

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Charter for Safeguarding Sites



**INTERNATIONAL
HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE
ALLIANCE**



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About the IHRA

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance, and promote Holocaust education, remembrance, and research worldwide and uphold the commitments of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration and the 2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration.

About this Resource and Contributions

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites guides stakeholders in exhibiting good practice when safeguarding sites of the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma. In doing so, it helps protect all authentic sites of the Holocaust and ensures the future of remembrance, upholding the IHRA's vision of a world that remembers the Holocaust. A world without genocide.

IHRA experts worked on this resource over the course of five years, beginning in 2019. It would not have been possible without the many contributions offered by IHRA delegates representing all Member Countries. Special gratitude goes to the project group: Project Chair Gilly Carr (United Kingdom), Project Deputy Chair Steven Cooke (Australia), Bruno Boyer (France), Ilja Ļenskis (Latvia), Anna Míšková (Czech Republic), Nevena Bajalica (Serbia), Frédéric Crahay (Belgium), Dubravka Đurić Nemeč (Croatia), Karel Fracapane (UNESCO), Paul Isaac Hagouel (Greece), Anette Homlong Storeide (Norway), Adam Kerpel-Fronius (Germany), Thomas Lutz (Germany), Ljiljana Radonić (Austria), Jean-Philippe Restoueix (Council of Europe), Frank Schroeder (Luxembourg), Martin Winstone (United Kingdom), and former project members Alicja Białocka (Poland), Werner Dreier (Austria), Martina Maschke (Austria), Kamilė Rupeikaitė (Lithuania), Zoltán Tóth-Heinemann (Hungary), Heidemarie Uhl (Austria), and Christian Wee (Norway).

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The project was coordinated by Julana Bredtmann (2019–2020) and Natalie Harshman (2020–2023) at the IHRA Permanent Office.

The IHRA Charter for Safeguarding Sites is dedicated to the late Dr. Heidemarie Uhl, who served on the Austrian Delegation to the IHRA for more than two decades. Dr. Uhl was a committed colleague, who supported the project's work since its onset. Her contribution to the field of Holocaust research and remembrance, and to the IHRA Charter, will not be forgotten.

“Safeguard the historical record of the Holocaust, the genocide of the Roma, and the persecution of other victims by Nazi Germany and those fascist and extreme nationalist partners and other collaborators who participated in these crimes.”

2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration, Article 9

Dr. Kathrin Meyer

IHRA Secretary General

The testimonies of Holocaust survivors provide the world with unparalleled insight into the past. They lie at the core of Holocaust remembrance, imparting knowledge beyond what books alone can convey.



In the same vein, Holocaust sites are silent witnesses to the horrors of the Holocaust, leaving an indelible impact on those who visit them. Sites deliver a poignant message, simultaneously educating and cautioning humanity about the terrible events that transpired there.

At a time when survivors are passing, this message takes on even greater significance. Holocaust sites play a pivotal role in keeping the memory of Holocaust survivors and witnesses alive. It is precisely because of this role that sites must be protected now and for future generations.

Sites are now reaching or surpassing 80 years old and all of them face unprecedented challenges. In 2018, the IHRA recognized this as an ongoing significant issue requiring concrete attention

despite past commitments to ensure preservation. Over the years, our expert community worked to identify and assess the risks, and to outline solutions, best practices, and policies for all countries dealing with sites of the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma.

It is an honor to see this work realized in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites.

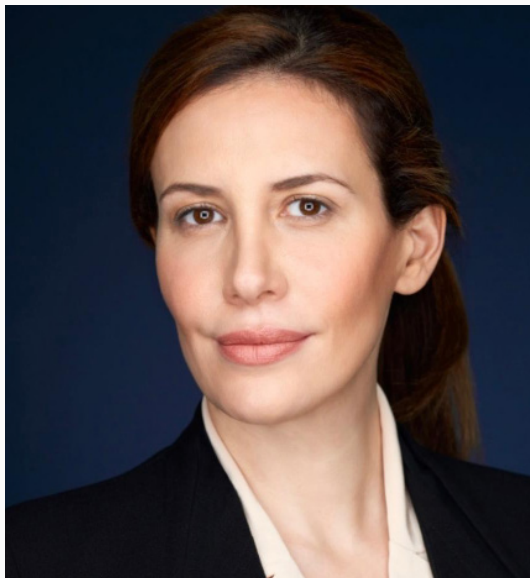
When the IHRA Stockholm Declaration was signed 23 years ago, the newly founded IHRA still had many survivors to guide us as we worked towards a world that remembers the Holocaust. One of those survivors, Sir Ben Helfgott, was there to witness the commitments made in Stockholm and later became a member of the UK delegation to the IHRA. A few months before the IHRA Charter was finalized, Sir Helfgott passed away – an immense loss to the IHRA community and to the world.

The passing of Sir Helfgott underscores the urgent need to usher in the next generation of remembrance: one that ensures the enduring memory of survivors and victims into the future.

Sara Lustig

Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
for Holocaust Issues and Combating Antisemitism,
Co-Chair of the 2023 Croatian IHRA Presidency

As a descendant of Holocaust survivors, I have a complicated relationship with authentic sites of the Shoah. This goes back to the first time I visited Auschwitz-Birkenau.



In December 1992, I was twelve years old, and I was visiting my father in Krakow, Poland. He took my mother and me to Auschwitz, a camp that he had survived as prisoner #A-3317. He showed us the gas chambers and told us about the showers my grandmother took within similar rooms and how she survived the camp's cruelties, while other Jews from Čakovec and Osijek did not. He showed us personal items of the victims, all the while saying, "somewhere there I am sure you can still find my suitcase." What I remember most about that day was his urgency in testifying about his damaged youth, fully aware that he had walked out of Bergen-Belsen when he was the same age that I was during that visit. Yet, to my father, being at Auschwitz-Birkenau with his family, where he would film *Schindler's List* a few months later, was proof of life.

I am humbled to be a part of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites. As the Co-Chair of the IHRA, the past year has been about creating the *Future of Remembrance*, but it has also been about reaffirming my belief that there will always be proof of life, even at sites of certain death. In the adoption of the IHRA Charter, I have been guided by the words my father wrote in 2009. Our joint mission and work has been my intimate memorial to my father. Thank you for helping me fulfil the promises I made to all those who taught me about compassion and survival.

“I struggled through life alone. I survived because I believed I would survive. I wish I could say that love keeps you going. I cannot say that. But, I can say something else: compassion. Compassion for men just like you, which sometimes appeared in some men who were monsters.

The world that I entered labelled me with the Jewish sign that I wore, the Star of David, and the tattooed number from the camp. Hungry, with my eyes wide open, I looked over the barbed-wire fence into uncertainty, understanding much later that they had forever robbed me of my youth, childhood games, and dreams.

And then, still completely unaware of my willpower and abilities, I decided that I would build an *intimate memorial* for the people I had met, or about who I later learned had turned into smoke and ashes; turn their dreams into film, and show to the world the pain and the shame, the consequences of the war into which I, like many others, was dragged into by force, and survived.”

Branko Lustig, 2009

The IHRA Plenary, on 30 November 2023,

In the spirit of its founding document, the 2000 Stockholm Declaration, in which we committed to uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it, and to encourage appropriate forms of Holocaust remembrance;

Honoring the 2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration and its promise to safeguard the record and identify, preserve, and make available authentic sites (Articles 9, 10, and 12);

Recalling the 2012 International Memorial Museums Charter, which calls for pluralistic cultures of remembrance, guided by a spirit of cooperation instead of competition, positive values as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as protection of sites from political interference by broadly anchoring them in a diverse and inclusive civil society;

Respecting the ethical principles outlined in the 2012 International Memorial Museums Charter, which require a high standard of professionalism, using scientific methods and the presentation of historical information intended to encourage visitors to empathize with the victims and victimized groups, while honoring scholarly principles of discourse and providing multiple perspectives, and further ensuring exhibitions should not overwhelm or indoctrinate visitors, but should rather incorporate self-criticism and foster a culture of remembrance;

Adopted the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites.**

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Charter for Safeguarding Sites¹ honors the IHRA's commitments as part of the Stockholm Declaration and the 2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration to "safeguard the historical record of the Holocaust,² the genocide of the Roma,³ and the persecution of other victims by Nazi Germany and those fascist and extreme nationalist partners and other collaborators⁴ who participated in these crimes" (Article 9).

The IHRA Charter is primarily aimed at IHRA Member Countries⁵ and is applicable to relevant sites of significance in any country. The IHRA encourages other countries where

similar sites of significance exist to acknowledge the responsibilities and apply these principles and practices.

The IHRA has adopted this Charter, which contains principles, responsibilities, and recommended good practices to promote the safeguarding of Holocaust sites, sites of the genocide of the Roma, and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators.⁶

As the last generation of survivors leaves us, the sites themselves are among the last remaining witnesses to these crimes and must be protected for the future.

Preamble⁷

Recognizing that Holocaust sites and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators are many and varied, the IHRA Charter focuses on sites such as: extermination camps, centers, and sites, concentration camps, internment camps, transit camps, forced labor camps, prisoner-of-war camps, destroyed settlements, sites of deportation, ghettos, sites of pogroms, prisons, “euthanasia” killing sites, sites of “medical experimentation,” mass graves and killing sites, death march routes, and other sites of crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, as well as associated places of hiding or escape, but also houses and accommodation of the perpetrators, which are significant in and for the history of the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma. The IHRA Charter is also applicable to sites of significance of other victims of persecution by the Nazis and their collaborators. While legislation to protect sites varies between different jurisdictions, many of these sites are neither included on heritage registers nor protected by appropriate legislation.

Some of these sites are memorials of local, national, or international importance. Some are classed as “museums,” some may be marked with a commemorative plaque, while others are left unmarked, have an alternative use,

or have not yet been rediscovered. These sites have long faced specific challenges due to this history, which often means that safeguarding them presents additional complexities compared to other historic sites. This specificity includes Holocaust denial and distortion.

Noting that these sites relating to the Holocaust and crimes committed by the Nazis and their collaborators are places of multiple victim groups, this Charter focuses on the sites themselves rather than listing victim groups in anticipation that the IHRA Charter will be applicable to victims and sites beyond those stipulated here.

We encourage each Member Country’s successive governments, public authorities at all levels, and others responsible for the care of these sites today and in the future, regardless of political affiliation, to recognize the importance of safeguarding the significance of these sites and to manage changes that these sites face in the future, for the remembrance of the victims and survivors, and for the educational benefit of future generations.

Article 1: Safeguarding Principles

Article 1 concerns the fundamental reasons for safeguarding sites and reminds us of the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of ICOM.⁸ Therefore, this Charter should be used in conjunction with the IHRA's International Memorial Museums Charter⁹ with particular attention paid to the ethical principles for safeguarding historical sites, which are oriented towards the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ethical principles of ICOM.

- 1.1. In order to foster a responsible record of history and to further cultural cooperation between stakeholders¹⁰ through education and through using knowledge in the interests of peace, Member Countries affirm that safeguarding¹¹ the significance¹² of sites related to the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators is crucial. These sites have the potential to convey information about the past in a way that protects the historical record while also making strong links to the present and continuing to provide a platform for education and remembrance in the future.
- 1.2. Member Countries recall that sites of, and related to, the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, and to persecution and murder by the Nazis and their collaborators, comprise a wide category that is not limited to killing sites or concentration camps. Such sites require identification, marking, and documentation, and management of risks to their significance.
- 1.3. Safeguarding sites should not be misused for any purposes, particularly in a way that may build a hierarchy of victim groups that could exaggerate one group in order to devalue another group. Such approaches cause harm to victim groups, and also distort the accurate historical record.
- 1.4. Sites are places of remembrance, dialogue, and inclusiveness and often comprise multiple, valid narratives and therefore play a significant role in the protection of human rights and in democratic life.
- 1.5. It is crucial to safeguard mass killing sites, especially those of the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma and those related to other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators. These places often include burial sites, and it is necessary to respect the dignity of the victims.
- 1.6. It is vital to safeguard the record and to help protect the facts for education, remembrance, and research.
- 1.7. The safeguarding of sites should not be used to distort or falsify the history of a specific crime for political motivation. Particular attention should be paid to accuracy in the naming of victim groups and those responsible for the crimes committed.

Article 2: Identification of Risks to Significance

Article 2 lists the many risks, threats, and challenges that Holocaust sites and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators face today and encourages vigilance among stakeholders.

- 2.1 IHRA Member Countries recognize that sites related to the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, and to persecution and murder by the Nazis and their collaborators, are subject to certain risks to their significance. These risks¹³ can be defined as:
- 2.1.1. Climate change and natural disasters such as floods, droughts, changes to ecosystems, extreme weather events, and earthquakes;
 - 2.1.2. Neglect, leading to decay caused by damp, insects, vermin, and the passage of time;
 - 2.1.3. Deliberate destruction, such as terrorist attacks, vandalism, and extremist actions;
 - 2.1.4. Destruction, both deliberate and accidental, caused by armed conflict;
 - 2.1.5. Deliberate and accidental distortion and/or denial,¹⁴ as well as (political) (mis)appropriation or national sensitivities leading to misleading narratives and silences;
 - 2.1.6. Lack of necessary financial support;
 - 2.1.7. Destruction of or damage to a site due to new building projects, including new and expanding memorial projects;
 - 2.1.8. Encroachment of new building projects overlooking sites, noting the importance of retaining significant vistas of and from sites where appropriate;
 - 2.1.9. Alternative (inappropriate) uses of sites;
 - 2.1.10. Lack of heritage protection legislation and other appropriate measures, noting that in some cases, entire cultural landscapes need such protection;
 - 2.1.11. Threats to the integrity or experience of a site due to (a) additions into, or (b) subtractions from the historic site, such as (a) new legislation that causes the addition of modern facilities into a historic site, or (b) looting or theft;

- 2.1.12. Issues of private ownership, such as threat of sale of the land for alternative inappropriate use, or the prevention of access to a site;
- 2.1.13. Lack of knowledge, research, memorialization, respect, acknowledgment, or identification at the site of its precise location and history, with long-term implications for safeguarding by future generations;
- 2.1.14. Wear and tear caused by visitors;
- 2.1.15. Lack of comprehensive heritage interpretation and presentation linking related historical sites within a single landscape, city, or town;
- 2.1.16. Lack of a management plan that brings together all extant elements of a site.

Article 3: Safeguarding Responsibilities

Article 3 outlines the duties and obligations of all countries, institutions, organizations, and persons who are applying this Charter.

- 3.1. Member Countries recognize that sites related to the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators can be places of dialogue and exploration of multiple narratives. This work requires an inclusive approach, with room left for new understandings that may evolve over time. At the same time, Member Countries recognize the danger of misinformation and disinformation, deliberate distortion, falsification, silencing, and misappropriation of narratives. Member Countries should maintain vigilance with regard to the accuracy of information presented at sites.
- 3.2. Member Countries are encouraged to promote and transmit the role and values of such sites to all generations by enhancing historical awareness of the sites, as well as enhancing mutual understanding, dialogue, and educational programs. Member Countries are also encouraged to foster educational, informational, and research programs meeting high ethical, educational, and academic standards and including hybrid formats where possible, applicable, and appropriate.
- 3.3. Recognizing that civilian property, including sites of the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, may be protected under international humanitarian law such as the Hague and Geneva Conventions,¹⁵ Member Countries are encouraged to protect sites of the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators in peacetime and in the event of armed conflict. Member Countries note that preparations should be discussed with the relevant authorities (including the national armed forces) in peacetime with the implementation of all appropriate safeguarding, legislative, and military measures. The development of relationships with key partners¹⁶ should also take place in peacetime. Member Countries are directed and advised to follow the relevant guidelines of these partners.¹⁷
- 3.4. The *significance* along with the *attributes*¹⁸ that convey the significance of the site should be determined and periodically reviewed in light of new research. Its significance should guide its safeguarding.
- 3.5. Each Member Country is encouraged to ensure the development, update, enactment, and implementation of adequate and relevant national and local heritage legislation. This should take account of international heritage conventions, treaties, and charters¹⁹ and take into consideration religious/cultural guidance for safeguarding the archaeological, historical, and intangible heritage²⁰ of Holocaust sites and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators. This should apply to mass graves and human remains.²¹

- 3.6. As part of their Country Reporting Mechanism within the IHRA, each Member Country is encouraged to identify sites of significance related to the Holocaust and persecution by the Nazis and their collaborators that are facing various challenges. It is recommended that this comprises sites brought to its attention by local citizens and those residing outside of the country as well as local, regional, and international organizations.
- 3.7. Each Member Country is encouraged to financially support the preservation,²² acknowledgment, and protection of its territory of sites and their related material culture. Funds should be allocated for proactive, preventative, and sustainable measures that are outlined in Article 4 of this Charter, and for post-crisis recovery and restoration or reconstruction, as appropriate.
- 3.8. All stakeholder groups should be identified for any given site and, where appropriate, advisory boards or stakeholder panels should be established to facilitate decision-making and to prevent tensions.
- 3.9. Each site's stakeholders should be encouraged to draft and implement surveys of existing and future risks to a site's material preservation. These surveys will allow a site's stakeholders to identify possible solutions as well as direct funding to specific needs.
- 3.10. In accordance with national and international legislation, each Member Country and/or site manager should consider specific measures to protect human remains on-site from inappropriate disturbance or from exhumation by those without expertise in such work.
- 3.11. All parties are also encouraged to carefully consider the appropriateness of events and activities around such sites.
- 3.12. Member Countries or stakeholders are encouraged to find an appropriate role for abandoned, neglected, reused, or misused sites of significance given their history that would eventually guarantee a respectful acknowledgment of their history.

Article 4: Safeguarding Practices

Article 4 outlines the recommended practical steps for all countries, institutions, organizations, and persons who are applying this Charter in order to follow good practice and address the identified risks.

- 4.1. In light of the diverse challenges faced by all sites of the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, priority should be placed on research, recordings, the establishment and maintenance of an inventory, and digitization of all data related to sites (such as material culture, archival documents, buildings, and all existing traces, whether above or below the ground). These should be included within a management plan for the future of the site.
 - 4.1.1. Each Member Country should seek to ensure that these activities are led by appropriately qualified and resourced experts, working where appropriate with (national) cultural heritage institutions, and where possible in consultation with civil society organizations and local communities, while reviewing and approving safeguarding and/or development plans at each site.
 - 4.1.2. Given that some Member Countries have many sites and others have few or none, and given the IHRA's commitment to international cooperation, Member Countries should seek to help each other and assist in whatever way they can to preserve records and sites alike. IHRA delegations may also draw upon the expertise within the IHRA.
 - 4.1.3. Member Countries should seek to facilitate information-sharing among appropriate experts so that good practices for safeguarding, data collection at, and management of sites can be disseminated efficiently within and between Member Countries.
 - 4.1.4. Where practicable, Member Countries should ensure that each site has a publicly accessible management plan that guides the safeguarding of the site. This should include reference to why the site is significant, identify the risks to its significance, incorporate relevant heritage and other legislation, and comprise site-specific conservation policies and an action plan for future work.
- 4.2. Where sites are on privately owned land, it is recommended that Member Countries encourage and support landowners to safeguard sites and ensure access when requested. When sites change hands, Member Countries are encouraged to ensure that safeguarding and accessing the site is incorporated within any sales agreements.

- 4.3. It is recommended that consultation takes place between all stakeholders regarding the protection of the wider setting of the site in order to preserve the significance of the site.
- 4.4. Looting or theft of any part of a site's fabric or collection, including human remains, is deeply detrimental to safeguarding the site's significance. Member Countries should strive to prohibit such looting and theft through suitable legal means and work with those responsible for the site to ensure that site security and risk preparedness plans are developed and enacted.
- 4.5. Member Countries have passed various laws regarding accessibility and health and safety at public sites, including heritage sites. While recognizing that widening safe access to sites for all is necessary, accessibility measures may pose a risk to a site's significance. Costs and benefits of this risk should therefore be balanced against those of the risk of restricting access to visitors.
 - 4.5.1. All such alterations to the fabric of sites must be undertaken in such a way as to safeguard the significance of the site, avoiding disturbance to historic material remains where possible.
 - 4.5.2. As access to sites can cause wear and tear to the fabric of a site, it is recommended that Member Countries and site managers take appropriate measures to minimize such damage.
- 4.6. Member Countries acknowledge that the stakeholders of sites of the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators encompass local, regional, national, and global communities. Therefore, Member Countries and site managers are encouraged to formally consult and take into account the views of as many relevant groups as possible before making decisions that will affect the fabric of the site, its related collections, and its uses (memorial, educational, and otherwise).
- 4.7. Member Countries are encouraged to develop good practice with online interpretation and associated digital technologies to make the site accessible to different audiences in appropriate different languages.
- 4.8. Where relevant, sites should clearly inform visitors about expected appropriate behavior during their visit.
- 4.9. Specific training should be provided for staff at sites, including tour guides and security staff, in challenging or dealing with witnessed examples of distortion, political extremism, and vandalism at sites, ensuring the safety of all staff and visitors.
- 4.10. Regardless of whether or not a site is now solely a place of remembrance and memorialization, Member Countries are encouraged to assign legal status to a site where appropriate.

- 4.11. Those responsible for sites are encouraged to identify in situ each site related to the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, whether through a formal memorial or museum, a plaque, an information board, or other physical or digital markers. Digital representations and demarcations of sites, especially of networks of sites, are also encouraged.
- 4.12. Whether in associated museums, on information boards, or digital markers at or of a site, even if the site in question has been repurposed, Member Countries recognize that good practice includes not just acknowledging the history of sites related to the Holocaust and crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators, but also telling the pre- and post-Holocaust/post-war history of sites, including how they have changed, sometimes irreversibly, over time.
- 4.12.1. Commemorative practices and interpretation, including exhibitions, at sites change over time in response to new research and through different political, social, and cultural contexts. This is inevitable and appropriate but must avoid distorting the facts. These changes are an important aspect of understanding the history of the site and should be recorded and appropriately archived.
- 4.13. Where related historical sites are located across the urban or rural landscape, those responsible for sites are encouraged to find ways to link these through heritage interpretation and presentation.

In times of growing antisemitism, racism, nationalism and extremism, increased prejudice, and denial and distortion of the Holocaust, the genocide of the Roma, and the persecution of other victims of the Nazis and their collaborators, safeguarding sites for the future is of vital importance throughout Europe and beyond. We have a moral and civic obligation to safeguard a respectful and appropriate memory of the victims.

Endnotes

- 1 Hereafter, “International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Charter for Safeguarding Sites” may be referred to as “IHRA Charter.”
- 2 As defined in the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust, “Holocaust” can be defined as “the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and murder of Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.”
- 3 The word “Roma” is used as an umbrella term which includes different related groups, whether sedentary or not, such as Roma, Travellers, Gens du voyage, Resandefolket/De resande, Sinti, Camminanti, Manouches, Kalés, Romanichels, Boyash/Rudari, Ashkalis, Égyptiens, Yéniches, Doms, Loms and Abdal that may be diverse in culture and lifestyles. This is an explanatory endnote, not a definition of Roma.
- 4 The phrase “Nazi Germany and those fascist and extreme nationalist partners and other collaborators” may hereafter be shortened and referred to as “Nazis and their collaborators” in relevant sentences.
- 5 Hereafter, “IHRA Member Country” may be referred to as “Member Country.”
- 6 The clause “Holocaust sites, sites of the genocide of the Roma, and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators,” or similar variations, may be referred to hereafter as “Holocaust sites and sites related to crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators.”
- 7 <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/international-memorial-museums-charter>
- 8 International Council of Museums (ICOM), <https://icom.museum/en/>
- 9 In conjunction with the principles laid out in Article 1 of this Charter, the articles outlined as part of the International Memorial Museums Charter should also be noted and incorporated. These can be found on the IHRA's website: <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/international-memorial-museums-charter>
- 10 We take “stakeholder” to mean any individuals or groups of people who affect or who may be affected by, materially or intangibly, activities, development, or changes at a specific site.
- 11 “Safeguarding” refers to a suite of activities that aim to preserve sites’ tangible and intangible integrity through identifying risks and accordingly engaging in protective or preventative measures, as necessary. Further information can be found in the EU publication on “Safeguarding cultural heritage from natural and man-made disasters”: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8fe9ea60-4cea-11e8-be1d-01aa75ed71a1>
- 12 “Significance” in this context refers to “cultural significance:” the “aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. [These] may have a range of values for different individuals or groups” (Burra Charter 2013, article 1.2).
- 13 These risks are not unique to the types of sites covered by this Charter.
- 14 <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-holocaust-denial-distortion>
- 15 Relevant Conventions include the 1949 Geneva Conventions, their 1977 Additional Protocols and the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two Protocols of 1954 and 1999; international criminal law such as the 1998 Rome Statue; and international human rights law, such as the 1948 Human Rights Convention.
- 16 Such as UNESCO, Blue Shield International, ICOMOS, and ICOM.
- 17 UNESCO: <https://www.unesco.org/>; Blue Shield International: <https://theblueshield.org/>; ICOMOS: <https://www.icomos.org/>; ICOM: <https://icom.museum/>
- 18 For an explanation of “significance” please see endnote 12; “Attributes” are the distinctive characteristics, context, appearance, uses, and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place and which should be retained in order to conserve its heritage value.
- 19 This might include the Hague Convention (1954), the Florence Convention (2000), the Paris Convention (1970), the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003), and the Faro Convention (2005).
- 20 See the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention; <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>.
- 21 See Code of Ethics and Vermillion Accord of the World Archaeological Congress; 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; and 2015 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the protection and promotion of museums and collections, their diversity, and their role in society.
- 22 “Preservation” means “maintaining a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration” (Burra Charter 2013, article 1.6), noting that safeguarding the significance of the site is the primary concern.



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