

# Legacies of Slavery

A Resource book for Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory

A UNESCO Endeavor

The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage

2018

## The Slave Route: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage

At the suggestion of Haiti and the African countries, UNESCO launched the Slave Route Project in September 1994 in Ouidah, Benin, to break the silence on the subject of human trafficking from Africa, slavery and its abolition in various regions of the world. The main objective of the project is to contribute to a better understanding of the deep-seated causes of slavery, its forms of operation, its consequences on modern societies, in particular the global transformations and cultural interactions among peoples affected by this tragedy. The Project was implemented through five immediate objectives: research, development of pedagogical tools, preservation of documents and oral traditions, promotion of living cultures and the diverse contributions of African diaspora and promotion of sites and itineraries of memory.

The Slave Route Project: Resistance, Liberty, Heritage have contributed to the acknowledgement of the slave trade and slavery as 'crimes against humanity' – World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban (South Africa, 2001) – and the proclamation of the International Decade for people of African descent (2015-2024) on the theme of "Recognition, Justice and Development", by the UN General Assembly. The UNESCO's Slave Route Project encourages States not only to identify, assess, restore, preserve and promote their memorial sites and itineraries, but also to identify the heritage sites considered to be of Outstanding Universal Value.

## Responses to the new demands for memory tourism and places of memory

In recent decades, several needs have emerged that require a broadening of the fields of study, a new dynamic of memory spaces, concrete and precise answers in the fields of historical research and heritage conservation. However, new memorial sites and monuments must be carefully managed, respecting ethical principles.

This is the ultimate goal of this Guide that UNESCO has developed following extensive consultation of experts and professionals involved in the study, preservation, promotion and management of sites and places of memory.

## A Resource book for Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory

Legacies of Slavery is the first book on this specific issue to be published by a United Nations agency. It provides a comparative analysis of experiences in the preservation and promotion of such sites across the world and proposes practical guidance for their management and their development taking into account the sensitivity of this painful memory.

Designed in two parts, the resource book contains conceptual and practical information for managers. It also showcases concrete examples of sites, itineraries and museums implementing particular strategies for the preservation promotion and interpretation of heritage related to the slave trade and slavery. Moreover, it offers advice and recommendations for the development of memory tourism, responding to the growing demand from citizens to better know this history.

Its main purpose is to contribute to capacity building for the benefit of site managers and memory itineraries, and to raise awareness on the ethical issues posed by these historical sites and history-laden spaces. It also proposes sites for setting up training modules for those who want to become professionals of this sector.

**Click here to download the PDF Version of “Legacies of Slavery - A Resource book for Managers of Sites and Itineraries of Memory » :**

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