



## AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting

July 16-17, 2012  
Washington, D.C.

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**This meeting of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition will focus on the ways human rights intersect with the technological applications of science and engineering.** Innovative uses of science and technology are reducing the digital divide, enhancing human rights online, and advancing access to medicines, clean water, education and more. Some of these advances, however, present challenges of professional responsibility for scientists, engineers and health professionals. What are the emerging opportunities to use technology and engineering to address human rights concerns? How does the “right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications” help frame these issues? How can educators prepare students to use a human rights-based approach in their work? By exploring these questions, the aim of this meeting is to develop a better shared understanding of ways the scientific and engineering communities can tackle these issues in the future.

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## Tuesday, July 17

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

**9:00 a.m. The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition: The Next Frontier**

*Auditorium*

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition is three years old! Learn about the contributions the Coalition has made to human rights so far and the plans for 2012-2014. Whether you are a founding leader of the Coalition, a new member, or considering joining, you will not want to miss this opportunity to find out more about the steps that associations and individual scientists and engineers can take to contribute to the Coalition's next phase.

Remarks: **Jessica M. Wyndham**, Associate Director, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program  
**Margaret Vitullo**, Co-Chair, Service to the STEM Community Working Group  
**Constance Thompson**, Co-Chair, Service to the STEM Community Working Group  
**David J. Proctor**, Co-Chair, Outreach and Communication Committee

**9:45 a.m. Morning Plenary Session**

*Auditorium*

### **Advancing the Right to Development through Science and Technology**

In recent years, human rights scholars have joined their colleagues in the interdisciplinary field of development studies in reflecting on the meaning of a rights-based approach to development, defined as planned intervention to improve the health, well-being, life prospects, and life expectancy of a society. The right to development has been proclaimed in a series of UN documents for more than two decades. This panel will explore different facets of the right to development in the context of Article 15 of the ICESCR, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. What are the implications of Article 15 for development? What is the role of science and technology in bringing new models of development to fruition? While there is a right to development, do the multiple issues raised by development -- self-determination, participation in decision-making, respecting local cultures and lifeways, protecting environmental resources -- conflict with each other or with Article 15? How can scientists and engineers incorporate human rights concerns into their development projects?

Presenters: **Iana Aranda**, Senior Program Manager, Engineering for Global Development, American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
**Robert A. Freling**, Director, Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF)  
**Stephen P. Marks**, François-Xavier Bagnoud Professor of Health and Human Rights, Department of Health and Global Population, Harvard School of Public Health

Moderator: **Varun Gauri**, Senior Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank

**11:00 a.m. Break**

**11:15 a.m. Working Group Meetings** (*concurrent*)

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to one of five working groups. Through these meetings, working groups will take stock of progress made and, together with new and potential members, will continue work toward their objectives for 2012.

**Welfare of Scientists**

*Room 700*

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: **Alec Greer**, Committee of Concerned Scientists  
**Alex Ingrams**, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

**Ethics and Human Rights**

*Revelle*

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.

Co-chairs: **Robert Albro**, American Anthropological Association  
**Douglas Richardson**, Association of American Geographers

**Service to the STEM Community**

*Haskins*

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: **Clinton Anderson**, American Psychological Association  
**Constance Thompson**, American Society of Civil Engineers  
**Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association

**Service to the Human Rights Community**

*Abelson*

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**, American Sociological Association  
**Susan Hinkins**, American Statistical Association  
**Patricia van Arnum**, Affiliated Individual

**Education and Information Resources**

*Room 207*

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

Co-chairs: **Mark Frezzo**, Sociologists Without Borders  
**Sam McFarland**, Affiliated Individual

**12:45 p.m.**      **Lunch**

**1:30 p.m.**      **Business Meetings** (*concurrent*)

**Outreach and Communication**

*Abelson*

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:      **David J. Proctor**, Affiliated Individual  
                    **Jeffrey H. Toney**, Sigma Xi

**Planning the January 2013 Coalition Meeting**

*Haskins*

What tools and topics would you like to learn about and discuss at the next Coalition meeting? Have your say on the agenda for the July 2013 Coalition meeting, the theme of which will be focused on the connections between science and technology and the rights of children.

Facilitators:      **Brian Gran**, American Sociological Association  
                          **Martha Zaslow**, Society for Research in Child Development  
                          **Theresa Harris**, Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program,  
                          AAAS

**Technology for Human Rights: Volunteer Opportunities**

*Revelle*

Interested in volunteering your expertise to protect human rights but not sure how to get started? Learn more about available volunteer opportunities.

Presenters:      **Ken Ludwa**, Engineers Without Borders  
                          **Iana Aranda**, Engineering for Change  
                          **Susan Wolfinbarger**, Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program,  
                          AAAS

**2:15 p.m.**      **Workshops** (*concurrent*)

**Engaging Your Society in Human Rights**

*Revelle*

How are professional societies and associations integrating human rights in their disciplines? Where have they succeeded? What challenges have they overcome? Learn from colleagues at this interactive, cross-disciplinary roundtable discussion. Discussants will examples from their personal efforts to institutionalize human rights within their associations, such as creating and supporting human rights committees, organizing sessions at annual meetings, hosting webinars for their members, creating educational materials, working to protect the human rights of their colleagues around the world, and more.

Presenters:      **Sam McFarland**, Affiliated Individual  
                          **Douglas Richardson**, Association of American Geographers  
                          **Constance Thompson**, American Society of Civil Engineers

Moderator:      **Margaret Vitullo**, American Sociological Association

**Building the Next Generation of Socially Responsible Innovators:  
Integrating Human Rights in Technology and Engineering Curricula**

*Abelson*

This panel will address the value of including human rights education in technology and engineering curricula, specific ways this has been done, and the challenges involved.

Presenters: **Joe Manous**, Team Leader for Future Directions, Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Thomas M. Powers**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Delaware Biotechnology Institute Faculty Research Fellow, University of Delaware

Moderator: **Mark V. Frezzo**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Mississippi and Co-chair of the Education and Information Resources Working Group

**The Human Right to Clean Water and Sanitation**

*Haskins*

This panel will address the right to clean water and sanitation. What is the basis for this right in the international human rights framework? How is it interconnected with other human rights, including Article 15, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress? As an issue that cuts across many disciplines – hydrology, chemistry, engineering, agriculture, health, climatology, sociology, anthropology and many others – what is the role of scientists and engineers in protecting and promoting this right?

Presenters: **Salman M.A. Salman**, Former Lead Counsel, Legal Vice-Presidency, World Bank  
**Eric Tars**, Director of Human Rights and Children’s Rights, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty  
**Ralph P. Hall**, Assistant Professor, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Moderator: **Benjamin Mason Meier**, Assistant Professor of Global Health Policy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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

**4:00 p.m.** **Closing Panel**

**Technology, Human Rights and Professional Responsibility**

*Auditorium*

Technology has tremendous potential to advance human rights. For example, engineers and medical professionals are developing tools to prevent mass atrocities, to enable advocates to document human rights violations and share the information in real time, and to make medicines and other treatments more widely accessible. Other applications of technology are expanding opportunities for marginalized communities to assert their rights. At the same time, technological advances also raise concerns about their potential negative impacts. For example, mobile technologies that connect human rights defenders also can be used to target them. This panel will discuss the ways in which ethical principles from science, engineering, and business intersect with human rights, which may provide a shared framework for applying technologies to advance human rights and minimize risks.

Presenters: **Vijaya Tripathi**, Program Manager, Benetech Human Rights Program  
**John Crowley**, Research Fellow, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative  
**Amy K. Lehr**, Associate, Corporate Social Responsibility Practice, Foley Hoag  
LLP

Moderator: **Sif Thorgeirsson**, Manager, Corporate Legal Accountability Project, Business and  
Human Rights Resource Centre

**5:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourns**

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition  
thanks the  
**American Chemical Society, Committee of International  
Affairs**  
**American Educational Research Association**  
**American Physical Society**  
**American Society of Civil Engineers**  
**American Statistical Association**  
**Association of American Geographers**  
for their support of this meeting