ICHNGO FORUM

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

WORKING GROUP ON LEGAL AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT OF THE ICH NGO FORUM

Presents a webinar on:

Living Heritage under Fire – presenting the Interim Report of the International Law Association Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict

17 November 2026 at 3 pm CET

The four Geneva Conventions 1949 codifying the customary law of armed conflict prohibit the destruction or seizure of enemy cultural property except when justified by military necessity, while Additional Protocol I (1977) further prohibits attacks on the civilian population and strictly civilian infrastructure and industry. UNESCO's 1954 'Hague' Convention (1954) prohibits causing damage to or destruction of cultural heritage (including religious and historic buildings) in Article 4 which is regarded as a harm to the international community as a whole (Preamble). Although intangible cultural heritage is a newcomer to this legal picture, there is increasing interest in finding ways to apply this law to that heritage, and to use other legal avenues for this. The roles of NGOs and other civil society actors are also an important question for us to consider here.

Despite these and broader human rights protections, both tangible and intangible cultural heritage remain extremely vulnerable to damage, destruction and disappearance in times of armed conflicts, both internal or international. The work of the Committee on Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Armed Conflict of the International Law Association and its remit to examine the current legal regime, its gaps and weaknesses and potentials for development and/or more effective enforcement is therefore extremely timely. The Committee's Interim Report and future work will be presented in this webinar.

Zoom link to the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85833177667

meeting-ID: 858 3317 7667

PRESENTERS



Kristin Hausler

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Kristin Hausler leads research projects anchored in cultural heritage matters, including legislative reviews of heritage laws in transitional contexts in the Middle East and Africa and studies aimed at strengthening the protection of heritage, such as 'Culture Under Fire' which engaged armed groups in the safeguarding of heritage. Kristin has provided training on heritage protection for police officers for ICCROM/INTERPOL and for military and peacekeepers in Africa for UNESCO, as well as on the prosecution of heritage crimes for Ukrainian prosecutors. Her latest book, entitled 'Beyond Restitution: Exploring the Stories of Cultural Objects after their Return', was published in an open-access format by Hart in August 2025.



Andrzej Jakubowski

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Andrzej Jakubowski holds a PhD in International Law from the European University Institute in Florence and a master's degree in Art History from the University of Warsaw. He has held positions in international legal societies, including Chair of the International Law Association (ILA) Committee on Participation in Global Cultural Heritage Governance (2017–2022) and is Vice-Chair of the Cultural Heritage and the Arts Interest Group of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and Co-Convener of the European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on International Law of Culture. He is the author of *State Succession in Cultural Property* (Oxford University Press, 2015) and editor or co-editor of several volumes including *The 1970 UNESCO and 1995 UNIDROIT Conventions on Stolen or Illegally Transferred Cultural Property: A Commentary* (Oxford University Press, 2024).