
COALITION CALENDAR

July 17: Webinar: The ‘Science Factor’ in Human Rights Litigation

At 10:00 AM ET, join the Coalition for a webinar about 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. [Register »](#)

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. Registration for the conference is now open! [Learn more »](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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 weeks in Italy and with six months online. [Applications are due July 1.](#)

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: US Dept. of Labor Grant for Forced Labor Research

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs of the US 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 their [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 seeking [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

NASA Scientist Unexpectedly Released After Almost Three Years in Turkish Prison

A former NASA scientist, Serkan Golge, a dual Turkish–US citizen who studied the effects of radiation on astronauts at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, was [released](#) from a Turkish prison after spending three years in prison. He was arrested on terrorism charges while visiting family in Turkey's southern province of Hatay in the summer of 2016. Swept up in a crackdown that followed a failed military coup, Golge was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison in February 2018. The sentence was later reduced to five years by an appeals court. His release followed a call between US President Donald Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Plan for US State Dept. Commission on Unalienable Rights Raises Human Rights Issues

The US Secretary of State has announced his intent to establish the Department of State Commission on Unalienable Rights to provide advice and recommendations concerning international human rights matters. According to a [notice](#) published in the *Federal Register*, “the Commission will provide fresh thinking about human rights discourse where such discourse has departed from our nation's founding principles of natural law and natural rights.” No further details were released. An [op-ed](#) in the *New York Times* describes concerns raised by some, including [Amnesty International](#), over such a body and how it would fit jurisdictionally with the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Detained and Disappeared: Intellectuals Under Assault in the Uyghur Homeland

The Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP) [reports](#) that since April 2017, the Chinese government has interned, imprisoned, or forcibly disappeared at least 435 Uyghur intellectuals, a minority Turkic ethnic group in China. UHRP had previously released three reports documenting the persecution of Uyghur intellectuals. In October 2018, UHRP identified 231 impacted intellectuals. A January 2019 update added 107 known cases, for a total of 338 intellectuals affected. In March 2019, a second update brought the total to 386. Of the Uyghur and other Turkic intellectuals detained, imprisoned, or disappeared, students comprise the largest number at 125 individuals, followed by 77 university instructors, and 58 journalists, editors and publishers

What Conservation Efforts Can Learn from Indigenous Communities

A recent [article](#) in *Scientific America* highlights a [report](#) by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an independent intergovernmental body involved in the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services, on how indigenous and local communities contribute to biodiversity and environmental stewardship and the need for scientists and policy makers to support and partner with them to mitigate biodiversity loss.

WHO Removes ‘Gender Identity Disorder’ from List of Mental Illnesses

The World Health Organization (WHO) has [approved](#) a measure to remove "gender identity disorder" from its global manual of diagnoses. The change was announced last summer, but a resolution to amend the health guidelines was officially approved last month through the [adoption](#) of the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11), which goes into effect on January 1, 2022.

Technology to Monitor Fishing Vessels Used to Identify Human Trafficking

A recent [article](#) in *National Geographic* details how tracking systems for monitoring ships are being applied to identify potential cases of human trafficking on fishing vessels. The project involved Global Fishing Watch, an online database that tracks fishing ships via its Automatic Identification System (AIS), an onboard satellite transmitter. AIS was developed to prevent ship collisions, but by creating a virtual log of how and when ships move, analysts are able to develop algorithms that use ship speed and direction to detect when a ship might be fishing. Disruptions in normal shipping patterns or monitoring signals the possibility of cases of problematic activity, which can then be investigated by human intervention.

UN Body Adopts Standard for the Right to a Workplace Free of Violence and Harassment

The International Labor Conference (ILC), a United Nations' agency dealing with world-of-work issues, has [adopted](#) a new international labor standard to recognize "the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment" and to recognize that violence and harassment in the workplace "can constitute a human rights violation." The ILC adopted the [Violence and Harassment Convention](#) and the [Violence and Harassment Recommendation](#) in Geneva earlier this month, the first time that a convention and recommendation on violence and harassment in the workplace have been adopted. The convention, which are legally binding international instruments, will enter into force 12 months after two UN member states have ratified it. The recommendation, which is not legally binding, provides advice and guidance.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

The Human Rights Imperative for Access to Sanitation and Wastewater Services

A recent [report](#) by the Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise, the Columbia Law School Human Rights Clinic, and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University provides a human rights analysis of inequalities in access to sanitation in the US. The report describes the national scope of significant disparities in access to sanitation and wastewater services, particularly in rural areas, and a human rights framework to provide guidance for change.

Universities as Human Rights Actors

A policy and practice [note](#) in the *Journal of Human Rights Practice* explores a vision of human rights protection that conceives of universities as human rights actors. The article asserts that non-traditional players, outside central governments, also bear responsibilities in the field of human rights. The note provides a case study of the human rights policy of Ghent University (Belgium), which applies to that university's international relations as a good practice of how the human rights responsibility of universities can be operationalized.

UNESCO Issues Internet Universality Indicators for Human Rights Compliance

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has issued a report, [UNESCO'S Internet Universality Indicators: A Framework for Assessing Internet Development](#), as a tool for measuring human rights compliance of the Internet and the different actors and communities in its governance. The final framework contains 303 indicators, including 109 core indicators, distributed under six categories, 25 themes, and 124 questions, which includes 79 cross-cutting indicators related to gender equality and the needs of children and young people, sustainable development, trust and security, and the legal aspects of the Internet.

UN Issues Report on Digital Interdependence and Human Rights

The UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation has issued a report, [*The Age of Digital Interdependence*](#), to provide guidance and recommendations to how to apply human rights frameworks and conventions to achieve digital cooperation and access to digital technology.

Health and Human Rights Examined

Health and Human Rights Journal has issued special multi-article [sections](#) on global health fieldwork ethics and human rights and an examination of health and human rights in the US.

New Book Studies Effects of Human Rights Treaties on Gov't Repression and Dissent Activity

A new [book](#), *Contentious Compliance Dissent and Repression under International Human Rights Law*, by professors from the University of California (Merced) and Vanderbilt University evaluates the effectiveness of international human rights treaties. The authors put forth a new theory of treaty effects that looks at the broader ecosystem of power, accountability and conflict in a country. Using 25 years' worth of data from more than 140 countries, they were able to analyze how each country would behave with or without the influence of the treaty. A key takeaway of the research is that human rights treaties alter government violations for the better and treaties affect repression and dissent activities.

Journal Article Examines CRISPR and the Human Right to Science

A recent [article](#) in the *CRISPR Journal* evaluates national legislation on germline engineering in 18 countries based on human rights law. The authors assert there is no international consensus on how germline engineering should be regulated and that existing national legislation fails to provide the governance framework necessary to regulate it in the era of CRISPR. The authors advocate for the human right to science as a starting point for building consensus, at the national and international levels, on governing principles to promote responsible scientific and technological advancements.

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