



УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ КОМІТЕТ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ РАДИ З ПИТАНЬ ПАМ'ЯТОК І ВИЗНАЧНИХ МІСЦЬ
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
COMITÉ NATIONAL UKRAINIEN DU CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES

Україна 04070 Київ, Андріївський узвіз, 5/31
5/31 Andriyivsky Uzviz Street, Kyiv 04070 Ukraine

STATEMENT
of the Ukrainian National Committee
of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
on the destruction of the historical environment within the buffer zone of the
World Heritage Site ‘L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre’

In February 2022, Russia launched a military aggression against Ukraine in violation of all international norms. As a result of the aggressor's military actions, more than 1,500 cultural heritage sites in Ukraine have been destroyed and dozens of historic cities have been devastated. Monuments that are on or nominated for the World Heritage List in the cities of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, and Drohobych have already been destroyed or threatened, as previously reported by the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS. Once again, noting the systematic attacks by the Russian Federation on the historic cities of Ukraine with the aim of terrorising the civilian population and destroying cultural heritage sites that are an integral part of Ukrainian identity and part of the world's cultural heritage, and recording Russia's latest violations of international legal acts, including in the field of preserving world cultural heritage, the Ukrainian National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) declares:

‘L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre’ has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as an outstanding example of the combination of architectural and artistic traditions of Eastern and Western Europe. The nomination dossier highlighted Lviv's leading role in the 16th-19th centuries as a political and economic multicultural centre with various ethnic and religious communities, which contributed to the emergence of a significant number of outstanding architectural complexes and ensembles that shape the architectural image and landscape of the city and have been well preserved to this day. A significant number of architectural ensembles are concentrated in the buffer zone of the UNESCO site.

Since 2022, Lviv and its surroundings have been repeatedly destroyed by Russian drone strikes and missiles. As a result of previous shelling, three architectural monuments in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site have already been destroyed in Lviv.

During the Russian shelling of Lviv on the night of 12 July 2025, residential and administrative buildings and educational buildings of the Lviv Polytechnic National

University were damaged. As a result of the drone strikes, historic buildings at 16 Mitropolita Andriya Street and 35 Oleny Stepanivny Street were seriously damaged. Debris and the blast wave damaged the facades of buildings and shattered hundreds of windows.

The drones struck in the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site 'Lviv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre,' specifically near the component of the site 'Ensemble of St. Yuri's Cathedral' at a distance of just over 300 m from the site (from the building at 16 Mitropolita Andriya Street) and about 700 m (from the building at 35 Oleny Stepanivny Street). The impact of the blast wave on the ensemble of St. Yuri's Cathedral and other monuments requires detailed monitoring and research.

Other world heritage sites and historical and cultural monuments in Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, Chernihiv, Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy, Kharkiv and other cities are also under constant threat of destruction every day.

We declare that the terrorist policy of the Russian Federation, aimed at eliminating the material symbols of the Ukrainian people's culture and thus destroying its historical memory, threatens not only Ukrainian national identity but also the cultural diversity of all humanity.

Taking into account the above, in particular the intensification of attacks by unmanned aerial vehicles and missile strikes on Ukraine and the provisions of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS appeals to the international community and the International Council on Monuments and Sites with a renewed call for stronger action to preserve and protect Ukraine's cultural heritage, prepare a relevant resolution and take other measures to stop the aggression.

**Bureau of the Ukrainian National Committee
of the International Council on Monuments and Sites**