



20th Anniversary UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

As we blow out 20 birthday cake candles, we wish for the Convention...

Safeguarding practices to become more prominent and visible
To empower communities and to inspire worldwide
A stage to showcase the value of ICH
As well as their bearers

We foresee UNESCO as a true advocate for ICH communities
By encouraging policy makers throughout all levels of government
To include the needs of ICH communities in various areas
But foremost in the public space

To even better come to this goal
We should build bridges between the ICH NGO Forum and State Parties
Enhancing and showcasing the NGO's experiences and good practices
All for a better understanding of ICH communities, their challenges.

We see the work that has been done
To work on more accessible international lists
But let's continuously reflect:
For who is the system working and who is still missing?

And what about climate inequality?
Such a direct threat for ICH communities and their safeguarding practices
Let us put upfront the new purposes of various ICH practices
Useful to our ancestors, useful today

In the Netherlands our ambition
Is to find a closer relationship with ICH communities
To not feel like we stand afar from them, but to speak their language
Welcome and support them through more local heritage partners

Reflecting continuously on inventorying ICH
Are the pathways we offer to the Inventory inclusive?
How is institutional racism still present in our systems today?
All communities in the Netherlands should benefit from this safeguarding-tool

A beginning has been made
More and more municipalities and heritage institutions
Have come to realise the social and cultural wealth of ICH
This celebration of ICH has only just begun!