Blue Shield Australia Symposium
National Library of Australia, Canberra
29 – 30 January 2018

The Blue Shield: past, present, and future – an international perspective

Peter Stone

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Protection of cultural heritage: Very topical…

UN Security Council Resolutions

1483 (2003) - on post Saddam Iraq

2199 (2017) - on security and terrorism

2347 (2017) - on the destruction of cultural heritage in armed conflict

> *"Deplores and condemns the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage … as well as the looting and smuggling of cultural property … in the context of armed conflicts …"*

2368 (2017) - on terrorism

Global warming

Sustainable Development Goals

Sendai

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

What went wrong in Iraq (and elsewhere...)

- Not enough troops deployed
- Failure to comprehend possible post conflict scenarios
- Failure to understand importance of cultural heritage and historical relationships
- **Failure of heritage community to engage with the military**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

The Blue Shield

- Emblem mentioned in 1954 Hague Convention
- ICBS created in 1996 as an international organisation with national committees
- Failed regarding Iraq
- ANCBS created in 2008
- Amalgamated in 2016 as simply The Blue Shield
- ICBS & ANCBS no longer exist

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

The Blue Shield – post 2016

- Works primarily within context of 1954 Hague Convention but more generally the UN's and UNESCO's strategic agenda
- All cultural property – sites, historic buildings, museums, libraries, archives… intangible heritage
- Non-governmental, non-profit, independent, impartial, neutral, and mainly volunteer-based
- "Cultural equivalent of the Red Cross/Crescent"?

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

The Blue Shield

"[The Blue Shield] is committed to the protection of the world's cultural property, and is concerned with the protection of cultural and natural heritage, tangible and intangible, in the event of armed conflict, natural- or human-made disaster."

(Article 2.1 2016 Statutes)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

The Blue Shield – Newcastle (UK) role

- 2003 PGS archaeological advisor to UK MoD re Iraq – significant criticism
- 2012 became involved in Blue Shield
- University supported work with additional travel funding
- 2015 University applied for UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection & Peace
- One of main objectives: the creation of an effective Blue Shield
- Chair established in Jan 2016
- June 2017 University made funding available for 1.5 staff to support the work of the Chair (until 31 Dec 2019)
- Searching for medium/long-term funding (not necessarily at Newcastle)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Why expand away from 1954 Hague Convention?

- Both armed conflict and environmental disaster require working with uniformed services – **we** need **them** in both situations
- Primary threat is different across the world
- Both situations require same base-line data:
  - Why? What? When? Who? Where? How?
- Both require major communications action:
  - Politicians
  - Military & other uniform services
  - General Public
  - Heritage community

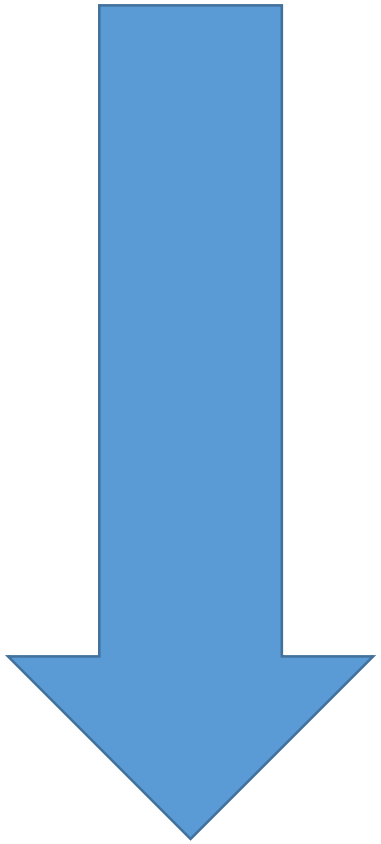
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace · uniTwin · Newcastle University

“The Military”

- Personnel
- Intelligence
- Operations
- Engineers
- Planning
- Communications
- Training
- Finance
- Civilian/military co-operation

Military need

- Personnel
- Intelligence
- Operations
- Engineers
- Planning
- Communications
- Training
- Finance
- Civilian/military co-operation



Legal & CPP

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Australia: Hague Convention & Blue Shield

Australia

- Ratified the 1954 Hague Convention in 1984
- Still to ratify both the first (1954) and second (1999) Protocols

Australian Blue Shield

- Formed in 2005
- Tends to emphasise environmental disasters

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Australian military deployments since WWII

- Occupation of Japan (1946–51)
- Malayan Emergency (1948–1960)
- Korean War (1950–1953)
- Indonesian Confrontation (1963–1966)
- Vietnam War (1965–1973)
- Gulf War (1990–1991)
- Afghan War (2001–)
- Iraq War (2003–2009)
- East Timor (2006–2013)
- Syria, Iraq and ? Dahesh war (2014–)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Australian peacekeeping deployments since WWII

- Kashmir
- Cyprus
- Lebanon
- Somalia
- Western Sahara
- Solomon Islands
- Bougainville

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Blue Shield Approach - six areas of activity

1. Co-ordination (*of* Blue Shield and *with* other relevant organisations)

2. Policy Development (such as the 'Approach')

3. Proactive protection and risk preparedness

4. Education, training, and capacity building

5. Emergency response

6. Post-disaster recovery and long-term support

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

Issues relating to environmental disaster

- Haiti
  - Resentment from other humanitarian NGOs of Blue Shield presence
- Christchurch
  - Heritage laws suspended to enable quicker reconstruction
- Japan
  - Local community focus on cultural heritage
- Caribbean
  - UK totally failed to protect cultural heritage
  - No CPP awareness in planning/training
  - No base-line data
- France
  - Troops evacuating people already

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace
uniTwin
Newcastle University

Disaster relief: Caribbean 2018?

We are only a few months away from the 2018 season

Must do better:

- Planning
- Training
- Seat on the plane

Resources:

- Armed forces - esp. Engineering; Logistics
- Heritage community

USA achieved CPP response during the crisis phase

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

Proactive Protection: Libya

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

Newcastle University

Military getting the message

- Exchange of letters with NATO re training & development of doctrine

- Training links with USAF

"*Conducting targeted strikes on two small portions of the wall allowed Coalition and partner forces to breach the Old City at locations of their choosing, denied ISIS the ability to use pre-positioned mines, IED and VBIEDs, protected SDF and civilian lives, and preserved the integrity of the greatest portion of the wall. The portions targeted were 25-meter sections and will help preserve the remainder of the overall 2,500-meter wall*".

Major General Rupert Jones, Raqqah, 3 July 2017

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace · uniTwin · Newcastle University

UNESCO

"Building peace in the minds of men and women"

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

ABOUT US | THEMES | COUNTRIES | PARTNERSHIPS | JOIN US | RESOURCES

Home › All News › Karima Bennoune: Cultural heritage is a human rights issue

Karima Bennoune: Cultural heritage is a human rights issue

Karima Bennoune

25 October 2016

"Cultural heritage is significant in the present, both as a message from the past and as a pathway to the future. Viewed from a human rights perspective, it is important not only in itself, but also in relation to its human dimension," Karima Bennoune says. As UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, she decided to address the intentional destruction of cultural heritage as an urgent priority. Her first thematic report to the UN General Assembly, which she presents to the United Nations General Assembly, on 27 October 2016, is devoted to that issue. Read her contribution to our *Wide angle* topics.

The report's primary message is that cultural heritage is a human rights issue to which we must take a human rights approach. Beyond safeguarding an object or a manifestation in itself, a human rights approach obliges one to take into account the rights of individuals and populations in relation to them. It is impossible to separate a people's cultural heritage from the people itself and their rights.

RELATED LINKS

- Ending Impunity for War Crimes on Cultural Heritage: The Mali Case
- UNESCO Director-General and ICC President reaffirm joint commitment to end impunity for deliberate destruction of heritage
- UNESCO Director-General welcomes opening of trial on the destruction of heritage in Timbuktu

PROJECTS

- Wide Angle

MEDIA SERVICES

All News

Wide Angle

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University

Blue Shield – the future

- New website – April 2018
- Central office with permanent staff
  - Influencing politicians, international agencies, the military, and ANSA
  - Supporting national committees
  - Coherent, effective message
- All States Parties to the 1954 Convention to have a national committee of Blue Shield
- All countries to ratify *and implement* 1954 Hague Convention and Protocols
- Integrated approach with uniformed service *partners*
- Cultural equivalent of the Red Cross/Crescent – ***absolutely***!
- To make armed conflict more humane

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace

uniTwin

Newcastle University