LAGOS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2025

BACKGROUND GUIDE

General Assembly 3

Social, Humanitarian &
Cultural

Background Guide: United Nations Security Council

Edited and Reviewed by
Okegbemi Mofiloluwalowo Oluwatunmise (Deputy-Secretary-General)
Onyinye Madubugwu (Under-Secretary-General Research)
Amina Yusuf (Under-Secretary-General, General Assembly)
Written by
Ayotola Ambode (Chair)
Fisayo Owolabi (Vice-Chair)
Balkis Adeagbo (Researcher)
Wazeelah Animashaun (Departmental Researcher)

Designed by
Agam Joy Ngozi

LMUN 2025: The Ninth Session

Table of Contents

Letter From the USG

Dear Delegates,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the seventh session of the **Lagos Model United Nations (LMUN) conference, 2025.** For years, LMUN has been a platform for youth to lend their voices and champion brilliant solutions to contemporary global problems. They have done this by inciting discussions and deliberations that seek to funnel a drive towards innovative and sustainable solutions.

The LMUN conference offers you a golden opportunity to hone skills that will set you apart from the rest of the world, such as teamwork, diplomacy, research, public speaking, leadership, and, most importantly, networking. Having experienced the magic of LMUN for over 6 years, I am confident you are in for a beautiful ride. The conference guarantees a phenomenal experience and the opportunity to contribute your quota towards global development and sustainability. I hope you learn, network, participate actively, and have the most fantastic experience.

The General Assembly First Committee (DISEC) staff is **Amina**, a final-year law student at the University of Lagos with a keen interest in international law and diplomacy. Her keen interests are in tandem with her love for MUNs. In 2020, she was a delegate at LMUN conference under the Security Council committee, where she won the distinguished delegate award. She was also a delegate at the International Model United Nations, where she won the verbal commendation award. In 2021. She was a researcher and rapporteur at the Lagos Model United Nations under UNICEF. She has also served as the Babcock International Model United Nations ambassador. In the leadership capacities, she was an under-secretary general at the Geneva International Model United Nations and the under-secretary general for research at the LMUN conference 2024. **Ayotola** is a 500-level law student at the University of Lagos who began her MUN journey in 2019. She has participated in several MUN conferences as a delegate, and served as a Researcher and Rapporteur in the LMUN'23 conference. She also participated in the Youth Model African

Union (YMAU) Conference 2023, as the Rapporteur. And further served as the Vice Chair at the LMUN'24 conference under GA1 committee. She has keen interest in international relations and diplomacy, cybersecurity and sustainable development. **Fisayo** is a 300-level student of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos. In LMUN 2024, she participated as a delegate of Djibouti in the UNHCR committee, where she was awarded the Outstanding Delegate Award. Her passion for MUNs is closely tied to her advocacy for gender equality and sustainable development. **Baliqis** is a 300-level Law student at the University of Lagos. In 2024, she served as the Delegate of Australia in the UN Women committee at the Lagos Model United Nations (LMUN), where she engaged in critical discussions on gender equality and global development. She is particularly passionate about advancing human rights through diplomacy, policy-making, and multilateral cooperation. **Wazeelah** is a 500-level law student of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos. She has participated in multiple Model United Nations conferences, including YISMUN 2022, Wind of Change 2020, and LMUN 2021, where she served as a delegate representing Monaco. My passion for Model United Nations simulations stems from a strong interest in international relations, diplomacy, and regulatory frameworks. Wazeelah is dedicated to leveraging the MUN platform to engage with global issues and contribute to meaningful dialogue and policy development on an international scale.

Over the years, the General Assembly Third Committee (SOCHUM) has consistently championed solutions to global issues on issues related to disarmament, tackling global challenges, and mitigating threats to peace within the international community. The topics to be discussed by the committee are:

I.   **Technology for Cultural Heritage: Examining The Potentials of Technology In Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage.**
II. **War Aganinst Humanity: Globally Eradicating Systemic Racism.**

The background guide serves as a stepping stone to begin research on topics discussed during the conference and not as a replacement for individual research. As such, delegates are highly encouraged to conduct their research beyond the background guides and make use of the Further

Research Questions, Annotated Bibliography, and Bibliography to aid in extensive research. Delegates, please note that the Delegate Prep Guide and the Rules of Procedure will acquaint you with the conference's required conduct and procedural rules. These documents can be accessed on the LMUN website- www.lmun.ng.

To adequately prepare for the conference, each delegate must submit a position paper on a date to be communicated after registration, country, and committee assignment. The LMUN Position Paper Guide guidelines will guide delegates through this process. Delegates, please note that I am always available to guide you throughout your preparation process and during the conference, please contact me at usggeneralassembly@gmail.com for answers to all your questions.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to LMUN conference 2025. I look forward to you experiencing the magic of LMUN!

Aminat Yusuf,

USG, General Assembly Department, LMUN 2025.

Abbreviations

3D	Three Dimensional
AAPF	African American Policy Forum
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BLM	Black Lives Matter
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CHARTER	European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance
CHRISTA	Culture Heritage for Responsible, Innovative and Sustainable Tourism Actions
CISPS	Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies
CPUCH	Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
DDPA	Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
DGC	United Nations Department of Global Communications
DIH	Dive Into Heritage
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ENAR	European Network Against Racism
EU	European Union
FCS	Framework for Cultural Statistics
GA	General Assembly
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
HOLC	Home Owners' Loan Corporation
HRC	Human Rights Council
IACR	Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance

ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMADR	International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism
MBRRACE-UK	Mothers and Babies Reducing Risk Through Audits and Community Empowerment
NARA	US National Archives and Records Administration
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOCHUM	Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNIDROIT	International Institute for the Unification of Private Law
US	United States
WHC	World Heritage Convention

Committee Overview

I - Introduction

In a world grappling with escalating human rights violations, social injustices and humanitarian crises, the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), formally known as the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM)[1] plays a critical role in addressing issues that directly impact global peace, security and equality. It is one of the six main committees established under the General Assembly when the United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945.[2] Its formation is rooted in the provisions of Chapter IV of the UN Charter,[3] which outlines the roles and powers of the General Assembly as a deliberative body that addresses global concerns.

The SOCHUM committee is tasked with addressing a wide range of issues centered on human rights, social progress and cultural issues, and humanitarian affairs, which are equally critical to fostering global stability. Its mandate spans areas such as the advancement of women and gender equality, the protection of children, promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, addressing the plight of refugees, and the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

At the heart of SOCHUM's work is the examination of human rights matters, including reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (HRC), an intergovernmental body established in 2006.[4] This involves engagements with rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups as the committee assesses and addresses human rights concerns worldwide and recommends solutions to ensure the protection of fundamental freedoms worldwide.[5]

Beyond human rights, SOCHUM also addresses pressing social and humanitarian issues including matters relating to criminal justice reform, combating the global drug trade, supporting

---

[1] United Nations 'Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural'.
[2] United Nations 'Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural'.
[3] United Nations 'UN Charter: Chapter IV- The General Assembly'.
[4] UN General Assembly, Third Committee 'Social, Humanitarian & Cultural'.
[5] OHCHR, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting the social integration of marginalized groups.[6] Currently, its agenda involves addressing global displacement that affects over 35.3 million refugees and also ensuring accountability for human rights violations in regions affected by conflict, such as Myanmar and Ukraine.[7]

SOCHUM's cultural mandate is also significant, yet less emphasized, as it engages in efforts to protect cultural heritage and diversity, foster intercultural dialogue, and preserve intangible cultural traditions, especially in the context of conflict.[8] The committee also works in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to condemn the destruction of cultural sites and support programs that empower cultural education in post-conflict regions.[9]

For instance, SOCHUM has passed resolutions on the Protection of Cultural Property in Armed Conflict, reaffirming international obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, which is the first international treaty dedicated to safeguarding cultural heritage during war. It also establishes legal protections for cultural property, including monuments, museums, and archives.[10]

Over the years, SOCHUM has contributed to several landmark achievements in international human rights and humanitarian law. The committee led the deliberations that culminated in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, which is a document that remains the foundation of the human rights system.[11] More recently, SOCHUM supported the negotiation and eventual passing of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007, which affirmed the right of indigenous communities to self-governance, cultural preservation, and land protection.[12]

---

[6] UNODC and Human Rights, Criminal Prevention and Criminal Justice.
[7] UNHCR, Global Trends.
[8] United Nations, Culture and Development.
[9] UNESCO, Cultural heritage and armed conflicts.
[10] UNESCO, Protecting Cultural Heritage.
[11] UN General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
[12] UNDRIP, Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

By serving as a body responsible for dialogue among Member States, SOCHUM helps to facilitate the identification and implementation of solutions to some of the world's most pressing social, cultural, and humanitarian concerns. It contributes to shaping international norms and holding states accountable. In a world increasingly confronted with intersecting global challenges, SOCHUM's mandate remains essential for promoting peace, equity, and human rights for all.

II - Governance, Structure and Membership

SOCHUM convenes annually during the General Assembly (GA) sessions, which typically start in October and conclude by the end of November. The committee also begins its work without a general debate, as agenda items are addressed individually from the beginning.[13]

The Secretariat and an elected Bureau oversee the committee's procedures. The Bureau plays a key role in opening and closing meetings, managing discussions, announcing decisions, assisting with drafts and documents, and ensuring adherence to procedural rules. These leaders are responsible for keeping debates focused and productive, which is no small feat given the sheer number of countries and complex issues on the table.[14]

All 193 Member States of the United Nations are entitled to participate in the deliberations of the Committee, with the exception of observer status granted to international organizations and states without full membership.[15] This inclusivity ensures that diverse viewpoints are considered when addressing global and humanitarian issues.[16]

Furthermore, the committee makes decisions by consensus without a recorded vote and the resolutions are forwarded to the General Assembly Plenary for consideration as part of its annual report.[17] However, in cases where a consensus cannot be reached, matters may be put to a vote, with each member state possessing one vote each.[18]

---

[13] UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues.
[14] UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues.
[15] International Service for Human Rights. Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly: A Practical Guide for NGOs. 2017. p. 7.
[16] UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues.
[17] Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. The GA United Nations General Assembly. 2017.
[18] UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues.

SOCHUM engages in deliberations with the HRC and most human rights treaty bodies, despite not having any subsidiary bodies that reports directly to the committee.[19] The committee is also responsible for the election of 14 members out of 47 members of the HRC and plays a part in the nomination process for high-ranking UN officials, such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights and members of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies.[20]

III - Mandate, Functions, and Powers

SOCHUM carries out the overwhelming majority of the work on human rights, although "human rights" does not appear in its official name. However, more than half of its work focuses on human rights, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self- determination.[21] Meanwhile the remaining aspect addresses related issues including social development, the advancement of women, crime prevention, persons with disabilities, criminal justice, international drug control and refugees.[22]

Every 193 Member States in the Assembly have one vote to be taken on designated important issues such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions. The budgetary questions require a two-thirds majority vote while other issues are decided by a single majority vote of Member States. As for informal consultations among Member States where proposals are negotiated, the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote, thus by consensus.[23]

SOCHUM also discusses matters under the agenda items and recommends draft resolutions and decisions to the Assembly for consideration and action.[24] These resolutions are not legally binding, however, they play a significant role in shaping global policy by setting international norms, exerting diplomatic pressure, influencing national policies, and fostering international cooperation.

---

[19] Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. GA United Nations General Assembly. 2017.
[20] Human Rights Council Elections, OHCHR
[21] International Service for Human Rights, handbook.
[22] Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly: A Practical Guide for NGOs.
[23] Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
[24] Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.

The committee aims to foster international cooperation to improve the welfare of people worldwide, especially those in need of humanitarian protection; regularly reviews and supports initiatives to improve conditions for displaced persons and refugees; helps to strengthen global frameworks like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to ensure comprehensive protection.[25]

IV - Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The General Assembly meets annually for regular sessions from September to December and resumes in January until all issues on the agenda are addressed before the next session starts. Hence, the seventy-sixth session, which opened on 14 September 2021 and closed on 13 September 2022, was themed, "A presidency of hope: delivering for people, for the planet and for prosperity",[26] and the Assembly allocated to the Committee, agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world.[27]

Also, at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, SOCHUM considered 63 draft resolutions, more than half of which were submitted under the human rights agenda item alone.[28] These resolutions included three country-specific resolutions on human rights situations, and they are expected to consider a similar number of draft resolutions during the present session of the General Assembly.[29]

The General Assembly evaluated its priorities for SOCHUM during the seventy-eighth session, which adopted resolutions that aligned with the agenda of the Committee[30] focuses on several key actions such as, increasing the involvement of Indigenous peoples in relevant UN meetings, marking the 25th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, investing in prevention and peacebuilding, strengthening international treaties, and calling for concrete actions to eliminate racial xenophobia and intolerance, alongside fully implementing the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).[31]

---

[25] UN 'Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural
[26] 76th Session of the UN General Assembly.
[27] UN General Assembly, 'Agenda of the Seventy-sixth Session of the General Assembly'.
[28] 74th Session of the UN General Assembly.
[29] 74th Session of the UN General Assembly.
[30] 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.
[31] Research Guides, UN General Assembly Resolutions Tables: 78th Session (2023-2024).

These resolutions highlight the Committee's mandate regarding its responsibilities, which focuses on the examination of human rights questions, including ways to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, promote fundamental freedom, address matters affecting refugees, and protect women and children.

The SOCHUM's seventy-ninth session recently convened from the 3rd of October 2024 to be closed in 2025, has been themed "Unity and diversity for advancing peace, sustainable development and human dignity, everywhere and for all".[32] It was chaired by His Excellency Zephyrin Maniratanga, Permanent Representative of Burundi where resolutions are being adopted.[33] The agenda for this session focuses on initiating studies, making recommendations to promote international political cooperation, realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms.[34]

One of the current priorities of SOCHUM is the protection and promotion of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, which includes advocating for the preservation of cultural sites and properties, integrating cultural heritage into sustainable development, and fostering cultural diplomacy.[35] SOCHUM also prioritises the integration of digital tools in humanitarian responses to improve efficiency, transparency, and accessibility while ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind.

V - Conclusion

The SOCHUM is a crucial committee concerned with humanitarian affairs and social matters of States globally. It focuses on the human rights of every individual and ensures that these rights are protected and not infringed upon by any individual or State through its policies or laws. Furthermore, the Committee works with the HRC and the High Commissioner for Refugees, examining human rights questions and proffering recommendations that aim to solve the questions being raised and mitigate the burden of challenges faced by this Committee.

---

[32] Ordinary Sessions General Assembly of the United Nations.
[33] Resolutions Tables - Research Guides at United Nations Library.
[34] Functions and Powers of the General Assembly.
[35] UNESCO Cultural Heritage Center

The Committee is also concerned with making recommendations on issues related to human rights, social progress and culture, and humanitarian affairs that are critical to fostering global stability. Hence, their work involves a collaboration with the HRC on examining the special procedures for human rights matters while working hand-in-hand with Member States to ensure that effective measures are formulated and implemented to foster social development, promote human rights, and encourage international collaboration in the social, cultural, educational, humanitarian, and health fields.

VI - Annotated Bibliography

Functions and Powers of the General Assembly, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml (accessed 7 February, 2025).

This is a direct link to the functions and powers of the General Assembly which analyzes the powers of the General assembly, Third Committee specifically and would prove to be an insightful guide for delegates in the course of their research.

UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/ (accessed 5 February, 2025).

This comprises the General Assembly's structure, mandate and agenda which is essential for delegates to understand the GA3's operations and responsibilities.

United Nations. 'Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/index.shtml (accessed 4 February, 2025).

This website highlights the General Assembly's agenda in addressing human rights and cultural issues during its meetings.

United Nations. 'UN Charter: Chapter IV- The General Assembly', available at https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter (accessed 5 February, 2025).

This article gives an overview of the General Assembly as an organ of the United Nations, including its objectives and priorities during the sessions.

VII - Bibliography

74th Session of the UN General Assembly, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/74/ (accessed 5 February, 2025).

76th Session of the UN General Assembly, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/76/ (accessed 6 February, 2025).

78th Session of the UN General Assembly, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/78/ (accessed 8 February, 2025).

Functions and Powers of the General Assembly, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml (accessed 7 February, 2025).

Human Rights Council Elections, OHCHR, https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/elections (accessed 4 April, 2025).

Methods of Work of the Third Committee, available at https://documents.un.org/access.nsf/get?OpenAgent&DS=A/C.3/68/CRP.1&Lang=E (accessed 6 February, 2025).

OHCHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/sdgs#:~:text=This%20is%20reflected%20in%20the%20transformative%20ambition,Rights%20and%20the%20international%20human%20rights%20treaties (accessed 7 February, 2025).

OHCHR - Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council (accessed 7 February, 2025).

Ordinary Sessions General Assembly of the United Nations, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/sessions/regular.shtml (accessed 7 February, 2025).

Research Guides, UN General Assembly Resolutions Tables: 78th Session (2023-2024), available at https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/78?_gl=1*1d2c27r*_ga*MTA4MTc0Njg1MS4xNzM4ODQzNTc1*_ga_TK9BQL5X7Z*MTczODg5NzEzMS4yLjEuMTczODg5NzE5OC4wLjAuMA..#s-lg-box-31251095 (accessed 8 February, 2025).

Resolutions Tables - Research Guides at United Nations Library, available at https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/79#s-lg-box-33356658 (accessed 5 February, 2025).

Special Rapporteur on Racism, A/HRC/50/59 (2022), https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/50/59 (accessed 4, April 2025).

Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly: A Practical Guide for NGOs, available at https://ishr.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ishr_3rd_com_handbook_eng_web.pdf (accessed 3 February, 2025).

UNESCO, 'Cultural heritage and armed conflicts' (UNESCO, 2025) https://www.unesco.org/en/heritage-armed-conflicts (accessed 5 April 2025).

UNESCO, "Protecting Cultural Heritage," https://en.unesco.org/themes/protecting-heritage (accessed 4, April 2025).

UN General Assembly, 'Agenda of the Seventy-sixth Session of the General Assembly', available at https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/256/58/pdf/n2125658.pdf (accessed 3 February, 2025).

UN General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III), "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights (accessed 4, April 2025).

UN General Assembly, Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural, available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/ (accessed 5 February, 2025).

UN General Assembly, Third Committee 'Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues', available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml (accessed 4 February, 2025).

UNHCR, available at https://www.unhcr.org (accessed 4 February, 2025).

UNHCR, Global Trends, available at https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends (accessed 7 February, 2025).

UNODC and Human Rights - Criminal Prevention and Criminal Justice, available at https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/humanrights/areas/crime-prevention.html (accessed 2 February, 2025).

United Nations. 'Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/index.shtml (accessed 4 February, 2025).

United Nations. 'UN Charter: Chapter IV- The General Assembly', available at https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter (accessed 5 February, 2025).

United Nations, Third Committee approves draft resolution on Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, other minorities; calls for immediate end to violence, High-Level Conference in 2025, available at https://press.un.org/en/2024/gashc4432.doc.htm (accessed 14 January 2025)

Topic One: Technology for Cultural Heritage: Examining the Potentials of Technology in Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage

I - Quote

"Culture and technology exist in a dynamic reciprocal relationship. Culture comprehends technology through the means of narratives or myths, and those narratives influence the future shape and purposes of technology. The culture-technology circuit is at the heart of cultural evolution."

- Brenda Laurel, American interaction designer

II - Introduction

Every night, under the Iroko tree in a small town in Kebbi State, Nigeria, there is a gathering of children, young adults, women and youths paying close attention to the village chief who shares his delightful life experiences during his youth, as he chews on his bitter kola, while sharing stories of the Great Argungu Fishing Festival that holds yearly in his hometown. He recounts his time preparing for the swimming aspect of the competition, together with his other agile friends. They would come to the river as early as possible with their nets and fishing tools to train for the individual competitions they were participating in.

It is an exciting competition to look forward to every year however, there is an iota of relatability and visual representation in the Kanta Museum which hosts the turbulent history of Kebbi State from the preservation of the past lives of emirs[36] to the sighting of notable collections of weapons which the village chief is happy to show off as the curious children ask questions on how to participate in the festival.

---

[36] The Charm of Argungu Museum.

This is a similar case with the Taj Mahal in India, a symbolic masterpiece that was built by order of the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, in Agra to honour his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, in the 17th century. This magnificent mausoleum is considered to be the greatest architectural achievement in the whole range of Indo-Islamic architecture, which recognizes architectural beauty and has a rhythmic combination of solids and voids, concave and convex, and light shadow to increase the aesthetic aspect.[37]

The art of documenting history dates back to time immemorial, with writers and storytellers being tasked with recording every major event that occurred. These stories and their uniqueness lie in the remarkable innovations that have made them memorable to this day in the world. The preservation of such works of art is an indication of the importance of cultural heritage, as it helps protect the story behind the masterpiece.

Hence, cultural heritage is the totality of assets accumulated in a given region over the course of history and can be tangible or intangible, which makes them a part of the civilizations and heritages of various countries.[38] It is an evolving concept which originated from the complex historical processes, based on historically changing value systems[39] that are attached to certain groups or societies, in the form of monuments, buildings, works of art, landscapes and many alike, each of which represents a symbolic identity of a particular culture and its natural surroundings.[40]

The aura surrounding these objects creates a sense of community, where their preservation sets the future trajectory for various cultural narratives and societal consensus on past and present occurrences. It also serves as a bridge between the past experiences of certain communities and the future of its people; thus, the legacy of the past is being lived in the present and must be passed onto future generations.[41]

---

[37] Taj Mahal - UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
[38] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?
[39] The Concept and History of Cultural Heritage.
[40] The Concept and History of Cultural Heritage.
[41] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?

However, the evolution of man with the forward actions of civilization, threatens the perpetuity of cultural heritage and the positive impact it portrays to every generational community which requires concerted efforts to maintain, preserve and improve management of these heritage pieces, including the introduction of new technologies to assist in protecting the memory of the unique pieces.[42]

These threats can occur during technological advancement in itself, armed conflict breakouts, and terrorist targets, especially when cultural heritage becomes the target of destruction. Yet, the development of certain technologies can serve as a powerful tool in the combat against the disappearance of cultural heritage and also support encouraging initiatives involved in this combat.[43] One of the most famous is the Virtual Reality (VR), which allows the creation of interactive digital models of buildings, monuments, and other heritage objects and can be used to explore the digital models and experience a sense of immersion in the historic environment.[44]

Another example is the use of drones by archaeologists and other professionals to capture aerial images of cultural heritages and process them into three-dimensional (3D) models and topographic maps, which aids scientists to understand the site environment and the spatial distribution of artefacts.[45] Also, monitoring systems and sensors are technologies used to measure and record environmental factors that affect the conservation of cultural heritages, such as temperature and air quality.

All these tools are recognized widely in the role of cultural heritage preservation and the protection of its material remnants, however, evolving movements and organizations such as UNESCO are working hand-in-hand with Member States to gain necessary support and ensure that these theoretical ideas are implemented and workable in various countries worldwide, through global distribution, documentation and the preservation of the cultural identity being represented.[46]

---

[42] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?
[43] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?
[44] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?
[45] Telefonica - What Role can Technology play in Historical Heritage Preservation?
[46] The Concept and History of Cultural Heritage.

On the other hand, intangible cultural heritage (ICH) is recognized as a treasure of culture and art which needs to be inherited and carried forward from generation to generation.[47] With the aid of technology, the emptiness associated with the concept "intangible cultural heritage" can be transformed into a combination of visual and audio images that allows the public to participate in the communication process. It also explores a new path for the inheritance and development of intangible cultural heritage, and enhances cultural confidence through the realization of the win-win situation of integration and development.[48]

The advancement of technology has led to revolutionary changes in communication and dissemination of knowledge, where cultural heritage meets with technology through the collection, documentation, creation, and use of digital content. Cultural heritage and digital technologies are viewed as interconnected entities with no expectation of a dependent relationship at the expense of the other.[49]

Like every other sector, the pandemic influenced the rapid increase in the use of digital technologies such as local groups practicing living heritage traditions of dance, music, and crafts, live streaming performance from concert halls and theatres, and museums website display which is an indicator of the eager embrace of digital revolution during and after the pandemic.[50] Although not everyone is currently part of this digital revolution, there are glaring inequalities between and within countries that have profound implications for culture. The digital divide is clearly reflected in cultural production and consumption patterns.

This digital divide has ushered in the need for robust public cultural policies, which are vital to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations and the expansion of access to culture as a vehicle for more peaceful and tolerant societies, whether during conflicts, natural disasters, or other emergencies.[51] Intangible cultural heritage is not left out as technology helps to document, transmit, and revitalize ICHs through media production projects, which allows the

---

[47] Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Exploration of Network Communication Issues.
[48] Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Exploration of Network Communication Issues.
[49] Digital Cultural Heritage: Theory and Practice - IFLA.
[50] Cutting Edge, 'Protecting and Preserving Cultural Diversity in the Digital Era'.
[51] Cutting Edge, 'Protecting and Preserving Cultural Diversity in the Digital Era'.

understanding of evolutionary trends of a certain element of intangible cultural heritage and formulates measures for its preservation.[52]

Technologies are pushing boundaries in the cultural sector, with the potential to drive significant progress in heritage management, ensure cultural diversity, and expand access to culture. Thus, there is the need for all stakeholders to support leading-edge research, stimulate innovation in the education sector for the development of digital skills, ensure cultural diversity and access to culture in the digital world through the designing of cultural policies and regulatory frameworks founded on fundamental rights; dialogue within societies with all actors and; through the multilateral system.[53]

III - International and Regional Frameworks

The preservation of intangible cultural heritage is an approach that requires the collaborative efforts of Member States and other stakeholders. However, these efforts can be enforced legally with the relevant support of frameworks that serve as guidelines for effective measures to preserve and protect intangible cultural heritage, especially in the face of emerging technology. These frameworks have been enacted through the cooperation of international organizations and bodies, as well as regional organizations of certain Member States, through Resolutions, Conventions, and Covenants.

The General Assembly, *in Resolution A/RES/76/214* of its 76th Session, recognizes the role of culture as an enabler of sustainable development, providing people and communities with a strong sense of identity and social cohesion. It also contributes to more effective and sustainable development policies and measures at all levels, fostering social inclusion and addressing both the economic and social dimensions of poverty through cultural heritage, including its protection and preservation, and the cultural and creative sectors.[54] Thus, the importance of preserving cultural heritage is further emphasized by the legal frameworks that Member States of the United Nations have ratified, which are highlighted subsequently.

---

[52] Cutting Edge, 'Protecting and Preserving Cultural Diversity in the Digital Era'.
[53] Cutting Edge, 'Protecting and Preserving Cultural Diversity in the Digital Era'.
[54] A/RES/76/214 General Assembly.

The *International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)* is an international convention majorly concerned with the preservation of intangible cultural heritage by guaranteeing the right of individuals to participate in cultural life, including the freedom to practice and transmit cultural traditions, languages, and art forms, thus effectively supporting the safeguarding of living cultural practices considered as intangible cultural heritage.[55]

This is reiterated in *Article 1.1 of the ICESCR,* which provides for the right of peoples to freely determine and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development, which covers people's right to be able to pursue means that contribute to the development of cultural heritage. Also, *Article 3 of the Covenant* provides that State Parties should ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social, and cultural rights.[56]

Furthermore, *Article 15.1 of the ICESCR* states that State Parties shall recognize the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application while *Article 15.2* provides for steps that are to be taken by the States Parties to achieve said right, including the steps necessary for the conservation, the development, and the diffusion of science and culture.[57]

Additionally, the *Hague Regulations of 1907,* focuses primarily on protecting tangible cultural heritage such as historic monuments, works of art, and buildings dedicated to religion or education during wartime and it lays foundation for the concept of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage by establishing a principle of respecting cultural property generally, thus maintaining relevance in the interpretation of the protection of intangible cultural heritage.[58]

Article 27 of the Hague Regulations of 1907, which protects cultural heritages during hostilities, states that all necessary steps should be taken to spare, as far as possible, buildings dedicated to art, science, historic monuments, and place where the sick and wounded are collected, as long as

---

[55] UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage.
[56] International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - OHCHR.
[57] International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - OHCHR.
[58] Conferences for the Legal Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict.

such are not used for military purposes.[59] It also provides that the besieged have the duty to indicate the presence of such buildings or places by distinctive and visible signs, which helps to notify the enemy beforehand.[60] This further highlights the groundwork laid by the regulation for adopting measures to preserve intangible cultural heritage.

The preservation of cultural heritage also extends to underwater artefacts, where the *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (CPUCH)* is a legally binding framework for State Parties on how to better identify, research, and protect underwater heritage and cultural artefacts[61] while ensuring its preservation and sustainability.[62] *Article 1 of the CPUCH* helps to highlight cultural assets that could qualify as underwater cultural heritage to differentiate between cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage by State Parties when it becomes vital to enact and implement policies that would result in the preservation of every form of cultural heritage.[63]

Also, *Article 26 of the CPUCH* provides that state parties should set a common standard for the protection of such heritage, which is comparable to the standards granted by other UNESCO Conventions or national legislation on cultural heritage on land, and yet specific to archaeological sites under water.[64] This is necessary to foster international cooperation between Member Parties, as it is not mandatory for the CPUCH to be ratified in all Member and non-Member States because it is still applicable to both States.[65]

In addition, the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (CSICH)* was enacted as a framework that obliges state parties to inventory cultural heritage and make those inventories accessible to everyone.[66] Its purpose is to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of communities, groups, and

---

[59] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[60] Convention (II) de la Haye concernant les lois et coutumes de la guerre sur terre, 1899 - Reglement : Art. 27.
[61] Principles of the 2001 Convention.
[62] The 2001 Convention - UNESCO.
[63] UNESCO Ratification of the 2001 Convention.
[64] UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001).
[65] UNESCO Ratification of the 2001 Convention.
[66] Framework for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (PDF).

individuals concerned, and provide international cooperation and assistance as seen in *Article 1 of the Convention.*[67]

According to Article 2.1 of the CSICH, this convention focuses solely on intangible cultural heritage due to its compatibility with existing international human rights instruments, the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups, and individuals, and is of sustainable development.[68] Moreover, *Article 2.3 of CSICH also states that safeguarding refers to measures aimed at ensuring the viability of intangible cultural heritage, such as identification, documentation, research, preservation, transmission, which can be through formal and informal education, and revitalization of various aspects of this heritage.*

The *1949 Geneva Conventions* are a series of treaties that establish rules for the treatment of civilians, prisoners of war, and soldiers, and provide the same protections afforded to all civilian property and cultural property. It also prohibits the intentional damage of undefended cultural heritage by invading or occupying forces and encourages State Parties to take actions to prevent and stop pillage.[69] *Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention* states that protected persons are entitled to respect for their persons, family rights, religious convictions and practices, and their customs, in all circumstances. The obligation to respect manners and customs is viewed as the basis for the protection of cultural heritage and property.[70]

The *Geneva Conventions* help to provide additional protections to cultural property during armed conflicts, which is based on the notion that certain property represents the cultural heritage of humankind, and this value must be protected.[71]

Also, *Article 53 of the Additional Protocol One of the Geneva Convention* reiterates the prohibition of the destruction of all property, whether private or State, by providing the same protections as all civilian property.[72] The Article prohibits any acts of hostility directed against

---

[67] Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
[68] Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
[69] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[70] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[71] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[72] Geneva Convention, Additional Protocols I and II - Heritage for Peace.

the historic monuments, or works of art which constitute the cultural heritage of peoples; the use of such objects in support of the military effort, and making such objects the object of reprisals.[73]

Moreover, the *1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Properties in Case of Armed Conflicts* is the first international treaty developed in response to the destruction and looting of monuments and works of art during World War II which initially, was born with limited objectives for the protection of cultural heritage in times of war[74] and moves further to set out clear obligations for the state who owns the cultural property to protect such and for the parties to an armed conflict to refrain from directly targeting cultural property and avoid causing incidental damage.[75] This Convention is primarily concerned with protecting tangible cultural heritage like monuments, artworks, and archaeological sites from destruction during armed conflict and does not explicitly address intangible cultural heritage, as it falls under a separate international convention.[76]

Furthermore, the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property* made emphasis on the need to prevent the illicit trafficking of goods, even in times of peace, and also encouraged Member States to agree to prevent the acquisition or import of illegally removed cultural heritage pieces.[77]

The *World Heritage Convention* (formally the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage) focuses on tangible cultural heritage, where *Article 1* defines cultural heritage as monuments, groups of buildings, and sites of outstanding universal value from the historical, artistic, scientific, or anthropological point of view.[78] And *Article 5 (a)* provides that State Parties shall ensure that effective and active measures are taken to protect and present cultural and natural heritage situated in their respective territories, by adopting a general policy which aims to give the cultural heritage a function in the community life and to integrate the protection of said heritage into comprehensive planning programmes.[79]

---

[73] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[74] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[75] Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre.
[76] Report of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on Hague Convention for Protection of Cultural Property.
[77] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[78] Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
[79] Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

Also, *Article 5(d)* encourages State Parties to take the appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative, and financial measures necessary for the identification, protection, and rehabilitation of cultural heritage. Likewise, *Article 5 (e)* ensures that State Parties foster the establishment of national or regional centres for training in the protection and presentation of the cultural heritage, and encourage scientific research. Also, *Article 6.1* encourages the international community as a whole to cooperate, while respecting the sovereignty of each State whose territory the cultural heritage is situated on.[80]

In addition, the *1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects* is deeply concerned with the illicit trade in cultural objects and the irreparable damage frequently caused by it to the objects themselves and the cultural heritage of national, tribal, indigenous, or other communities, especially the pillage of archaeological sites and the resulting loss of irreplaceable archaeological, historical and scientific information.[81] *Article 3* mandates that a stolen cultural object must be returned to its rightful owner, where the objects that have been illegally excavated but unlawfully retained are deemed to be stolen, and *Article 5 of the UNIDROIT Convention* addresses illegally exported objects, emphasizing cultural significance and state interests with similar time limits and exceptions.[82]

Article 1(h) of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions affirms the sovereign rights of States to maintain, adopt, and implement policies that are deemed appropriate for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on each States' territory.[83] And, *Article 7 of the Convention* provides for the meaning of protection as the adoption of measures aimed at the preservation, safeguarding and enhancement of the diversity of cultural expressions.[84]

Also, the *Rome Statute,* which primarily focuses on crimes against humanity, has made provisions for the protection of cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage by virtue

---

[80] Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
[81] UNIDROIT 1995 Convention.
[82] UNIDROIT 1995 Convention.
[83] Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
[84] Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - Legal Affairs.

of *Article 8 (2) (b) (ix)* that criminalizes intentional direct attacks against buildings dedicated to culture and of cultural importance.[85] It also encompasses intangible cultural elements associated with buildings and sites. Additionally*, Article 8(2) (e)(iv)* addresses the looting of cultural property, stating that the intentional destruction, appropriation of cultural property protected under international law during an armed conflict would be considered a war crime.[86]

The *United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11.4* addresses the call for strengthening efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural heritage with the goal of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, and sustainable.[87] Its objective is to safeguard both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and recognises the importance of heritage for cultural identity, history and sustainable development, which makes a huge contribution to local economies, tourism and community cohesion.[88]

Also, *Goal 16.b* promotes and enforces non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development, which help to ensure the protection of cultural heritage and promote its inclusivity and equity.[89]

Regionally, the African Union *Charter for African Cultural Renaissance,* which was adopted in 2006, affirms the preservation of both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, calls for national cultural policies and financial support for cultural initiatives through preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation.[90] *Article 28* encourages African States to provide appropriate physical and environmental conditions to protect returned archives and historical records. Meanwhile, *Article 29 of the Charter* also affirms that African States should ratify the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the CSICH Conventions.[91]

On the regional side, the *European Cultural Heritage Skills Alliance (CHARTER)* was an Erasmus+ funded blueprint initiative which aims to build a durable cultural heritage skills

---

[85] Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage.
[86] Monument Watch | Rome Statute on Cultural Heritage.
[87] Culture: At the heart of Sustainable Development.
[88] Sustainable Development Goals2030 and Management of Heritage: Indian and Global Contexts.
[89] SDG Indicators.
[90] African Union Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.
[91] African Union Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.

alliance in Europe, mainstreaming methodologies to sustainably protect and enhance both tangible and intangible cultural heritage.[92] During its four years in operation, CHARTER produced a range of reports and resources to highlight the value of cultural heritage and strengthen the sector's resilience and responsiveness to current and future challenges.[93]

In addition, the European digital cultural platform, Europeana, plays a crucial role in making digitised cultural heritage materials accessible, including 3D models of historical sites and high-quality scans of paintings. This platform developed a publishing framework that outlines content quality groups under four tiers, with an approximation of 15% total content from the European Union (EU) Member States.[94]

More than two-third of Member States have reported a national cultural heritage aggregator during 2015-2017 timeframe which enables and supports cultural heritage institutions in sharing their content with Europeana.[95] The major objective of this report is to monitor and track the implementation progress in each Member State, which takes a holistic approach to the digital lifecycle of cultural heritage, including Spain, Sweden, Netherlands and Germany.

IV - Role of the International System

The integration of technology in the preservation of intangible heritage is an ongoing discussion that requires the input of every agency, state parties, and stakeholders to provide workable measures for preserving intangible cultural heritage. As technology advances, different views have emerged on whether it poses a threat to the survival of traditional expressions.

Thus, international systems particularly led by the UNESCO, governments, cultural organizations and practicing communities play a role in promoting and facilitating the use of technology to preserve intangible cultural heritage by setting standards, coordinating efforts across nations, and advocating for the responsible application of digital tools to document, archive, and disseminate intangible cultural practices, ensuring their accessibility and longevity

---

[92] CHARTER Alliance.
[93] CHARTER Alliance.
[94] European Commission Report on Cultural Heritage: Digitisation, Online Accessibility and Digital Preservation.
[95] European Commission Report on Cultural Heritage: Digitisation, Online Accessibility and Digital Preservation.

across generations.[96] On the other hand, perspectives are raised that these technological innovations could play a key role in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage.[97] The international systems have a number of initiatives aimed at the continuous preservation of intangible cultural heritage, and a simultaneous action plan is essential to foster and shift focus to maintaining the originality attached to intangible cultural heritage.

The UNESCO Programme on Cultural and Digital Technologies is an initiative, generously funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to strengthen the action around heritage towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. These actions range from digital mapping of diverse practices around food, a first online museum showcasing stolen cultural artefacts, to 3D modelling of World Heritage sites which embody and harness the potential of technologies for the new chapter of culture for all.[98]

Furthermore, Dive into Heritage (DIH) is a sub-initiative of the UNESCO Programme, focusing on using digital technology to promote, safeguard, and transmit World Heritage to future generations. It further gathers digital data and information on the world's cultural heritage, including intangible heritage, and makes it accessible to everyone, such as 3D models, interactive maps, as well as audio-visual material.[99]

Member States have endorsed the UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education to support its implementation, promote accessibility and inclusion, and bring the vision of culture and education to life. Its strategic goals includes appreciation of cultural diversity; contextual, quality, and lifelong learning in culture and arts education; collaboration in addressing evolving technologies and AI in culture and arts education which are processes that embraces and promotes intersectoral partnerships among every stakeholder and also strengthens awareness of opportunities and risks of technology and AI in culture and arts education.[100]

---

[96] Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Preservation and Development.
[97] Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Preservation and Development.
[98] Culture and Digital Technologies - UNESCO.
[99] Dive into Heritage.
[100] UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education.

Subsequently, the 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS) is another framework that provides the conceptual foundations for evaluating the contributions of culture by helping Member States organize the collection and dissemination of their cultural statistics. It aims to help countries build their own cultural framework by selecting the major domains that form part of their cultural statistics.[101]

In terms of ICH, the framework paves the way for new approaches to protecting and respecting cultural heritage by involving the recognition of communities as those who identify, recreate, and transmit the intangible heritage. It provides a domain for ICH and transversal cultural domains, namely archiving and preserving, education and training, supporting materials, which are partially cultural and intriguing towards the importance of culture.[102]

Furthermore, the cultural statistics of FCS measure the economic and social dimensions of cultural activities as a key component. The social dimension explores the initial elements and avenues for ICH, which can be manifested in any cultural domain, including transversal domains. The FCS represents a significant step toward establishing a methodology for organizing cultural statistics and is a work in progress, with its own challenges that require further development and elaboration. Regardless of the structural and operational challenges, the UNESCO FCS is a starting point for the development of more comprehensive statistical data on intangible cultural heritage.[103]

Some of the activities executed involve heritage exploration, research, monitoring, and follow-up, which ensures that users have flexibility of access according to their interest and level of involvement in heritage protection.[104] These efforts are built on partnerships, technology, and a deep understanding of the cultural resilience of the communities, and working together with international organisations, governments, and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) has

---

[101] The 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS).
[102] The 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS).
[103] The 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS).
[104] Dive into Heritage.

ensured the provision of support, resources, and expertise necessary for the protection of intangible cultural heritage.[105]

Cultural institutions have developed ways to ensure the engagement and accessibility of cultural experiences, fostering innovative and collaborative preservation efforts. With the help of digital tools, the Culture Heritage for Responsible, Innovative and Sustainable Tourism Actions (CHRISTA) project is an initiative that highlights the Thessaloniki Museum of Byzantine Culture and has exemplified the enhanced accessibility to culture through digitalisation coupled with its digital guide, puzzles and games that makes the collections accessible to a broader audience.[106]

Moreover, the Innocastle project states that the UK National Trust has made over 1.1 million items from more than 200 historic places and museums available online, thanks to the creation of online exhibits and digital collections. This allows institutions to transcend physical boundaries, democratise access to heritage, and empower a more inclusive audience to engage with the past.

These initiatives have transformed cultural institutions from static repositories of artefacts into dynamic, living spaces that adapt to the needs of contemporary visitors, where history meets technology. Also, digitalisation allows communities and the public to participate directly in heritage preservation efforts, which turns everyday people into stewards of their cultural heritage. This indicates that digitalisation is more than a technological shift, as it ushered in a new era for heritage preservation.[107]

Essentially, civil societies and NGOs play a crucial role in the use of technology to preserve ICH by acting as a driving force for community based documentation, digital archiving, and promoting cultural transmission through online platforms, fostering a sense of identity and cultural pride.[108] Both bodies work together in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage by

---

[105] UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, What are the biggest challenges UNESCO faces in protecting intangible cultural heritage in conflict zones, and how are these being addressed?
[106] Interreg Europe, How digitalisation transforms tourism, heritage preservation and cultural activities.
[107] Interreg Europe, How digitalisation transforms tourism, heritage preservation and cultural activities.
[108] Intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development.

using technology to foster community engagement, promote digital platforms for cultural narratives, and leverage technology for documentation and awareness.[109]

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and NGOs empower local communities to document their traditions,[110] practices using digital tools to ensure authenticity and ownership, create online platforms to share ICH with wider audiences, and promote cultural understanding and appreciation.[111] These systems have explored the multifaceted relationship between technology and ICH through the collaboration of various organisations and other stakeholders, considering every solid path that guarantees the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritages.

1. The Role of Digital Technology in the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Cultural preservation is an eternal and lasting source of strength for mankind, which is an ancient and fresh cultural heritage in itself.[112] This is a result of an accumulation of excellent national culture during the course of human development and the crystallization of human wisdom and civilization, which is now referred to as intangible cultural heritage.

Intangible cultural heritage has undergone rapid development and has brought about profound social changes, which in turn have impacted people's mode of production, lifestyle, and external living environment. As civilization and human development advance, traditional preservation methods begin to struggle with the challenges of modern times. This shift could have a negative impact on the living environment and the sustainable and healthy development of intangible cultural heritage, thereby making it extinct, if the necessary cultural preservation methods are not applied through the utilization of digital technology, such as digital photography, digital video, digital audio, and digital panorama.[113]

The preservation of intangible cultural heritage that is based on digital technology refers to the ability to identify various complex and changeable information through electronic information

---

[109] (NGOs) in Promoting Cultural Heritage Preservation.
[110] Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Preservation and Development.
[111] Digital Innovations for Cultural Preservation: The Role of Information Technology in Nigeria.
[112] Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu - 2022 - Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library.
[113] Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu - 2022 - Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library.

systems and output binary data of various A-series technologies.[114] While digital preservation of intangible cultural heritage refers to the comprehensive application of digital technical means and methods to achieve the purpose of digital preservation, presentation, restoration, and regeneration of intangible cultural heritage through digital collection, digital storage, digital analysis, and digital transmission and to preserve in a new form, understand from a new angle, use in a new way and develop it to meet new demands.[115]

The presence of digital technology has been established to be applicable in all aspects of work, life, and study, and plays an important role in protecting and restoring cultural relics, and the digital preservation of intangible cultural heritage provides new technical means and methods that are flexible with the periodical advancement of technology. The presence of technologies like the Metaverse offers innovative ways of preserving and promoting cultural and heritage sites; however, in the context of intangible cultural heritage, the metaverse helps to preserve assets such as traditional dances, music, rituals, and languages.[116]

The Metaverse platform is a collective virtual shared space created by the convergence of virtually enhanced physical and digital reality, which allows users to interact with a computer-generated environment and other users.[117] As for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, an accurate 3D model of heritage sites is created in restoration projects while visualizing the impact of conservation efforts. This allows the users to use different immersive tools like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, VR, and augmented reality (AR) to visit the heritage sites virtually.[118]

The convergence of these tools unlocks new possibilities by redefining the interaction with the digital and physical worlds. Virtual reality and augmented reality allow the movement beyond traditional two-dimensional interactions to the immersion of a dynamic three-dimensional world.[119] Virtual Reality is the use of computer modeling and simulation that enables a person to

[114] Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu - 2022 - Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library.
[115] Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu - 2022 - Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library.
[116] Digitalizing Cultural Heritage through Metaverse Applications: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies.
[117] Digitalizing Cultural Heritage through Metaverse Applications: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies.
[118] Digitalizing Cultural Heritage through Metaverse Applications: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies.
[119] How AI, virtual reality and blockchain are converging.

interact with an artificial 3D visual or other sensory environment, which immerses the user in a computer-generated environment and simulates reality through the use of interactive devices.[120] It is implemented in creating realistic and interactive simulations of various scenarios, including medical procedures, historical events, or virtual tours of properties, and it is considered a revolutionary use for the digital preservation of ICHs.[121]

Augmented reality is an interactive experience where a real-world environment is enhanced with computer-generated visual, auditory, and other stimuli, which provides an interactive experience that overlays information onto a user's view of their environment.[122] This is completely different from VR as it creates a completely artificial environment, and AR enhances the real world.[123]

Blockchain, on the other hand, is a distributed database shared across a computer network's nodes that securely stores records in a manner that is transparent, immutable, and resistant to tampering.[124] This database stores different types of information, which ensures the security and transparency of transactions for financial applications, tracks the movement of goods to verify their authenticity, reduces fraud, and improves efficiency.[125]

Subsequently, AI is the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines that enables the performance of tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, and problem-solving.[126] It encompasses various technologies and approaches that aim to create machines capable of performing human tasks.[127] It is also vital to consider the ethical concerns that are attached to the use of AI in preserving ICH, including bias in algorithms, privacy issues and the potential impacts on various sectors.[128] Overall, AI powers VR experiences and blockchain, which ensures transparency and security in the protection and preservation of intangible cultural heritage.[129]

---

[120] Britannica, Virtual reality (VR) - Definition, Development, Technology, Examples, and Facts.
[121] How to transform your Business Using AI with AR and VR Technologies?
[122] Augmented Reality (AR): Definition, Examples, and Uses.
[123] Definition from TechTarget, What is augmented reality (AR).
[124] Blockchain Facts: What Is It, How it Works,and How It Can Be Used.
[125] IBM - What is Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
[126] IBM - What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?
[127] ScienceDirect Topics - Artificial Intelligence: An Overview.
[128] Artificial Intelligence (AI): What It Is, How It Works, Types, and Uses.
[129] IBM - What is Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Exclusively, digital audio, video technology, and digital 3D imaging technology can provide new technologies for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in different regions. This is further viewed as a priority by State Parties after the exploration of the economic value of intangible cultural heritage and its influence on the competitiveness of intellectual property rights.[130]

In utilizing digital technologies to aid in preserving intangible cultural heritage, there can be advantages and disadvantages whereby the methods of creating virtual cultural storage do not always allow the preservation of the true reaction of memory, history and tradition. Unlike a real museum, which preserves cultural heritage, the term 'heritage' begins to lose value in the era of digitalization. Although virtual museums and digital reconstructions of cultural artefacts aid in the protection and preservation of information which would otherwise be lost.[131]

In the late twentieth century, art galleries and museums began to transfer to electronic copies of works of art stored by them which led to every major museum having its own e-portal or a virtual museum in addition to the main exposition, however one of its challenges is concerned with the authenticity of the contents of the museums and galleries. This is because mass culture and internet compilation could blur the boundaries between genuine art and its electronic reproduction, and cultural communication based on a genuine sense is no longer created.[132]

Hence, cultural heritage must be preserved and protected for future generations as it reflects the community's identity. And the preservation of intangible cultural heritage is an important domain, and the digital technology era helps facilitate the protection of this valuable heritage. Nonetheless, it requires more efforts to be made to prevent the heritage from disappearing and becoming extinct.[133]

---

[130] Application of Digital Technology in Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection - Wiley Online Library.
[131] The Role of Digital Technologies in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.
[132] The Role of Digital Technologies in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage.
[133] Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

2. Tools Used in the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Role of AI

The dynamic interplay between traditional and digital aspects of cultural heritage conservation, adds a layer of complexity to its evolving landscape, which paves the way for digital technologies to play a pivotal role in facilitating the conservation of cultural heritage through the use of innovative tools.[134]

This aspect of preserving cultural heritage implements the use of digital technologies, which enables the creation of comprehensive databases and archives for cultural artefacts, historical documents and other heritage items, including high-resolution cameras, 3D scanners and advanced imaging technologies that allow for detailed and accurate documentation.[135] It is also believed that digital archiving helps reduce the need for physical handling by creating electronic replicas, thus preserving the fragile or deteriorating material of the cultural artefacts.[136]

Furthermore, digital platforms provide opportunities to develop virtual museums and online exhibitions, allowing global audiences to access cultural artefacts and exhibitions remotely.

Also, digital tools aid in the restoration and conservation of artworks, artefacts and historical sites, while digital restoration techniques can repair damaged elements without altering the original physical object. This is done by using 3D printing and digital modelling to recreate missing or damaged parts of cultural items, ensuring the integrity of these artefacts over time.[137] Digital preservation standards have an important role and practices, including metadata standards and digital storage protocols, ensure the long-term accessibility and sustainability of digital collections related to digital heritage.[138]

The digitisation of cultural heritage has become an important issue for European countries, where separate models of implementation are being introduced centrally, at the international and national levels. The "Comprehensive Report" of the European Union covers the period from 2015 to 2017, revealing that a significant proportion of EU Member States have formulated their

---

[134] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[135] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[136] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[137] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[138] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.

respective National Digitisation Strategies. Out of 28 Member States, 19 have established these strategies.

More importantly, the experience of Ukraine highlights the importance of understanding of cultural preservation and digital heritage challenges. Currently, Ukraine lacks a comprehensive digitalization strategy despite having a legislative groundwork for formulation after signing the "Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union" in 2014 that emphasizes cultural collaboration.[139]

The EU-Ukraine Agreement Implementation in 2019 revealed a notable absence of information in the digitisation of cultural heritage, which led to the lack of sufficient attention on the cultural integration of Ukraine-EU issues. Some of these strategies include the 2016 Decree on the "Long-term Strategy for the Development of Ukrainian Culture - Reform Strategy" which prioritizes the preservation of cultural and spiritual heritage thus, underscoring the commitment to preserve Ukrainian cultural heritage and treat it as integral components of the global cultural heritage.[140]

However, the Russian invasion in 2022 necessitated the implementation of effective measures to preserve cultural artifacts that faced the risk of destructive impact, thereby reiterating the need to utilize digital technologies for creating virtual copies of valuable objects and documenting their condition for future restoration. This occurrence exhibited the importance of modern technologies for detailed documentation, archiving cultural landmarks, studying and popularizing Ukrainian culture as a means of resistance to identity suppression and historical aggression.[141] The Russian invasion prompted changes in the security of cultural heritage and an intensified use of digital technologies for the preservation of Ukraine's cultural landmarks.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into the realm of cultural heritage conservation represents a pivotal moment in the preservation of global heritage, embodying both a promising horizon of technological innovation and a complex web of ethical considerations. AI is found at

---

[139] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[140] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[141] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.

the forefront of transforming heritage conservation practices due to its abilities for digital replication, predictive maintenance and other useful output, and it offers novel approaches to identify patterns of decay and damage, which enables more effective protection strategies for heritage sites and objects.[142]

The role of AI ushers in a new era in heritage conservation, which is characterized by enhanced capabilities to combat deterioration and loss that signals a significant departure from traditional conservation methods. AI reshapes the restoration and conservation of artworks by employing new technologies that can provide high-precision restoration techniques, including computer vision and machine learning.[143]

An exemplary work of AI's role in digital reconstruction of historical sites is illustrated in the Colosseum in Rome where AI-powered image recognition technology was harnessed to carefully analyze the ancient monument's facade. In furtherance, AI helps to create digital replicas and virtual reconstructions of historical sites while minimizing physical interaction with delicate artifacts, and these digital models serve as valuable references for restoration and educational purposes.[144]

As much as there are positive sides to the use of AI in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, there is a negative aspect to the implementation, which lies in maintaining the delicate balance between digital enhancement and preserving the artifact's authenticity. A main concern is that AI might inadvertently influence decisions made during the restoration process, which might lead to choices that are visually appealing but do not faithfully represent the artist's original vision and the historical context in which the work was created.[145]

Also, the use of AI in the preservation of ICHs could lead to misinterpretations of cultural artifacts when the digital models are not designed to respect cultural values and traditions, resulting in cultural misunderstandings. The preservation of ICH requires the accurate

---

[142] AI Integration in Cultural Heritage Conservation - Ethical Considerations and the Human Imperative.
[143] Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Art Preservation and Exhibition Spaces.
[144] AI for Art and Heritage Conservation.
[145] AI for Art and Heritage Conservation.

conservation of the authenticity of the cultural artifacts, where AI systems can make errors, which lead to inaccurate restorations or misclassifications.[146]

However, the integration of AI in cultural heritage preservation can lead to exciting advancements which would transform the protection and engagement with historical artifacts. And as AI evolves, there are expectations for more sophisticated applications in areas including virtual reality, augmented reality, and enhanced machine learning algorithms that would enable more immersive and interactive experiences by individuals across the world.[147]

3. The Ethical Concerns of Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The rapid advancement in technology and an increasingly interconnected global society have made preservation of cultural heritage a paramount concern and the intersection of culture and technology has given rise to a fascinating and complex landscape, also known as digital heritage.[148] Despite the regular in-person challenges that arise from preserving rich cultural legacies, the integration of digital tools and technologies presents both unprecedented opportunities and unique obstacles where technologies are viewed as tools with the information that plays a synergistic role that connects humans, society, nature, and technology.[149]

Although with these opportunities comes challenges that raise concerns on the need for ethical considerations in the pursuit of technological preservation of intangible cultural heritage. These concerns are related to data security, accessibility, authenticity, integrity of digitally preserved cultural artefacts and the risk of cultural commoditization that communities strive to balance between traditional preservation methods and cutting-edge technologies.[150]

For data security, concerns are raised about the security and privacy of sensitive information, which requires the protection of digital heritage from unauthorized access, data breaches and

---

[146] AI for Art and Heritage Conservation.
[147] AI for Art and Heritage Conservation.
[148] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[149] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[150] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.

cyber threats in order to maintain trust and integrity. Also, authenticity is concerned with the digital reproduction and dissemination of cultural artifacts, which involves complex copyright and intellectual property considerations. It is vital that a balance is struck between protecting creators' rights and facilitating broader access to cultural heritage materials, which remains a continuous challenge.[151]

Furthermore, the lack of standardized practices for digitisation and metadata creation can hinder interoperability between different cultural heritage databases. This proves to be an ethical challenge where accessibility is concerned and common standards must be established for seamless sharing and integration of digital heritage materials.[152]

Also, the integrity of digitally preserved cultural artifacts can be fostered where ethical questions are raised as to the appropriate use of cultural artifacts and the potential for misrepresentation or misuse posed. This requires an establishment of ethical guidelines that involve communities in the decision-making process to address these ethical concerns that threaten the integrity of digital preservation of cultural heritage.[153] Finally, the risk of cultural commoditization is a challenge that does not replicate the element of community in cultural heritage, where it is often shared across borders, hence effective preservation can be attained through international collaboration.[154]

To gain an understanding of the ethical considerations attached with technological preservation of intangible cultural heritage, it is vital to understand the main aspects of preserving cultural heritage with the help of digital technologies.[155]

The concept of digital preservation deals with the process of safeguarding digital content, including text, images, and audio, in a manner that guarantees its accessibility and usability for the coming generations which is accomplished by employing several techniques such as migration, emulation, and digital reformatting. This development is important as it enables the

---

[151] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[152] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[153] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[154] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.
[155] Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities.

conservation of digital content that would otherwise be forgotten due to time or technological redundancy which ranges from ancient documents to personal photographs and scientific research.[156]

There are numerous ethical concerns raised when dealing with digital preservation and some ethical concerns involve balancing the need to preserve heritage with the necessity of ensuring availability to future generations, as technology continues to evolve at an astonishing rate, and privacy concerns of individuals.[157]

Moreover, some strategies have been developed to enhance digital preservation while considering the ethical concerns involved, such as the emphasis on use of open standards and open-source software to conserve digital content in a manner that is not reliant on exclusive technologies, and developing more comprehensive metadata standards which refers to the data about digital content that is used to assist in management and conservation of the content. This is done by developing more inclusive metadata standards that can preserve digital content better and ensure it maintains its accessibility and usage for future generations.

4. Understanding the Role and Importance of Blockchain Technology in Preserving Intangible Cultural Heritage

The digitisation of cultural heritage is a topic that has been addressed through the lens of various perspectives from ethical aspects to the enhancement and regeneration of heritage and there is a new elective field for the development of new investments in technologies in the cultural sector.[158] Blockchain technology is viewed as a new approach that makes it possible to offer a guarantee of proof and authentication of cultural heritage which would be an effective resource for the tokenization of digital art assets and tracking ownership.[159]

---

[156] The Ethics of Digital Preservation.
[157] The Ethics of Digital Preservation.
[158] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[159] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.

The term blockchain refers to a decentralized distributed database structured as a chain of blocks, containing transactions in chronological order and whose integrity is ensured by a system of algorithms and cryptographic rules.[160] The chain grows as new blocks are added which allows each transaction to take place in a decentralized way with a consequent reduction in costs and an increase in operational efficiency, eliminating and accelerating the execution times of the transactions.[161]

Hence, blockchain technology is an immutable digital ledger which cannot be changed after a transaction is recorded and verified. In addition to the transaction details stored in the ledger, these details are deposited in every node of the network, and a modification of a single block would imply the modification of the entire ledger. This advancement is considered the digital evolution of a ledger where all the transactions of both data and information are noted as a distributed ledger, a register composed of a "chain of blocks" of information.[162]

The evolution of technology has been highlighted to have three stages where the first stage birthed cryptocurrencies which paved the way for the use and implementation of blockchain technology to solve the problem of spending and facilitate transaction between actors, while the second stage concerns the evolution of Ethereum blockchain and Decentralized Applications which made it possible to extend the scope of application of the technology beyond the financial sector, and stage three is concerned with the convergence of blockchain and other smart technologies including AI, Internet of Things (IoT).[163]

The blockchain technology has established its importance in various ways including a decentralized system that helps to maintain an encrypted copy of records and eliminates the need for centralized governance which allows all users to check for any tampering or changes in the distributed registry; where transactions are encrypted and stored in different nodes in the distribution network, blockchain makes it difficult to be tampered with; blockchain also helps to keep users anonymous as the only data visible are the addresses of the sender and recipient;

---

[160] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[161] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[162] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[163] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.

transactions through blockchains are also verifiable and validated in real time as participants have access to the same records without the need for intermediary third parties.[164]

The influence of blockchain technology in preserving cultural heritage helps to preserve its authenticity, quality and intangible values linked to cultural heritage as it contributes to uniqueness and non-reproducibility of the cultural asset, as digitiation has aided in copying the cultural heritage in order to be edited, reproduced and distributed at little cost.[165]

The blockchain technology also facilitates the process of tokenization by converting a right on a cultural heritage into a token which is then issued on a blockchain platform for its exchange between users and governed by a smart contract thus, linking the impact of blockchain in the cultural heritage industry to the birth of the CryptoArte phenomenon.[166] For instance, the SuperRare gallery creates a transaction in the Ethereum blockchain when an artist uploads a work of art, further creating a token uniquely associated with the work of art and transferring it into the artist's cryptographic wallet.[167]

Furthermore, blockchain serves as a suitable tool for the digital protection of works of art through the use of an asymmetric encryption mechanism and the affixture of an immutable digital signature on documents relating to individual works of art, which ensures the security and permanency of blockchain technology in authenticating the ownership and identity of the original artefact.[168] This technology protects and manages the intellectual property of works of art and the corresponding digital documentation that is often subject to cancellation or loss, thereby increasing the value of the works of art.

The influence of blockchain technology on cultural heritage is varied based on integrated, fragmented, and disconnected studies. However, it has a positive impact on the digital protection of cultural heritage, and there are open opportunities for further research on increasing the

---

[164] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[165] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[166] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[167] Crypto Art: A Decentralized View.
[168] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.

positive impact blockchain has on cultural heritage.[169] Blockchain leads to new business opportunities with its own challenges and difficulties. Hence, managers and operators are encouraged to find a balance between the positive and negative effects of blockchain in order to improve the efficiency of using the technology for the provision of new cultural services.

5. Natives Involvement and Crowdsourcing for the Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Intangible cultural heritage is deeply rooted in local communities' territories and shared culture which has garnered attention from every stakeholder involved in order to preserve intangible cultural heritage, and crowdsourcing is one of those ways implemented. Crowdsourcing is a reliable, yet underexplored tool for collecting data and information by engaging the local community.[170]

Crowdsourcing as a platform allows for the emergence of the social relevance of intangible heritage and validates the impact of heritage on local identity. It also facilitates the empowerment of relationships and supports the exploration of new economic development opportunities, thus empowering the community to take ownership of their cultural heritage and participate in its preservation through the collection and sharing of cultural heritage data.[171]

The flexibility of crowdsourcing makes it an effective and powerful practice, however, it also presents challenges by means of defining and categorising it. This approach recognizes that cultural heritage is not only the preserve of experts and scholars but also belongs to the natives that created it, further encouraging a collaborative approach and has been proven effective through the "Citizen Archivist" program launched by the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in 2010, where volunteers were invited to transcribe and tag historical records for easy accessibility to researchers and the public.[172] Also, the "Europeana 1914-1918"

---

[169] Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review.
[170] Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas.
[171] Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas.
[172] Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas.

project is another program that crowdsourced stories, photos, and other artefacts related to the First World War by facilitating the collection and dissemination of cultural heritage data, thereby enhancing access and understanding of cultural heritage.[173]

The benefits of crowdsourcing in the quest to preserve intangible cultural heritage involves overcoming resource restraints, enhancing cultural activities by facilitating greater participation, reaching beyond the traditional physical limits of an organization, and involving audiences in the creation of new exhibits and programming. It is essential to acknowledge the multifaceted aspects surrounding the enhancement of intangible cultural heritage where there are intricate complexities and challenges involved in preserving authenticity and fostering community engagement amidst the forces of commercialization.[174]

As beneficial as crowdsourcing is for every stakeholder involved in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage, there are certain misconceptions that can be viewed as challenges such as the belief that crowdsourcing is the cheaper way of preserving ICH.[175] The requirement of funding in crowdsourcing could be viewed as a challenge where there is a requirement to create data training sets for the crowd to contribute to automation which improves the quality and discoverability of data collection.[176]

Also, the investment in crowdsourcing is channelled towards communication, data processing and day-to-day management of building and crowd maintenance through the provision of mutual benefits for participants and stakeholders, such as undertaking meaningful and enjoyable tasks, and the investment in resources to foster communication between participants, such as progress reports, and answering questions.[177]

---

[173] Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas.
[174] Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas.
[175] Why Work with Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage?
[176] Why Work with Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage?
[177] Why Work with Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage?

V - Conclusion

The evolution of technology is an interesting occurrence that continues to affect every sector in global economies, hence the presence of technology in cultural heritage is no surprising feat that it is viewed as a norm in the preservation of these objects. As technology continues to evolve, the recurring question in preserving cultural heritage becomes, how can cultural heritage be preserved better considering the contemporary events that seem to evolve along with technology and humans. The stakes for better legal structure arise along with the policies, technology and the cultural objects being preserved, especially when focus has shifted towards intangible cultural heritage, the stakes become higher.

Over the years, the concept of preserving intangible cultural heritage has been off the board until the shift in economic perspectives. This shift further made a change with the advent of globalization and advanced technology where discussions on preserving intangible cultural heritage through technology was raised. The concept of cultural heritage has been traditionally defined as sites, monuments and other types of tangible heritage, however, there has been a reconceptualization of heritage to include both tangible and intangible elements such as folklore, cultural practices and traditional knowledge.[178] Also, the identification of cultural heritage is based on the process of attributing values which is inherently intangible as all heritage has intangible features.[179]

Moreover, cultural heritage is not limited to a certain concept as there has been a shift of conversation based on its outstanding and universal value and its monumental character to the protection of cultural heritage as being of vital value for individuals and communities in relation to their cultural identity.[180] Yet, globalisation has been effective in birthing various, novel technologies that will upgrade the preservation techniques of intangible cultural heritages which would also become advanced. Thus, the future of generations of cultural heritages is symbiotic on the advancement of technology and the global world at large.

---

[178] Cultural Heritage in International Law, Chapter 1.
[179] Cultural Heritage in International Law, Chapter 1.
[180] Cultural Heritage in International Law, Chapter 1.

VI - Further Research

1. How can social media be leveraged to promote and preserve intangible cultural heritage, within all levels of societal interactions?

2. What is the future and contributions of crowdsourcing in the preservation and sharing of intangible cultural heritage, for marginalised or endangered cultures?

3. For multilingual and cross-cultural intangible heritages, how can technology, such as AI-driven translation tools, assist in preservation and protection when there are no written records of such languages or traditions?

4. How can community engagement be enhanced through participatory design approaches and lead to more effective technology solutions for the preservation of intangible cultural heritage?

5. What other effective ways can cultural institutions and technology companies collaborate to develop comprehensive preservation strategies that fosters actions more after deliberate discussions?

6. What practical measures can be used to integrate immersive technologies into cultural institutions to preserve intangible cultural heritage in an engaging and educational manner?

7. What other collaborative efforts between technology companies and cultural institutions can be developed to guarantee greater accessibility to global audiences and also respect cultural sensitivities?

8. What potential challenges can be identified with the long-term digital preservation of intangible cultural heritages, in the face of advancement of technology and obsolescence?

9. How can 3D scanning and modeling technologies aid in preserving intangible cultural practices linked to physical artifacts including ritual objects, traditional tools?

10. What is the role of digital storytelling platforms in empowering indigenous communities to share their intangible cultural heritages and how to preserve them efficiently?

VII - Annotated Bibliography

Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, available at https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/resources/international-humanitarian-law/ihl-protection-cultural-heritage/ (accessed 15 January, 2025).

> *This emphasizes on the importance of protecting cultural heritage and cultural property during armed conflict.*
>
> *It also provides the delegates with the necessary information in understanding the various means and frameworks that prevent the destruction of cultural heritage and foster protection of cultural properties.*

Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu -2022 -Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library, available at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1155/2022/7471121 (accessed 18 January, 2025).

> *This document sheds more light on the application of digital technology in the protection of intangible cultural heritage.*
>
> *It reviews the different tools used in preserving ICHs and highlights the challenges that various stakeholders face in the preservation of ICHs.*

Digital Cultural Heritage: Theory and Practice - IFLA, available at https://www.ifla.org/news/digital-cultural-heritage-theory-and-practice/#:~:text=Digital%20technologies%20also%20strengthen%20the,%2C%20education%2C%20training%20and%20participation (accessed 7 January, 2025).

> *This site reviews the theoretical and practical ideals surrounding digital cultural heritages and its growth alongside technology.*

The Concept and History of Cultural Heritage, available at https://culturalheritagestudies.ceu.edu/concept-and-history-cultural-heritage (accessed 10 January, 2025).

This website highlights the concept of cultural heritage and its history before the invasion of civilisation. It examines the advancement of technology and its effects on cultural heritages, ushering in the concept of intangible cultural heritages and the potential of ICH to future generations.

Why Work with Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage?, available at https://britishlibrary.pubpub.org/pub/why-work-with-crowdsourcing-in-cultural-heritage/release/2 (accessed 10 January, 2025).

This site exhibits the importance of crowdsourcing and its effects in preserving cultural heritage. It also examines the mutual benefits of crowdsourcing and the challenges being faced.

VIII - Bibliography

A/RES/76/214 General Assembly, available at https://documents.un.org/access.nsf/get?OpenAgent&DS=A/RES/76/214&Lang=E (accessed 12 January, 2025).

African Union Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/37305-treaty-Charter_for_African_Renaissance_ENGLISH_digital_0.pdf (accessed 30 March, 2025).

AI for Art and Heritage Conservation, available at https://www.ultralytics.com/blog/ai-in-art-and-cultural-heritage-conservation#:~:text=Comput

er%20vision%20models%20can%20be,make%20informed%20decisions%20during%20restoration (accessed 30 March, 2025).

An Integration in Cultural Heritage Conservation - Ethical Considerations and the Human Imperative, available at https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1022&context=ijedie (accessed 5 January, 2025).

Application of Digital Technology in Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection - Wiley Online Library, available at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1155/2022/7471121 (accessed 5 February, 2025).

Artificial Intelligence (AI): What It Is, How It Works, Types, and Uses, available at https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/artificial-intelligence-ai.asp#:~:text=Artificial%20intelligence%20(AI)%20is%20an,January%202024.%E2%80%9D%20Page%207 (accessed 5 February, 2025)

Augmented Reality (AR): Definition, Examples, and Uses, available at https://www.investopedia.com/terms/a/augmented-reality.asp#:~:text=Augmented%20reality%20(AR)%20is%20an,the%20user's%20enjoyment%20or%20understanding (accessed 7 January, 2025).

Blockchain and NFTs in the Cultural Heritage Domain: A Review of Current Research Topics, available at https://www.mdpi.com/2571-9408/6/4/202 (accessed 5 February, 2025).

Blockchain Facts: What Is It, How it Works, and How It Can Be Used, available at https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blockchain.asp (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Blockchain in Cultural Heritage: Insights from Literature Review, available at https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/4/2324#:~:text=In%20is,tracking%20of%20ownership%20%5B3%5D (accessed 6 January, 2025).

Britannica, Virtual reality (VR) - Definition, Development, Technology, Examples, and Facts, available at https://www.britannica.com/technology/virtual-reality (accessed 24 March, 2025).

CHARTER Alliance, available at https://charter-alliance.eu/#:~:text=CHARTER%20will%20build%20a%20durable,tangible%20and%20intangible%20cultural%20heritage (accessed 28 March, 2025).

Conferences for the Legal Protection of Cultural Property in the event of Armed Conflict, available at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000143360#:~:text=It%20is%20the%20duty%20of,next%20codification%20had%20to%20avoid (accessed 8 February, 2025).

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/ (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, available at https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cppdce/cppdce.html#:~:text=The%20Convention%20contains%2035%20articles,protection%20and%20promotion%20of%20the (accessed 6 February, 2025).

Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions - Legal Affairs, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/convention-protection-and-promotion-diversity-cultural-expressions (accessed 8 February, 2025).

Copyright and Data Authenticity in the Digital Preservation of Heritage: The Case of OAPI States, available at

https://www.ijih.org/volumes/article/666 (accessed 27 March, 2025).

Crowdsourced Intangible Cultural Heritage Mobile Applications, available at

https://repository.rit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?params=/context/other/article/1965/&path_info=Motivational_Principles_and_Personalisation_Needs_for_Geo_Crowdsourced_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_Mobile_Applications.pdf (accessed 26 March, 2025).

Crowdsourcing Cultural Heritage, Public Participation and Conflict Legacy in Finland, available at

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/20518196.2016.1252129 (accessed 25 March, 2025).

Crowdsourcing Intangible Heritage for Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas, available at

https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/12/10/1843#:~:text=By%20involving%20communities%2C%20crowdsourcing%20empowers,sharing%20of%20cultural%20heritage%20data (accessed 7 January, 2025).

Crypto Art: A Decentralized View, available at https://direct.mit.edu/leon/article-abstract/54/4/402/97295 (accessed 7 February, 2025).

Cultural Heritage in International Law, Chapter 1, available at

https://brill.com/display/book/9789004347823/BP000010.xml?language=en (accessed 8 February, 2025).

Cultural Heritage Preservation by Using Blockchain Technologies, available at

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/357715970_Cultural_heritage_preservation_by_using_blockchain_technologies (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Culture and Digital Technologies - UNESCO, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/culture-and-digital-technologies (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Cultural Heritage and IHL - Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, available at https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/resources/international-humanitarian-law/ihl-protection-cultural-heritage/ (accessed 15 January, 2025).

Cultural Heritage Protection - Liu -2022 -Mobile Information Systems - Wiley Online Library, available at https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1155/2022/7471121 (accessed 18 January, 2025).

Cultural Preservation and Digital Heritage: Challenges and Opportunities, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/380878107_Cultural_presevation_and_digital_heritage_challenges_and_opportunities (accessed 9 January, 2025).

Culture: at the heart of Sustainable Development, available at https://courier.unesco.org/en/articles/culture-heart-sustainable-development-goals (accessed 30 March, 2025).

Cutting Edge: Protecting and Preserving Cultural Diversity in the Digital Era, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/cutting-edge-protecting-and-preserving-cultural-diversity-digital-era (accessed 9 February, 2025).

Definition from TechTarget, What is augmented reality (AR), available at https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/augmented-reality-AR#:~:text=Augmented%20reality%20(AR)%20is%20the,overlaid%20on%20top%20of%20it (accessed 5 February,2025).

Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas, available at

https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/12/10/1843#:~:text=By%20involving%20communities%2C%20crowdsourcing%20empowers,sharing%20of%20cultural%20heritage%20data (accessed 5 January, 2025).

Digital Cultural Heritage: Theory and Practice - IFLA, available at https://www.ifla.org/news/digital-cultural-heritage-theory-and-practice/#:~:text=Digital%20technologies%20also%20strengthen%20the,%2C%20education%2C%20training%20and%20participation (accessed 7 January, 2025).

Digital Innovations for Cultural Preservation: The Role of Information Technology in Nigeria, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/388361009_Digital_Innovations_for_Cultural_Preservation_The_Role_of_Information_Technology_in_Nigeria#:~:text=PDF%20%7C%20Digital%20tools%20like%20artificial%20intelligence,Nigeria's%20cultural%20heritage.%20These%20technologies%20make%20it&text=%7C%20Find%2C%20read%20and%20cite%20all%20the%20research%20you%20need%20on%20ResearchGate (accessed 5 January, 2025).

Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage and Exploration of Network Communication Issues, available at https://unige.org/volume-74-issue-2-2024/digital-preservation-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-and-exploration-of-network-communication-issues/ (accessed 6 February, 2025).

Digital Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329878297_Digital_Preservation_of_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage (accessed 7 February, 2025).

Digitalizing Cultural Heritage through Metaverse Applications: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies, available at https://www.nature.com/articles/s40494-024-01403-1#:~:text=In%20the%20context%20of%20intangible,with%20great%20pride%20and%20ownership (accessed 5 February, 2025).

Dive into Heritage, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/dive-into-heritage/ (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Draft Policy on Cultural Heritage, available at https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/itemsDocuments/2021-03-22-otp-draft-policy-cultural-heritage-eng.pdf#:~:text=1%20The%20Rome%20Statute%20(%E2%80%9CStatute%E2%80%9D)%20confers%20upon,heritage%20has%20been%20a%20long%2Dstanding%20concern%20of (accessed 29 March, 2025).

Emerald Insight - Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for the Future: A Bibliometric Analysis, available at https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/dlp-01-2024-0018/full/html (accessed 23 March, 2025).

European Commission Report on Cultural Heritage: Digitisation, Online Accessibility and Digital Preservation, available at https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/european-commission-report-cultural-heritage-digitisation-online-accessibility-and-digital#:~:text=Member%20States%20remain%20supportive%20of%20the%20development,high%20quality%20content%20and%20metadata%20to%20Europeana (accessed 23 March, 2025).

Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence and Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://ich.unesco.org/en/news/exploring-the-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-and-intangible-cultural-heritage-13536 (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Framework for UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263429753_Framework_for_UNESCO_intangible_cultural_heritage (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Geneva Convention, Additional Protocols I and II - Heritage for Peace, available at https://www.heritageforpeace.org/heritage-for-peace/legal-framework/geneva-convention-additional-protocols-i-and-ii/#:~:text=The%20Geneva%20Convention%20(1949)%20contains,or%20State%2C%20religious%20or%20other (accessed 24 March, 2025).

How AI, virtual reality and blockchain are converging, available at https://bsvblockchain.org/how-ai-virtual-reality-and-blockchain-are-converging/ (accessed 24 March, 2025).

How to transform your Business Using AI with AR and VR Technologies?, available at https://www.terasoltechnologies.com/blog/use-of-ai-with-ar-vr-technologies#:~:text=In%20robotic%20devices%2C%20AR/VR%20technology%20is%20used,medical%20hospitals%2C%20pharmacies%2C%20and%20other%20healthcare%2oinstitutions (accessed 23 March, 2025).

IBM - What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?, available at https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Program%20Manager-,What%20is%20AI?,and%20respond%20to%20human%20language (accessed 24 March, 2025).

IBM - What is Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI)?, available at https://www.ibm.com/think/topics/blockchain-ai (accessed 27 March, 2025).

Intangible Cultural Heritage - Lvping 2021- Scientific Programming - Wiley Online Library, available at
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1155/2021/2613656 (accessed 28 March, 2025).

Intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, available at https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/34299-EN.pdf (accessed 7 January, 2025).

Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Art Preservation and Exhibition Spaces, available at https://www.mdpi.com/2076-3417/15/2/562#:~:text=On%20the%20positive%20side%2C%20AI,%5B14%2C18%5D (accessed 24 March, 2025).

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - OHCHR, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights#:~:text=charge%20for%20all.-,Article%2015,the%20scientific%20and%20cultural%20fields (accessed 15 January, 2025).

Interreg Europe, How digitalisation transforms tourism, heritage preservation and cultural activities, available at https://www.interregeurope.eu/find-policy-solutions/stories/how-digitalisation-transforms-tourism-heritage-preservation-cultural-activities (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Kit of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://ich.unesco.org/en/kit#:~:text=Implementing%20the%202003%20Convention,-Infokit%202011%20%2D%20%E2%80%9CImplementing&text=The%202003%20Convention%2C%20cooperation%20and%20assistance (accessed 28 March, 2025).

Monument Watch, Rome Statute on Cultural Heritage, available at https://monumentwatch.org/en/alerts/rome-statute-on-cultural-heritage/#:~:text=The%20destruction%20or%20confiscation%20of%20cultural%20heritage%2C,International%20Criminal%20Court%20(Article%208(2)(b)(ix)%2C%20Article%208(2)(e)(iv)) (accessed 29 March, 2025).

(NGOs) in Promoting Cultural Heritage Preservation, available at https://aithor.com/essay-examples/the-role-of-non-governmental-organizations-ngos-in-promoting-cultural-heritage-preservation#:~:text=Non%2Dgovernmental%20organizations%20(NGOs)%20can%20exploit%20the%20non%2D,even%20modern%20intellectual%20property%20claims (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Principles of the 2001 Convention, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/underwater-heritage/principles-2001#:~:text=The%20Convention%20gives%20a%20key,encourage%20technological%20and%20scientific%20progress (accessed 22 March, 2025).

Report of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on Hague Convention for Protection of Cultural Property, available at https://ogc.osd.mil/Portals/99/report_of_senate_committee_on_foreign_relations_on_hague_convention_for_protection_of_cultural_property.pdf (accessed 24 March, 2025).

ScienceDirect, Preserving cultural heritage: A community-centric approach to Safeguarding the Khulubvi Traditional Temple Malawi, available at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405844024136419#:~:text=6.1.&text=Taking%20advantage%20of%20the%20new,of%20his%20practices%20on%20camera (accessed 23 March, 2025).

ScienceDirect Topics - Artificial Intelligence: An Overview, available at https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/artificial-intelligence#:~:text=Artificial%20Intelligence%20is%20defined%20as,decision%20making%2C%20and%20language%20translation (accessed 26 March, 2025).

SDG Indicators, available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/?Text=&Goal=&Target=16.b#:~:text=at%20all%20levels-,Target%2016.,and%20policies%20for%20sustainable%20development (accessed 30 March, 2025).

Significance of Community Involvement in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/275923611_Significance_of_Community_Involvement_in_Safeguarding_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Sustainable Development Goals2030 and Management of Heritage: Indian and Global Contexts, available at https://www.mdpi.com/2673-4591/56/1/290#:~:text=SDG%2011%20aims%20to%20ensure,these%20invaluable%20resources%20%5B1%5D (accessed 30 March, 2025).

Taj Mahal - UNESCO World Heritage Centre, available at https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/252/ (accessed 13 January, 2025).

Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Preservation and Development, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334735261_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage_and_New_Technologies_Challenges_and_Opportunities_for_Cultural_Preservation_and_Development (accessed 18 January, 2025).

Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities for Cultural Preservation and Development, available at https://minesparis-psl.hal.science/hal-01693634/document#:~:text=There%20is%20little%20doubt%20that,inent%20on%20an%20international%20level (accessed 18 January, 2025).

Technology and Cultural Heritage: Leveraging Digital Platforms for Preservation and Education, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/381188080_TECHNOLOGY_AND_CULTURAL_HERITAGE_LEVERAGING_DIGITAL_PLATFORMS_FOR_PRESERVATION_AND_EDUCATION (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Territorial Development: A Conceptual Framework Considering Italian Inner Areas, available at

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/374445815_Crowdsourcing_Intangible_Heritage_for_Territorial_Development_A_Conceptual_Framework_considering_Italian_Inner_Areas (accessed 24 March, 2025).

Text of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention (accessed 17 January, 2025).

The 2001 Convention - UNESCO, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/underwater-heritage/2001-convention#:~:text=Recognizing%20that%20underwater%20cultural%20heritage,of%20peaceful%20and%20united%20societies (accessed 17 January, 2025).

The 2009 UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS), available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc10/Bg-FCS-e.pdf (accessed 17 January, 2025).

The Charm of Argungu Museum, available at https://web.archive.org/web/20110721135557/http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/ArtsandCulture/Travel/5396182-147/story.csp (accessed 5 February, 2025).

The Concept and History of Cultural Heritage, available at https://culturalheritagestudies.ceu.edu/concept-and-history-cultural-heritage (accessed 10 January, 2025).

The Ethics of Digital Preservation, available at https://chiotis.eu/the-ethics-of-digital-preservation.html (accessed 6 January, 2025).

The Role of Digital Technologies in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317757322_The_Role_of_Digital_Technologies_in_the_Preservation_of_Cultural_Heritage (accessed 18 January, 2025).

UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), available at https://www.un.org/depts/los/general_assembly/contributions_2010/UNESCO.pdf (accessed 17 January, 2025).

UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education, available at https://www.unesco.org/sites/default/files/medias/fichiers/2024/02/WCCAE_UNESCO%20Framework_EN_0.pdf (accessed 24 March, 2025).

UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, What are the biggest challenges UNESCO faces in protecting intangible cultural heritage in conflict zones, and how are these being addressed?, available at https://en.unesco.org/inclusivepolicylab/support-system/questions/what-are-biggest-challenges-unesco-faces-protecting-intangible-cultural (accessed 28 March, 2025).

UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, available at https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/01851-EN.pdf (accessed 6 February, 2025).

UNESCO Ratification of the 2001 Convention, available at https://www.unesco.org/en/underwater-heritage/ratification#:~:text=Benefits%20and%20on%2Dcall%20time&text=The%202001%20Convention%20contains%20basic,cooperation%20of%20other%20States%20Parties. (accessed 8 February, 2025).

UNIDROIT 1995 Convention, available at https://www.unidroit.org/instruments/cultural-property/1995-convention/ (accessed 30 March, 2025).

Why Work with Crowdsourcing in Cultural Heritage?, available at https://britishlibrary.pubpub.org/pub/why-work-with-crowdsourcing-in-cultural-heritage/release/2 (accessed 10 January, 2025).

Topic Two: War Against Humanity: Globally Eradicating Systemic Racism

I - Quote

"Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned... the dream of lasting peace, world citizenship, and the rule of international morality will remain but a fleeting illusion." — **Haile Selassie, *Former Emperor of Ethiopia.***

II - Introduction

In 2020, the whole world watched in shock as a series of protests erupted across the globe following the death of George Floyd, an African-American man whose life was unfortunately cut short by police brutality in the United States.[181] His case sparked a global outcry against systemic racism, resonating with marginalized communities on different continents. This moment of collective outrage exposed the deeply ingrained structures of racial discrimination that deny people of certain races equal opportunities and dignity which reinforces its presence in every sector.[182]

Systemic racism is one of the most persistent and enduring challenges to global justice and equity as it denies individuals equal opportunities and rights based on race or ethnicity. It is deeply rooted in history, laws, and institutions which perpetuates inequalities and marginalizes entire communities leading to gaps in different sectors of the world. Studies in the US, reveal that Black mothers are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white mothers[183] and African Americans adults are 5.9 times more likely to be incarcerated than whites.[184]

---

[181] Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office, Autopsy Report on George Floyd.
[182] Amnesty International, Justice for George Floyd- a year of global activism for black lives against police violence
[183] National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM).
[184] The Sentencing Project- Report to the UN on racial disparities in the US criminal justice system.

Globally, the legacy left behind by colonialism and slavery continues to fuel these socio-economic inequalities which leads to profound consequences. Economically, these discriminatory systems create limited access to employment opportunities thus exacerbating poverty and widening the income gap. Socially, it has perpetuated segregation, mutual mistrust and exclusion, making it difficult for marginalized communities to access basic services like healthcare and good education.

Systemic racism directly undermines the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 10, which advocates for reducing inequalities; SDG 3, which focuses on Good Health and Well-Being; and SDG 16, which aims to achieve Peace, Justice, and Strong institutions. Achieving these goals is impossible without addressing the systemic and structural barriers created by racism.

Eradicating systemic racism demands a global collaborative effort to uproot discriminatory structures and promote policies and systems rooted in equality and inclusivity. By addressing the policies, social practices, and institutions that enable discrimination, the global community can ensure that George Floyd's story and others like it become a relic of the past rather than a recurring reality within minority groups.

III - International and Regional Frameworks

In the zeal to eradicate systemic racism, there has been a growing recognition at both international and regional levels of the structural inequalities and persistent discrimination faced by people of color. The first international framework which stipulated equality among human race is *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which is a milestone document in the history of human rights and the fundamental amongst all other human right documents. *Article 1* guarantees that all humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights with an endowment of reason and conscience, and an expectation to act in the spirit of brotherhood to one another.[185]

---

[185] Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD),* was adopted by the *UNGA Resolution 2106* where *Article 2* provides for that any distinction, exclusion or preference made by a State Party to this Convention between citizens and non-citizens shall not be applicable. Also, *Article 4 and 5 of the Convention* guarantees the special measures for securing adequate advancement of certain racial or ethnic groups that require such protection for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These measures are not deemed as racial discrimination so long as it does not lead to the maintenance of separate rights for different racial groups. The said rights have to be discontinued after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.[186]

The *International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)* also provides for the right to freedom from discrimination in *Article 2(1)* where each State Party undertakes to respect and ensure that all individuals within its territory and jurisdiction are recognized, without distinction of any kind, including race. This is also reiterated in *Article 26* that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.[187]

Furthermore, the *International Labour Organization (ILO), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention* defines discrimination in *Article 1* as any distinction made on the basis of race, colour, political opinion or social origin which has the effect of impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.[188]

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), paragraph 1 provides that victims of racism, racial discrimination, are individuals who have been negatively affected by, or targets of these scourges. Also, *paragraph 2* recognizes the occurrence of racism on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin which can affect the victims through the aggravated forms discrimination based on other related grounds including sex, religion, political or other opinion. *Article 3 of the Declaration* affirms that a global fight against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance is a matter of priority for the international community which offers a unique opportunity to assess and identify all dimensions of the devastating evils of humanity with a

---

[186] International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination was adopted on 21 December, 1965.
[187] International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
[188] International Labour Organization (ILO), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111) 1958 65

vision for total elimination. This is fostered through the initiation of innovative and holistic approaches and strengthening practical measures at the national, regional and international levels.[189]

The *UN Security Council* adopted *Resolution 2686 (2023)*, where it encouraged Member States to live together in peace, respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination of any kind.[190] Similarly, *UNGA Resolution 34/24*, laid out a comprehensive programme of action, notably, an annual Week of Solidarity on 21st March to support people resisting racial discrimination worldwide.[191]

Additionally, the *UNHRC Resolution 43/1,* supports the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and people of African descent against excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies.[192]

Regionally, the *African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)* provides in *Article 2* that every individual is entitled to enjoyment of the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Charter without distinction of any kind. Also, *Article 19* recognizes that all people are equal, enjoy the same respect and have the same rights, and there is no justification for dominating a group of people by another.[193]

Moreover, the *European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)* expressly states in *Article 14* that the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms in the Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground including sex, race, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin.

Notably, the *Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance (IACR)* states *in Article 2* that every human being is equal under the law

---

[189] Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).
[190] Resolution 2686 (2023) Adopted by the Security Council at its 9347th meeting, on 14 June, 2023. S/RES/2686 (2023)
[191] Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly. A/RES/34/24,
13 December, 1979
[192] Adopted by United Nations Human Rights Council A/HRC/RES/43/1, 19 June 2020.
[193] African Charter on Human and People's Rights.

and has a right to equal protection against any form of discrimination and intolerance in any sphere of life, public or private.[194]

IV - Role of the International Systems

International systems play a very important role in addressing the issue of systemic racism by establishing global norms, monitoring compliance to the established standards, taking a definite and clear stance in advocating for marginalized communities and supporting individual or government initiatives to dismantle these discriminatory practices. The UN is at the forefront of combating systemic racism through its agencies, declarations and conventions.

The UNHRC[195] is an intergovernmental body within the UN system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. The body addresses systemic racism by investigating human rights violations, providing platforms for dialogue and fostering the creation of international frameworks to combat all forms of racial discrimination.

The UNHRC also utilizes special procedures including independent experts and rapporteurs to investigate systemic racism including, the 2022 Special Rapporteur's report on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance[196] which detailed the persistence of structural racism in several countries and called for transformative changes in the institutions that uphold discrimination. Article 1 of the UDHR,[197] as the foundation of international human rights law, enshrines the principle of equality and non-discrimination. It is not a legally binding document but it contains a series of principles and rights based on human rights standards enshrined in other international instruments that are legally binding.[198]

---

[194] Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance (IACR) - 2013.
[195] Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
[196] United Nations, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism Report (2022).
[197] United Nations, 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights', Article 1.
[198] OHCHR: Special procedures, Declaration on human rights defenders.

The ICCPR also establishes enduring human rights principles for everyone and has become a central guiding force for the UN.[199] The influence of the Declaration has been remarkable as it play a unique role in taking strides forward on women's equality, progress on education and health, the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa; and the victories of independence over colonial rule.[200] For instance, South Africa's post-apartheid constitution[201] enshrines the right to equality and non discrimination in its Bill of Rights, which directly echoes the principles of the UDHR.

Also, the DDPA is another document that addresses past and ongoing racial injustices and provides a roadmap for fighting racism globally. It also strives to achieve the SDGs by calling for comprehensive national action plans to eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and the reinforcement of national institutions.[202] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is also a key international mechanism under the UN that is made up of a body of independent experts that monitor the implementation of the ICERD by its state parties. The convention legally binds all ratifying Member States and obligates them to eliminate racial discrimination and report progress to the CERD.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) also plays a role in addressing racial discrimination in workplaces and employment, and supporting countries by providing data on workplace inequalities while drafting inclusive labor laws. The Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention[203] obligates Member States to fight against racial and other forms of discrimination in employment practices. Some reports like the ILO's Global Wage Report[204] and World Employment and Social Outlook, provide insights into racial disparities in employment, offering data and analysis on wage trends, inequality, and other issues in the labor market. These reports often include analysis that illuminates on how different racial and ethnic groups fare in the labour market. Although, the reports are not explicitly focused on racial disparities.

---

[199] UN foundation, 70 Years of Impact: Insights on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
[200] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Our Shared Values and Path to Solutions.
[201] Bill of Rights, Chapter 2, Section 7-39.
[202] Durban review conference, 2009, Geneva United Against Racism.
[203] Convention No. 111, Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958.
[204] International Labour Organization, "Global Wage Report 2022–23.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) ensures accountability for racial discrimination at its most violent extremes, where individuals responsible for racial persecution or genocide are prosecuted. For instance, Jean-Paul Akayesu, the Mayor of Taba, was charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes for his role in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, including inciting violence and ordering the killing of Tutsi people.[205] Furthermore, the ICC indicted Sudan's former President Omar al-Bashir for crimes against humanity and genocide against ethnic groups in Darfur, where racial discrimination and persecution were central to the atrocities committed.[206]

Additionally, civil societies and NGOs have taken a definitive stance in the global fight against systemic racism. These organizations work hand in hand to dismantle systemic racism by addressing its historical and legal roots, providing platforms for advocacy and implementation of policies that promote justice and equality globally.

The EU has made notable progress in addressing systemic racism within its borders, including the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan which provides a framework for combating racial disparities in policing, housing, education, and employment.[207] Also, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), is the only pan-European anti-racism network that combines advocacy for racial equality and facilitates cooperation among civil society anti-racism actors in Europe. They also played a pivotal role in the adoption of the Action Plan.

Amnesty International is another organization that has consistently used legal advocacy and human rights reporting to expose racial discrimination. Amnesty's 2022 report on Australia's offshore detention policies documented discriminatory practices against non-white asylum seekers, especially those from South Asia and the Middle East. This led to public and legal pressure on the Australian government to improve detention conditions and reconsider some aspects of its border enforcement policy.[208]

---

[205] European Journal of International Law, Protectedx against Genocide in the Jurisprudence of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals.
[206] International Criminal Court, "Prosecutor v. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir," ICC-02/05-01/09.
[207] European Commission, EU Anti-Racism Action Plan 2020–2025.
[208] Amnesty International, Australia: 'We Will Decide Who Comes Here': Offshore Detention and Racism.

Similarly, Color of Change is a UK-based racial justice organization that led successful corporate campaigns in pressuring major companies like Facebook, and Airbnb to revise policies on hate speech, algorithmic bias, and racial profiling. The #StopHateForProfit campaign in 2020 led over 1,000 companies to pause advertising on Facebook until stronger anti-racism measures were put in place.[209]

Furthermore, international systems and civil societies play interconnected and complementary roles in the fight against systemic racism. And global institutions provide the frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to address racial injustice, while civil society and NGOs galvanize public support, expose hidden inequalities, and translate principles into action. The integration of these efforts with global agendas like the SDGs, reaffirms the need for a collective, multi-level approach to dismantling racism and fostering a just and inclusive world.

1. The role of policies and structures in perpetuating systemic racism

Systemic racism is institutionalized and perpetuated by policies and systems, as they play a critical role in embedding these discriminatory practices within societal structures. These structures create and maintain racial disparities across various sectors including healthcare, housing, education, employment and the criminal justice system. Understanding the policies and structures that perpetuate systemic racism is crucial for developing effective strategies to combat it.

In the healthcare sector, systemic racism manifests itself through disparities in access to medical services, the quality of medical care given, and the health outcomes in general. The Mothers and Babies Reducing Risk Through Audits and Community Empowerment (MBRRACE-UK) report revealed that the risk of maternal death in 2019-2021 was statistically significant, almost four times higher among women from Black ethnic minority backgrounds compared with white women.[210] It was also shown that women from Asian backgrounds have also continued to be at higher risk than white women.[211]

---

[209] Color of Change, "#StopHateForProfit Campaign," 2020.
[210] Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK, 'Maternal Mortality 2019-2021
[211] Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK, 'Maternal Mortality 2019-2021

It has been suggested that a combination of stigma, systemic racism and socio-economic inequality are relevant causative factors rather than just biological factors alone. Black Americans are undertreated for pain relative to White Americans due to various reasons, including false beliefs about biological differences between Blacks and Whites. A study by the National Library of Medicine found that approximately 50% of white medical students and residents endorse at least one false belief about biological differences between Black and white people. Some of these beliefs were 'Black people's skin is thicker than White people's skin' and 'Black people feel less pain than white people'. These biases result in significant disparities in pain management as it was also revealed that Black patients are 32% less likely to receive pain medication compared to whites.[212]

The Association of American Medical Colleges also revealed in a meta-analysis that the greatest racial disparities in pain treatment occur in conditions like backache, migraine and abdominal pain where Black patients are less likely to receive appropriate analgesics.[213] Furthermore, minority groups are often underrepresented in clinical trials where 147 pharmacology trials tested potential treatments for cystic fibrosis between 1999 and 2015.

Among these trials, 19.7% (29 of 147) reported the race and/or ethnicity of subjects. Latino subjects were reported as included in 7.5% of clinical trials (11 of 147) and black subjects were reported in 6.8% of clinical trials (10 of 147). Only three clinical trials reported Asian subjects (2.0%). In 7.5% of trials (11 of 147), an "other" race/ethnicity category was reported. This glaring disparity results in a lack of data on how different populations respond to various treatments.[214]

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Revitalization Act of 1993[215] mandated the appropriate inclusion of minorities in all National Institutes of Health-funded research. Even after this, the proportion of minority patients enrolled in cancer clinical trials remains persistently low.[216]

---

[212] National Library of Medicine-Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations- PMC
[213] AAMC- How we fail Black patients in pain
[214] National Library of Medicine-Racial bias in pain assessment and treatment recommendations- PMC
[215] NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 Public Law 103-43.
[216] The Case for Enhancing Minority Participation in Cancer Clinical Trials.

In addition to pursuing policies that bring little gain in crime reduction and impose great costs on people of color, policymakers and criminal justice leaders have been late to address discriminatory policies for which they provide no justification such as biased use of officer discretion and revenue-driven policing. In the US, the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act[217] incentivized aggressive policing, justifying it with the 'broken windows theory' which posits that visible signs of disorder, such as broken windows, can lead to more serious crime,[218] a strategy that disproportionately targets communities of color.[219]

Black drivers are more likely to be stopped than whites and are far more likely to be searched and arrested.[220] The causes and outcomes of these stops differ by race, and staggering racial disparities in rates of police stops persist in certain jurisdictions pointing to unchecked racial bias, whether intentional or not, in officer discretion. Nationwide surveys also reveal disparities in the outcomes of police stops as Black and Hispanic drivers are three times as likely as whites to be searched and Blacks are twice as likely as whites to be arrested.

In the case of *Whren v. United States,[221]* the Supreme Court held, unanimously, that the Fourth Amendment analysis was so radically objective that an otherwise legitimate search or arrest would not be invalidated even if an officer's decision to act was based on race.[222] This judicial tolerance has helped sustain racial profiling, with Black and Hispanic drivers being significantly more likely to be stopped, searched, and arrested, even though they are less likely to possess contraband compared to their white counterparts.[223]

With regards to housing, structural and systemic racism has contributed to persistent racial disparities in wealth and financial wellbeing. In 1933, the United States (US) federal government established the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)[224] to expand home ownership as part

---

[217] Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, H.R. 3355, Pub.L. 103–322
[218] Wilson JQ, Kelling GL. 1982. Broken windows. The Atlantic. March.
[219] Their Help is not Helping: Policing as a tool of Structural Violence against Black Communities
[220] Harris, D. (2012). Hearing on "Ending Racial Profiling in America," Testimony of David A. Harris. United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights.
[221] Whren v. United States, 517 U.S. 806 (1996)
[222] Reasonable but Unconstitutional: Racial Profiling and the Radical Objectivity of Whren v. United States.
[223] Harris, D. (2012). Hearing on "Ending Racial Profiling in America," Testimony of David A. Harris. United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights.
[224] Home Owners' Loan Act of 1933, Pub. L. 73–43

of recovery from the Great Depression. A residential security map was created to guide investment and redlined neighbourhoods with a high concentration of Black residents. The HOLC staff physically drew red lines around communities with large Black populations, flagging them as hazardous areas whose residents would not receive loans.[225] This practice effectively denied Black families access to home loans and opportunities for home ownership, thus contributing to long term economic disenfranchisement.

Although redlining officially ended with the Fair Housing Act of 1968,[226] its impact is still seen today in the social geography of cities. Two of the well known discriminatory housing policies used against people of color are the Indian Removal Act of 1830[227] that authorized the federal government to forcibly relocate Native Americans in the Southeast in order to make room for white settlement. And the Dawes Act of 1887[228] which forcibly converted communally held tribal lands into small, individually owned lots and redistributed two-thirds of the land to white Americans.

Furthermore, the global education sector has not been exempt from systemic racism as it hinders equal access for minority communities. In the UK, the Race Relations (Amendment) Act (2000)[229] legally requires public bodies, including schools, to promote racial equality. This legislation was enacted in response to the Macpherson Report following the racially motivated murder of Stephen Lawrence.[230] And studies show that pupils from Black Caribbean, Gypsy/Roma, and Pakistani backgrounds continue to experience exclusion at high rates, and are more likely to have poor attainment than White British pupils.[231]

In furtherance, the South African Schools Act (SASA No 84 of 1996) formalised the desegregation of schools which redressed the legacy of the apartheid policies.[232] The Act mandates that all learners have the right to quality education regardless of race and prohibits

---

[225] Center for American Progress- Systemic inequality: Displacement, Exclusion and Segregation
[226] Fair Housing Act, 42 USC 3601-3619 (1968).
[227] Indian Removal Act, 4 Stat. 411 (1830).
[228] Dawes Act, 24 Stat. 388 (1887).
[229] The Race Relations Amendment Bill [HL].
[230] The Macpherson Report, Twenty-two years on Home Affairs Committee.
[231] Outcomes by ethnicity in schools in England.
[232] International Perspective on Managing Racial Integration in Secondary Schools.

unfair exclusion based on race, or socioeconomic background. School zoning policies, however, alongside language barriers and fee-paying models have been criticized for entrenching inequality and maintaining predominantly white or affluent school spaces. In 2019, for instance, a case at Laerskool Schweizer-Reneke, where Black students were segregated in a classroom, sparked global outrage and showed the persistent racial undertones in the school system.[233]

Racism is not always conscious or explicit, as it is systemic and structural and deeply embedded in systems, laws, policies, and entrenched practices and beliefs that condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment and oppression of people of color. This challenge requires the acknowledgement of historical injustices and the role played in upholding these discriminatory policies and structures.

2. Impact of Global Measures and Movements in Dismantling Stereotypes

Global initiatives have been instrumental in challenging and dismantling stereotypes, fostering more inclusive societies. Globally, about 73% of people indicate regular sightings of stereotyping, yet only 30% speak up in objection. And 50% believe that there is no disagreement when negative stereotyping occurs in order not to exacerbate the situation.[234] Also, 41% believe that there is no disagreement with the perpetrator due to ignorance and an education gap on how to take a stance against stereotypes.[235]

Research shows that the experience of people with stereotypes include 57% gender, 52% race and ethnicity, and 45% sexual orientation and disability each.[236] And, almost 63% of people believe it to be a bigger problem as the years go by, however, focus is dominant on the victims and perpetrators and minimal on the silent witnesses.[237]

Pursuant to this knowledge, the Unstereotype Alliance announced 'Say Nothing, Change Nothing' global campaign designed to mobilize public action. The goal of the campaign is to

---

[233] The South African Human Rights Commission.
[234] United Nations women committee, 'press release ' Unstereotype Alliance.
[235] United Nations women committee, 'press release' Unstereotype Alliance.
[236] United Nations women committee, 'press release' Unstereotype Alliance.
[237] United Nations women committee, press release.

encourage conversations on the issue and provide people with resources and educational tools to proactively take action.[238]

The entertainment industry also made contributions in the eradication of stereotypes by emphasizing and educating the public on the effects of stereotypes and how important it is to dismantle them. Gurira the Black Panther Wakanda actor, delivered a powerful keynote address on dismantling gender norms and challenging persistent stereotypes through personal and collective advocacy to promote sustainable and systemic change.[239]

The High Commissioner of the UNHRC introduced a four-point agenda in its 2021 report which contains 20 actionable recommendations to end systemic racism and human rights violations by law enforcement against Africans and people of African descent.[240] The High Commissioner calls upon States to dismantle systemic racism, and end impunity for human rights violations by law enforcement agencies to ensure that the voices of people of African descent and those who stand up against racism are heard and their concerns are acted upon by way of seeking redress.[241]

The International Movement Against Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) is a global movement dedicated to eradicating all forms of discrimination, especially those based on race and ethnicity which connects grassroots minority groups with UN human rights mechanisms, driving change at both local and global levels.

Furthermore, the DDPA is another movement that combats racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance globally. And the EU approved the EU Anti Racism Action Plan 2020-2025[242] which outlines strategies for working with both countries outside EU and member states to combat stereotypes on a larger scale.

---

[238] United Nations women committee, press release.
[239] United Nations women committee, 'press release' Unstereotype Alliance.
[240] United Nations women committee, 'press release' Unstereotype Alliance.
[241] A/HRC/47/53, Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers.
[242] Elimination of Racism: a global and common fight.

Several countries have enacted laws criminalizing racial discrimination and stereotypes including, Bolivia, South Africa, and Turkey. The country of Uruguay introduced affirmative action, reserving 8% of public jobs and higher education access for people of African descent while the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society distributed government grants to NGOs under the Ordinance on State Grants for Activities against Racism and Similar Forms of Intolerance, and the production of an overview on the extent of acrophobia in Sweden.[243]

Education as a way of raising awareness has been used as a measure by countries globally to eradicate racism. Every year the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hosts a fellowship for people of African descent, providing the participants with a learning opportunity to deepen their understanding of the UN human rights system, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent.[244] Additionally, in 2017, the OHCHR and the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC) organized two workshops on racial profiling in Brazil, targeting government bodies and civil society.

3. The media's responsibility towards mitigating systemic racism

The media plays a very important role in shaping public perception and influencing public discourse around race and racism. As one of society's most influential institutions, the media has the responsibility not only to report facts but also to do so in an unbiased way that promotes justice, combats stereotypes, and gives voice to marginalized communities.

The Black Lives Matter movement which was established in 2013 as a response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman, demonstrates how modern media, especially social media, can be used as a force for anti-racist mobilization. The viral video of the footage of George Floyd's murder which sparked the protests and subsequently, international outrage, was shared on Twitter, with the #BLM hashtag being used over 26 million times on Twitter in 2020 alone.[245] While initially focused on the U.S, BLM has evolved into a global phenomenon, amplified through hashtags, viral videos, and storytelling, and is considered to be the largest social justice movement since the civil rights era of the 1960s.

---

[243] Elimination of Racism: a global and common fight.
[244] International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024: Actions Taken.
[245] Pew Research, How Americans used social media to protest during the George Floyd demonstrations.

The BLM movement has continued to shape how people learn about specific issues that involve race, such as police violence, mass incarceration, and other systemic problems in Black communities. It actively lobbies for legislative reforms addressing systemic racism. A good example of this is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act[246] in the US, which bans the use of chokeholds and no-knock warrants. The message of the movement has also permeated global media and popular culture, with artists, musicians, and filmmakers using their works to amplify its theme.[247] Projects like Ava DuVernay's 13th and When They See Us, have shed more light on this systemic oppression which made the themes of the movement more accessible to a wider and younger audience.

The #SayHerName movement is also one of many contemporary social justice campaigns that engage in digital activism. It is a response to the BLM movement and the mainstream media's tendency to sideline the experiences of Black women in the context of police brutality and anti-Black violence. This movement was created in December 2015 by the African American Policy Forum (AAPF) and the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies (CISPS), which provides an online community for activists, scholars, news reporters, and other social media users to participate in the conversation on racial justice along with other social movements.[248]

Social media platforms have also been active participants in the long-drawn fight against racism. For example, in response to concerns regarding the spread of hate speech and discrimination on its platform, Facebook initiated a civil rights audit. This comprehensive review involved a collaboration with civil rights organizations to identify areas of improvement and develop strategies to combat racism.[249] This audit aimed to hold Facebook accountable and drive positive change.

---

[246] George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.
[247] About Black Lives Matter.
[248] Facebook's Civil Rights Audit – Final Report.
[249] Facebook's Civil Rights Audit – Final Report.

Moreover, media representation could significantly influence societal attitudes toward different racial and ethnic groups, where responsible and accurate portrayals can challenge stereotypes and promote empathy, while biased reporting can perpetuate prejudice. Documentaries, news reports, and opinion pieces can inform the public about the historical and contemporary contexts of racism, encouraging informed discussions and awareness. Investigative journalism also plays a critical role in uncovering and exposing instances of systemic racism while holding institutions and individuals accountable for discriminatory practices.

It is however essential to recognize that the media can also perpetuate racism through biased reporting, underrepresentation, and the reinforcement of stereotypes. Therefore, it requires a conscious effort to promote diversity within media organizations and ensure equitable representation.

4. The Impact of Systemic Racism on Globalization

Systemic racism continues to stand in the way of truly inclusive globalization. It shapes unfair migration policies, blocks equal access to jobs and trade opportunities, and silences minority cultures. Whether it's through discriminatory visa rules, trade barriers, or the loss of native languages, racism limits the free movement of people, ideas, and traditions—everything globalization is supposed to encourage. Instead of building bridges, it builds walls, often leaving communities of color behind.[250]

According to UNESCO, nearly 40% of the world's estimated 6700 languages are in danger of disappearing[251] as about 97% of the world speak about 4% of the world's languages and conversely, about 96% of the world's languages are spoken by 3% of the world.[252] These issues put the minority communities at a risk of losing their cultural heritage and native languages which in turn erodes centuries worth of systems and traditions.

These issues aren't just about fairness—they come with real economic and human costs. Discrimination pushes migrants into unsafe conditions, strips them of basic rights, and keeps

---

[250] American Progress- Neglected college race gap: Racial disparities among college completers.
[251] UNESCO, Language endangerment and vitality.
[252] Bernard 1996: 142

them from reaching their full potential. Even though global agreements call for equality, the promises haven't yet turned into action. Tackling racism at its roots—by listening to those most affected and reshaping policies to include everyone—is essential if we want a global community that truly works for all of us.[253]

5. Justification for Racial Discrimination and Its Modern Consequences

Historically and till this day, racial oppression has been justified, often mutually reinforcing and intertwined. These justifications have been backed by social, economic, political scientific and false theories which legitimized discriminatory practices. The development of racism arose due to conflicting ideas about equality alongside ethnic discrimination. Societies that rejected traditional social hierarchies had to find reasons why certain groups encountered slavery and segregation and lived in separate areas.[254]

With the advent of science in the later part of the eighteenth century, the pronouncements of science became the preferred method for reconciling the difference between principle and practice[255] with roughly three scientific justifications for racial discrimination.[256] One of which is the physicians and geneticists justification which was propounded in the nineteenth century. The physicians and geneticists are of the opinion that inter racial marriages cause some health problems, such as reduced fertility and genetic disharmonies[257], it was precisely on the basis of this belief that in the United States and South Africa for many years there were statutory prohibitions against intermarriage.[258]

Then there is also the belief of cultural superiority used to justify the subjugation and exploitation of a different race by imposing the values and culture of the supposed superior race to the detriment of the inferior race.[259]

---

[253] United Nations network on migration- Eliminating Racial discrimination
[254] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker
[255] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker
[256] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker
[257] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker.
[258] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker.
[259] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker.

Racial subjugation has also been justified on economic grounds. Some people believe that racial submarine is necessary for economic prosperity, this was the main justification for the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and other forms of forced labour. Through some interpretation, religious texts were believed to have supported racial hierarchies. One race was believed to be divinely ordained to lord over the lower races.[260]

One of the major modern consequences of the justification of racial segregation is systemic racism. Racism is basically embedded into every fabric of a society from their policies, institutions and practices, racial inequality permeates. Then, disparities exist in the daily life of individuals from different races even without a conscious bias. Systemic racism exists in many facets of society such as housing, employment, education, health care, wealth accumulation and so on.

In the past, certain urban neighborhoods were segregated and earmarked via a process called redlining. Mortgage lenders denied people access to loans based on the location of where they lived even if they merited the requirements for the loan. A pertinent example is the Housing Discrimination and Redlining which occurred in Chicago Illinois in the mid-20th century, those able to buy homes were pushed into predatory land contracts, where they made big monthly payments but didn't own the home until the final payment. Many lost their homes due to unfair terms between the parties.[261]

There also exists limited access to quality health care and resources. Again, essential health care providers may unconsciously hold bias against another race that affects the treatment and diagnosis of a patient.[262] During the COVID-19 pandemic, Black and Latino communities faced higher infection and death rates. In cities like New York and Detroit, lack of access to quality healthcare, pre-existing conditions due to environmental factors, and bias in treatment contributed to worse outcomes.[263]

---

[260] Ideology of Racism: Misusing Science to Justify Racial Discrimination by William H. Tucker.
[261] Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America" by Beryl Satter.
[262] Federal Reserve History. "Redlining." June 2, 2023.
[263] The COVID-19 pandemic: a call to action to identify and address racial and ethnic disparities." Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, 7(3), 398-402.

Lack of diversity in leadership is also another problem that stems from systemic racism as people of color are mostly underrepresented in leadership positions. It has been noted that some organizations or places of employment do not hire or call back applicants who either have ethnic sounding names or did not tick 'white' on the race section of their employment application form.[264]

Another consequence of racial inequality is racial tension and conflict. One of the major reasons for the American civil war was the predominant racial injustice happening to Black Americans in the country. Again, decades and centuries of segregation, subjugation and stigmatization has led to significant psychological, emotional trauma and damage on black people. This is known as racial trauma.[265] Racial inequality has also created a disparity in the wealth sharing and accumulation of wealth among different races. White people in the United States of America hold and accumulate more wealth compared to black people.[266]

Essentially, the historical and ongoing justifications for racial oppression, which is entrenched in pseudo-scientific theories, cultural superiority, and economic necessity, have contributed to the persistence of systemic racism. These justifications have been a part of the society, leading to lasting disparities across various sectors such as housing, healthcare, education, and wealth accumulation.

Systemic racism has existed in many forms for generations, deeply ingrained in social systems. Racism however, violates various international and regional human rights frameworks. Finding solutions to this widespread problem is vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Goal 10 on Reduced Inequalities and Goal 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. As we approach the 2030 deadline for accomplishing these goals, combating racism must become a top focus.

Systemic racism affects every aspect of life. In the job market, people of color face discrimination in hiring and often earn less than their white counterparts. They are also

---

[264] Federal Reserve History. "Redlining." June 2, 2023.
[265] Federal Reserve History. "Redlining." June 2, 2023.
[266] Federal Reserve History. "Redlining." June 2, 2023.

frequently harassed by police under the guise of stop and search tactics and are given longer prison sentences for similar offenses. In politics, representation is limited, and even when present, their voices are often ignored or dismissed.

Furthermore, the media has a critical influence in moulding society attitudes about race and racism. The media can affect public discourse and inspire change by pushing narratives that challenge racism and emphasise the issues, without being biased at any intervals. Finally, the influence of systemic racism extends beyond particular nations, this is however, affecting economic linkages, cultural exchanges, and social dynamics.

As a result, resolving these concerns requires a strategic and collaborative approach that emphasises equity, diversity, and justice. By strengthening international collaboration and understanding, we should always be ready to fight in order to dismantle the mechanisms that support systemic racism. This will yield a more inclusive and equitable world for all. This study serves as a call to action, pushing policymakers, activists, and the general public to take real steps to eliminate systemic racism and its pervasive impacts in the world.

V - Conclusion

Systemic racism, by its very nature, is deeply entrenched in the structures, policies, and practices that govern societies across the world. Its manifestations are interwoven in every aspect of life; from the implicit bias against people of color in various systems, to racially motivated policing policies. Even in the media, bias and exclusion still persist despite the continued efforts towards reform.

Yet, across these systems, one truth that remains consistent is that systemic racism is not inevitable. It is man-made and sustained by silence and complicity and therefore can be dismantled through local, regional and global action. The persistence of systemic racism today is not only the result of individual prejudice, but of legacies of colonialism, slavery and

segregation, that have never been fully redressed. This is why addressing systemic racism requires more than cosmetic fixes. It calls for confronting uncomfortable histories, reforming discriminatory laws and policies, and reimagining systems of education, governance, health, media, and justice through an actively anti-racist lens.

International institutions, governments, civil societies, and the private sector each have a role to play in reversing this global injustice. International bodies must move beyond performative declarations and advance enforceable frameworks that ensure accountability. Educational curricula must be decolonized and inclusive. Medical and legal institutions must confront internal biases, commit to equity, and center the lived experiences of racialized communities and the media must consciously abandon narratives that dehumanize or exclude and focus on amplifying the truth and elevating minority voices.

Equity and Justice are not ideals reserved for the privileged few, they are universal entitlements and the true measure of our global progress is in our collective willingness to make them a reality.

VI - Further Research

1. What practical steps can be taken to move beyond declaratory commitments and ensure enforceability of anti-racism frameworks across UN Member States?

2. How can SOCHUM address the growing threat of AI and algorithm-driven racial discrimination in policing, recruitment, and migration systems?

3. How can SOCHUM address the racial bias in humanitarian aid delivery and refugee processing, especially in regions experiencing conflict or natural disasters?

4. How can youth-led, grassroots anti-racism movements be integrated into the UN's policy-making system in a way that respects their autonomy while leveraging on their reach?

5. What are the long-term economic and psychological effects of racial segregation and inequality on marginalized communities, particularly in relation to wealth accumulation, healthcare, and educational opportunities?

6. How does racial data collection or the lack thereof, impact the global monitoring and enforcement of anti-racism commitments?

7. Should reparations for historical racial injustices such as slavery, colonization, and apartheid, be incorporated into international legal frameworks?

8. Are existing accountability mechanisms within the UN, such as Universal Periodic Reviews or treaty body reports robust enough to challenge deeply embedded racial inequalities in powerful member states?

9. How can intersectionality (race, gender, class, disability) be more effectively integrated into international anti-discrimination laws to ensure that efforts against racism are not one-dimensional?

10. Can international criminal law expand its definitions to recognize 'systemic racism' as a standalone crime against humanity, particularly when state institutions uphold racialized violence over time?

VII - Annotated Bibliography

International Labour Organization (ILO). "Normlex: Database on International Labour Standards." https://normlex.ilo.org/

This database compiles ILO conventions, recommendations, and supervisory decisions, especially relevant to labor rights and anti-discrimination. It is a vital resource for understanding international standards on racial equality in employment and labor markets.

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR). "About Us." https://imadr.org/about/

This details IMADR's mission, history, and advocacy work. As a global NGO, IMADR connects grassroots groups with international mechanisms like the UN.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)."

https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial

> *This official UN document outlines the legal obligations of States under ICERD. It serves as a foundational legal framework for anti-racism efforts globally.*

United Nations. "Durban Declaration and Programme of Action." https://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf

> *Adopted during the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, this declaration is a cornerstone document in the global anti-racism framework. It addresses historical injustices, calls for reparations, and urges Member States to commit to eliminating racial discrimination.*

United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)." https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf

> *The UDHR remains a foundational document that sets the global human rights framework, explicitly affirming equality and non-discrimination. It underpins the legal and moral authority of international anti-racism efforts.*

VII - Bibliography

About Black Lives Matter, available at https://blacklivesmatter.com/about/ (accessed 18 January, 2025).

American Progress, "Systemic Inequality: Displacement, Exclusion, and Segregation", available at

https://www.americanprogress.org/article/systemic-inequality-displacement-exclusion-segregation/ (accessed 18 January, 2025).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Data and Research on Maternal Mortality", available at https://www.cdc.gov/maternal-mortality/php/data-research/index.html (accessed 17 January 2025).

Durban review conference, 2009, Geneva United Against Racism, available at https://www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009 (accessed 17 January 2025).

Economic Policy Institute (EPI), "Botched Policy Responses to Globalization", available at https://www.epi.org/publication/botched-policy-responses-to-globalization/ (accessed 19 January 2025).

Elimination of Racism: a global and common fight, available at https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/elimination-racism-global-and-common-fight_en (accessed 19 January 2025).

European Journal of International Law, Protectedx against Genocide in the Jurisprudence of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals, available at academic.oup.com/ejil/article/23/1/155/525577 (accessed 19 January 2025).

European Network Against Racism (ENAR), "Official Website", available at https://www.enar-eu.org (accessed 19 January 2025).

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021, available at https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1280 (accessed 19 January 2025).

House Committee on the Judiciary, "Racial Justice", available at https://democrats-judiciary.house.gov/issues/issue/?IssueID=14924 (accessed 18 January 2025).

International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024: Actions Taken https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent/actions-taken

International Labour Organization (ILO), "Normlex: Database on International Labour Standards", available at https://normlex.ilo.org/ (accessed 19 January 2025).

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), "About Us", available at https://imadr.org/about/ (accessed 10th January 2025).

International Perspective on Managing Racial Integration in Secondary Schools, available at https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED622718.pdf (accessed 10th January 2025).

Mothers and Babies: Reducing Risk through Audits and Confidential Enquiries across the UK (MBRRACE-UK), "Maternal Mortality 2019-2021: Data Brief," University of Oxford (2023), available at https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrrace-uk/data-brief/maternal-mortality-2019-2021#:~:text=The%20risk%20of%20maternal%20death,%2D20%20(Figure%203) (accessed 17 January, 2025).

New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), "Article on Public Health and Medicine", available at https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms2025396 (accessed 17 January, 2025).

NIH Revitalization Act of 1993 Public Law 103-43, available at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK236531/ (accessed 17 January, 2025).

NIHCM Foundation, "Systemic Racism is a Public Health Crisis", available at https://www.nihcm.org/publications/systemic-racism-is-a-public-health-crisis (accessed 19 January 2025).

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination", available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial (accessed 19 January 2025).

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights", available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights (accessed 19 January 2025).

Opportunities and Challenges Posed by International Trade on Agriculture in Developing Nations, available at https://www.ajol.info/index.php/jasem/article/view/283347/266907 (accessed 19 January 2025).

Organization of American States (OAS), "Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance", available at https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/docs/inter_american_treaties_A-69_discrimination_intolerance.pdf (accessed 19 January 2025).

Outcomes by ethnicity in schools in England, available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/628f39518fa8f5039a1bd625/Ethnicity_Schools_Note.pdf (accessed 19 January 2025).

Pew Research, How Americans used social media to protest during the George Floyd demonstrations, available at https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2023/06/29/americans-views-of-and-experiences-with-activism-on-social-media/ (accessed 19 January 2025).

PubMed Central (PMC), "Article on Public Health and Medicine", available at https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4843483/ (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Race and Racism in Economics, available at https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2020/09/race-and-racism-in-economics-IMF (accessed 17 January, 2025).

Reasonable but Unconstitutional: Racial Profiling and the Radical Objectivity of Whren v. United States, available at http://ssrn.com/abstract=2698443 (accessed 17 January, 2025).

ResearchGate, "The Impact of Social Media on Social Activism: Taking Black Lives Matter on Twitter as an Example", available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/358123064_The_Impact_of_Social_Media_on_Social_Activism_Taking_Black_Lives_Matter_on_Twitter_as_an_Example (accessed 17 January 2025).

SAGE Journals, "Article on Public Policy and Social Issues", available at https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1362480608093307 (accessed 19 January 2025).

The Case for Enhancing Minority Participation in Cancer Clinical Trials, available at https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3980490/ (accessed 19 January 2025).

The Conversation, "Black Lives Matter Protests Are Shaping How People Understand Racial Inequality", available at

https://theconversation.com/black-lives-matter-protests-are-shaping-how-people-understand-racial-inequality (accessed 19 January 2025).

The Economic Impact of Closing the Racial Wealth Gap, available at https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/the-economic-impact-of-closing-the-racial-wealth-gap (accessed 19 January 2025).

The Macpherson Report, Twenty-two years on Home Affairs Committee, available at https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmhaff/139/13911.htm (accessed 16 January 2025).

The Race Relations Amendment Bill [HL], available at http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/RP00-27/RP00-27.pdf (accessed 16 January 2025).

The Sentencing Project, "Report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System", available at https://www.sentencingproject.org/reports/report-to-the-united-nations-on-racial-disparities-in-the-u-s-criminal-justice-system/ (accessed 16 January 2025).

The South African Human Rights Commission, available at https://www.sahrc.org.za/home/21/files/FINALREPORTLAERSKOOLSCHWEIZERRENEK.pdf (accessed 16 January 2025).

Their Help is not Helping: Policing as a tool of Structural Violence against Black Communities, available at https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10242413/ (accessed 16 January 2025).

United Nations, "Durban Declaration and Programme of Action", available at https://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf (accessed 19 January 2025).

United Nations, "Fight Racism", available at https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism accessed (15 January 2025).

United Nations Human Rights Council, "Report of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, A/HRC/47/53", available at https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/47/53 (accessed 19 January 2025).

United Nations, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism Report (2022), A/HRC/50/59, available at https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/50/59 (accessed 19 January 2025).

United Nations, "Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)", available at https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/2021/03/udhr.pdf (accessed 19 January 2025).

UNESCO, "Forum Against Racism and Discrimination", available at https://www.unesco.org/en/forum-against-racism-discrimination (accessed 18 January 2025).

Unstereotype Alliance, "UN Women Global Member Summit 2022", available at https://www.unstereotypealliance.org/en/news-and--events/press-releases/un-women-global-member-summit-2022

United Nations Foundation, 70 Years of Impact: Insights on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations Foundation, 10 December 2018), available at https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/70-years-of-impact-insights-on-the-universal-declaration-of-human-rights/ (accessed 10 February, 2025).

United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 75: Our Shared Values and the Path to Solutions (UN Chronicle, 6 December 2023), available at https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/universal-declaration-human-rights-75-our-shared-values-and-path-solutions#:~:text=The%20influence%20of%20the%20Declaration,of%20independence%20over%20colonial%20rule (accessed 10 February, 2025).

Ben Miller, The Neglected College Race Gap: Racial Disparities Among College Completers (Center for American Progress, 27 May 2020), available at https://www.americanprogress.org/article/neglected-college-race-gap-racial-disparities-among-college-completers/ (accessed 10 February, 2025).

Human Rights Watch, Race and Refugees: Press Kit (Human Rights Watch, 2001), available at https://www.hrw.org/legacy/campaigns/race/refugeepresskit.html (accessed 10 February, 2025).

United Nations Network on Migration, Eliminating Racial Discrimination: A Key to Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (United Nations, 21 March 2023), available at https://migrationnetwork.un.org/statements/eliminating-racial-discrimination-key-implement-global-compact-safe-orderly-and-regular#:~:text=Racial%20discrimination%20of%20migrants%20can,remuneration%20received%20for%20work%20of (accessed 10 February, 2025).

European Commission, Racism and Discrimination in the Context of Migration in Europe (Migrant Integration Information and Good Practices, 2020), available at https://migrant-integration.ec.europa.eu/library-document/racism-and-discrimination-context-migration-europe_en (accessed 10 February, 2025).