



**Blue
Shield
Australia**

MayDay 2017

International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)

The ICBS promotes the protection of 'cultural property' against threats of all kinds and intervenes strategically with decision makers and relevant international organisations to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict 1954

The Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (referred to as the Hague Convention) is the first international treaty aimed at protecting cultural property in armed conflict and highlighted the concept of common heritage. It was signed at The Hague, Netherlands on 14 May 1954 and entered into force on 7 August 1956.

Article 1 of the Hague Convention defines the term 'cultural property', irrespective of origin or ownership as:

(a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; as well as scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined above;

(b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a) such as museums, large libraries and depositories of archives, and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a);

(c) Centres containing a large amount of cultural property as defined in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), to be known as 'centres containing monuments'.

History of ICBS

The Blue Shield is the symbol used to identify cultural sites protected by the Hague Convention. It is also the name of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) that works to protect world cultural heritage threatened by natural and human-made disasters.

ICBS works for the protection of world cultural heritage by coordinating preparations to meet and respond to emergency situations as well as post-crisis support. It promotes good standards through risk management training and awareness-raising campaigns for professionals and the general public. Its unrivalled body of expertise allows the organisation to collect and share information on threats to cultural property worldwide, thus helping international players to take the appropriate measures in case of armed conflict or disaster.

ICBS intervenes as an advisor and cooperates with other bodies including UNESCO, ICCROM and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Finally in emergency situations, ICBS encourages the safeguarding and the restoration of cultural property, the protection of threatened goods, and helps the

professionals from the affected countries to recover from disasters.

The Second Protocol to the Hague Convention agreed upon in April 1999 gave a new impetus to ICBS's role and that of its associated organisations. Indeed, ICBS is recognised as an advisory international organisation to the inter-governmental Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The ICBS covers museums and archives, audiovisual supports, libraries, and monuments and sites. It brings together the knowledge, experience and international networks of the following non-governmental organisations dealing with cultural heritage:

- CCAA: Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations
- ICA: International Council on Archives / Conseil international des archives
- ICOM: International Council of Museums / Conseil international des musées
- ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites / Conseil international des monuments ET des sites
- IFLA: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions / Fédération internationale des associations de bibliothécaires et des bibliothèques

Blue Shield Australia

Blue Shield Australia is recognised by the International Committee of the Blue Shield as its Australian national committee.

The committee is a federation of the Australian representatives of four of the pillar bodies of the International Committee of the Blue Shield:

- ICA: the International Council on Archives, represented in Australia by the Council of Australasian Archives and Records Authorities
- ICOM: the International Council of Museums, represented in Australia by ICOM Australia
- ICOMOS: International Council on Monuments and Sites, represented in Australia by Australia ICOMOS

- IFLA: the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, represented in Australia by the Australian Library and Information Association

These four organisations work together to help organisations – big and small – prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergency situations in case of armed conflict or natural disasters that could affect Australia's cultural heritage.

Blue Shield Australia is also supported by Museums Galleries Australia (MA), the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) and the Pacific Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (PARBICA)

Find out more

[Blue Shield Australia](#)

[Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention 1954](#)

[International Committee of the Blue Shield](#)

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