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## COALITION CALENDAR

### REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! October 23-25: Science and Human Rights Conference

The Coalition's tenth anniversary conference will be held in Washington, DC, at AAAS Headquarters. Early Bird Registration for the conference is now open! [Learn more »](#)

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### 2019 Student Essay Competition Winners

The Coalition has [announced](#) the winners of its sixth annual student essay competition! The graduate student winner is Mehrgol Tiv of McGill University for her essay: "AI for Social Good: How Psychological Researchers Can Contribute to the Socially Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence" and the undergraduate winner is Sumona Gupta of the University of Alabama for her essay: "Deep Poverty and Shallow Trenches: The Human Right to Sanitation in Alabama's Black Belt." The competition was open to undergraduate and graduate students, who were invited to write an essay on any topic at the intersection of science, technology and human rights. There were 53 submissions from 11 different countries, covering a wide range of topics, such as artificial intelligence, climate change, and access to medical technologies. This competition is supported by the [AAAS-Andrew M. Sessler Fund for Science, Education and Human Rights](#).

### Webinar: The 'Science Factor' in Human Rights Litigation

On July 17, the Coalition's Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations Project Team hosted its [third webinar](#) of its [2019 series](#). Presenters discussed how a [Mexican community, threatened with flooding by the construction of a dam](#), was able to halt the Zapotillo dam's construction with the scientific advice provided by AAAS's On-call Scientists before it was too late to save the town. [Watch the recording »](#)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### August 1: Call for Nominations – AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom & Responsibility honors scientists, engineers and their organizations whose exemplary actions have demonstrated scientific freedom and/or responsibility in challenging circumstances. Nominations for 2020 are due August 1. [Learn more »](#)

### August 7: U.S. Dept. of Labor Grant for Forced Labor Research

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs of the U.S. Department of Labor is [accepting applications](#) for \$3 million in funding for a four-year technical assistance project on forced labor research. The project seeks two principal outcomes: (1) increase knowledge of the nature and extent of forced labor where scarce research exists and (2) increase mobilization of decision-makers in the private sector, government, and civil society to act against forced labor. A minimum of two studies must be proposed to achieve outcomes supported under this grant. Eligible applicants may include any commercial, international, educational, or non-profit organizations. Applications are due August 7.

### October 1-4: Social Practice of Human Rights 2019

The Human Rights Center at the University of Dayton will host its [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.

### **Job: Program Coordinator, Emerging Threats and Opportunities (WITNESS)**

WITNESS, an organization using video and technology to defend and protect human rights, is accepting [applications](#) for a Program Coordinator to support, and where relevant, lead, initiatives within the Emerging Threats and Opportunities work of WITNESS. This work has a primary current focus on artificial intelligence (AI) and mis/disinformation, particularly in terms of proactive work on deepfakes and synthetic media, and emerging foci on identifying ways to protect human rights defenders and their advocacy from AI-enabled attacks.

### **Opportunity: Student Advocacy Seminars (Scholars at Risk)**

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is offering Student Advocacy Seminars to provide university and college students with the opportunity to develop human rights research and advocacy skills through direct engagement on behalf of threatened members of the global higher education community in cooperation with SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and Scholars in Prison Project. Student Advocacy Seminars are available to all SAR member institutions, and SAR and Student Advocacy Coordinators at Roger Williams University assist faculty members and students to create an opportunity that fits their curricular needs and interests. Further information may be found [here](#).

## **SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA**

### **Amici Briefs Filed with U.S. Supreme Court in LGBT Employment Discrimination Cases**

Scholars at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law and other experts who study the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population have [filed](#) amici briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court in three cases that address whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits workplace discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity. The briefs were joined by 88 scholars of demographics, economics, law, medicine, psychology, political science, public health, public policy, and other disciplines.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Location-Based Data Raise Ethical Issues for Cultural Heritage**

An [article](#) in the June 28<sup>th</sup> issue of *Science* covers the work of the geospatial technologies and human rights project of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program in Iraq and Syria as well as its recent report, "[Location-Based Data in Crisis Situations: Principles and Guidelines](#)," which was published in March. The Program also hosted a [webinar](#) this past June on the principles and guidelines presented in the report and its corresponding resources.

### **Human Rights Groups Address New Voluntary Standard for Responsible Jewelry Production**

Human Rights Watch (HRW) [reports](#) on both the progress and need for further improvement by the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), which includes over 1,100 member companies along the jewelry supply chain, for improving its process for certifying its members to ensure that human rights risks are addressed in supply chains. In April 2019, the RJC published a new [version](#) of its certification standard to require its members to exercise due diligence over their supply chains in accordance with international norms on responsible mineral sourcing. HRW with 27 civil society groups in an [open letter](#) to the RJC highlighted concerns with how the certification process will be carried out and urged the RJC to address them. Key concerns raised by the groups are a longer phase-in period for the new standards for the diamond and colored gemstone industry and reporting and audit requirements.

### **UN Meeting Stresses the Role of Science in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals**

The importance of science in achieving the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 2030 SDG Agenda was a key [issue](#) at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,

held at UN headquarters in New York earlier this month. Romain Murenzi, Executive Director of the World Academy of Sciences Resource, highlighted key findings of the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which will be launched at the UN Sustainable Development Goal Summit in September. He explained that an independent group of scientists was mandated to bring together different perspectives in trends of science to inform the 2030 Agenda and to contribute to the science-policy interface. Working toward what he termed as “a knowledge-based transformation framework to sustainable development,” he explained that scientists discovered four dysfunctional systems (economies, energy decarbonization, food and nutrition patterns, and urban development) that must be changed for the 2030 Agenda to succeed.

### **Turkish Court Acquits Doctor and Human Rights Defender**

Dr. Şebnem Korur Fincancı was [acquitted](#) by a Turkish court on [July 17](#) after being arrested, briefly imprisoned and charged with disseminating “terrorist propaganda” in June 2016 after taking part in a solidarity campaign with a Kurdish newspaper critical of Turkey’s government. [Fincancı](#) is a globally renowned forensic physician and is president of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. She has spent much of her career fighting torture and ill-treatment in Turkey and around the world.

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **UN Reports Examine Climate Change and Human Rights Impacts**

The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights has issued a [report](#) that examines the impact of climate change on human rights, particularly the rights of people living in or near poverty. The report contends that transformative change is needed both in the ways societies and economies are currently structured and in the human rights regime to address the challenge of climate change and its impact. A separate [report](#) by the UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provides an analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women.

### **New Report Examines Human Rights in Climate Change Litigation**

A new [report](#) by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science reports on global trends in climate-change litigation, including with respects to human rights. The report says that a human rights basis for litigation on climate change has had increasing resonance with judges in some strategic cases despite challenges with regards to establishing causality. New lawsuits are also drawing on advancements in attribution science to establish a causal link between a particular source of emissions and climate-related harms.

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