



Blue Shield

March 10, 2015

The Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield deplores the closure of universities and schools and the destruction of libraries, museums, and archaeological sites in and around Mosul as publicised recently by the self-styled 'Islamic State'.

We support the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2199, the recent request by the Director General of UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova, for a special meeting of the UN Security Council and the joint statement by the Director General and Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), regarding the destruction of the World Heritage property of Hatra.

The targeted closure of educational establishments, the burning of knowledge gathered in Mosul's libraries and archives, and the destruction of the fragmentary remains of ancient societies held in its museums and archaeological sites, goes against what the modern, civilized world believes to be fundamentally and unequivocally important: that the continuing search for understanding and an awareness of those who have gone before us is central to our present and our future. We build on our collective human past to understand the present in order to build the future. Without the past we diminish our present and our children's future.

The world needs to help protect those most affected by the emergence of 'Islamic State' but it also needs to help to protect the fragmentary remains of their and our past and their access to education and knowledge.

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