

Heritage is universal – Peace is universal



Joint statement from the European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners on the current situation in Ukraine

Weimar, March, 1st, 2022

The European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners throughout Europe express their stern condemnation about the violent and irrational aggression caused by the Russian state against Ukraine.

The European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners stand in absolute solidarity with the population and the civil society in Ukraine, especially with our partners and friends in the country, who are currently enduring the unbearable onslaught of a senseless war that has befallen upon their sovereign nation. We include in our solidarity our friends and the civil society activists in Russia, who are bravely opposing the vicious actions taken by their government against European peace.

The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declares that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” Echoing this affirmation, the European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners have worked determinedly for three decades to create spaces for international exchange and intercultural cooperation, where peace can be built on the basis of shared European values, dialogue and solidarity. This network of committed partner institutions, organisations and initiatives, heritage professionals, heritage enthusiasts and civil society activists from the wide European cultural space has embraced in their activities the principles of pan-European cooperation, and firmly stands for the belief that the shared history and culture of Europe should be understood as a unifying bond that transcends the shallow differences that may seem to set them apart.

Ukraine has been historically a melting pot of cultures and a corridor for countless ideas, influences and exchanges which is reflected in its wealthy cultural heritage at the heart of Europe. Its history has been closely intertwined with that of its neighbours, and this undeniable connection serves as proof of the permeability of cultural borders between European nations and countries. Europe’s diverse and multilayered history and Ukraine’s and Russia’s remarkable places within Europe’s history make today a loud and inescapable call for peace between them as well as beyond the region.

Modern Europe is an amalgamation of communities that have chosen the path of peace after tumultuous times of conflicts that saw two world wars in the span of a single generation. This traumatic birth of the current, modern, peace-based Europe is the reason behind a collective impulse towards solidarity, unity and freedom that form the core of European values. For this reason, the European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners join together with many voices around Europe and the globe urging for a prompt resolution to this absurd aggression and violence.

European Heritage Volunteers and its partners want to remind on the occasion of the current war also other armed conflicts in Europe and beyond which caused countless victims among the civil society and dramatic loss of cultural heritage.

The European Heritage Volunteers Network and its partners will continue to work together to promote avenues for peaceful exchange and trans-border connections built upon the colorful and rich diversity that permeates European tangible and intangible cultural heritage. We hope that this effort continues to sow the seed of pan-European cooperation and can assist in the construction of a stronger sense and understanding of the diverse, but common historical identity of all Europeans.

Signatories

Akhalgazrda arqeologta sazogadoeba · Society of Young Archaeologists · Georgia

ARAE Patrimonio y Restauración · ARAE Heritage and Restoration · Spain

Asociación La Cultora · Association La Cultora · Spain

Asociația ARCHÉ · ARCHÉ Association · Romania

Centar Kulturnih Dobra · Centre for Cultural Heritage · Serbia

Centrul European Pentru Întâlnirea Tineretului - Biserica Cetate Hosman · Association European Youth Centre Hosman · Romania

Churchfortress - Friends of Hundertbücheln / Movile · Romania

Complexul Național Muzeal ASTRA · ASTRA Museum Complex · Romania

Denkmal – Europäische Leitmesse für Denkmalpflege, Restaurierung und Altbausanierung · Denkmal Fair – Europe's Leading Trade Fair for Conservation, Restoration and Old Building Renovation · Germany

Denkmalfreunde Waldlust · Waldlust Monument Friends · Germany

Etaireia Spartiatikwn Spoudwn · Spartan Studies Society · Greece

European Heritage Volunteers · Germany

Facultat de Geografia i Història Universitat de València · Faculty of Geography University of Valencia · Spain

Fundacja Chroniæ Dobro · The Foundation to Protect The Good · Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec · Poland

Fundația Biserici Fortificate · Fortified Churches Foundation · Romania

Heritage Education Network Belize · United States of America

Hillersche Villa - Soziokultur im Dreiländereck · Germany

Horishte · Association Horishte · Bulgaria

Këshilli i Kosovës për Trashëgimi Kulturore · Kosovo Council for the Cultural Heritage · Kosovo

Lietuvos liaudies buities muziejus · Open-Air Museum of Lithuania · Lithuania

Máster en Conservación del Patrimonio Arquitectónico Universidad Politécnica de Valencia · Master's Degree in Architectural Conservation and Heritage · Polytechnic University of Valencia · Spain

Máster en Patrimonio Cultural: Identificación, Análisis y Gestión Universitat de València · Master's Degree in Cultural Heritage: Identification, Analysis and Management · University of Valencia · Spain

Offene Häuser · Open Houses · Germany

OZ Hrad Tematín · Tematín Castle Association · Slovakia

Prijatelji baštine - Amici hereditatis · Friends of Heritage · Croatia

ReStructure Heritage · Spain

Sagalunds Museistiftelse · The Sagalund Museum Foundation · Finland

Steinzeitpark Dithmarschen · Stone Age Park Dithmarschen · Germany

Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin · Germany

Verein für Kulturdenkmale Freudenstadt · Freudenstadt Cultural Monuments Association · Germany

Welterbe Montanregion Erzgebirge · Ore Mountains World Heritage Association · Germany

Žemųjų Šančių bendruomenė · Žemųjų Sanciai community · Lithuania

