

- Interpretation Strategy in the context of World Heritage Sites



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What story this place tells you ?





What untold story this place has ?

History of *Sites of Memory associated with recent conflicts (SoM)* in WH



2018 42th WHC

Funerary and Memory Sites of the First World War (Western Front), France and Belgium

Decide to **adjourn** consideration of the nomination

2018 ~ 2020

ICOMOS 2018
International Coalition of Sites of Conscience 2018
ICOMOS 2020
Beazley and Cameron 2020

not relate to the purpose and scope of the World Heritage Convention

2021 44th WHC

“... accommodating other views ... and to consider whether and how the “sites associated with recent conflicts” relate to the purpose and scope of the World Heritage Convention” (WHC/21/23.GA/INF.4)

Establish an **open-ended working group** for sites of memory associated with recent conflicts

2021 ~ 2022 Nine Working Group meetings to discuss how to approach SoM within the WH system and its nomination process

Guiding Principles for the Preparation of Nominations Concerning Sites of Memory Associated with Recent Conflicts(2023)



Guiding Principles for the Preparation of Nominations Concerning Sites of Memory Associated with Recent Conflicts

Part 1 – Guiding Principles

Definitions of “conflict”, “recent”, “sites of memory” conditions: criterion (vi), **Interpretation strategy**, Education and information programmes, reconciliation process

Part 2 - Mechanism to notify a contestation

Contestation concerning a Tentative List entry
Contestation concerning a newly submitted nomination
Open the nomination dossiers on the WH centre’s website

Part 3 - Implementation of the present decision

No direct mention of interpretation

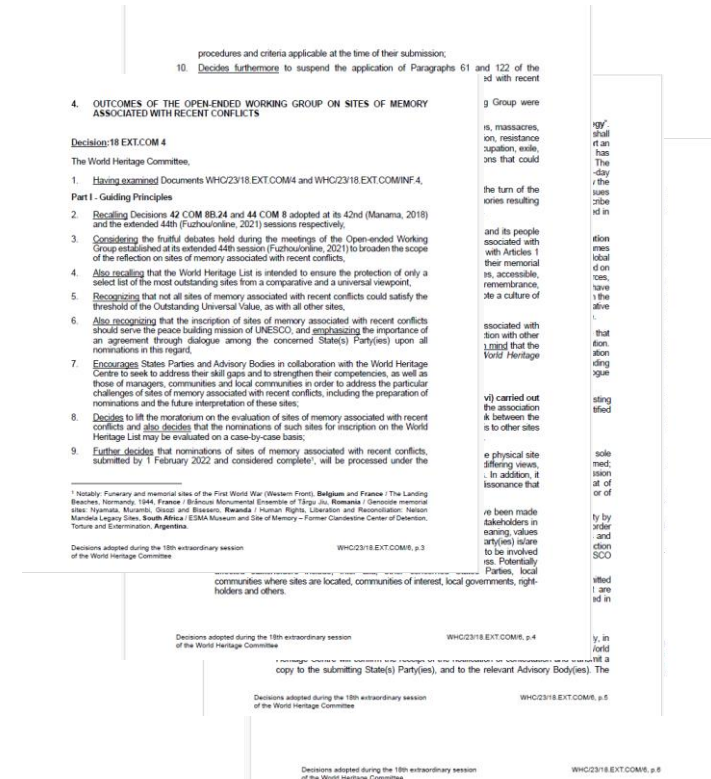
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Interpretation strategy (for SoM using criterion (vi))

<Introduction of the concept of Interpretation Strategy>

“Full meaning and full history : Historical past and its present-day meanings”



- “**Conflict**” : events such as wars, battles, massacres, genocide, torture, military occupations, movements of self-determination, resistance movements, liberation movements from colonization, apartheid and occupation, exile, deportation and mass violations of human rights and events or actions.
- “**Recent**” : generally relates to events having occurred from the turn of the twentieth century, it being understood that the sensitive nature of memories resulting from conflict can endure for centuries beyond that temporal framework.
- “**Site of memory**” : places where an event happened that a nation and its people(or at least some of them) or communities want to remember(sites with material evidence) These sites represent a place of reconciliation, remembrance, peaceful reflection, and must plan an educational role in order to promote a culture of peace and dialogue.

- Assessment of **use of (vi)** in
 - (1) Outstanding universal significance of the association
 - (2) nature of the direct or tangible link between the association and the site
 - (3) Comparative analysis to other sites with similar associations
- Assessment of the authenticity of the physical site and of the link to the associated memories : **“factual accuracy”**
- Inclusive and effective **participation** of all potentially affected stakeholders in the process of preparation
- Include **‘interpretation strategy’** in nomination text

- The nomination text will include a dedicated sub-section titled “interpretation strategy”. Bearing in mind potential differing views and narratives, the interpretation strategy shall be multi-dimensional to present accurately the full meaning of the site and to support an understanding of its full history.
The interpretation strategy shall embrace the place’s historical past and its present-day meanings, in a dialogue and peace-building perspective.
The strategy should describe efforts made so that stakeholders who have an interest in the site will be engaged in the development of interpretation for the site.

Interpretation as a meaning-making process

Heritage Interpretation (WHIPIC 2022)

Heritage interpretation is a meaning-making process through communication, participation and experience.

It increases understanding and promotes connections between people and heritage places.

Active process of meaning-making involving all stakeholders



Interpretation strategy-Interpretation plan

Interpretation strategy

Strategic document that provides high-level, practical guidance without detailing operational steps or phases for project delivery.

Comprehensive and adaptable roadmap for identifying, protecting, conserving, presentation and transmitting the values

Interpretation plan

More practical document developed based on an existing interpretation strategy

Includes specifics such as design, budget, delivery plans, and timelines to fully implement the interpretation strategy

theme, narratives

“Interpretation framework”



2023 Guiding Principle

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Principle of writing up interpretation strategy(WHIPIC)

- (i) Be multidimensional, ensuring an accurate representation of property’s full history while considering differing perspectives and narratives;
- (ii) Include the physical location where the conflict occurred and the methods of interpretation used;
- (iii) Encompass both the historical past and the present-day significance of the site, promoting dialogue and peace-building
- (iv) Describe efforts to involve stakeholders in the development of the site’s interpretation and address how stakeholders consider and engage in current debates related to the site’s themes;
- (v) Describe efforts made so that stakeholders who have an interest in the site will be engaged in the development of interpretation for the site

- ***interpretation strategy(WHIPIC) includes***
 - (i) Description of the heritage
 - (ii) Existing interpretation and analysis
 - (iii) Aims and objectives for interpreting
 - (iv) Broad narrative themes, ideas or messages
 - (v) Different Voices and perspectives of stakeholders and relevant communities
 - (vi) Description of what we want visitors to experience and learn
 - (vii) Types of interpretive methods or media and how those will effectively engage visitors with narratives and themes
 - (viii) Description of how the site and interpretation can be made accessible
 - (ix) monitoring and evaluation plan



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THANK YOU