

The 4th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk

Villa Decius, Krakow, 30 June - 1 July 2017

Resolution

Concerning the Sepulchral Heritage of National and Religious Minorities in Poland

In the wake of mass displacement of people following the Second World War, several hundreds of cemeteries in Poland – Evangelical, Greek Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, and even Roman Catholic were left without their stewards and lost the status of cemeteries.

From the systemic transformation of 1989 to this day, their legal status has not been regulated. Consequently, most of them yield to permanent devastation, liquidation, redevelopment, and reclamation. As a consequence, world and European cultural heritage being a memory of multicultural and multinational Poland, is being lost. In this way, we continue to lose works of art, relics of historical, scientific and artistic importance and value, as well as part of our own heritage.

We hereby appeal to the authorities of the Republic of Poland to regulate the legal status and establish protection of the sepulchral heritage of national and religious minorities in Poland and consider with ICOMOC, ICCROM and the World Heritage Centre possibilities of enlisting selected sites on Polish Tentative List for World Heritage.

Kraków, 1 July 2017