

Call for photos for exhibition on the value of cultural heritage in times of conflict May/June 2014, The Hague

From 10 May until 15 June 2014 the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with the Municipality of The Hague, Blue Shield Netherlands and the Flemish UNESCO Commission, will launch an open air photo exhibition on heritage protection in times of conflict. The exhibition will be shown at the Lange Vijverberg in the city centre of The Hague, as part of the 60th anniversary of the UNESCO 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

Location

The exhibition will also travel to Belgium and potentially other European locations in summer and autumn 2014. A digital version of the exhibition will be published online at a website specifically created for this purpose.

Call for Photos

We are currently developing the content of the photo exhibition. For this, we invite organizations, voluntary groups and experts working in crisis, conflict and post-conflict situations to send in photographs to be displayed in this exhibition.

We are looking for photos that underline the message of the exhibition, namely

- *In times of conflict heritage is in great need of protection*
- *In times of armed conflict heritage often can only be saved due to the willingness and efforts of organizations and persons in these conflict areas striving for the protection of monuments, archives, libraries, collections etc.*
- *The important role heritage plays for persons and communities*
- *The value of heritage in conflict and post-conflict situations, especially for the rehabilitation of societies and in the peace building process.*

Aim

We are looking for photos that not only show the heritage endangered or the efforts for its protection, but that also refer to those persons and organizations involved. The images should emphasize the personal and emotional involvement that people have with their heritage.

The photo exhibition aims at highlighting the work of those organizations, groups and persons in crisis, conflict and post-conflict situations, that strive to protect cultural heritage under dangerous, tense and complicated circumstances.

Criteria for submission

- The photographic material should be available in high resolution (300dpi minimal, full-size of the original).
- Persons and organizations submitting the photos own the copy right of this material. With submission of the photos, they give permission to the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO to display the photographic material in the open air exhibition, as well as online. Naturally, the copy rights and the name of the photographer will be published. No financial contributions can be provided to the submitters for the usage of the material.
- Please send a maximum of three pictures, in low resolution, to info@unesco.nl, together with the following information: location, year and brief description.

Specific questions concerning the photos:

- The direct, dramatic impact on the public is essential: the story is mainly told in images. So please choose images that are clear at a glance.
- We prefer photographs on which people can be seen, together with (their) cultural heritage.
- In the exhibition we symbolize the bad (destruction) and the good (protection). The photos could include reference to demolished heritage, but preferably also visualize a message of hope (e.g. image of inhabitants restoring their heritage).
- Is there a good photograph available of cultural heritage that was saved in a recent war situation, thanks to international conventions and/or the help of organizations/local inhabitants?
- The exhibition will have a contemporary character. Nonetheless, we also welcome photo material that refers to past conflicts and crises.
- The images can depict different types of heritage: built heritage, museum collections, archives, libraries etc.
- In the exhibition we use the symbolic function of colours: red = danger, black = bad, white = good, blue/white is protection. It would be nice if these colours are prominent in the photographs.

The deadline is 21 February 2014. After the deadline a committee will make a selection of 20 photo's that will be displayed as part of this exhibition.

We look forward to receiving the material.

For questions or comments, please contact Koosje Spitz at info@unesco.nl