

# OBSERVATIONS PARTAGÉES

## Observed at the Human Rights Council...

### \* Independent Expert in the field of Cultural Rights conducts consultation on access to cultural heritage

The **Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights**, Mrs Farida Shaheed, organised last February a [consultation on access to cultural heritage](#). This event was meant to complete the information gathered since September through a questionnaire addressed to all interested stakeholders, and so to inform the first thematic report of the Independent Expert. This report will be presented on **May 31st 2011**, during the 17th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC).

A side-event on the same theme is to take place on **June 1 between 1-3 o'clock pm** (see details in link below). In addition to the Independent Expert, representatives of the UNESCO, the ICOMOS, the IUCN and of indigenous communities will take part in the panel and discuss the possibilities of developing of a Human Rights bases approach to cultural heritage.

[Read the report of the IE on access to cultural heritage](#)  
[Get information about the side-event at the HRC](#)

### \* First report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education

The Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Kishore Singh, will present his **report on equality of opportunities in education** (equal access, non discrimination) on May 31st, during the 17th session of the Human Rights Council. In his report, he identifies obligations to act in favour of equal opportunities and presents different types of measures to address the difficulties this may raise. The Special Rapporteur also presents in this report the themes he intends to focus on in his coming reports. The right to education is still one of the most recognized and developed cultural right in the international system and demonstrates to a large extent the importance of all cultural rights.

[Read the report on equal opportunities](#)  
[Consult the mandate's website to learn about its priorities](#)

### \* The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief interested by cultural rights!

During the 16th session of the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief, Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, presented a report on the issue of freedom of religion or belief and school education, thereby emphasizing the strong cultural dimension of this fundamental freedom.

Members of the Observatory seized the occasion to contact the Special Rapporteur and discuss with him about cultural rights. He proved to be very interested about these rights and accepted a copy of the *Fribourg Declaration* and of its explanatory comment. We look forward to see this collaboration grow with the next studies of the mandate!

[Read the report on freedom of religion in schools](#)

## N°6 May 2011

### News on the *Fribourg Declaration*

What does it mean to declare cultural rights? The **commentary of each article of the *Fribourg Declaration*** is now [published](#) and gives precious analysis of many delicate issues. We are working on the English translation, but you can in the mean time support the Declaration!

[Support the Declaration](#)

### On the agenda...

- \* **May 21st: International day of cultural diversity and dialogue for development.** See [the program](#) of the UNESCO festival in Paris.
- \* **May 23rd, Geneva:** The BICE is hosting an international congress on the theme "**The right to education of children estranged from their families and socially excluded**" at the UNESCO House. [Read the entire program](#) (French).
- \* **June 22-23, Geneva :** The independent Expert on extreme poverty is organising a 2 day consultation on the guiding principles on extreme poverty. Read the [information and reference documents](#) on this topic.
- \* **Training for accredited NGOs:** The liaison office of the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) organises information session every two months. Contact the liaison office to learn more about them!

### To visit on the internet!

The OHCHR is conducting a series of expert consultations on **freedom of expression and incitement to national, racial and religious hatred**. After the European meeting in Vienna (February), the second regional meeting took place in Nairobi (April). Read the experts documents and follow the develop-

collaboration grow with the next studies of the triaduate!  
[Read the report on freedom of religion in schools](#)

## Observed by...

### \* **The network of UNESCO Chairs**

March 3rd and 4th 2011, more than forty UNESCO Chairs in the fields of human rights, democracy, peace, tolerance and bioethics were gathered at the University of Bergamo for a symposium organised by its *UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and ethics of international cooperation*.

For the first time ever, the Chairs agreed on common priorities for their research, teaching and education programs and committed themselves to develop more synergies on these themes. Many of their engagements concern cultural rights: the right to enjoy arts and sciences, the right to education, observation of cultural rights' effectiveness, collaboration with international mechanism, etc. The two documents below were adopted at the end of the symposium and will guide the Chairs towards realising their commitments.

[Read the final Declaration of Bergamo](#)  
[The Chairs engagements: the road map](#)

## The work of the Observatory

### \* **French and its partner languages**

In Switzerland, 2010 was a year strongly concerned with the XIIIth Summit of the "Francophonie". which took place in Montreux in October 2010. To prepare and accompany it, a series of conferences were organised under the theme of the "General state of the French language in Francophonie". In this framework, the Observatory of diversity and cultural rights organised a workshop to discuss the question of *Political hospitality through language ?*. The rich debates that took place on this occasion are gathered in a work document, the 19th of the Interdisciplinary Institute ([DT 19](#), in French) and will promptly be made available on the website.

### \* **Slave practices in Mauritania**

The first year of the research project on slave practices in Mauritania is coming to an end. This project— a partnership between the Observatory for diversity and cultural rights, the three civil society organisations YAKAARE (Geneva), "SOS-Esclaves" and the "Association des femmes chefs de famille" in Mauritania and the interdisciplinary team on cultural rights of the University of Nouakchott— seeks to identify the reasons for the persistence of slave practices by analysing the cultural arguments justifying the ideology supporting them. The report that closes this first year and presents the intermediate results will soon be available on our website.

## Published

- \* **Le droit à l'éducation: quelle universalité?** Marc Pilon, Jean-Yves Martin et Alain Carry, Archives contemporaines, October 2010.



Combining theoretical thinking and empirical approaches, this book reflects upon the universality of the right to education by comparing situations arising in very different contexts (France, Mexico, Haiti, Vietnam, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Benin, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana, Madagascar). Rich from 15 contributions, it raises these issues in three times : it first questions the concept of right to education, then analyses in different countries of the "South" the effectiveness of the right to education and finally examines the types of measures that are set. *Free translation of the*

*editor's presentation.*

From the *Group of Fribourg*, Claude Dalbera and Patrice Meyer-Bisch (postface) contributed to this publication.

[Get this book](#)

- \* **Le Livre qui chante: Pour l'expression artistique et citoyenne des femmes.** Autors: collective; preface Stéphane Hessel, postface Patrice Meyer-Bisch, eds. La passe du vent 2011

(April). Read the experts documents and follow the developments on this theme [here](#).

UNESCO reiterated the role of [culture in development](#) during the 2010 Millennium Goals Summit. Read the [final document](#) of the Summit and visit the webpage dedicated to this issue [here](#).

The **Faro Convention** on the value of cultural heritage for society will enter in force on June 1st! This new instrument of the Council of Europe is [ground breaking](#) for the protection and promotion of cultural rights. See also [book that accompanied its drafting](#).

The book presenting the contrasted observations of the situation of cultural rights in Maghreb and Egypt is now fully [available on the net](#) in French. The Arabic translation is on its way.





tive; preface Stéphane Hessel, postface Patrice Meyer-Bisch, eds. La passe du vent, 2011.

Beyond presenting the monography of the association “Conciliabule”, this book questions the place cultural policies give to initiatives of “shared creations” - these projects that associate amateurs and professionals and bring us to re-evaluate the status of “artwork” as well of the role artists play in the city. In a time when the recognition of cultural rights a major issue is, *le Livre qui chante* advocates for greater consideration for the requirements of a cultural democracy. It usefully reminds us, as Stéphane Hessel writes it in his preface, that “art’s basic material is the human, in all his richness and diversity”. *Free translation of the author’s and editor’s presentation.*

[Get this book](#)

- \* **Guidance on the development of legislation and administration systems in the field of cultural heritage.** Robert Pickard. Strasbourg: Conseil de l’Europe, 2011.



What laws should states enact to protect and promote their cultural heritage, and what administrative systems can they put in place to manage their cultural heritage policies most effectively? This revised and expanded guidance document aims to provide authoritative information on good practice in three primary areas: the architectural heritage, the archaeological heritage, and the movable heritage. Consideration is given to integrated approaches to conservation, in particular those which take into account the global concept of sustainable development and the need for

community involvement in formulating legal and institutional mechanisms. *From the editor’s presentation.*

[Get this book](#)

To read the previous numbers of our newsletter *Observations partagées*, consult our website: [www.culturalrights.info](http://www.culturalrights.info).

For questions or comments, send an email to the following email address: [iiedh@unifr.ch](mailto:iiedh@unifr.ch). To erase your name from this list, simply write « Stop » as object of the message!



The Observatory for diversity and cultural rights is an observation network with its seat at the IIEDH, operating in partnership with the International Organisation of the Francophonie and the UNESCO Chairs’ network



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