

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 18th April 2018

We spend most of our lives within the built environment, be it at home, at a place of work, or whilst participating in education, business or relaxation. The state of the built environment has a major impact on the quality of life of all the citizens of these islands.

Rapid changes are taking place, dramatically and irreversibly transforming the distinctive architectural character, streetscape, and skyline of our towns and villages, which have evolved harmoniously over several generations, and which are now being severely compromised and even at risk of being lost. We are now witnessing indiscriminate demolition of built and other cultural assets, and a general impoverishment of the quality of our urban areas.

We must stand up to this onslaught. Today, a group of 22 entities have come together to sign a declaration calling for the preservation of our built heritage.

We chose today as it is the International Day for Monuments and Sites, and the theme for this year is "Heritage for Generations." The Declaration we are signing is titled: **Our Legacy – Wirtna**. Our fundamental message is that how we treat our heritage is the legacy we leave for future generations.

We invite other entities who wish to subscribe to this Declaration to get in touch with any of the signatories for further information on how to join this endeavour.

Please find attached the full declaration together with the list of signatories.

STQARRIJA GĦALL-ISTAMPA

Data: 18 ta' April 2018

Kollha nqattgħu l-ħin tagħna fl-ambjent mibni, kemm jekk id-dar, fil-post tax-xogħol, jew waqt li qegħdin nieħdu sehem fl-edukazzjoni, fil-kummerċ, jew fir-rilassament. L-istat ta' l-ambjent mibni għandu impatt kbir fuq il-kwalita' tal-ħajja taċ-ċittadini ta' dawn il-gzejjer.

Qegħdin naraw tibdil mgħaġġel, li qiegħed jitttrasforma il-karattru uniku arkitettoniku, it-toroq u l-*iskyline* tal-irħula u bliet tagħna, b' mod drammatiku u irriversibbli. Dawn illum jinsabu mhedda u f'riskju li jintilfu. Qegħdin naraw it-twaqqiegħ indiskriminat tal-wirt mibni u kulturali, u l-kwalita' tal-ambjent urban qiegħed jiftaqar kuljum.

Hemm bżonn nieqfu għal din il-qerda. Illum, grupp ta' 22 entita' ingħaqdu flimkien biex jiffirmaw Stqarrija li fiha qed isejħu għall-ħarsien tal-wirt mibni tagħna.

Għazilna din il-ġurnata għaliex hu il-Jum Internazzjonali għall-Monumenti u Siti, u t-tema ta' din is-sena hi "Il-Wirt għall-Ġenerazzjonijiet". L-iStqarrija li ffirmajna iġġib it-titlu: **Wirtna – Our Legacy**. Il-messaggġ fundamentali tagħna hu li l-mod kif nittrattaw il-wirt tagħna hu l-legat li ser inħallu għall-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri.

Nistiednu lil entitajiet oħrajn li jixtiequ jingħaqdu magħna biex jagħmlu kuntatt mal-firmatarji ta' din l-iStqarrija għal iktar informazzjoni.

L-iStqarrija u l-lista ta' firmatarji hi annessa.