# Ireland Annual Report: 2022

## 1. Administrative Details

### 1.1 - Name of National Committee: Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield (INCBS)

### 1.2 - Date Report Completed: December 2022

### 1.3 - Reporting period covered: 01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022

### 1.4 - Names, positions and emails of all those who were the governing body/ trustees / principal officers on the date the report was approved or who served during in the reporting period:

The current members of INCBS are:

- **Chair**: Zoë Reid (ICA - joined 2018)
- **Secretary**: Elizabethanne Boran (IFLA - joined 2020)
- Daniel Ayiotis (ICA – joined 2018)
- Jessica Baldwin (ICOM Ireland – joined 2020)
- Susie Bioletti (ICOM Ireland – joined 2021)
- Helena Bergin (ICOMOS Ireland – joined 2019)
- Fergus McCormack (ICOMOS Ireland – joined 2020)
- Patrizia La Piscopia (joined 2018)

### 1.5 - Address of the main office:

Irish National Committee of Blue Shield

c/o National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin, D08 DF85, Ireland

Email: irishblueshield@gmail.com

### 1.6 - Website and social media (if applicable):

Thanks to the continued support of our partner organisations INCBS maintains a website page at the following sites:

- ICOM Ireland - [https://www.icomireland.com/blue-shield-ireland](https://www.icomireland.com/blue-shield-ireland)
- ICOMOS Ireland - [https://www.icomos.ie/blue-shield/](https://www.icomos.ie/blue-shield/)
The committee also actively engages in using social media to promote the work of Blue Shield, the local committee and its ethical principles. Although modest the social media presence continues to grow.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/IrishBlueShield
Twitter: @IrishNCBS

1.6 – Email the Blue Shield email should forward to: irishblueshield@gmail.com

2. Income:

NIL


In the reporting period (01 January – 31 December 2022) the activities of the Irish National Committee of the Blue Shield (INCBS) focused on supporting the following key objectives:

1. Education, training, and capacity building
2. Proactive protection and risk preparedness
3. Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict
4. Co-ordination of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations

Concentrating on promoting the work of Blue Shield and awareness of the importance of preserving heritage sites and their contents in peacetime and during conflict.

The committee met four times throughout the year - January, April, July and November.

Throughout the year committee members from Ireland attended the online monthly National Committee informal meeting and found these both informative and useful.

3.1 - Law, policy development and implementation:

National Advisory Committee on Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (NAC)

The first two meetings of this committee were held in 2022, which included representatives from the National Monuments service, the Office of Public Works, the Defence Forces, the Revenue Commissioners, the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs. While INCBS committee members are already attending in their professional capacities, INCBS welcome being invited to attend meetings in 2023.
3.2 - Education, training, and capacity building:

UN Training School Ireland (UNTSI) CPP – Pre deployment training (14-18 February 2022)
Members of the Committee were actively involved in providing training for the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), a part of the Defence Forces Training Centre (DFTC) located at the Curragh Camp, County Kildare. This week-long residential course was the first international course on Cultural Property Protection run by the Irish Defence Forces and hosted students from several other European militaries. Having this course syllabus formally recognised by the Defence Forces’ Directorate of Training was a very significant step in introducing all Irish military commanders deploying on overseas tours-of-duty to their legal obligations under the ‘54 Convention, and by extension a significant achievement in terms of advocacy for the Irish Committee.

Zoë Reid, Jessica Baldwin and Patrizia La Piscopia provided a practical training session at the National Archives on 16 February. Commandant Daniel Ayiotis gave a presentation on the work of Blue Shield International on 17 February.

Online Lecture to Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI)
Zoë Reid (Chair) gave an online lecture to the members of ICRI on the work of Blue Shield International on 24 February.

Online Lecture: ‘Re-Org Canada in Action – Experiences in Museum Storage Reorganisation’
In partnership with ICOM Ireland and the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Irish National Committee for Blue Shield (INCBS) organised this online lecture. The lecture was presented by Simon Lambert (Manager of Preventive Conservation, CCI), the coordinator of RE-ORG Canada, and from two participants of the programme, Carrie Kitzul (Supervisor, Arts and Culture, Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA), Ontario), and Jason MacNeil (Education Officer, Museum and Heritage Foundation, Prince Edward Island). It was held on 18 May to celebrate ICOM’s International Museum Day (IMD) and recorded and uploaded to ICOM Ireland’s YouTube channel (https://www.icomireland.com/news/re-org-imd2022)

Online Lecture: #IMACoffeeBreak: Museums & Conflict Zones
Daniel Ayiotis led this online discussion for the Irish Museum Association (IMA) by providing insight into the work of Blue Shield International on 24 May. He highlighted the significance of the Hague Convention on the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in relation to the protection of cultural heritage.

Note: Planning for the following events continued, however both were postponed until 2023 due to unavoidable logistical reasons:
Conference: Archaeologies of World War 2: The Emergency in Ireland 1935-4
Lecture: Reflections on Conservation in post-Conflict Afghanistan by Dr Richard Mulholland
### 3.3 - Proactive protection and risk preparedness:

**Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage Planning**

INCBS have been invited to join Working Group C - Cross Sectorial Engagement and Working Group E – Community Engagement & Training. Zoë Reid attended three meetings in 2022. It is an 18-month commitment until 2023, with the majority of meetings online and 2 in-person plenary meetings to be held.

### 3.4 - Emergency response in disaster, domestic emergencies, and armed conflict:

Following on from committee member Helena Bergin’s participated in the ICCROM Workshop **PREVENT: Mitigating Fire Risk for Heritage in** in 2021, the ICRROM Ireland team presented their case studies at the 2-day conference in Croatia in, 17-18 October 2022.

On 6 March, the Committee wrote to Simon Coveney (Minister for Foreign Affairs) in relation to the conflict in Ukraine. Asking that the Irish government write to the Russian Federation to ask for their assurance that, as a signatory to the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 1st (1954) Protocol, and to the 1972 World Heritage Convention, Russian Federation troops will abide by their responsibilities under both the international agreements.

### 3.5 - Stabilisation, post-disaster recovery, and long-term/ongoing support:

No activities to report.

### 3.6 - Co-ordination (of Blue Shield and with other relevant organisations):

The 2021 annual report was presented to ICOM Ireland, ICOMOS Ireland and ARA, Ireland. Thanks to the generosity and support of ICOM Ireland, ICOMOS Ireland the committee continues to have a presence of their websites providing information on the Blue Shield for their members.

Zoë Reid (Chair) and Elizabethanne Boran (Secretary) attended the Blue Shield’s General Assembly, which was held online on **14 June**.

### 4. Main issues faced

Looking to the future the main issue facing INCBS is the lack of funding to expand its activities and support the strategic objectives of Blue Shield. The Committee does not currently have a bank account and is therefore unable to manage any potential funding grants or expenditure without the assistance of one of its nominating bodies. The
Committee is also conscious of the need to build capacity and expertise and will look to expanding its members in 2023.

5. Future goals
The 2023 Strategic Plan of the INCBS, details the key goals that the committee aim to focus on are:

- Raise awareness of the INCBS through capacity building activities, education and training
- Support the development of proactive protection and risk preparedness in Ireland
- Strengthen relationships with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM), DHLGH, Office of Public Works (OPW), the Heritage Council (HC) and relevant bodies
- Ensure the good governance of the committee
- Grow and develop presence on social media
- Build and maintain a satellite website on the Blue Shield International site (theblueshield.org)

The Committee will continue to build partnerships with the heritage sector in Ireland and internationally and is already planning to collaborate with ICOM Ireland and the Institute of Conservator-Restorers in Ireland (ICRI) to provide public events in 2023.

6. Other
No information to include in this section.