Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
https://pace.coe.int

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 15564
23 June 2022

Countering the erasure of cultural identity in war and peace

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Ms Yevheniia KRAVCHUK and other members of the Assembly

---

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

---

While the armed conflicts in Afghanistan, Syria, former Yugoslavia, the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine indicate that direct iconoclastic targeting, looting and indiscriminate shelling of cultural heritage continue to pose a grave danger, new latent –albeit no less dangerous threats– arise.

Russia's occupation of Crimea and Ukraine's eastern provinces of Donbas and its full-scale invasion in February 2022 indicate that conventional targeting is accompanied by: removal of archives; confiscation or replacement of history textbooks; indoctrination, including through militarisation, of education; impeded access to education in native, including indigenous, languages; de-contextualisation of artefacts through relocation or changing narratives around them; narrowing the diversity of commemorative practices; intentional refusals to preserve cultural heritage to showcase certain layers of history and erode others; distortive and ethnically-biased restoration of cultural objects; and neo-imperial renaming of geographical sites.

These practices are often less visible than an outcome of indiscriminate shelling or targeted destruction. And yet, exactly because of their often latent and protracted character, such hybrid encroachments on heritage are no less dangerous – they create the foundation of gradual cultural erasure. The consequences of such policies are deeply corrosive and require holistic action across the fields of culture, education, heritage management, mass media, criminal accountability, and remembrance policies.

In line with the Declaration of Ministers of Culture adopted in April 2022, the Parliamentary Assembly should investigate how conventional attacks against cultural property interplay with the wider hybrid encroachment on heritage in contemporary armed conflicts; what role the media, including state media, play in such policies; and envisage Council of Europe guidance to develop an international legal and policy response to such new forms of gradual cultural erasure in the context of existing Council of Europe conventions and international treaties.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
AHEDO Nerea, Spain, ALDE
ANTONIAZZI Tonia, United Kingdom, SOC
APOSTOL Alin-Gabriel, Romania, ALDE
BAUMANE Krista, Latvia, ALDE
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BELUSKÝ Martin, Slovak Republic, NR
BERG Caspar, Van den, Netherlands, ALDE
BILOZIR Larysa, Ukraine, ALDE
BONETT Chris, Malta, SOC
BROUWERS Karin, Belgium, EPP/CD
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CALLEARY Dara, Ireland, ALDE
COTTIER Damien, Switzerland, ALDE
DUNDEE Alexander, United Kingdom, EC/DA
DURANTON Nicole, France, ALDE
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
EKER Mehmet Mehdi, Türkiye, NR
EMRE Yunus, Türkiye, SOC
FILIPOVSKI Dubravka, Serbia, EPP/CD
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
FRANÇAIS Olivier, Switzerland, ALDE
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
GRYFFROY Andries, Belgium, NR
HELLELAND Linda Hofstad, Norway, EPP/CD
HOPSU Inka, Finland, SOC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JUFEREVA-SKURATOVSKI Maria, Estonia, ALDE
KERN Claude, France, ALDE
KINNUNEN Mikko, Finland, ALDE
KLUNGLAND Lisa Marie Ness, Norway, ALDE
KRISPER Stephanie, Austria, ALDE
MEZENTSEVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
MULARONI Mariella, San Marino, EPP/CD
O'LOUGHLIN Fiona, Ireland, ALDE
PIPILI Foteini, Greece, EPP/CD
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
REISS Frédéric, France, EPP/CD
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SIDALI Zeki Hakan, Türkiye, ALDE
SOBOLIEV Serhii, Ukraine, EPP/CD
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
THÓRARINSSON Birgir, Iceland, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group