



Access to Culture for Crisis-Resilient Development

Closing Remarks by Mr. Eirikur í Jákupsstovu, Minister of Social Affairs and Culture of the Faroe Islands, at the Nordic Side-Event at MONDIACULT 2025 in Barcelona on 30 September 2025.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

As we come to the close of this Nordic side-event, I want to express my gratitude to our co-host, The Nordic Council of Ministers, to the panellists, and to all of you who have joined us today.

We have heard how freedom of expression and artistic freedom are not privileges — they are vital safeguards. They can alert societies to danger, and they enable people to endure, to heal, and to recover from crises, whether brought on by conflict, disaster, or displacement.

We have also heard how cultural participation strengthens democracy and civic engagement. Culture and heritage foster trust, belonging, and cohesion. When heritage is destroyed, or when artists are silenced, societies are weakened. But when culture is safeguarded and artistic voices are free, people find strength, dignity, and hope.

Access to culture and cultural heritage strengthens resilience in times of crisis. Today's discussion has reminded us that safeguarding culture is not only about preservation, but also about resilience and reconstruction. It is about ensuring the continuity of cultural life, even in the darkest of times.

The Nordic countries stand together in supporting and promoting the diversity of cultural expressions and the safeguarding of cultural heritage, as essential foundations for vibrant, democratic, and resilient societies.

Culture is a resource in times of peace — and a lifeline in times of crisis. To safeguard culture in crisis is to safeguard the humanity and resilience of societies themselves.

Thank you.