



International Committee of the Blue Shield

Charter of the International Committee of the Blue Shield

In order to protect endangered cultural heritage the International Committee of the Blue Shield was created in 1996 by the four non-governmental organisations which represent professionals active in the field of archives, libraries, monuments and sites, and museums.

Within the framework of the Hague Convention (1954) for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, ICA (International Council on Archives), ICOM (International Council of Museums), ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), and IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) have taken up the emblem of the Convention as its symbol¹.

The four organisations are working together to prepare for and respond to emergency situations in case of armed conflict or natural disaster that could affect cultural heritage.

They respect the following principles²:

- Joint actions
- Independence
- Neutrality
- Professionalism
- Respect of cultural identity
- Work on a not-for-profit basis

Adopted in Strasbourg on 14 April 2000.

¹ These four founding members were joined in 2005 by CAAA (Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations)

² Approved by the International Committee of the Blue Shield at its meeting in Paris, 8th June 2001