

***Leaving No-one Behind: Intangible Cultural Heritage and Disability Inclusion***  
ICH NGO Forum Symposium 2025

**PRACTICAL INFO**

**Date:** Sunday, 7 December, 2025, 09:00 - 16:00 (GMT+5:30)

**Location:** UNESCO 20.COM Venue - Red Fort Delhi, India

Join online via zoom: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/86093812069>

In the current geopolitical context of rising global polarisation and uncertainty, intangible cultural heritage—the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, and skills transmitted through the generations—can foster intercultural respect and international dialogue.

Developing further the research questions and themes of last year's symposium on *Participatory Approaches to Living Heritage: NGO Perspectives*, this year we look at the topic of inclusivity with a particular focus on disability inclusion. Drawing on the 2018 [UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](#), we invite participants to reflect on the interrelations between living heritage practices and disability as emerging in local, regional, national and international fields.

**PROGRAMME**

**09:00 – 9:30. Welcome Speeches & Opening Remarks**

By Professor Amareswar Galla, Fumiko Ohinata, Alain Muneean & Tamara Nikolic Djerić

**9:30 – 11:00. Session 1. Living Heritage and Disability Inclusion**

*Moderation by Alain Muneean and Madhura Dutta*

*(Presentations of 10 mins with 5 mins Q&A)*

Keremane Shivananda Hegde, Shri Idagunji Mahaganapati Yakshagana Mandali Keremane  
*Yakshagana for All: Inclusive Practices in Safeguarding a Living Heritage*. India

Hager Mustafa Mohamed Ahmed, Raquda Foundation for Art and Heritage. *Inclusive Approaches to Living Heritage: A Case Study from Raquda*. Egypt

Panayiotis Theodorou, Politistiko Ergastiri Ayon Omoloyiton. *The term Chorostasi and its reflecting paradigm in the inclusivity of safeguarding and transmission of cultural heritage of dance, music, expression and ethos*. Cyprus

Lynn Wong, Inheritance, *Living Heritage, inclusive future. Award winning social innovations for active ageing and disability participation*. Singapore

Shinwha Hong, Centre for Intangible Culture Studies (CICS). *Bridging Silence and Heritage: Integrating Intangible Cultural Craft into Deaf Education Programs*. Republic of Korea

Sainbayar Urtnasan, Foundation for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage. *Inclusion of Persons with Visual Disabilities in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Mongolia*. Mongolia

**11:00 - 11:15. Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 12:15. Panel 1. Reflections and Experiences on Exclusion from Living Heritage**

*Moderation by Alain Muneean and Madhura Dutta*

Jorijn Neyrinck, Workshop Intangible Heritage. *Including Diverse Abilities into Living Heritage Safeguarding and Networks: sharing approaches and experiences. Combining tailored support for persons with disabilities with broader inclusion in safeguarding efforts in Flanders*. Flanders, Belgium

Pier Luigi Petrillo, Jasmin Jalil, Giada Tortora, Sara Di Luca, UNESCO Chair on Intangible Cultural Heritage and Comparative Law Unitelma Sapienza University of Rome. *Beyond Accessibility: Disability-Inclusive Approaches to Safeguarding ICH as a Human Right*. Italy

Y.H Chishi, Indigenous Cultural Society Dimapur Nagaland. *Safeguarding Living Heritage Through Community Participations: Its significance to Persons with Disabilities*. India

Martin Andrade-Perez, Fundación Erigaie. *Living (heritage) with disabilities: a real possibility. Experiences from Colombia*. Colombia

### **12:15-13:15. Lunch**

**13:15 - 13:30. Presentation of FLAME** a/ Arno Beunen, Jorijn Neyrinck and Océane Lesot - European Centre for the Safeguarding of Living Heritage: working towards a new UNESCO Category 2 Centre (in Belgium), with a special focus on advancing inclusion

### **13:30 - 14:30. Session 2. Tools and Strategies for Empowering Participation of Disabled People through Inclusive Heritage Practices**

*Moderation by Sona Tomaç and Martin Andrade*

*(In Person presentations 8mins + 2mins Q&A)*

Gevher Celebi, International Mevlana Foundation. *Safeguarding the Living Heritage of Mevlevi Music: the Case of Mr. Kani Karaca*. Turkey

Sekou Berte/ Alain Muneean, Mali Cultural Heritage Agency. *ICH, a sustainable social cohesion tool: a cursory anthropological glance from Mali*. Mali

### **Online Interventions, 5mins**

Uğur Türker, Anatolian Handicrafts Conservation and Development Association ANELSANDER. *ICH Inclusive Safeguarding Approaches: Experiences and Recommendations from Türkiye*. Turkey

Saymon Zakaria, Vabnagar Foundation. *Voices Beyond Vision: Inclusion of Visually Impaired Artists in the Revival of Bangladesh's Intangible Musical Heritage*. Bangladesh

Adel Moussa, Nubian Heritage Society. *Community-led Safeguarding of Nubian Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Participatory Model for Inclusion*. Egypt

Masha Vukanovic, World Music Association of Serbia. *Applying Human Rights Based Approach in developing online tool for registering Living Human Treasures*. Serbia

Mochamad Ilham, Universitas Jember, *Inclusive Heritage Policy and Community-Based Safeguarding: Disability Perspectives from Pandalungan Culture in East Java*, Indonesia.

Hernowo Muliawan, Stuppa Foundation. *The Role and Access of Persons with Disabilities in Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Indonesia*. Indonesia

Augustus Babajide Ajibola, Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding. *Fractured minds, broken world: breathing life into living heritage through diversity, equality and inclusiveness*. Nigeria

Dr. Rachel Gefferie, Cultural and Community Organisation NAKS, Suriname. *Strengthening the Economic Resilience of Teenage Mothers through the ICH training, 'Angisa binden'*

**14:30 - 14:45. Coffee Break**

**14:45 - 15:45. Panel 2. Reflections on Inclusive Practices within NGOs and between NGOs and Communities.** Moderation by Ananya Bhattacharya and Valentina Zingari

Mary Lewis, Heritage Crafts. *Broadening participation and inclusion in heritage crafts: an intersectional approach*, UK

Ananya Bhattacharya, Contact Base. *How Heritage Includes & Empowers - Experiences from Purulia*. India

Dorina-Maria Ivan, Fundación Casa Taller. *Cultural Rights as Human Rights: Disability Inclusion and Living Heritage in Panama*. Panama

**15:45. Closing**