



TRAFFICKING IN

# CULTURAL PROPERTY

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STEALING FROM THE PAST  
IS DESTROYING THE FUTURE



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

[unodc.org/culturalproperty](https://unodc.org/culturalproperty)

Photo: Leo Fung

The world has been witnessing the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in the destruction, looting, trafficking and sale of cultural property many times in complicity with terrorist and violent extremist groups.

Trafficking in cultural property represents a source of enormous illicit profits that is used to launder the proceeds of crime. This is clearly an urgent transnational threat requiring the attention of all the international organizations and national authorities, and it is important that all of us work together in addressing the challenges posed by the looting, trafficking and sale of cultural property.

UNODC, together with its partners in the international community, works to address this threat through a series of concrete actions: calling for the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments, enhancing the collection of relevant data, promoting UNODC's tools for knowledge management on organized crime, and many others. Learn more on how you can get involved in protecting our cultural heritage at

[unodc.org/culturalproperty](https://unodc.org/culturalproperty).



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