

COALITION CALENDAR

25-26 July Coalition Meeting: Climate Change and Human Rights

Sessions will highlight examples of scientific research that is contributing to human rights-based policies for climate change prevention, mitigation, adaptation, and community relocation. Panelists will also share models for collaborative climate research in partnership with vulnerable communities. Click [here](#) for the agenda and registration, as well as reports and videos on climate change and human rights to help you prepare for this important discussion.

Executive Directors' Circle – 26 July, 8:30-10am

Executive Officers of the Coalition's member and affiliated organizations have been invited to participate in the Executive Directors' Circle which will include an update on the current 'future visioning' activities occurring within the Coalition and then turn to how best to leverage the unique strengths of the Coalition in addressing issues at the intersection of Human Rights and Climate Change. AAAS's (relatively) new COO, Celeste Rohlfiing, will chair the meeting.

Coalition Council Meeting – 26 July, 1-5pm

Representatives of Coalition member organizations will come together to further discussions and make decisions concerning key areas in the Coalition's 'future visioning' process, particularly with regard to Coalition structure and the pursuit of Coalition projects, determination of a theme to guide Coalition action, designation of a 'head' (e.g., President or Chair), and student engagement.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

LGBT Climate in Physics: Research and Policy Recommendations

In recognition of LGBT Pride Month, on June 28, AAAS will host a talk with researcher Ramón Barthelemy, co-author of the American Physical Society report "LGBT Climate in Physics: Building an Inclusive Community." Please [RSVP](#) by June 21.

Student Essay Competition – Winners will be announced soon!

Many thanks to the 26 judges who volunteered to help review the 42 essays submitted for the Coalition's third annual student essay competition. The authors of the top essays in the undergraduate and graduate categories will be invited to attend the July Coalition meeting. The student essay competition is supported by the [AAAS-Andrew M. Sessler Fund for Science, Education and Human Rights](#).

AAA Requests Release of Imprisoned Anthropologist in Iran

The American Anthropological Association published a [letter](#) to the Iranian government calling for the release of Dr. Homa Hoodfar, professor at Concordia University, voicing concerns that accusations against her reflect a misunderstanding of anthropological scholarship. Scholars at Risk has issued a [call for letters](#) on Dr. Hoodfar's behalf.

Why Scientific Societies? Research, Members, Leadership

In a recent [article](#) in the American Sociological Association's *Footnotes*, ASA Executive Officer Sally T. Hillsman discusses how and why to support the role of scientific societies in human rights work.

"The Most Important Untaught Subject"

In a new [series on human rights and ethics](#) published by the American Psychological Association, Coalition member Sam McFarland explores how to integrate a focus on human rights into the teaching of psychology.

Evidence-Based Practices for Human Rights

Evidence-based practices developed in business and medicine have much to contribute to human rights work. In an [article in openGlobalRights](#), Coalition member Bill Mawby and Theresa Harris of AAAS consider how human rights practitioners can successfully implement these practices.

ACTION ALERTS

Mohammad Hossein Rafiee Still Imprisoned

According to Scholars at Risk (SAR), Professor Rafiee, a professor of chemistry at Tehran University until his retirement in 2011, is being held in Iran under inhumane conditions. Prof. Rafiee has been imprisoned since 16 June 2015. A year later, the charges against him remain unclear. To learn more and take action, [click here](#).

Omid Kokabee Gets Medical Furlough

Kokabee, a recipient of the American Physical Society's [Andrei Sakharov Prize](#) and the AAAS [Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award](#), was granted a [medical furlough](#) following surgery to remove a kidney. The [furlough](#) allows the physics doctoral student to temporarily [avoid return to prison](#) in Iran.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

UN High-level Meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants

On 19 September 2016, the UN will host a High-level Meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants. UN-NGLS and UN DESA are facilitating an open and participatory process to identify attendees and speakers for this event, as well as for informal hearings between stakeholders and UN Member States. [Apply to speak or attend](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Apply to become an independent United Nations expert of the Human Rights Council

Independent United Nations experts of the Human Rights Council are appointed through a competitive and transparent process which involves an online written [application](#) in response to a call for candidatures issued by the Secretariat. Application deadline for [appointments to be made at the 33rd Session of the Human Rights Council](#) (13-30 September 2016) is 8 July 2016.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Illinois Innocence Project Takes on "Junk Science" in the Courts

In a recent [interview](#) on NPR Illinois, John Hanlon, Executive Director of the Illinois Innocence Project, discusses his organization's work to overturn wrongful convictions that resulted from overstated or misapplied forensic science.

California Right to Water Laws Get Their First Test in Matheny Tract

An environmental justice community in California will be connected to clean water as a result of the USA's first [human right to water](#) laws.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN human rights experts issued a press release [urging all governments to protect environmental and land rights defenders](#)

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, John Knox, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people, Victoria Tauli Corpuz, stress that protecting environmental rights defenders is crucial to protect the environment and the human rights that depend on it. Read more [here](#).

Two million people die each year from occupational hazards and diseases – call for urgent action

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and hazardous substances and wastes, Baskut Tuncak, has [urged States and businesses to increase efforts](#) to prevent occupational death and disease from hazardous substances.

United Nations and international human rights experts call for urgent end to pathologization of LGBT adults and children

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, a group of UN human rights experts, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe [urge Governments worldwide to reform medical classifications](#) and to adopt measures to prevent all forms of forced treatments and procedures on LGBT persons.

MUST-READ REPORTS

Freedom of expression and the private sector in the digital age

A new [report](#) by UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression David Kaye focuses on the responsibility of private actors to maintain and build the Internet's infrastructure in ways that protect the rights to freedom of expression and access to information. The report recommends that professional associations, specifically listing the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), should "ensure meaningful civil society participation in policymaking and other standard-setting processes, including through increasing the presence of technical experts sensitive to human rights concerns."

Canada's First Nations Face Water Crisis, According to Human Rights Watch

A [report](#) from Human Rights Watch urges the federal and provincial government of Canada to take responsibility for inadequate oversight of water treatment and provision systems for First Nations reserves. Water supplies for many First Nations communities are contaminated, hard to access, or toxic, and in some places, public health advisories instructing residents to boil water before consumption have been in place for more than 10 years.

Measuring Trauma, a Workshop Summary from the National Academies

Experts in the measurement of trauma, PTSD, and health survey methods convened to assist the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the expansion of its collection of behavioural health data. Participants discussed the need to better understand the physical and psychological health impacts of trauma in order to facilitate appropriate treatment and improve outcomes especially for marginalized populations. The [report](#) summarizes the discussions and presents preliminary conclusions for further research.

PEOPLE

Lucas Hackl, student delegate of the American Physical Society

Lucas is a graduate student at the Pennsylvania State University working in mathematical physics. After completing his Master's at the Perimeter Institute, he tutored at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Sénégal and interned with the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) in Berlin. In 2015, he joined the Coalition as student delegate of the American Physical Society. Through two cycles of the Coalition student essay competitions he has been an integral part of the management team, including creating an online system for managing the judging process. Lucas is now working with the Secretariat to develop a plan for engaging more dedicated, creative and engaged students in the work of the Coalition.

Publisher: AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Editor: Theresa Harris

Contributors: Julia Kaufman, Ellen Platts, Claire Sabel, Jessica Wyndham

The Coalition Update needs an Editor!
The Editor's term will begin on August 1.
Please review the call for volunteers [here](#).