

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION: FOR A NEW APPROACH TO WORLD HERITAGE**

Launched in November 2020, '[Our World Heritage](#)' aims to unravel, discuss, and address some of the pressing issues faced by heritage practitioners and communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in preparation for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022.

One central issue is the exclusionary nature of the presentation, description, and interpretation of World Heritage properties. These properties, like other heritage sites, have often been used by official authorities for nationalist purposes and economic benefits, and to legitimize their power. In the process, the heritage of minorities has been stereotyped, marginalized, or silenced.

Minorities are created along, but not limited to, intersections of race, gender, age, sexuality, class, religion, and ability. In addition, World Heritage sites embody structural inequalities and unequal power relations, particularly between the Global North and the Global South. This is reflected, for example, in the disproportionate inscription of European properties on the World Heritage List, as well as the preferential inscription of colonial sites over local forms of heritage.

### **AIMS**

This call for action aims to challenge the existing situation by presenting different narratives. We are seeking writers, researchers, curators, artists, and activists who will:

- Choose one World Heritage site and detail alternative stories that provide a platform for minority voices to be heard, in order to expand or contradict its official narrative. (Please explain how you are departing from official narratives).

- Explore mechanisms of domination, discrimination, exclusion, and erasure of women and minorities through the local application of World Heritage policies and practices (e.g. folklorization, forgetting of specific narratives).
- Present heritage places and practices that have been denied national and international recognition and explain how they can disrupt national narratives and/or global structural inequalities.
- Highlight the contribution(s) made by an individual or group belonging to a minority at a World Heritage site. These include but are not limited to social, economic, cultural, and architectural contributions. Explain why recognizing such contributions could change the official narratives at the selected site.

### Who can take part and how can they do so?

We welcome contributions from individuals and groups from around the world who identify as marginalized, including but not limited to voices from the Global South. We encourage innovation, creativity, and originality in your approach.

The format for contributions may be text or creative/artistic expression, e.g. illustrations, cartoons, photography and photo essays, poetry, short films, or other visual methods.

The selection follows a two-stage process. Please submit an abstract/short presentation (500 words max.) explaining what you intend to discuss/present, why, and how. This should be accompanied by a 100-word biography explaining why you identify as marginalized. Please submit your abstract and biography by **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021** at [diversityandgender@gmail.com](mailto:diversityandgender@gmail.com). An [international jury](#) will review the submissions.

Selected contributors must submit their final submission by **15 June 2021** at [diversityandgender@gmail.com](mailto:diversityandgender@gmail.com).

Specifications for final submissions are as follows:

- Text: 2000 words max. (excluding references)
- Film: 15 minutes max.; Mp4 format
- Cartoons, illustrations, photography: 30 panels/images max.

# DIVERSITIES & GENDERS

## 2021 DEBATE MARCH

Please refer to existing references, particularly those beyond the ‘Western canon’, if they are available. Any contribution with racist, sexist, transphobic, homophobic, and/or insulting language will be rejected. Due to the sensitivity of some of the information, we will gladly anonymize final submissions, if requested by the contributor(s).

Languages accepted for submission are: Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamazight and Yoruba.

### WHY SHOULD I TAKE PART? PRIZES AND VISIBILITY

Up to three prizes will be awarded to the top three entries. The winners will each receive an award of £400.

Selected submissions will be published online at [www.ourworldheritage.org](http://www.ourworldheritage.org) and discussed at a two-day conference at the end of March 2021 and at an online Festival in autumn 2021. Copyright will remain with the contributors, but by participating in this call, participants agree that their submission will be released through these different formats.

For any regarding this call for action, please contact:  
Dr Francesca Giliberto: [F.Giliberto@kent.ac.uk](mailto:F.Giliberto@kent.ac.uk).

We look forward to receiving your contribution!

*Diversities and Genders Group, Our World Heritage*



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NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA



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