



OWHC Young Professionals Forum 2019 Declaration

We, participants of the Young Professional Forum, as citizens of the world, active members of civil society and young professionals advocated for the protection of World Heritage as an asset inherited to us from ancient times of humanity, carry now with the responsibility of safeguarding this legacy for the upcoming generations, for its use as a source of knowledge and depository of identity.

After discussing the impacts of tourism on heritage in each of our cities, we have realized that the issues have similar roots in every corner of the globe and they all lead to the same conclusions: It is time to take responsibilities and turn your words into actions and implement immediate measures to mitigate all the damage already done and to prevent and control further risks.

Urgent thoughtful local policies need to be implemented and the management system needs to be improved towards the prioritization of local heritage above commodification of culture.

World heritage preservation is in danger of mass tourism, that is why we, young professionals call for the following actions:

- Establish local policies and stick to the management system;
- Develop and coordinate participatory approaches to stakeholders;
- Regulate the flow of tourists by improving the infrastructure;
- Educate all the stakeholders, including tourists, about their impact on heritage;
- Educate local communities on the value and significance of their heritage;
- Regulate the activities of the private sectors in the fields of visitor accommodation renting system, franchising, transport etc.;
- Preserve the cities' identity by encouraging and supporting diversity of local culture and local small businesses;
- Adapt new technologies for the proper use of heritage;
- Monitor, evaluate and improve your actions.

We the participants of the Young Professionals Forum, commit ourselves to initiate appropriate actions for the cities we represent. For now, we are reminding you:

**Every visitor is a local somewhere,
therefore, make the world of locals worth visiting.**