

ANNEX B: SELECTED U.S. ACTIVITIES TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONVENTION AND U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee (CHCC)

<https://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/cultural-heritage-coordinating-committee>

The U.S. Department of State established the CHCC in 2016 pursuant to the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (Public Law 114-151). The U.S. Government interagency partners of the CHCC include the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture (including the Forest Service), U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (including Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement), U.S. Department of the Interior (including the National Park Service), U.S. Department of Justice (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation), U.S. Department of the Treasury, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, and U.S. Agency for International Development. Activities of the CHCC include coordination among agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), professional organizations, and academic institutions to implement the Convention.

Guide to Heritage in Raqqa & Deir ez-Zor: A Training and Operations Aid for U.S. Military and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), 3 July 2017

The Guide to Heritage in Raqqa & Deir ez-Zor is a pocket-sized, illustrated training and operational aid for military personnel in English, Arabic, and Kurdish developed by the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative (SCRI), the Penn Cultural Heritage Center at the University of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield (USCBS), and the COCOM Cultural Heritage Action Group (CCHAG). Following the successful *Guide to Mosul Heritage* provided to the Coalition to retake Mosul in 2016, the Raqqa Guide familiarized U.S. military and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) personnel with basic information about cultural sites potentially at-risk during operations in and around Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor. Contents included information about the Convention, basic maps, coordinates, and images for selected sites. Both guides are included in Annex C: *Examples of Materials Used in U.S. Military Operations to Increase Awareness of Protections for Cultural Property*.

U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) Playing Cards Project

To help preserve the cultural heritage of four Central American countries (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador), the USCBS designed and produced decks of playing cards for distribution to USSOUTHCOM military personnel working in those countries. The cards include images of cultural objects and sites and relay information about the Convention. Funding for the project was provided by SCRI and facilitated by the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC).

Building Bridges: A Symposium on Global Cultural Heritage Preservation

On October 23-24, 2018, the CHCC hosted the symposium at the Smithsonian Institution. The symposium audience included government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, and funding organizations. The program included a panel on military training and awareness raising to implement the Convention.

Current Approaches to the Conservation of Conflict-Affected Heritage

On February 28, 2020, the Smithsonian Institution hosted the symposium, “Current Approaches to the Conservation of Conflict-Affected Heritage.” This conference brought together panelists who have addressed conflict-affected heritage through collaborative interventions, developing on-the-ground responses, or conducting much needed basic scientific studies. The symposium was organized by the SCRI, the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute, and the International Council of Museums Disaster Resilient Museum Committee and supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The conference included references to the Blue Shield and the Convention.

U.S. Army Monuments Officer Training

In October 2019, the Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (USACAPOC) signed an agreement to work collaboratively to assist U.S. military personnel and relevant U.S. departments and agencies with protection of cultural property and implementation of the Convention. The agreement received wide media attention, raising public awareness of the Convention.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/21/arts/design/new-monuments-men.html>

In September–October 2020, the Smithsonian and USACAPOC provided a series of online training sessions for 20 of USACAPOC’s 38G/6V Heritage and Preservation Officers and 5 international officers. The virtual public event, *Reinventing the Monuments Men and Women for the 21st-Century Force* on September 16, 2020, hosted more than 800 live attendees.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhHcm8rPkyE&t=392s>

U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield (USCBS)

<https://uscbs.org/>

USCBS is a non-governmental organization that has engaged in and collaborated with other organizations to bring the Convention to the attention of the U.S. public and publics throughout the world. USCBS Public Events (2017-2021) included:

- USCBS sponsored a panel discussion as part of the conference of the Lawyers’ Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation held in March 2017. The panel was “Human rights and law of armed conflict; the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention; possibilities for USCBS as a consulting organization to the new coordinating committee for cultural heritage protection [the Cultural Heritage Coordinating Committee in the US Department of State].” Speakers included USCBS President Dr. Nancy Wilkie; Knox Thames, Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South/Central Asia; Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State; and Elizabeth Varner, Staff Curator, U.S. Department of the Interior, Museum Program. More information can be found at: <http://www.culturalheritagelaw.org/event-2390951>.
- USCBS Board members participated and were interviewed in two documentary films. Both films were also screened at film festivals and online.
- In addition to appearing in the film, “Destruction of Memory” based on the book by Richard Bevan, produced by Tim Slade (<https://destructionofmemoryfilm.com/>), USCBS

Board members participated in panel discussions during screenings of the film including in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Siena (Italy).

- A USCBS board member participated in a screening in Minneapolis of “Stout Hearted: Documenting A Monumental Champion of Art,” produced by Kevin Kelley and Marie Wilkes (<https://www.iowasource.com/2019/04/02/stout-hearted-documenting-a-monumental-champion-of-art/>).
- USCBS members and Board members participated in presentations and round tables at the following programs:
 - Round table discussion held at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles on the subject of archaeology, conservation, and education in 2018
 - DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL. November 2017 conference, “Human Rights and Cultural Heritage: A New Paradigm”
 - “NATO, Cultural Heritage and the Way Forward” March 2021, Rome (virtual)
 - Smithsonian Institution and the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, April 2021 (online), presented a three-day celebration of women and their pivotal role in American preservation. The symposium featured three U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield Board Members, speaking on “Advocacy in Action,” “Law and Preservation” (focusing on the 1954 Hague Convention) and “Safekeeping Tomorrow” (virtual) (<https://dumbartonhouse.ticketleap.com/women-in-preservation-symposium/details>)
 - Archaeological Institute of America Nancy Wilkie Lectures in 2020-2021 were on the subject “Preserving the Past: Archaeological Heritage, the Art Market and Conflict in the Middle East” (virtual)
- Additional public lectures were given in person or virtually at:
 - U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
 - George Washington University
 - Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
 - University of Chicago
 - George Mason University
 - PLATO Society of Los Angeles
 - Johns Hopkins University
 - University of Pennsylvania
 - University of San Francisco.
- Lectures given outside of the United States included in Amman, Jordan; Berlin, Germany; Université de Saint Joseph, Beirut, Lebanon; the University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland; and the Leiden University, Leiden, The Netherlands.