

## COALITION CALENDAR

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

The Coalition's tenth anniversary conference will be held in Washington, DC, at AAAS headquarters. We have just announced an outstanding group of keynote and featured speakers. Join us for three days of engaging sessions with human rights leaders, academic researchers, scientists and engineers, members of impacted and vulnerable communities, and much more. Register today! [Learn more »](#)

### **Webinar: Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations**

On October 17, the Coalition's Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations Project Team will host its fourth webinar of its [2019 series](#). Anne Sprinkel, Program Director of Tipping Point at [CARE](#), a global nonprofit dedicated to ending poverty worldwide, will discuss the role of scientific collaboration in their work regarding [Tipping Point](#). More information to come.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Members Showcase Human Rights at Annual Meetings**

Several Coalition member organizations, including the [American Political Science Association \(APSA\)](#), [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#), [American Sociological Association \(ASA\)](#), [American Statistical Association \(ASA\)](#), and [The Society for the Study of Social Problems \(SSSP\)](#) have highlighted the importance of science and human rights at their annual meetings. Combined, more than 100 sessions on topics concerning human rights!

### **AMS Condemns Charges Against Turkish Mathematician**

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) has issued a statement condemning the charges brought against Turkish mathematician Tuna Altinel of the University of Lyon in France. Altinel was arrested in May 2019 and has been the subject of two judicial procedures. [Read »](#)

### **Oct. 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. The Coalition will be well represented at the conference with presentations by Brian Gran, Mark Frezzo, John Dale, Anne Bryden, Ali Arab, and Theresa Harris.

## ACTION ALERTS

### **SAR, AAG, and Amnesty International Calls for Urgent Action in Case of Uyghur Academic**

Robert Quinn, Executive Director at Scholars at Risk (SAR), has directed [a letter](#) to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, and Chinese officials to ask that they intervene on the behalf of Dr. Tashpolat Tiyip, a renowned scholar of geography and former president of Xinjiang University (XJU), who is suspected to be at risk of execution as he nears the end of a two-year reprieve of his death sentence. In March 2017, Dr. Tiyip was removed as President of XJU and later disappeared. Reports stated that he had been detained at an airport in

Beijing while traveling to Germany with a group of students for a conference. In 2018, it was reported that, in a police film shown to students and teachers, Dr. Tiyip had been convicted and issued a suspended death sentence on a charge of “separatism.” SAR understands that his trial was held in secret, and sources now suggest that this sentence may soon be carried out as the two-year reprieve on his sentence nears its end.

[SAR](#), the [American Association of Geographers \(AAG\)](#) and [Amnesty International](#) each have separate calls of action for individuals to sign letters of support for Dr. Tiyip, which may be accessed in the respective links provided herein.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Sept. 24: Leveraging Data for Social Impact

The Digital Service Collaborative at the Beek Center for Social Impact + Innovation and the Georgetown Technology Policy Initiative at Georgetown University will hold a seminar, *Leveraging Data for Social Impact*, on September 24 in Washington D.C. The seminar will be a mix of presentations and conversation held over dinner and will start with the basics of data and discuss the roles and responsibilities around it, including how multi-sector actors use and share data. Further information, including how to register, may be found [here](#).

### Oct. 8: Facebook Live on Intelligent Toys

On Tuesday, October 8 at 12:00 PM Eastern Time, join AAAS for the second interview of a three-part Facebook Live series on artificial intelligence, human rights and scientific responsibility. In this 30-minute interview, leading experts on intelligent toys will discuss the technology and its potential medium and long-term capabilities. Learn about current efforts to address the ethical, legal and social implications of intelligent toys and consider how these concerns should inform developers and users of the technology. This series is supported by [Hitachi](#). Watch the recording of the first interview in the series, on facial recognition technology, [here](#).

### Oct. 10: Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do

The Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will feature a lecture on October 10 by Jennifer Eberhard, a social psychologist at Stanford University, who investigates the consequences of the psychological association between race and crime. Further information, including how to register, may be found [here](#).

### Nov. 1: Open Source Investigation Course

The University of California Berkeley Human Rights Center and the Institute for International Criminal Investigation (IICI) have partnered to offer a new [course in open source investigation](#). This course brings together trainers working at the cutting edge of technology, law and fact-finding to cover topics such as privacy and data-protection regimes, security and risk assessments, and advanced search and monitoring techniques and tools. The course begins December 9 in The Hague, The Netherlands. Applications are due November 1.

### Nov. 12: An Update on Strengthening Forensic Science in the US: A Decade of Development

AAAS will hold on November 12 at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC, a one-day conference commemorating the tenth anniversary of the pathbreaking report, “[Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward](#)” that challenged the way forensic science is conducted and the way it is presented in the courts. [Register now »](#)

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

WITNESS, an organization using video and technology to defend and protect human rights, invites [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.

### **Job: International Mining Campaigner (Earthworks)**

Earthworks, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions, is seeking a [campaigner](#) to support frontline communities and ecosystems at risk from mining pollution. The organization is seeking candidates with strong organizing, research, writing, and spoken communications skills, with experience working in support of frontline communities, and with a background in science and/or comfort with scientific information. Fluency in Portuguese or Spanish required.

### **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. 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**

### **Behind the Scenes: Universal Periodic Review Sessions at the 2019 Global Leadership Summit**

During the 2019 Global Leadership Summit held in June, members of the United Nations Association of the United States of America participated in five Universal Periodic Review (UPR) sessions: Ensuring the Rights of Migrants and Refugees, Realizing Gender Equality, Ensuring the Rights of Older Persons, Combating All Forms of Racism, and Realizing LGBTI Equality. Through this, they [shared](#) their direct, firsthand experiences on the domestic U.S. human rights record and offered constructive ideas and recommendations.

### **New Study: US Majority Trusts Law Enforcement's Use of Facial Recognition Technology**

A new [report](#) by the Pew Center for Research reports that more than half of U.S. adults trust law enforcement to use facial recognition responsibly, but the public is less accepting of facial recognition technology when used by advertisers or technology companies. The study showed that a majority of Americans (56%) trust law enforcement agencies to use these technologies responsibly and a similar share of the public (59%) says it is acceptable for law enforcement to use facial recognition tools to assess security threats in public spaces.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Controversial UCSD Genital Mutilation Study Keeps Getting Rejected**

A recent [article](#) examines the social, legal and ethical issues raised by a proposed research study by Professor Uri Gneezy, a behavioral economist at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), involving economic incentives to end genital mutilation in Kenya. Since 2016, the proposed study has been rejected by the university's research approval boards five times, most recently in August by a university board that deals with sociological studies rather than the biomedical committees that had previously rejected the research.

### **Surveillance Tech Vendor Makes Pledge to Follow UN Human Rights Policy**

NSO Group Technologies, an Israeli technology firm focused on cyber intelligence, has [announced](#) a new [human rights policy](#) and the introduction of a supporting governance framework that the company says will bring it into alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The policy comes

after NSO was said to have provided “spyware” to oppressive regimes, which in turn, used it to surveil journalists, human rights activists, and political opponents, according to published [reports](#). NSO, which develops products that provide government intelligence and law-enforcement agencies with interception capabilities for preventing and investigating terrorism and serious crime, said that it did not know of the misuse of its technology. The company’s new human rights policy includes measures for an evaluation of company’s sales process of the potential for adverse human rights impacts arising from the misuse of NSO products, including the past human rights performance and governance standards of the country involved. This case reflects the larger issue of human rights and surveillance technology. In June, The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, David Kaye, [called](#) for an immediate moratorium on the sale, transfer and use of surveillance technology until human rights-compliant regulatory frameworks are in place. He made the recommendations in a report to the UN Human Rights Council on the surveillance industry and its interference with human rights.

### **Australian Human Rights Commission Uses AI for Records Management**

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is now the first government agency in Australia to operate in the cloud, according to an [article](#) in *CIO Insight*. It is using artificial intelligence (AI) to organize records and documents. Through implementing AI records management, the AHRC said classification accuracy has increased by 80%. The commission says it is looking to implement a program that can translate documents into easy English to make public documents more accessible to the public.

### **UN Human Rights Head Addresses the Impact of Climate Change on Human Rights**

In an address before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in early September, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet [urged](#) global collective action on climate change and addressed the human rights impact of climate change, including on indigenous peoples and minorities. “The world has never seen a threat to human rights of this scope,” she said. “The economies of all nations; the institutional, political, social and cultural fabric of every State, and the rights of all your people – and future generations – will be impacted.” Her comments preceded the [UN Climate Action Summit](#) in New York.

### **UK Court in Wales Rules that Police Use of Facial Recognition is Legal**

The High Court in Cardiff, Wales has [ruled](#) that police use of automatic facial recognition technology to search for people in crowds is lawful. The practice was challenged by Ed Bridges, who claimed his human rights were breached when he was photographed while shopping. His case was supported by the UK-based human rights organization, Liberty, which had [argued](#) that South Wales Police’s use of facial recognition technology breached the right to privacy, data protection laws, and anti-discrimination laws.

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **Royal Society Report on Human-Neural Interfaces**

The Royal Society, the scientific academy of the UK, has issued a [report](#), *iHuman: Blurring Lines Between Mind and Machine*, to examine the opportunities and challenges in the use of human–neural interfaces, which are devices implanted in the body, or worn externally, which are capable of recording or stimulating activity in the brain and peripheral nervous system. The report further explores ethical questions in using this technology and proposes actions to ensure such technology delivers on its potential.

### **Journal of Human Rights Practice Issues**

The *Journal of Human Rights Practice* has published a [10<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#) issue to engender discussion on key issues in human rights practice. Some topics addressed in the issue include: the [role](#) of digital technologies and social media in documentation, verification, dissemination and deployment of evidence of rights abuses; the [primacy of attentiveness](#) with regard to research and advocacy of migration issues; and an [evaluation](#) of the UN’s Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which is designed to protect women’s bodily integrity in war

and promote women's rights to participate in decisions affecting them in the realm of peace and security. The issue also contains both [reflective](#) and [prospective](#) views of human rights practice overall.

## PEOPLE

### **New Leadership at American Association of Geographers and Council on Undergraduate Research**

In August, [Dr. Gary Langham](#) joined Coalition member the American Association of Geographers (AAG) as its new Executive Director. He previously served as Vice President and Chief Scientist at the National Audubon Society. Also, in August, [Lindsay Currie](#) became the new Executive Officer of Coalition member the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR). She previously served as Director of Stakeholder Engagement at the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society and as CUR's Director of Communications and Membership. We look forward to working with Gary and Lindsay and welcome them to the Coalition's Executive Directors' Circle.

Publisher: AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Editor: Patricia Van Arnum

Associate Editor: Mary Cate Carroll

Contributors: Joel Ericson, Theresa Harris, Nate Weisenberg, Jessica Wyndham