover new reasons for, and ways of, becoming involved in the care and use of cultural heritage**
- The focus of **cultural heritage policy is gradually shifting towards** balancing the protection of specific objects, collections, monuments and sites with **increasing their value to society.**



Community Damage

OMC Report on Participatory Governance (2018)

-The **involvement of all** interested parties in decision-making, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating cultural heritage policies and programmes can **increase public awareness of the values** that it represents, **reinforce transparency and accountability in the use of public resources, and build trust between citizens and public authorities**

Thank You!

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