



# International Coalition of **SITES of CONSCIENCE**

From past to present,

..... **memory to action** .....

## What Is a Site of Conscience?

A Site of Conscience is a place of memory – a museum, historic site, memorial or memory initiative – that confronts both the history of what happened there and its contemporary legacies.

Whether remembering an era centuries or decades ago, Sites of Conscience begin by facing all aspects of our history: stories of great cruelty, great courage or everyday life. Then they go a step further, activating the historical perspective with dynamic public dialogue on related issues we face today and what we can do about them.

Sites of Conscience are places that:

- Interpret history through site;
- Engage the public in programs that stimulate dialogue on pressing social issues;
- Share opportunities for public involvement and positive action on the issues raised at the site;
- Promote justice and universal cultures of human rights.



Maison des Esclaves, Senegal

## What Is the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience?

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience is the only worldwide network dedicated to transforming places that preserve the past into spaces that promote civic action.

The Coalition recognizes that the power of sites of memory is not inherent; it must be harnessed as a deliberate tactic in the service of human rights and citizen engagement. **This conscious effort to connect past to present and memory to action is the hallmark of the Sites of Conscience movement.** As a network of more than 230 Sites of Conscience in 55 countries, we engage tens of millions of people every year in using the lessons of history to take action on challenges to democracy and human rights today. Through powerful participatory programs that bring people together across difference, we advocate for every community's right to preserve places where struggles for human rights and democracy have occurred, to talk openly about what happened there, and to harness the strengths of memory, heritage, arts and culture to build ethical societies that envision and shape a more just and humane future.



Gulag Museum at Perm-36, Russia

## What Does the Coalition Do?

The Coalition believes that by transforming places of memory into places of civic action, we can help build lasting cultures of peace and universal human rights.

We support Sites of Conscience in creating bold, original and effective programs that connect the history of their communities with critical social and human rights issues in their region today. And by linking these efforts across the world, we are advancing the global movement so "Never Again" can be realized. We do this through:

- Member grants that support the creation or refinement of innovative and scalable Sites of Conscience programs.
- Technical support, such as providing Sites of Conscience program models for creating dialogue across difference.
- Advocacy in support of memory initiatives in peace-building and transitional justice efforts.
- Connecting members around the world to one another through new technologies and networks of Sites of Conscience so they may collaborate, share best practices and advocate for common goals.



Villa Grimaldi Peace Park, Chile



Eastern State Penitentiary, USA  
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