

Milan, Berlin

31 May, 2026

To: **Ms Anastasiia Cherednychenko**
Chair, ICOM Ukraine

Dear Anastasiia,

Dear fellow colleagues, friends, and companions in the defence of democratic and cultural values,

we, the Chairpersons of the International Committees, on behalf of our members, wish to express our deepest solidarity with your People and your Country for all that you have endured during these long and painful four years, three months and days.

The infamous attack of May 24, targeting both the cultural sites of Kyiv and its civilian population, has further intensified the indignation felt around the world towards this unjust war, which continues to undermine the identity and sovereignty of an independent nation.

Such acts represent not only an assault on human lives but also demonstrate that cultural heritage in this war is not merely collateral damage, but a deliberate target aimed at erasing cultural identity, collective memory, and the sovereignty of an independent nation.

In accordance with the values and mission that unite the ICOM community, our International Committees reaffirm their commitment to the protection of cultural heritage and the defence of fundamental human and cultural rights. We stand ready to continue supporting and cooperating with you in every possible way, in the shared conviction that solidarity, dialogue, and international collaboration remain essential to preserving hope and safeguarding our common values.

With our sincere solidarity and support,

M. Cristina VANNINI
INTERCOM Chair

Stefan SIMON
SECURITY Chair

Chairs of other ICOM International Committees who have joined the letter:

ARMS & MILITARY - **Laura BELL**
AVICOM - **Anna Maria MARRAS**
CECA - **Wencke MADERBACHER**
COMMS - **Luis Marcelo MENDES**
CONSERVATION - **Katharine SEYMOUR**
COSTUME - **Joanna KOWALSKA**
DEMHIST - **Timna SELIGMAN**
DESIGN - **Shoshana RESNIKOFF**

DOCUMENTATION - **Jonathan WARD**
EXHIBITIONS - **Amanda MAYNE**
GLASS - **Eva-Maria GÜNTHER**
ICAMT - **Marina MARTIN**
ICFA - **Kanae AOKI**
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ICME - **Heidi MCKINNON**
ICMEMOHRI - **Felicita HEIMANN-JELINEK**
ICOFOM - **Marion BERTIN**
ICR - **Kenny LIBBEN**
MUSIC - **Marie MARTENS**
NATHIST - **Phaedra FANG**
STORAGE - **Hélène VASSAL**
UMAC - **Sébastien SOUBIRAN**