

## COALITION CALENDAR

### Oct. 2: Webinar - Evaluating Labor Conditions and Supply Chain Accountability

[Register now](#) for the final webinar in the [Innovations in Human Rights Program Evaluation series](#). At 10:00 A.M. ET, Sarah Lince of [Verité](#), a nonprofit dedicated to fair labor practices, and moderator Giovanni Dazzo will discuss a participatory impact evaluation method called the “Most Significant Change” (MSC) technique. MSC involves the collection and analysis of first-person narratives to help determine programmatic impact on participants’ lives, behaviors and views. This webinar series is organized by an AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition project team dedicated to providing human rights organizations information on scientific methods and tools for designing and executing systematic evaluations of their programs and projects (Team Leader: Oliver Moles).

### Oct. 9: U.N. Day of General Discussion on the Right to Science

The U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will host a [general discussion](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, on a draft general comment on Article 15, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Members who wish to submit written contributions on the draft—once available—must do so by October 5.

### Nov. 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development

UNESCO’s theme for the 2018 commemoration is “[Science, a Human Right](#).” The theme was chosen in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 27) and to draw attention to the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Sept. 30: Call for Volunteers – Science and Human Rights Innovator

The Coalition is planning to launch a new initiative to recognize Science and Human Rights Innovators – that is human rights organizations that demonstrate innovation in the adoption of scientific methods and technologies to strengthen their work. If you are interested in being a part of the planning team that will define the details of the initiative – from selection criteria to vetting process, outreach to implementation - please [email](#) Theresa Harris by September 30.

### Oct. 1: Coalition Project Proposals

Project proposals for 2019 must be submitted to the Secretariat by October 1. More information is available [online](#).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Job: Research Program Manager (Access to Medicine Foundation)

The Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark team at the Access to Medicine Foundation, a non-profit organization guiding pharmaceutical companies on access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries, is looking for an experienced [Research Program Manager](#) to join the team in charge of developing the Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark, a new tracking tool for evaluating how pharmaceutical companies are taking action to limit antimicrobial resistance.

### Job: Product Policy Director, Human Rights (Facebook)

Facebook is looking to hire a [Human Rights Policy Director](#) for either its Menlo Park Headquarters in California or in Washington, DC. The Director would be responsible for the coordination of the company-wide effort to address human rights abuses, including by both state and non-state actors.

**Job: Consultant for Secondary Trauma/Self-care Capacity Building (Vital Voices)**

Vital Voices Global Partnership is seeking a [consultant](#) (individual or team) to provide capacity building for its Human Rights Department staff members with an eye to burnout prevention, mitigating the effects of secondary trauma, and providing opportunities for support and self-care.

**Sept. 25: Call for Proposals: Community Partners – Data Visualization (NYU)**

The [Integrated Digital Media \(IDM\)](#) program at New York University (NYU), a research-active program within the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, is [accepting proposals](#) for researchers interested in having their data visualized with project support from NYU graduate students. Proposals will be accepted until September 25 or until a sufficient number of community partners for the student projects are realized, whichever comes first.

**Sept. 26: Voices from the Frontlines of Climate Change (Union of Concerned Scientists)**

The [panel discussion and storytelling event](#) will offer stories from the frontlines of communities impacted by climate change and will explore how legal action can help advance climate justice worldwide.

**Sept. 27: Call for Nominations: Courses on International Criminal Investigations**

[Justice Rapid Response](#) (JRR), a multi-stakeholder facility that recruits, trains, certifies and has a mechanism to deploy criminal justice, human rights and related professionals to ensure that atrocity crimes and human rights violations are investigated professionally, impartially and promptly, has issued a [call for nominations](#) for a JRR Roster course, *International Criminal Investigations*, which will be held December 10–15, 2018 in The Hague, The Netherlands. JRR Roster courses are an integral part of the recruitment process for the [JRR Roster](#), a group of more than 650 experts to work on JRR investigations or inquiries. The goal of this course, which is being held with the [Institute for International Criminal Investigations](#), is to increase the pool of experts who are ready to deploy to national, international and regional accountability and transitional justice mechanisms to help ensure those bodies have highly specialized expertise to properly document, investigate, analyze, and prosecute international core crimes and serious human rights violations. The deadline for nominations is September 27, 2018.

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

**Methods to Track and Analyze Data on Evictions Examined**

An [article](#) in *Shelterforce*, an online publication serving community-development practitioners, examines the [data-collection methods](#) and policy assumptions being made based on that data from the [Eviction Lab](#) at Princeton University, which has built a nationwide database of evictions. The Eviction Lab is led by Dr. [Matthew Desmond](#), Professor of Sociology and author of the book, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (2016), which was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 2017 and that examined the prevalence of evictions in low-income communities and the relationship with poverty. While acknowledging the importance of the project in tracking evictions, the authors of the article, which include academics and organizers with local community advocacy groups, have raised questions on the use of the data, including the use of Big Data information, the mode of public engagement, including to community-based groups, and the resulting policy analysis.

**Class: Human Rights and the Supply Chain**

A [podcast episode](#) from the University of Connecticut (UConn) talks about an interdisciplinary class students can take at the university, called “Assessment for Human Rights & Sustainability,” which examines how

companies assess their global supply chains to ensure designs and business practices promote positive social and economic development while minimizing the environmental and human rights impacts on the communities where they make products. The class was developed by Shareen Hertel, Associate Professor of political science with a joint appointment in the university's [Human Rights Institute](#), and former UConn engineering professor, Allison MacKay, who now is a professor and chair of civil, environmental, and geodetic engineering at Ohio State University.

### **RFK Human Rights Partners for Human Rights Education for Students and Teachers**

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (RFK Human Rights), a nonprofit organization, and Discovery Education, a provider of digital content and professional development services for primary and secondary schools, have [launched](#) a new initiative, [Speak Truth To Power: Raising New Voices In Human Rights](#), an educational program to introduce students to human rights defenders through storytelling and interactive learning to inspire interest and action for preventing and ending human rights abuses and violations. RFK Human Rights, in partnership with Discovery Education, will also provide educators with standards-aligned digital resources designed to educate and engage students in human rights.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Facebook Takes Action on Hate Speech Inciting Human Rights Abuses in Myanmar**

Facebook has [removed](#) a total of 18 Facebook accounts, one Instagram account and 52 Facebook Pages, together followed by almost 12 million people, following the release of a [United Nations' report](#) that found "Facebook has been a useful instrument for those seeking to spread hate" in Myanmar's ethnic tension, violence and "genocidal intent" against the Rohingya Muslim minority. The U.N. report [criticized](#) Facebook for being "slow and ineffective," and emphasized the need for Facebook to have country-specific data about the spread of hate speech on its platform. In a [statement](#), Facebook acknowledged that it had been "too slow to act," but that it is making progress to identify hate speech, improve reporting tools, and have more people to review content. Additional actions by the company included the commissioning of an independent human rights impact assessment and the removal of 46 Pages and 12 accounts for "engaging in coordinated inauthentic behavior on Facebook" used to covertly offer messages of the Myanmar military.

### **AAAS Partners in Geospatial Documentation**

A recent [article](#) in *Science* details the work of the AAAS Geospatial Technologies Project and the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation (FAFG) of using drones for geospatial documentation in Guatemala to collect photographs documenting the location of mass graves and the steps taken in the exhumation process. The project is one of six in which AAAS and FAFG have partnered. The article also describes other AAAS-partnered projects in Colombia and Zimbabwe using geospatial technology and analysis.

### **Human Rights Groups Send Open Letter to Google CEO on a Google Project in China**

Fourteen human rights groups, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and PEN International, have signed an [open letter](#) to Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer of Google, to voice their opposition over reported plans by the company to launch a censored search engine in China, dubbed "Project Dragonfly." The groups are calling on Google to reaffirm the company's 2010 commitment not to provide censored search engine services in China; disclose its position on censorship in China and what steps, if any, Google is taking to safeguard against human rights violations linked to Project Dragonfly and its other Chinese mobile app offerings; and guarantee protections for whistle-blowers and other employees speaking out where they see the company is failing its commitments to human rights.

### **Technology for Killer Robots Raises Human Rights Concerns and a Call for a Global Ban**

Several human rights groups, including [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#), issued statements to call for an international ban on so-called "[killer robots](#)," weapons systems that could select and attack targets

without any human intervention. The statements came in line with a meeting of 88 states in late August of the United Nations' Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) [Group of Governmental Experts \(GGE\) on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems \(LAWS\)](#). Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International are part of the [Campaign to Stop Killer Robots](#), an international coalition working to preemptively ban fully autonomous weapons. In addition, Human Rights Watch, in conjunction with the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School, issued a [report](#) to provide the rationale and need for a preemptive international ban on LAWS' development, production, and use. At the GGE meeting, as [reported](#) by Human Rights Watch, there was strong convergence among the 88 participating states on the need to retain some form of human control over weapons systems and the use of force, and many countries recommended a preemptive ban on the development and use of these weapons. Certain states, however, including Australia, Israel, Russia, South Korea, and the United States, opposed any new treaty. The issue will be taken up again on the CCW annual meeting this November in Geneva.

### **Using Satellite Imagery to Detect Human Rights Abuses**

A recent [article](#) details the use of satellite imagery to detect human rights abuses by offering examples of the work of [Josh Lyons](#), a satellite imagery analyst for Human Rights Watch. The most common use of Lyons' work is evaluating the scale of village destruction, through bombardment or arson, to show which villages were affected and when. The imagery is used to corroborate eyewitness testimony and disprove counter-claims from the perpetrators, who may claim testimony was fabricated or the destruction came out of armed conflict.

### **Examining Technology in Public Policy to Combat Human Trafficking**

A recent [op-ed](#) by Julia Muraszkiwicz, a Senior Research Analyst at [Trilateral Research](#), a London-based social science research firm with a focus on the impacts of new technologies on privacy, social, ethical and data-protection issues, asserts that technology needs to be addressed in policy and legislation addressing human trafficking. The author notes that many new technologies now exist in relation to fighting human trafficking, such as web crawling, data analytics, predictive policing, blockchain, geographic information systems (GIS), online data basis, and crowd-sourcing. While acknowledging the role of technology, she also stressed that public policy should address challenges in relation to the availability and use of technology, uncertainties around legal, privacy and data-protection requirements, and engagement with available technologies.

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **Human Rights Education Review Examines Areas for Human Rights Violations in Schools**

[Human Rights Education Review](#), an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum for research and critical scholarship in human rights education, has posted a research article on [identifying human rights violations of children in schools](#). The article addresses five main areas: access to school; curriculum; testing and assessment; discipline; and respect for children's views. The authors assert that for human rights education to achieve its core purpose, it must enable children to identify and challenge breaches of rights in school and elsewhere.

### **Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: Guidelines for Business**

Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a global nonprofit organization that works with multinational companies, government agencies, and global and local NGOs, has issued a report, [Artificial Intelligence: A Rights-Based Blueprint for Business](#). The report consists of three papers describing a human rights-based blueprint for responsible business practice with regard to artificial intelligence, both within and beyond the technology sector.

### **Stanford Researchers Issue Resources for Anti-Human Trafficking Practitioners**

Researchers at Stanford University have issued a [set of resources](#) to help NGOs and government agencies working to end human trafficking gather data that can better inform policymakers and practitioners about the nature and scope of the problems they face. The resources include [guidelines for frontline practitioners](#) in Southeast Asia and a [white paper offering policy recommendations](#). The material was written with support from the British Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, and in collaboration with the Human Rights Resource Center, a nonprofit organization headquartered at the University of Indonesia.

### **2018 Global Congress Summary Report**

The [summary report](#) from the Scholars at Risk Network 2018 Global Congress in Berlin features excerpts from keynote speakers, plenary and workshop summaries, and other Global Congress highlights.

### **Shared Space Under Pressure: Business Support for Civic Freedoms and Human Rights Defenders**

A [new report](#) and [executive summary](#) from the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre and International Service for Human Rights discusses the relationship between business and civil society in ‘shared space.’

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