

COALITION CALENDAR

TBD: Webinar - Evaluating Labor Conditions and Supply Chain Accountability

Postponed. The final webinar in the [Innovations in Human Rights Program Evaluation series](#) has been postponed until further notice. Be on the lookout for more information about the webinar's rescheduling. [Registration is still open.](#)

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.

Call for Syllabi: Science and Human Rights

The Coalition is requesting recent syllabi addressing human rights in a university-level STEM course that can be added to the Coalition's [online collection](#). Syllabi can be [sent to the Secretariat](#).

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

U.N. Day of General Discussion on the Right to Science

The U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights hosted a [general discussion](#) in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 9 on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Coalition members, Brian Gran (Case Western Reserve University) and Andrea Boggio (Bryant University) participated in the discussion in Geneva, along with Jessica Wyndham (AAAS). Written submissions were made by [AAAS](#) and Coalition members, the [American Chemical Society](#), [Tee Guidotti](#) (Sigma Xi) and [Art Kendall](#) (Capital Area Social Psychological Association).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 5: Applications for Fellowships for Threatened Scholars (IEE Scholar Rescue Fund)

The Institute of Independent Education (IIE), an independent not-for-profit organization, is accepting applications under the [Scholar Rescue Fund \(IIE-SRF\)](#), which provides fellowships for professors, researchers, and public intellectuals who face threats to their lives and careers in their home countries. The [call for applications](#) for the IIE-SRF fellowship is open through November 5, 2018 for consideration in December 2018.

Call for Applicants: Master of Human Rights Program at The University of Minnesota

The Humphrey School of Public Affairs and College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota is recruiting new students for the 2019 academic year for its [Master of Human Rights](#). Each cohort brings a diversity of experiences and interests all ready to take advantage of a wide variety of course offerings and experiential learning opportunities available at the University of Minnesota.

Oct. 25: Call for Abstracts: Geographies of Human Rights

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) is [calling for](#) abstracts for papers and organized sessions to be presented at the AAG Annual Meeting April 3-7 in Washington D.C. Abstracts for papers thus far submitted related to human rights may be found [here](#) and for sessions submitted under the theme,

“Geographies of Human Rights: The Right to Benefit from Scientific Progress,” may be found [here](#). Paper abstracts [are due](#) by Oct. 25 and by Nov. 8 for session organizers. Further details are provided [here](#).

Job: Geospatial Analyst (Human Rights Watch)

The Program Department of Human Rights Watch (HRW) is seeking a full-time [geospatial analyst](#) to provide remote sensing, GIS and field data collection support for research on violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. This position is fixed-term for two years, with the possibility of extension, and reports to the director of geospatial analysis. The preferred location for this position is Geneva, Switzerland, but other locations will be considered.

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](#). The Director will 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.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

How Statistics Doomed Washington State’s Death Penalty

Decades after [Justice Lewis Powell](#) applied the logic of tobacco manufacturers to dismiss empirical studies, a state supreme court decided to [accept their findings](#). Last week, the Washington Supreme Court, in a fairly pointed [opinion](#), declared that, at least in its jurisdiction, numbers have real meaning; that numbers make clear the truth about death-sentencing: it is arbitrary and racist in its application.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Holds Sessions on Americas

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) held its [169th Period of Sessions](#) between September 30 and October 5, 2018, at the University of Colorado. At the event, the IACHR held 37 public hearings on Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the United States (including a hearing on Puerto Rico), and Venezuela, and various regional hearings. The [sessions](#) included a visit by Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosselló and more than 35 public hearings on cases of alleged human rights violations across the Americas, including the criminalization of social activists and journalists in Cuba; identification of the remains of migrants thought to have disappeared along the U.S.-Mexico border; the use of fracking and the violation of human rights of communities and defenders of environmental and land rights in the Americas, and the right of Puerto Rican citizens to vote in Presidential and Congressional elections. Recordings of the hearings are [available here](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Microsoft, U.N. Partner on AI for Advancing Human Rights

Microsoft announced a new five-year, \$40-million initiative, in conjunction with the U.N. General Assembly, called “[AI for Humanitarian Action](#),” which is focused on using artificial intelligence (AI) in four priority areas: helping the world recover from disasters, addressing the needs of children, protecting refugees and displaced people, and promoting respect for human rights. The AI for Humanitarian Action program is part of Microsoft’s AI for Good suite, a \$115-million, five-year commitment to address some of society’s biggest challenges using AI. The AI for Humanitarian Action program will work with selected nongovernmental organizations and humanitarian organizations through financial grants, technology investments and partnerships that combine Microsoft’s AI and data-science expertise with these groups’ core expertise.

U.N. High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation Holds First Meeting with Human Rights as Key

The [U.N. High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation](#), which [was formed](#) in July 2018 by the UN Secretary-General to advance proposals to strengthen cooperation in the digital space among governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, academia, the technical community and other relevant stakeholders, held its [first in-person meeting](#) in New York on September 24–25. The Panel is tasked with identifying policy, research and information gaps and making proposals to strengthen international cooperation in the digital space, including by taking into account relevant human rights norms. To do so, it will conduct a global consultation process, drawing expertise from communities around the world and will submit its final report in 2019. Among the topics discussed at the September meeting were: building the capacity of individuals, organizations and governments to adapt to the digital age; putting human rights and human agency at the center of technology; and bridging the digital divide. Melinda Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Jack Ma, Executive Chairman of Alibaba Group, are serving as Co-Chairs of the Panel. The Panel invites the public to get involved by participating in consultations and sharing ideas at <https://digitalcooperation.org/>.

Indian Court Offers Final Vindication for Space Scientist

Sankaralingam Nambi Narayanan, a former top Indian space scientist who was arrested and tortured in 1994 after allegations he sold space program secrets to Pakistan, [has been vindicated](#) by the Supreme Court of India, which announced that the original case against him was concocted and awarded him 5 million rupees (roughly \$70,000) in compensation. Narayanan and others accused in the incident were declared innocent by a local court in 1996, but a spate of litigation on the matter followed.

Landmark Ruling on Climate Change in the Netherlands Based on Human Rights Issues

A Dutch appeals court [upheld](#) a lower court decision that ordered the Dutch government to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 25% by 2020 from benchmark 1990 levels. It was a historic ruling in that the court ruled that a national government was legally bound to follow through on promises made in international climate agreements in a [judgment](#) that relied on the European Convention of Human Rights. The Dutch government had argued that the district court in The Hague should have left the decision to parliament, but the appeal court found in favor of [Urgenda Foundation](#), a Dutch citizens' climate-change group that filed the lawsuit on behalf of 886 plaintiffs in 2015. A [blog](#) posted on the [Lawyers Blog Network](#), a forum for legal blogs edited primarily by law professors and which includes a forum on [human rights](#), highlighted the case and other resources relating to climate-change issues and human rights.

UN Anti-Torture Body Issues Key Decision on Right to Rehabilitation for Torture Victims

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, a network of 160 torture rehabilitation centers in over 70 countries, [reports](#) on a recent decision by the UN Committee against Torture in protecting torture survivors from expulsion to countries where rehabilitation services are not available. In the decision, the UN Committee against Torture found that an Eritrean torture victim could not be returned to Italy as otherwise

permitted by EU law. Based on his need for psychiatric support to overcome past torture trauma and the risks of irreparable harm if the support was discontinued, the Committee found that returning him without ensuring that appropriate rehabilitation services are available and accessible would deny him his right to rehabilitation. The Committee further found that the denial of rehabilitation would create a situation that in itself constitutes ill-treatment, which might escalate torture depending on the specific circumstances.

UNICEF Official Discusses Technology in Advancing Human Rights

A recent [article](#) in *Forbes* highlights an interview with Erica Kochi, Co-Founder of UNICEF Innovation at the United Nations Children's Fund and Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Human Rights, who describes ways in which technology is being applied to advance human rights. As examples, she explains the role of [U-Report](#), a social messaging tool to allow people to speak out on development issues, support children's rights and improve communities, and UNICEF's work with Colombia in using satellite imagery, population data, weather trends and emergency data to predict the risk of natural disasters, and applying machine learning to help allocate educational resources.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Evaluating the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Human Rights

The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University [has issued](#) a new report, [Artificial Intelligence & Human Rights: Opportunities & Risks](#), examines human rights implications of artificial intelligence (AI) through six "use cases" of algorithmic decision-making systems, including criminal justice risk assessments and credit scores. The report analyzes the impacts of AI through a human rights lens and proposes a new framework for thinking about the impact of AI on human rights

Human Rights Issues in Automated Decision-Making in Canada's Immigration and Refugee System Examined

The International Human Rights Program (IHRP) in the Faculty of Law and Citizen Lab, based in the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy at the University of Toronto, have issued a [report](#) that examines how the Canadian government is considering using automated decision-making in the immigration and refugee system and concerns of using artificial intelligence as a solution for rooting out inefficiencies.

Report on International Movement and Science Issued

Together Science Can, a global campaign to support scientific collaboration, has issued a new report with research conducted by RAND Europe, [International Movement and Science](#), which examines researchers' attitudes to travel, the barriers they face, and the impact that travel has on research and on the people who carry out that research. The findings demonstrate that while the vast majority of researchers think travel is important to research, opportunities to travel are not equally available to all. Nationality, family responsibilities, and a host of other factors affect an individual's ability to travel.

Report Finds U.S. Falls Short in Protecting Children's Rights in Criminal Justice System

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an autonomous organ of the Organization of American States, a regional inter-governmental body that aims to strengthen democracy and cooperation in the Americas, has issued a report, [The Situation of Children in the Adult Criminal Justice System in the United States](#). The report finds that a significant number of children are being consistently treated as adults in the U.S. criminal justice system in violation of their basic right to special protection and to be tried in a specialized juvenile system. The report asserts that the U.S. shows a broader nationwide pattern of failure to protect and promote the rights of children and failure to uniformly define "child" under the law in order to protect the fundamental human rights persons under the age of 18.

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