

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting

Agenda

July 16-17, 2015
AAAS Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Corporations, Human Rights, Science and Technology

Throughout the first day of this meeting, participants will discuss international human rights principles that guide the conduct of corporations and, in particular, the implications of these norms for the work of scientists, engineers, and health professionals. Policy makers, industry leaders, and human rights advocates will address the human rights responsibilities of businesses that rely heavily on scientific research and technology. Speakers will also address the important role of science and technology in conducting Human Rights Impact Assessments and other types of research and documentation that are key components of the business and human rights framework.

Since the launch of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition in January 2009, Coalition meetings have convened scientists, engineers, and health professionals with human rights leaders and policy makers to discuss emerging issues at the nexus of science and human rights. The Coalition serves as a catalyst for the increased involvement of scientific, engineering, and health associations and their members in human rights-related activities.

Thursday, July 16

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

Introduction: **Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Speaker: **Rush D. Holt**, AAAS and *Science* Family of Journals

9:15 a.m. **Opening Plenary Session: A STEM Perspective on Business and Human Rights** (*Auditorium*)

This session will provide an introduction to the rapidly evolving field of business and human rights. Speakers will discuss the contributions made to society? by science and technology-related industries and highlight emerging issues at the important intersection of human rights with science and technology. Speakers will also share examples of ways in which companies have integrated human rights into their social responsibility and sustainability policies for their customers, workers, and communities.

Speakers: **Bennett Freeman**, Corporate Human Rights Benchmark Initiative
Arvind Ganesan, Human Rights Watch
Theodore Lowen, Hitachi America, Ltd.

Moderator: **Motoko Aizawa**, Institute for Human Rights and Business

10:30 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions:**

Human Rights Impact Assessments and Due Diligence (*Auditorium*)

Human Rights Impact Assessments (HRIAs) are an increasingly important tool for evaluating the potential risks industry operations may pose for human rights. Similar to Environmental Impact Assessments and other more established types of risk analyses, HRIAs assess the projected impacts of an enterprise or activity on human rights. These impacts could touch on a number of human rights including freedom of speech, protections against discrimination, labor protections, and access to housing and health care. Speakers in this session will provide examples of how HRIAs have been used as part of human rights due diligence and will outline emerging opportunities for scientists, engineers, and health professionals to contribute to these investigations. Speakers will discuss cross-sharing between experts in other types of assessments that could inform the new tools being developed for HRIAs; how to collect information from communities and involve them in the process; and how to create useful indicators of impacts.

This panel is co-organized with the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights, Business and Human Rights Project. The purpose of the ABA-AAAS collaboration is to encourage understanding and cooperation between the scientific and legal professions in the area of business and human rights.

Speakers: **Michael Aisenberg**, George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security / ABA Science and Technology Law Section
Ragnhild Handagard, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Soledad Mills, Equitable Origin
Kendyl Salcito, NomoGaia

Moderator: **Elise Groulx Diggs**, Business and Human Rights Advisory Board, American Bar Association Center for Human Rights

Introduction to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition *(Revelle)*

This session is for new and potential members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Participants will learn about the goals and activities of the Coalition and the international human rights framework that guides its work, giving special attention to the connections of human rights to science and technology.

Speaker: **Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS

12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

Please take a moment to meet the entrants in the Coalition's student poster competition and ask them about their work.

1:15 p.m. **Plenary Session: Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives and Voluntary Codes of Conduct** *(Auditorium)*

Reflecting the complexities of many human rights challenges, multidisciplinary, industry-led voluntary codes of conduct and formal structures for self-governance have become a common approach for promoting responsible business practices. Speakers will provide a look back at how these approaches evolved, the ways in which they can protect human rights, and their limitations. The panel will also discuss the future of these initiatives in implementation of the business and human rights agenda.

Panelists: **Lisl Brunner**, Global Network Initiative
Gabriella Rigg Herzog, Hess Corporation
Paul Schaper, Merck & Co., Inc.
Stephen Winstanley, MSI Integrity

Moderator: **Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt**, Human Analytics / American University, Washington College of Law

2:30 p.m. **Plenary Session: Looking to the Future - How Can Science and Technology Associations Contribute?** *(Auditorium)*

Since the UN adopted the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, implementation efforts have advanced quickly. Governments are adopting National Action Plans for domestic implementation, and questions regarding accountability mechanisms and remediation of harms are at the forefront. How is the scientific community involved in addressing these challenges? How can individual scientists, engineers, and health professionals help? How can their expertise become more accessible to human rights organizations, and vice versa?

Panelists: **Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.**, American Chemical Society
Katie Shay, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable
Lynn M. Sicade, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Multilateral and Global Affairs Office
Emira Woods, Thoughtworks

Moderator: **Bruce Friesen**, American Sociological Association

3:45 p.m. **Break**

4:15 p.m. **Facilitated Small Group Discussions: Next Steps**

Participants in each working group will identify strategic actions that Coalition members and their partners can take to advance the Business and Human Rights agenda.

Group 1: **Dorothy Phillips**, American Chemical Society (*Auditorium*)
Group 2: **Betsy Super**, American Political Science Association (*Abelson-Haskins*)
Group 3: **Jeff Toney**, Sigma Xi (*Revelle*)

5:00 p.m. **Report Back from Small Group Discussions** (*Auditorium*)

5:20 p.m. **Closing Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

Winners of the Student Poster Competition and Student Essay Competition will be announced

5:30 p.m. **Reception** (*2nd Floor*)

7:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns for the Day**

Friday, July 17

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to one of five working groups and a committee. Building on the previous day's discussions, the committee and working groups will take stock of progress made and, together with new and potential members, will continue work toward their objectives for 2015.

Unless otherwise noted, all are welcome to attend these working meetings, which will be conducted according to the Chatham House Rule regarding attribution.

If you are a member of the Executive Directors' Circle, Welfare of Scientists working group or Education and Information Resources working group, please see the security desk upon your arrival to pick up a security badge. A badge is necessary to access the 6th, 7th, and 12th floors.

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Executive Directors' Circle** (*invitation only*)

9:00 a.m. **Outreach and Communication Committee** (*Revelle*)

Want to see a greater diversity of associations represented in the Coalition? Have innovative ideas for how to communicate with members about our on-going activities and achievements? Share your ideas for expanding Coalition membership and building a strong relationship with our existing members.

Co-Chairs: **Ali Arab**, American Statistical Association
Jeffrey H. Toney, Sigma Xi

10:30 a.m. **Working Group Meetings** (*concurrent*)

Welfare of Scientists (*6th Floor Conference Room – please see staff for assistance*)

This working group is devoted to the protection and defense of scientists and engineers under threat and will work to increase the effectiveness of professional societies in defending the human rights of our colleagues.

Co-Chairs: **Kimberly Clark**, Affiliated Individual
Alec Greer, Affiliated Individual
Melvyn Nathanson, American Mathematical Society

Ethics and Human Rights (*Abelson-Haskins*)

This working group is devoted to fostering appreciation among scientists, engineers and professional associations for the relevance of human rights to ethical standards, the conduct of science, the applications of science and technology, and human research protections.

Chair: **Maya Sabatello**, Affiliated Individual

Service to the STEM Community (*Revelle*)

This working group is devoted to building the commitment and capacity of professional associations to contribute meaningfully to human rights issues and activities, including through the application of their discipline's tools and techniques.

Co-chairs: **Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association
Clifford Duke, Affiliated Individual

Service to the Human Rights Community (*Room 207*)

This working group is devoted to bridging the scientific, engineering and human rights communities, with the aim of encouraging and facilitating the greater engagement of scientists and engineers in efforts to advance human rights.

Co-chairs: **Brian Gran**, Sociologists Without Borders
Susan Hinkins, Affiliated Individual
Oliver Moles, Capital Area Social Psychological Association

Education and Information Resources (*Room 700 – please see staff for assistance*)

This working group is devoted to producing a variety of accessible information materials for the promotion and support of collaboration among scientists, engineers and human rights practitioners.

Co-chairs: **Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach**, Association of American Geographers
Liljana Stevceva, Affiliated Individual

12:30 p.m. **Council Lunch** (*Council Members and Student Delegates only*) (*Revelle*)

1:00 p.m. **Council Meeting** (*Council Members only*) (*Abelson-Haskins*)

5:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns**

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition
thanks
American Bar Association Center for Human Rights
and
Capital Area Social Psychological Association
for their support of this meeting.