

## The FRH Torch of Heritage and Culture

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Inspired by the Olympic Torch of Athens, Future for Religious Heritage has launched the "Torch of Heritage and Culture" initiative, to **raise awareness and safeguard the importance of Europe's rich religious heritage.**

Part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, the **FRH Torch is a memory treasure box**, containing personal letters from prominent members of the international community (artists, scientists, politicians) but also from European citizens and refugees. These letters, contributed during an official Torch ceremony held at various events all over Europe, **describe personal memories and stories relating to religious heritage.**

The initiative was launched on 8 January, in Leeuwarden, the European Capital of Culture. On the occasion, Peter de Haan, chairman, Church of Huizum in Leeuwarden said: *"We live with stories. Stories originate when people get together and pass them on. [The churches] will always be buildings full of stories. Religious stories, part of religious heritage, but also stories about big or small happenings in the community that are told again and again."*

The **FRH Torch will travel across Europe**, stopping at a number of events and collecting new contributions. After a stop at the European Landscape Forum in Aschaffenburg, the FRH Torch will be present, among other events, at the Preserve, Use and Develop Conference (25-26 April, Lund), the European Cultural Heritage Summit (18-24 June, Berlin), the Urban Jewish Heritage Conference (3-7 September, Kraków), and the [26th ENCATEC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy](#) (26-29 September 2018, Bucharest).

All, **the collected memories will be presented to the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Mr. Tibor Navracsics**, at the [FRH Conference](#) taking place on 11-13 October in Paris.



You can follow the Torch's full European journey online, on [FRH's interactive map](#).

The FRH Torch Initiative is open to everyone. **You are invited to contribute with your own personal memory related to religious heritage** and help recognise the value of our shared heritage as a symbol of unity on which Europe was built.

**Every memory is equally important**, as they all add up to the **sense of community** built around religious heritage. After the European Year of Cultural Heritage concludes, the memories collected through this initiative will continue their virtual life, accessible to everyone on the [FRH website](#), proof that Europeans have a lot in common and that there is indeed **a collective need for protecting and promoting religious heritage.**

For more information visit the [FRH Torch website](#) and view the letters by clicking "Our Contributors".

To submit your contribution, click on the **"SEND US YOUR LETTER"** button on the [FRH Torch website](#). Your message can be handwritten or typed, in English or in your native language.

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