

NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue

Fact Sheet – Inclusive Security *Cultural Property Protection (CPP)*



NATO Engages Event Aim: In July 2018, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division and its [partners](#) will host ‘[NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue](#)’ on the margins of the main NATO Summit in Brussels. The event will serve as an ideal platform to deepen and amplify the Summit’s core themes. It will do so by engaging a diverse range of opinion formers, policymakers, and multipliers, including younger audiences and digital influencers. The themes of the event seek to complement the main Summit agenda. One of the topics for the main plenary on-the-record sessions includes “Inclusive Security.”

Inclusive Security Aim: A topic of significant importance to the Alliance is that of Inclusive Security. All partners are keen to ensure that discussions on Women, Peace, and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, and the Protection of Civilians have a leading role in the ‘NATO Engages’ programme.

Inclusive Security Categories: The Inclusive Security collective includes Children and Armed Conflict, Cultural Property and Protection, Protection of Civilians, and Women, Peace, and Security including Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Each component has a bearing on the others.

NATO and CPP: Throughout history, armed conflicts have led to the loss of civilian life and the destruction of property. As part of this wider destruction, Cultural Property (CP) has also been targeted, and countless works of art, historic buildings and monuments have been destroyed and artefacts looted in times of unrest. Culture is a fundamental element of and plays an essential role in, modern-day conflict. NATO understands Cultural Property as the local population’s heritage - inherited by birth from ancestors and culture - group’s behaviour and beliefs. The Alliance recognizes the importance of physical objects of cultural significance like historic buildings, monuments, artefacts, archaeological sites, museums, libraries, and works of art as well as historical documents that are part of collective identity. Destroying such symbols can shatter links to the past thus erasing an identity from (local) historical memory.

For instance, in the Kosovo conflict, one of NATO’s tasks was and still is to protect and support the protection of cultural sites connected to the area’s cultural identity. Destroying such symbols can shatter links to the past thus erasing an identity from (local) historical memory. Damage to and destruction of cultural heritage can undermine a community’s hope for the future. NATO implemented designated protective zones to safeguard the significant cultural sites in order to mitigate cultural heritage disregard.

The protection of cultural property and common heritage has always been one of NATO's core values. The preamble to the North Atlantic Treaty states that the Alliance is "Determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilisation of their peoples", thus stressing the moral obligation to respect other people's values and preserve cultural property for future generations. NATO remains committed to continuing its multiple efforts in the field of Cultural Property Protection as part of the protection of civilians' mechanism and the comprehensive approach to crisis.

Teamwork: This is a collaborative project that encompasses NATO Strategic Commands, NATO Subordinates Commands as well as NATO HQ.

Champions and Leaders: Lieutenant-General Hugues Delort-Laval, Vice Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe
Ms. Clare Hutchinson, Special Representative to Secretary General for Women Peace and Security
Sera Orzel Gaeta, Branch Head, CIMIC Liaison Branch, SHAPE J9
Mr. Pino Nobile, Head of Geospatial Section, NATO HQ, pino.nobile@hq.nato.int

Milestone Events: 12 July 2018, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium, NATO ENGAGES: The Brussels Summit Dialogue <https://nato-engages.org/>

Publications: [OPEN Publications](#), *The Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict: Unnecessary Distraction or Mission-Relevant Priority*, Peter Stone, UNESCO, and Emma Cunliffe, Newcastle University, and Paul Fox
Report of the NATO Science for Peace and Security, *NATO and Cultural Property. Embracing New Challenges in the Era of Identity Wars*, Frederik Rosén, Nordic Center for Cultural Heritage and Armed Conflict
CIMIC Centre of Excellence, *Cultural Property Protection Makes Sense: A Way to Improve Your Mission*

Websites: NATO Headquarters, www.nato.int
Allied Command Transformation, www.act.nato.int
Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, www.shape.nato.int

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