

BIGMUN 2024

GA3: Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian (SOCHUM)

# Research Report

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Topic 3: Improving the preservation of diverse cultures and cultural heritage sites from human activity.



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## Introduction

Within this research report there will be an in-depth report on how cultural diversity and heritage has been preserved and how goals and strategies are implemented in order to maintain cultural integrity.

## Key terms

Here are the key terms within the topic to help delegates understand the intent of the report-

**Preservation-** the activity or process of keeping something valued alive, intact, or free from damage or decay<sup>1</sup>

**Diverse-** differing from one another<sup>2</sup>

**Culture-** the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group<sup>3</sup>

**Heritage-** something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor<sup>4</sup>

**Racism-** a belief that race is a fundamental determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race<sup>5</sup>

**Diversity-** the condition of having or being composed of differing elements<sup>6</sup>

## Background information

Preserving diverse cultures is something which has faced harm for more than 100 years to due to different beliefs. For example, a nation may be split between several cultures and many of these cultures can receive racial abuse and discrimination due to the fact that they are seen as “different”.

Factors such as racism, discrimination and interdependence are key components which impact cultural diversity and push people from different cultures away from on another. For example, several events such as “Auchswitz” and the killing of Goerge Floyd are examples which correlate to the topic.

For reference, the killing of George Floyd was provoked by racism, and he was solely killed due to him being black. After this tragedy took place within 2020<sup>7</sup>, the internet went chaotic, pushing a movement which spread all over the world in order to bring justice to African-American citizens. This killing wasn't something which just took place on the internet, but

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/preservation#:~:text=%3A%20the%20activity%20or%20process%20of,on%20preservation%20continued%20in%201988>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diverse>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/culture>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/heritage>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/racism>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/diversity>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/31/us/george-floyd-investigation.html>

lived in the minds of all African-Americans as they had to live with the unrightful fear of being killed due to the colour of their skin.

Auschwitz is something extremely similar, however, involved the mass killing of jews throughout all of Europe. The camp was established and called the “final solution”<sup>8</sup> in 1940<sup>9</sup> when it was built. Jews all over Europe were left to fight for their lives, and were highly discriminated from society as all jews were forced to wear an armband, which clearly highlighted their religion. This left jews endangered and vulnerable to racial abuse for the Nazi’s which flooded Europe in the 1900’s.

Both events are just 1 in a billion incidents of racism which cause different cultures within society to isolate. And both caused an eruption of protest to bring justice to the different cultures, which were hatefully treated for their skin colour or beliefs.

Some other events which have taken place in the past include:

In 2022<sup>10</sup>, a Danish-Swedish politician named Rasmus Paludan burned a Quran which is the central religious text of islam, and believed by muslim’s to be the revelation from god.<sup>11</sup> The event took place within Stockolm where plaudan burnt the religious text infront of a Turkish embassy in order to further push his anti-islam movement. Since, then Rasmus Paludan has continued to terrorise Muslim’s and put them under danger, as he has started movements, which has since been followed by many other disgraceful people.

Lastly, another event which took place was the attacks on several mosques within Bosnia during the early 1990’s<sup>12</sup>, where many mosques were bombed by the Serbs and Croats during the Bosnian War. The bombing was carried out in order to target and diminish the muslim religion by destroying their place of worship.

Overall, the issue through the topic which is being discussed is the fact that within society there are many racist’s and citizens who choose to discriminate against any culture, race or belief which doesn’t suit there’s. The danger of this, is present through the previously listed events, and is that once a person decides to harmfully target something many others many decide to join. This all in all, leaves cultures and different races afraid for their lives, causing a population to separate, and therefore making it hard to preserve diversity within society.

## Major Countries and Organisations Involved

Preserving Cultural diversity is something which is crucial to today’s society, as cultural clashes can lead to tragic events to occur, such as war, which takes millions of lives.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/auschwitz>

<sup>9</sup> <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/auschwitz>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/27/burning-of-quran-in-stockholm-funded-by-journalist-with-kremlin-ties-sweden-nato-russia#:~:text=Paludan%20told%20local%20media%20that,burn%20the%20Muslim%20holy%20book>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/27/burning-of-quran-in-stockholm-funded-by-journalist-with-kremlin-ties-sweden-nato-russia#:~:text=Paludan%20told%20local%20media%20that,burn%20the%20Muslim%20holy%20book>

<sup>12</sup> <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/10-heritage-sites-lost-to-disaster-and-war/kALyuo79hhrkLQ>

## **AUSTRALIA-**

Australia are one of the parties which are part of UNESCO, which is an organisation dedicated to preserving cultures, and promoting diversity of cultures within society.<sup>13</sup>

## **NORWAY-**

Norway since 1980 have focused on improving diversity within society, and as well as Australia, Norway have partnered with UNESCO, in order to promote diversity. Norway have heavily helped promote diversity within sports.<sup>14</sup>

## **MEXICO-**

Mexico is a country which has also participated in the preservation of cultural heritage. Mexico is a country flooded with cultural diversity, as the country includes over 68 linguistic groups. However, Mexico's efforts have formulated off creating framework's for tackling the problem. For example, Culture secretary which was made in 2015.<sup>15</sup>

## **UNESCO**

### **UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION**

And plays a major role in tackling global issues. UNESCO helps by designating world assets sites, preserving intangible cultural assets, creating educational programmes, and offering capacity-building initiatives for the protection and conservation of cultural heritage, UNESCO protects culture and cultural sites.

## **Relevant UN solutions<sup>16</sup>**

Some solutions the UN have proposed to improving the preservation of cultural heritage are:

The UN are working to strengthen their links between the protection of cultural heritage, peacebuilding missions and furthermore humanitarian emergency response.

UNESCO will also try to promote the building of schools, universities and infrastructure, all in which promotes cultural diversity.

Additionally, UNESCO will try and promote different universities, such as Yale, to communicate more to each other and their students about cultural heritage, all to assure students and the future of nations feel safe to be themselves.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/cultural-heritage/unesco-convention-cultural-diversity#:~:text=UNESCO%20is%20the%20United%20Nations%20Educational%2C%20Scientific%20and%20Cultural%20Organisation.>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/countries/nepal/43971499.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://cp.iccr.org/cprofiles/doku.php?id=countries:mex>

<sup>16</sup> <https://press.un.org/en/2016/sgsm17664.doc.htm>

And lastly, the UN will conduct missions to several countries where cultural heritage sites, will be rebuilt. For reference, relating back to the Bosnian war, it would be relevant as the UN could rebuild mosques.

(All listed solutions are from the same source)

## Previous attempts to solve the issue

UNESCO has developed international agreements, including the 1970 Convention and the 1972 World Heritage Convention, to protect cultural heritage. UNESCO, have made these agreements to try and assure safety, for civilians. The agreements, are still tasks which are undergoing, as the UN have stated that, preserving cultural heritage, is something which will take a long time, high amounts of funds and a strong leadership team, to make the right decisions.<sup>17</sup>

Overall, the most important attempt was the development UNESCO, which was built to target these global issues.

## Possible solutions

Preserving cultural diversity is something, which could take many years to complete, as, as of today's world there isn't enough attention brought to the issue, and sadly, there is still a lot of humanity who stand against cultural diversity.

However, a recommended solution would be the development of communal systems. This means governments should invest in building schools, sports clubs and other communal areas which bring people together. These schools and clubs should have the purpose of building cultural diversity. Attaining diversity, can be difficult, yet, with one small movement and proof that cultures can mix, the world will begin to see this and hopefully change for the better.

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<sup>17</sup>

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