

**NEW APPROACHES TO CULTURAL HERITAGE  
ICOMOS 2018 Advisory Committee Scientific Symposium, 7 December 2018,  
La Plata, Argentina**

**Knowledge cafe December 7<sup>th</sup> 16:40-17:50**

**Our Common Dignity:**

**Training World Heritage professionals in Human Rights Based Approaches**

Sub-theme:

Governance and rights

Contact details:

Our Common Dignity working group (OCDwg):

- Focal point Bente Mathisen ICOMOS Norway [bente@icomos.no](mailto:bente@icomos.no)

Presenters:

- Bente Mathisen, OCDwg / ICOMOS Norway
- Laura Robinson, ICOMOS South-Africa
- Ave Paulus ICOMOS Estonia

The Knowledge cafe is open to all delegates, and emerging professionals are a main target group.

The convenors will present lessons learnt from the 3 ABs training of heritage professionals in Human- rights-based-approaches (HRBA) within the framework of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* and the *WH-Leadership programme*.

The aim of the cafe is to involve and to get active inputs from NC and ICOMOS members for ways forward for HRBA as part of the tool-kit for sustainable approaches to heritage management.

**Background:**

The *Our Common Dignity (OCD)* is an initiative to explore right issues in World Heritage.

Advancing human rights has been an integral dimension of the UNESCO's mission since its creation in 1945. When UNESCO adopted the *Strategy on Human Rights* in 2003, it was a result of the UN mainstreaming of human rights. Gender and children rights, communities and indigenous people were initially the main priorities, while cultural rights were among the least explored by UN human rights experts.

The objective of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* is to contribute towards building awareness of rights issues in World Heritage and heritage management in general, to promote 'good practice' and to develop and recommend relevant tools and guidelines in World Heritage - from tentative lists and nomination through to management.

ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN, as Advisory Bodies to the 1972 World Heritage Convention, have since 2011 collaborated in the development of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* as pilot for *3AB-cooperation*

Recommendations of the *Our Common Dignity Initiative* are presented in a wrap up report (Sinding-Larsen, 2017)

The HRBA training seek to follow up two of the main recommendations (Sinding-Larsen p 12):

- *Ensuring that the full cycle of World Heritage processes is compatible with and supportive of the SD Policy – from nomination to management;*
- *Recognizing inclusive approaches for dealing with heritage and rights issues concerning groups and communities living within or in the vicinity of WH properties who depend on the resources within these designated areas;*

Right-based-approaches to World Heritage management is recommended.

**Human-rights-based-approaches (HRBA):**

HRBA seek to integrate rights norms, standards and principles into policy, planning and implementation and outcomes assessment, in order to assist that practice respects and supports rights.

Despite a near universal adoption of the concept of HRBA and its methodology in international development programmes, no internationally agreed definition yet exists

In order to effectively translate the SD goals and the *Strategy on Human Rights* (UNESCO, 2003), a pilot training in Rights-Based-Approaches was carried out in Oslo Norway in 2016 by the Norwegian Centre of Human Rights and ICOMOS Norway.

A similar capacity building was organized by ICOMOS South Africa in Pretoria in 2017 (November, 2017).

There are plans for training in Human-rights- based-approaches for the Baltic countries, the Spanish speaking American countries and the French/Arab speaking Maghreb region. The training targets active heritage practitioners and emerging professionals.

The workshop will briefly present the training programs carried out in 2016, 2017 and 2018, invite ICOMOS members to look for ways forward to train and support ICOMOS practioners working with sustainable approaches to rights issues.

**The *OCD working group* would like to cooperate with National Committees in building capacity and empowering heritage practioners, and hope the workshop will contribute to the *OCD HRBA-network*.**

References

- Sinding-Larsen, A., Larsen, P., (2017) *REPORT The Advisory Body 2Our Common Dignity Initiative”: on Rights-based-approaches in World Heritage: Taking Stock and looking forward*, IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, ICOMOS Norway
- November, N., (2017) *Training report African Regional Pilot Training Course, South Africa*
- UNESCO (2003) *Strategy Development Policy*
- ICOMOS (2017) *Resolution 19GA 2017/23 Our Common Dignity: Next steps for Rights-Based-Approaches’ in world Heritage*