

8th International Conference  
on Public History

IFPH  
2026  
LISBON



# The Public History of Difficult Pasts

September 7-11, 2026  
Lisbon, Portugal

Colégio Almada Negreiros  
NOVA FCSH

# Call for Papers

## Conference Overview

The 8th International Conference on Public History, organised by the International Federation for Public History, IFPH, will take place in Lisbon from September 7 to 11, 2026. It will be hosted by IN2PAST – the Associate Laboratory for Research and Innovation in Heritage, Arts, Sustainability and Territory, a transdisciplinary consortium of seven research centres, at Colégio Almada Negreiros on the Campolide campus of Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

In a time of escalating attacks by right-wing movements on memory, diversity, human rights, democracy, and history itself, the International Federation for Public History (IFPH) reaffirms its commitment to fostering critical engagement with the ways societies confront, interpret, and relate to their difficult pasts and challenging presents. The IFPH strongly condemns book banning, the censorship of historical narratives, the surveillance of students and educators, the targeting of sites of remembrance, and the imposition of ideological agendas – particularly right-wing distortions – that not only threaten academic freedom but undermine the very principles upon which public history is built. Against this backdrop, the conference seeks to challenge historical revisionism and silencing, to amplify marginalised voices and memories, and to promote transnational dialogues on reconciliation, accountability, and restorative justice.

Public History has long addressed global historical processes such as colonialism, the transatlantic slave trade, and the genocide of Indigenous peoples, as well as phenomena that emerge in multiple contexts, including armed conflicts and dictatorships. It embodies both a political and ethical commitment to examining how difficult pasts have been lived and remembered by different communities and individuals, ensuring that their perspectives are acknowledged and respected. At the same time, engaging with these histories through Public History raises significant challenges. Sharing authority with specific communities and amplifying marginalised narratives may unintentionally silence other voices, while also presenting complex ethical dilemmas. Furthermore, Public History operates within the public sphere, engaging diverse audiences and navigating competing representations of the past in an era increasingly marked by the political instrumentalisation of history and the spread of revisionist and denialist discourses.

## Call for Contributions

This conference seeks to challenge historical revisionism, amplify marginalised voices, and foster transnational dialogues on reconciliation, accountability, and restorative justice. We invite contributions that explore:

## Call for Papers (cont.)

### Historical Contexts and Global Processes

- Colonialism and its enduring legacies
- The transatlantic slave trade and its commemorations
- Indigenous genocide and cultural destruction
- Armed conflicts, civil wars, and their aftermath
- Dictatorships, authoritarianism, and state violence
- Mass atrocities and crimes against humanity

### Contemporary Challenges and Methodological Innovations

- Countering historical denial and revisionism
- Navigating contested memories and competing narratives
- Sharing authority with affected communities
- Ethical dilemmas in representing traumatic pasts
- Digital humanities, media, and social networks
- Museum practices and memorial sites
- Archives, and archival activism
- Educational approaches to sensitive histories

### Voices and Perspectives

- Survivor testimonies and intergenerational trauma
- Community-based historical projects
- Oral history and marginalised narratives
- Gender, sexuality, and intersectional approaches
- Youth engagement with difficult pasts
- Transnational and comparative perspectives

### Justice and Reconciliation

- Truth commissions and transitional justice
- Reparations and historical redress
- Memorialisation and commemoration practices
- Restorative justice approaches
- Healing and collective memory
- Building inclusive historical narratives

### Calendar

- Opening of the Call for Presentations: **30th September 2025**
- Deadline for Application: **30th November 2025**
- Deadline for reviewers to do their reviews: **31st January 2026**
- Call for posters: **January 2026**
- Results of the Call for Presentations will be announced by **March 2026**
- Programme of the conference shall be available around **June 2026**
- Deadline for registration for on-site attendance: **August 2026**
- Conference: **7-11 September 2026**

### Submission of proposals

Submit your panel proposal [here](#).

Submit your paper proposal [here](#).

Submit your Working Group proposal [here](#).