



## And who gave me back my heritage?

This speech was given at the launch of the African Heritage Restitution Tracker Website dedicated to African heritage. The speaker Rose Opondo reflected on a personal story of a friend who forgot his cultural lullaby and how this sparked a journey of rediscovering the importance of cultural heritage. She argues that cultural



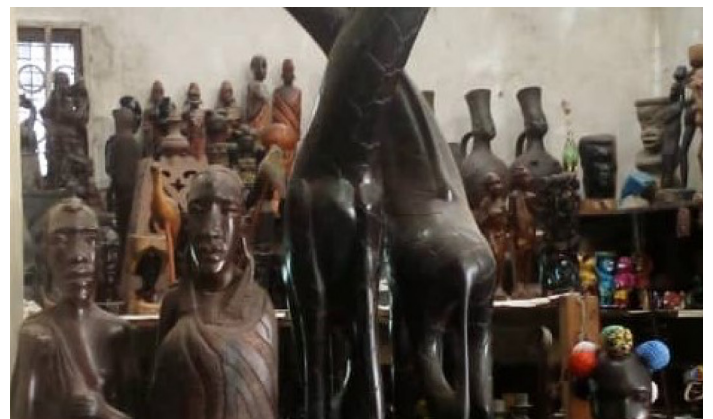
Activist Sylvie Njobati sees the statue of Nggonso for the first time at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. MARC SEBASTIAN EILS

## Here's what we have been up to!

We recently launched an online African Heritage Restitution Tracker in partnership with Africa No Filter and the African Union as part of the Africa Day Celebrations. The tracker utilises artificial intelligence (AI) to pull together a rich heritage information repository for ease of reference by researchers, youth, media and all stakeholders. The tracker works to close the information gap in the area of restitution in a simple way that relates the discourse to communities, especially, the youth. For more information please visit the tracker on: <https://africanheritagerestitution.com/index.html>

Our national coordinator, working alongside 4 experts in Africa conducted a baseline study on the state of heritage restitution in selected African countries commissioned by the Open Society Foundations.

**Read the detailed findings here:** <https://africanheritagerestitution.com/publication.html>



# Opportunities

**Short Online Course: International Cultural Heritage Law**  
**Date: 5 Sessions: 23-30 September, 7,14,21 October 2024.**

This course will offer an introduction to cultural heritage as an international legal concept. It will include discussions of the key threats to cultural heritage at present, including trafficking, armed conflicts, and development. In doing so, it will also cover international instruments that have been adopted over the past decades to protect cultural heritage. Finally, the course will conclude with a special session focused on restitution matters, considering past return processes and what can be learnt from them, given by Evelien Campfens.

**Details are here:**

[https://www.biicl.org/documents/12264\\_international\\_cultural\\_heritage\\_programme.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3LT2Upv3H6n\\_XN4S7\\_pPHBaaGWhs9o3MFleEtZMXdhj5aE9-j5blJj2W0\\_aem\\_qqijmDroY20PwIKPwH8GUw](https://www.biicl.org/documents/12264_international_cultural_heritage_programme.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3LT2Upv3H6n_XN4S7_pPHBaaGWhs9o3MFleEtZMXdhj5aE9-j5blJj2W0_aem_qqijmDroY20PwIKPwH8GUw)

## African Women Leaders in Heritage Management and Promotion



As part of its mission to explore and celebrate African cultural heritage, ICCROM's Youth.Heritage.Africa programme presents a webinar series themed: "African Women Leaders in Heritage Management and Promotion." This series provides a platform for meaningful conversations with African women who are making positive impacts in their communities. It highlights their contributions and creates opportunities to build lasting networks. The Youth Heritage Africa programme acknowledges the significant impact of women on Africa's heritage and sustainable development.

This session will address the unique challenges and pressures African women face as they navigate their professional and business lives within the cultural heritage sector. To this end, a project focusing on African women in heritage will be designed, aiming to further support and promote their invaluable contributions.

**More information:** <https://www.iccrom.org/events/african-women-leaders-heritage-management-and-promotion>

# Strengthening Positive African Narratives

The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art has returned two Benin bronzes to the Oba of Benin.

Iowa museum becomes first in US to return looted Benin bronzes to royal ruler. The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art has defended its decision to hand back two objects to the Oba rather than the government.

The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art has returned two Benin bronzes to the Oba of Benin, the first time a US museum has handed back works to the head of the former royal family of the Benin empire. In a ceremony on 15th July at the Benin Palace in Nigeria, the museum restituted two objects, a brass plaque and wooden altarpiece, to Oba Ewuare II.



*Court officials carrying the Benin Bronzes during the restitution ceremony.*

## Read More:

[https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/07/18/iowa-museum-becomes-first-in-us-to-return-looted-benin-bronzes?utm\\_source=The%20Art%20Newspaper%20Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=c4a1eb2b97-E-MAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2024\\_07\\_18\\_01\\_04&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-c4a1eb2b97-\[LIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID\]&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2KQoXjPb6xhLd5JgZP5qAjZn21bsoVCf3i7-kHNIg61mHvMnruSn1jb rM\\_aem\\_qr94VvefsOcquFQKyKweDw](https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/07/18/iowa-museum-becomes-first-in-us-to-return-looted-benin-bronzes?utm_source=The%20Art%20Newspaper%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=c4a1eb2b97-E-MAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_07_18_01_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-c4a1eb2b97-[LIST_EMAIL_ID]&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2KQoXjPb6xhLd5JgZP5qAjZn21bsoVCf3i7-kHNIg61mHvMnruSn1jb rM_aem_qr94VvefsOcquFQKyKweDw)

