## COALITION CALENDAR

### May 21: Webinar: *Skills to Succeed*: Approaches to Blending Science and Human Rights

Register now and join the Coalition's Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations project team at 10:00 AM ET for its second webinar of 2019. In this webinar, Christopher Ying, Senior Specialist, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, Learning (MEAL) and Research at the non-profit Save the Children, will present on Save the Children's flagship youth employment program, Skills to Succeed, which has collaborated with economists, psychometricians, software engineers and statisticians on a number of research and digital innovation projects, such as the development of a mobile app to help youth in Indonesia save money and to encourage young girls in Vietnam to practice their public speaking skills.

### June 2: Call for Nominations: Human Rights Innovators

As part of its tenth anniversary celebration, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition will recognize outstanding examples of human rights projects that have effectively incorporated science and technology as integral to the achievement of their goals. The Selection Committee invites nominations that exemplify the Coalition's values: collaboration, evidence-based advocacy, innovation, and positive impact on human rights.

### October 23-25: Science and Human Rights Conference

The Coalition's tenth anniversary conference will be held in Washington, DC, at AAAS Headquarters. Registration information will be available soon. **Please note that the only Coalition meeting in 2019 will be the conference in October.** This allows us to undertake a larger variety of activities with member organizations and to make the October meeting a more ambitious event.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### How Clinicians Help LGBTQ Asylum Seekers

The Office on Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity of the American Psychological Association published a report about how clinicians can support asylum seekers who identify as LGBTQ. Read »

### Opportunities for Coalition Campus Outreach

In collaboration with the University of Dayton Human Rights Center and Hanley Sustainability Institute, Theresa Harris was a speaker at multiple events with students majoring in environmental biology, sustainability, and human rights studies, as well as faculty in engineering, geology, psychology, ecology, religious studies, and human rights studies. Presentations focused on opportunities for students and cross-disciplinary collaborations through the Coalition. University leadership is keen to continue to build strong connections between these departments and the Coalition and will be involved in the October Coalition conference.

Campus events such as these are part of the Coalition's 10th Anniversary. If you would like to host similar dialogues at your campus or as part of your scientific organization's annual meeting, please contact Theresa Harris at tharris@aaas.org.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### June 1: Call for Papers: Human and Non-human Migration

The *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* invites contributions on human and non-human migration for its next issue. Submissions for this issue should be sent by June 1, 2019.

**June 11-14: RightsCon 2019**
RightsCon, an annual conference that brings together business leaders, policy makers, general counsels, government representatives, technologists, and human rights defenders to address pressing issues at the intersection of human rights and digital technology, will be held June 11–14, 2019 in Tunis, Tunisia.

**July 1: Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program**
The Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and Harvard Medical School Department of Global and Continuing Education accredit an exciting six-month certificate program in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. The program begins with the first two week in Italy and with six months online. Applications are due July 1.

**October 1-4: Social Practice of Human Rights 2019**
The Human Rights Center at the University of Dayton will host their annual Social Practice of Human Rights Conference. This year's theme is "Going Against the Grain" and will discuss high-risk threats that present themselves with unprecedented urgency, collaborative efforts to build sustainable movements and disruptive methods to address human rights issues.

## CALL FOR INPUT
**May 17: Digital Technology, Social Protection and Human Rights**
The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, is preparing a thematic report to the UN General Assembly on the human rights impacts, especially on those living in poverty, of the introduction of digital technologies in the implementation of national social protection systems. The report will be presented to the General Assembly in New York in October 2019. Respondents should submit comments by May 17 and are requested to limit their comments to a maximum of 2,500 words.

**May 31: Request for Information: Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade**
The Public-Private Alliance for Responsible Minerals Trade (PPA) is seeking expert and stakeholder insights on responsible minerals challenges and opportunities—tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold—in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa. The deadline for input is May 31.

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA
**Global Health Institute Becomes Subject of Discrimination Litigation**
A recent article in *Science* details the litigation of seven current and former female employees against officials at a global health institute that is part of the Mount Sinai Health System's Icahn School of Medicine in New York City, who have claimed age and sex discrimination. An eighth plaintiff on the lawsuit, a man, claims discrimination based on race, religion, and national origin. The institute involved in the litigation is the Arnhold Institute for Global Health, which designs technology and systems to improve the health of poor communities.

**San Francisco Votes to Ban the Use of Facial Recognition by Police and Other Agencies**
The Board of Supervisors of San Francisco voted to ban the use of facial recognition software by the police and other agencies. The measure makes San Francisco the first city in the United States to prohibit government use of face surveillance systems, according to the Northern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors' vote comes as Oakland and Berkeley, California, and Somerville, Massachusetts are also considering bans on government use of face surveillance. The use of facial recognition technology has raised civil and human rights concerns over its potential misuse and privacy rights. Currently, the police department in San Francisco does not deploy such technology, and it is only in use at the international airport and ports that are under federal jurisdiction and are not impacted by the legislation.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Tech Companies Face Human Rights Concerns with User Content Rules and Monitoring**

A recent article in *The Atlantic* addresses human rights issues raised from the mounting pressure from governments on technology companies to proactively monitor and police content generated or disseminated by users in order to remove extremist content. The article points out that while such rules have removed content that is violent or inflammatory, it also removes material that may be valuable in open-source investigations and in documenting human rights abuses. The article highlights an open letter sent by Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, to Facebook in recommending a human-rights approach in applying machine learning and algorithms to the review and monitoring of user content.

**Human Rights Concerns in AI Raised for Tech Companies, Academia, and the Public**

An article in *Foreign Policy* describes the human rights concerns that arise in research collaborations in artificial intelligence (AI) between businesses with entities that may be tied to repressive governments, such as China. The article says that companies incorporated in democratic countries are facing decisions on the boundaries of AI collaborations with entities in China and elsewhere. These decisions on AI are being taken in addition to regulatory frameworks that could emerge through the Global Network Initiative, a non-governmental entity focused on issues relating to freedom of expression and privacy, which is seeking to establish voluntary corporate guidelines on AI collaborations.

A separate article in *Forbes* highlights further issues in research collaborations in AI and other technology between Western-based academic institutions and China. The article cites a report by *The Financial Times* that states that at least nine academic papers have been co-written by US academics alongside firms that either sell surveillance technology to the Chinese government, or alongside institutions with links to nation's military, such as China's National University of Defense Technology (NUDT).

In a separate development, the member states of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will consider a standard-setting instrument on the ethics of AI at their General Conference in November. In a keynote presentation earlier this month before Orbicom, the network of UNESCO chairs in communication, Guy Berger, UNESCO Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, raised key issues associated with AI: "How we are using and what we are teaching this self-learning and self-propelling force that is AI will greatly shape the new ecosystem for expression." He pointed to a preview research assessment that uses UNESCO's "ROAM" model to analyze the current directions of AI, and the implications for human rights, openness, accessibility and multi-stakeholder governance.

**Human Rights Considerations Urged in EU–Brazilian Trade Negotiations**

A recent op-ed in *Science* calls for the European Union to take into consideration human rights and environmental concerns as part of its trade negotiations with Brazil. The op-ed was authored by professors from Oxford University, Cambridge University, Belgium's Université Catholique de Louvain, and Humboldt University of Berlin with 604 signatories (602 European scientists and two Brazilian indigenous organizations that represent 300 Brazilian indigenous groups). They are calling that the negotiations be conditioned on Brazil upholding the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, improving procedures to trace commodities associated with deforestation and indigenous rights conflicts, and consulting and gaining the consent of indigenous people and local communities on social and environmental criteria for traded commodities.

**Work and Human Rights Activism of Physicist Herman Winick Highlighted**

An article in *Physics Today* has an interview with Herman Winick, an accelerator physicist and human rights activist, who played an integral part in the advancement of synchrotron radiation sources. The article details

his professional contributions and research in physics and his work in human rights, including with Scholars at Risk.

**Human Rights Watch Details Mass Surveillance Technology for Social Monitoring in China**
Human Rights Watch has issued a report that describes how the Chinese government is using mass surveillance and related technology for social monitoring and control of ethnic Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region. The report provides a detailed description and analysis of a mobile app that police and other officials use to communicate with the Integrated Joint Operations Platform, one of the main systems Chinese authorities use for mass surveillance in Xinjiang.

## NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

**New Report Examines A Lack of Diversity in AI**
The AI Now Institute at New York University, which examines the social implications of artificial intelligence (AI), has issued a report, *Discriminating Systems: Gender, Race, and Power in AI*, that provides the research findings from a pilot study representing the first stage of a multi-year project examining the intersection of gender, race, and power in AI. The study points to a diversity problem in the AI sector across gender and race with very low percentages of women and minorities represented in academia and at technology companies and offers recommendations to address the problem.

**Report Updates States' Human Rights Obligations in Climate Change**
The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, has issued a report, *States' Human Rights Obligations in the Context of Climate Change – 2019 Update*, to describe the increasing engagement of UN human rights institutions on climate change and identifies how these bodies could play an important role in holding states accountable for their climate-related obligations in the future. The report compiles recommendations made in 2018 by the human rights treaty bodies regarding states' climate-related obligations under human rights treaties. It is intended to assist states to identify and address their human rights legal obligations with respect to climate change, including obligations across different human rights treaties and for different groups, such as women, children, and indigenous people, as well as obligations with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the regulation of private actors.

**New Report Provides Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**
The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a global science-policy platform, has prepared a new report, *Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service,* the summary of which was approved at an IPBES plenary session earlier this month. Compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries over the past three years, with inputs from another 310 contributing authors, the report assesses changes over the past five decades to provide a comprehensive picture of the relationship between economic development pathways and their impacts on nature and offers a range of possible scenarios for the coming decades, including issues relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities. The full six-chapter report (including all data) is expected to exceed 1,500 pages and will be published later this year. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is an institutional co-sponsor of IPBES, together with the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN, and the UN Development Program (UNDP).