

8th UN Global Colloquium of University Presidents
Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Challenges and Strategies
Yale University, April 12-13th, 2016

Scholars Session Recommendations for a “New Haven Declaration”

The faculty/scholar representatives of the universities participating at the 8th UN Global Colloquium agreed the following:

Recognizing that Cultural Heritage (CH) is essential to the UN mission of peace, security, sustainable development and human rights,

Deploring any loss of cultural heritage as a loss of our common memory impairing our ability to learn, to build experience, and to apply the lessons of the past to the present and the future,

Recognizing that cultural diversity, like biodiversity, plays a quantifiable and crucial part in the health of the human species,

Understanding that the destruction of CH is inseparable from the persecution of people and therefore a humanitarian imperative, a security, a development and a recovery issue over the long term,

Acknowledging that universities have a critical role in preserving and sharing knowledge and research and in instilling respect for CH and diversity,

Understanding that the energy and idealism of young people is needed to tackle major threats to human wellbeing,

Responding to the call of the UN and UNESCO to strengthen international cooperation and taking preventive measures to better protect CH,

Together, and now, universities can deliver value to global efforts to preserve cultural heritage at risk. The undersigned scholars recommend that universities engage in a collaborative pursuit of three long-term goals in the academic key areas of education, research and advocacy:

Education - Develop the preservation of CH as a trans-disciplinary academic discipline by

Establishing educational academic exchanges so everyone can learn about the world’s cultures and develop collective cultural competence,

Creating a scholarly compendium as a learning tool to demonstrate the significance of CH preservation in the diversity of world perspectives, and

Building trans-disciplinary learning modules for a curriculum on CH preservation that connects research and learning underpinned by sustainable development principles

Research – Support collaborative research in natural, human and social sciences, business and law that promote sustainability in preservation practice for CH by

Increasing collaborative efforts in collecting data, setting standards, advancing digital technology for CH preservation across the humanities and sciences,

Studying the social, economic, and human factors that undermine or lead to responsible stewardship and the role of CH in delivering social cohesion and economic prosperity,

Improving the sustainability of conservation through collaborative research on understanding and preventing damage and destruction to CH, and developing solutions that are sustainable in terms of environmental, economic and social impact, and

Rendering university edifices more porous and reaching out to communities and local stakeholders, by engaging in research that connects universities and practitioners.

Advocacy - Engage and inform policy-makers and the society at large by rendering data and information on CH and its preservation more available and accessible by

Interfacing with Intergovernmental and other International Organizations to better link university education and research to the international context for conservation,

Collaborating with local, regional, and national governments, as well as NGOs and private philanthropy to increase funding for CH preservation, and

Promoting effective public policy governing the preservation of and access to CH resources supported by free, open and timely access to scholarship, research and data.

Signatories:

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