

SOME FACTS TO CONSIDER

- According to the FBI, **Interpol** and insurance companies, the single largest cause of crime linked to artworks is domestic burglary – a misdemeanour that does not involve the art market.
- According to annual figures on illicit trade published by the World Customs Organisation, international crime involving artworks and other cultural property is by far the smallest category of risk, and it barely registers compared to other categories. The 2021 report shows case numbers have halved since 2019. (*See Appendix 6 and 7*)
- In 2020, the **UK Government’s national risk assessment** concluded that the risk of terrorist financing through the art market was “low”.
- A **2020 report by the RAND Corporation**, arguably the most highly respected independent research organisation in the United States, with a 75-year pedigree, found that claims regarding high levels of crime associated with the art market were groundless.
- The **US Treasury Report on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing through art**, published in February 2022, concluded that the art market was a low-risk sector and not a priority for legislation. Instead, it advised addressing shell companies and the real estate sector first.
- The IAADA is unaware of a single case globally where trafficked artworks have conclusively been shown to fund terrorism. This is despite the vast resources dedicated over decades to showing this is a problem.
- Those who have published, or continue to publish, bogus data include (but are not limited to) the European Commission, Interpol, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, UNESCO, the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and numerous academic studies.
- In the case of **UNESCO, a major campaign** in 2020 attacking the wider art market and accusing it of being responsible for funding terrorism was exposed as utterly fraudulent. Despite being shown how the headline figure accompanying the campaign was also demonstrably bogus, UNESCO continued to promote it for 18 months until April 2022, when it admitted it had no idea what the true figure was.
- In May 2023, Europol published the findings from its latest transnational operation, Pandora VII, claiming in its **media release introduction** that police forces and other law enforcement agencies had seized 11,049 stolen items in the process. However, as on previous occasions when asked to confirm these figures, as well as how many arrests had led to successful prosecutions, and how many items seized had confirmed links to either money laundering or terrorism financing, it replied that it had no idea as it was not a statistical organisation. This did not prevent multiple newspapers and media outlets publishing the false claims.

Bogus data has been used to justify the introduction of important legislation, including the European Union's 2019 import licensing regulations governing cultural property and AML proposals which have far-reaching implications for international trade, privacy rights and private property.