



UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity



**CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON**

FORUM FOR YOUNG LEADERS ON CULTURAL POLICY

Friday 4 June 2010, City University, London

How can UNESCO's Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) strengthen UK Cultural Policy?

REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FORUM

Over 40 participants took part in a Forum convened by the UK Coalition for Cultural Diversity (UKCCD) to engage young professionals with today's policy challenges for culture and the arts, in the context of UNESCO's unique development treaty, the Convention on the Protection and the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, 2005. Delegates included postgraduate students, researchers, administrators, and practitioners in the broader culture and education sector. They came from regional as well as London universities, and included representatives from Europe, Africa and Latin America.

Presentations on the first panel were given by Holly Aylett, Director of UKCCD and member of the UK National Commission of UNESCO; Laetitia Manach, Director of Arts, British Council France and Leader of the International Cultural Leadership Programme; Carole Tongue, Chair of UKCCD and member of UK National Commission of UNESCO and Louise DeWinter, Director of the National Campaign for the Arts.

Delegates engaged with European and international measures to implement the

UNESCO Convention (2005), key contexts for UK policy for the Arts under the new coalition government, examples of cultural best practice such as public service broadcasting and copyright regulation, the centrality of diversity of cultural expressions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and the central role of Cultural Leadership programmes.

The second panel focused on the work of the U40 (under 40) Programme, started by the German National Commission for UNESCO in 2007 to mobilise and inform young cultural leaders on the Convention. Presentations were given by Anna Steinkamp, U40 Coordinator, German National Commission for UNESCO; Karsten Xuereb, U40-Fellow, Maltese Representation to the EU; Claudia Tommasino, U40-Fellow and Angel Mesado, Catalan Government Delegation, London. The operation and objectives of this growing international network were discussed, each speaker outlining initiatives and perspectives pertinent to his/her own country/region.

In the afternoon the Forum regrouped into roundtables led by U40 Programme representatives to discuss the following topics:

How can the UK Government and UK National Commission for UNESCO play a leading role in using the Convention to deliver fairer international exchange and greater diversity of cultural expressions?

Who are the key stakeholders and how can UK government and the UK National Commission best mobilize civil society?

Is there a role for a U40 group in the UK and what might it achieve?

At the end of the afternoon groups fed back recommendations (see below) and a core group of delegates expressed interest in taking these agendas further and meeting to discuss setting up a U40 Group in the UK with the possibility of extending such a group to include Ireland.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ROUNDTABLES:

1. Developing an advocacy programme, and the promotion of initiatives to inform and mobilise different sectoral groups/stakeholders
2. Liaising with UK National Commission for UNESCO and cultural leadership groups to identify key stakeholders from civil society
3. Launching a U40 group in the UK and Ireland through a competitive selection process and focused call for papers
4. Addressing the gap between arts practitioners and policy makers through involvement of the UK National Commission, the U40 Programme and key stakeholders in activities to engage the various cultural sectors
5. Working with the U40 Programme, UK National Commission and UK partners including the National Campaign for the Arts to carry out an “audit” on best practice in cultural policy which support the Convention and achieve its objectives in the UK.
6. Engaging regional and local government with the Convention’s objectives so that general and sectoral targets might be developed
7. Supporting research for indicators/ case studies to assert the centrality of diversity of cultural expressions in UK and international development agendas

June 14th 2010