

November 15, 2012

International Collaboration – UK Museums Association Conference, November 2012

Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB) was invited by its UK partner, Heritage without Borders (HwB), to participate in a joint session on expanding definitions and working practice around internationalism at the annual UK Museums Association conference.

The MA conference is one of the largest gatherings of museum and heritage professionals in the world and this was an influential platform to present and discuss the approach and challenges of internationalism for museums. CHwB was represented by two people, Diana Walters (the regional museum coordinator) and Tanja Cvjeticanin (former Director of the National Museum of Serbia). We presented the '1+1:Life & Love' simultaneous exhibition project from the western Balkans recently showcased as a travelling exhibition in Uppsala. Delegates then discussed the benefits and barriers to international working within their own institutions, highlighting a need for more professional development in this area and more support from senior managers to engage in this type of working.

The conference overall was devoted to examining questions around national identity, social justice and the future of museums. All of these themes were relevant for the work of CHwB and its partners.

As a result of the conference a stronger partnership has emerged with HwB and other international institutions. It is hoped that the 1+1 travelling exhibition may be able to tour the UK, showcasing our work further and also that of Sida.

I would like to thank ICOM Sweden for their generous support that enabled CHwB to be represented at the conference.

Diana Walters
Härryda, November 2012