

Note: AAAS continues to monitor the developments related to COVID-19. Effective Monday, March 16th, through May 1st all staff based at AAAS headquarters are working from home. AAAS conference facilities are closed, and all meetings through May 1st are canceled, postponed, or held remotely. The Coalition Secretariat will advise members of any future changes to the Coalition's calendar. Stay safe and well!

COALITION CALENDAR

March 26-27: SAR Global Congress

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network 2020 Global Congress will now be held remotely. More information [is available here](#). An updated program [is here](#).

April 1-30: Student Essay Competition

Know an undergraduate or graduate student passionate about science and human rights? The Coalition's annual Student Essay Competition begins on April 1. Winners will receive a year of membership in AAAS and a one-year subscription to *Science*, as well as a travel stipend to attend the October Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference. The deadline for entries is April 30. To learn more, visit <https://www.aaas.org/shr2020essay> and check out the [Rules and Regulations](#).

October 22-23: 2020 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference

The call for proposals for the 2020 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference has been issued! [Read the call here](#) and submit a [proposal here](#). Proposals are due by April 30. The Conference will take place October 22-23, 2020 at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ASA Outlines How to Develop Content for Data for Good

As part of a two-part series on Data for Good, where statistical analysis is dedicated for the common good, a recent [blog post](#) on the American Statistical Association (ASA) website offers a process for developing Data for Good content by providing design tips, technical details for creating video, and ideas for using social media resources to promote the work of an organization.

March 30: Call for Nominations: Vera S. Paster Award

The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice is seeking nominations for the [Vera Paster Award](#), which is presented annually to a graduate student or post-graduate resident or fellow in a behavioral health or social justice program that has engaged or is engaging in work that contributes significantly to the social, education, physical, or psychological well-being of persons of color, thereby promoting their empowerment and ameliorating disadvantage from oppression and its effects. The application may be found [here](#).

Appeal Hearing Delayed for Greece's Andreas Georgiou

An appeal hearing for slander of Andreas Georgiou, the former President of the Hellenic Statistical Authority, who has faced legal proceedings, investigations, and prosecution for providing deficit and debt statistics of the Greek government, has been postponed until September, marking the tenth year in which he has faced

legal action. The American Statistical Association (ASA), who has objected to such proceedings and has supported Georgiou, issued a [statement](#) to specify that the Greek government's decision to delay the appeal hearing represents a violation of human rights. The ASA said that the delay seems to contradict guidance in the European Convention on Human Rights for timely court proceedings. On the rescheduled date, an appeals court will consider the 2017 civil court decision that found Georgiou liable for slander for defending the revision of government deficit and debt statistics that had been compiled before his tenure. The statistics revised under Georgiou's guidance had been repeatedly found by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU), to not be consistent with EU statistical rules.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

University for Peace Online Diploma Programs

The Human Rights Center of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace is offering a brand-new Professional Development Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights, courses for which can be taken entirely online. As the name suggests, this program focuses on the human rights dimensions of sustainable development, with a major thrust on the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals through human rights-based approaches. Enrollment is open on a rolling basis and participants can join the program at the beginning of any of the six courses. Further information may be found [here](#).

March 31: Call for Workshop Proposals: Data for Black Lives III Conference

Organizers of the Data 4 Black Lives conference, which will be held December 11–13 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is seeking proposals for workshops. The conference brings together hundreds of leaders from around the country and the world to discuss the role data could and should play in Black communities. Proposals for workshops are due March 31; further information may be found [here](#).

May 2020: Call for Suggestions: GeOnG Forum on Humanitarian and Development Data

CartONG, a non-governmental organization specialized in information management, has launched an Open Call for Suggestions for the [GeOnG Forum](#) on Humanitarian and Development Data, which will take place from November 2 to 4, 2020 in Chambéry, France. Held every two years, GeOnG is dedicated to addressing issues related to data in the humanitarian and development sectors, including topics related to mapping, GIS, data collection and information management. The Open Call for Suggestions will remain open until the end of May 2020.

Job: April 3 Deadline: Director, Technology and Human Rights, Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch [is seeking](#) a Director, Technology and Human Rights Division, to oversee its newly created Technology and Human Rights Division, which will investigate and advocate against the role of technology in human rights abuses globally and promote its use to advance human rights. Applications are due April 3.

Job: Graduate Research Assistants, AI Now Institute

The AI Now Institute, which produces interdisciplinary research on the social implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in four main areas (rights and liberties, labor and automation, bias and inclusion, and safety and critical infrastructure) [is seeking](#) graduate research assistants to support a range of research projects. Positions are available for this spring semester (now-May 2020), the summer (June-August 2020), and for the 2020-2021 academic year.

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

Human Rights Organizations File Lawsuit Over the Commission on Unalienable Rights

Several human rights organizations, including the Robert Kennedy Center For Justice and Human Rights, the Center for Health and Gender Equity, the Council for Global Equality, and the Global Justice Center, have filed a lawsuit against US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the US State Department over what they assert is the illegal formation of the [Commission on Unalienable Rights](#), which was formed in 2019 as an advisory committee on human rights to the Secretary of State. The [lawsuit](#) was filed by Democracy Forward, an organization focused on addressing anti-corruption practices, on behalf of those groups that assert that the Commission violates the [Federal Advisory Committee Act](#), which requires that any outside advisory group that provides recommendations or advice to a federal agency maintain a balanced membership, fulfill a public interest need, and operate transparently. The groups assert that the Commission is made up of individuals who actively undermine the rights of the LGBTQ community and women.

Human Rights Questions Raised Over Technology Used in US Immigration Law Enforcement

A recent [article](#) in OpenGlobalRights, an online discussion forum on human rights, examines the role that technology companies play in customs-and border-control enforcement actions by the US government and resulting violations of human rights. The article provides an example of Palantir, a Silicon Valley company that holds two contracts with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and whose technology and data tools were used by the US government to conduct mass raids of undocumented immigrants. The company has implied that because its contract is with the division of ICE that focuses on transnational crime instead of the division that focuses on deportation, it does not play a role in deportations and human rights violations. The article argues that the company's technology has been involved in ways to detain immigrants and separate families as part of customs and border-control enforcements that have been criticized by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as violating human rights.

Human Rights Groups Call on US To Protect Immigration Detainees in Wake of COVID-19

Amnesty International USA, along with Human Rights First and Physicians for Human Rights, has [sent letters to governors and state health officials](#) in 13 states asking that they pressure the federal government to release immigration detainees being held in their states and urged the acting head of the Department of Homeland Security to release asylum-seekers and immigrants currently held in inadequate conditions in immigration detention facilities due to the risks posed by the novel coronavirus. During a public health crisis, [the government must act](#) to protect the health of all people and ensure access to care and safety, not indiscriminately turn them away at borders or keep them locked up in unsanitary and crowded conditions with substandard medical care, the groups said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China's Actions for Stemming the Novel Coronavirus Raises Human Rights Concerns

A recent [article](#) in *Science* examines human rights issues over the methods used by the Chinese government to address the public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The article points to a recent report by a team of 12 Chinese and 13 foreign scientists, organized by the World Health Organization and the Chinese government, who toured five cities in China to study the state of the COVID-19 epidemic and the effectiveness of the country's response. The report highlights that actions eventually taken by the Chinese government helped to curtail the further rise of the pandemic. Critics, however, say the report failed

to acknowledge the human rights costs of the most severe measures imposed by China's government: massive lockdowns and electronic surveillance of millions.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Stresses Human Rights in COVID Actions

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet issued a [statement](#) earlier this month to emphasize that while it is essential that governments introduce measures to impede the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), that governments should also undertake a range of additional actions to reduce the potentially negative impact of such measures. She said that lockdowns, quarantines and other such measures to contain and combat the spread of COVID-19 should always be carried out in strict accordance with human rights standards and in a way that is necessary and proportionate to the evaluated risk and that mitigate the impact of harmful effects, such as reduced wages, limited access to childcare and healthcare, and lost business for small businesses. She also said that governments need to ensure all relevant information on COVID-19 reaches everyone without exception, including in readily understandable formats and languages, and adapted for people with specific needs, such as children, the visually- and hearing-impaired, and those with limited or no ability to read.

Human Rights Watch Examines Gov't Obligations and Human Rights Concerns in COVID-19

Human Rights Watch has issued a new [report](#), *Human Rights Dimensions of the COVID-19 Response*, analyzing government obligations and the human rights concerns posed by the coronavirus outbreak along with examples of responses so far. Human Rights Watch proposes recommendations for governments to address the outbreak while respecting fundamental human rights, including the rights to health, free expression, nondiscrimination, and freedom of movement.

Human Rights Activist Faces Repercussions Over Cobalt Mining Lawsuit in DRC

A recent [report](#) in *The Guardian* outlines the repercussions faced by Auguste Mutombo, Executive Director of Alternatives Plus, a NGO in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which works to improve conditions in the artisanal mining sector, after he facilitated field research that formed evidence that was used as a basis for a lawsuit against technology companies. In December 2019, International Rights Advocates, which promotes human rights and corporate accountability through legal advocacy and capacity building, [filed](#) a federal class action lawsuit in the U.S. on behalf of 14 plaintiffs who are either guardians of children killed in tunnel or wall collapses while mining cobalt in the DRC or children who were maimed in such accidents. The lawsuit named Apple, Alphabet (parent company of Google), Dell, Microsoft, and Tesla as defendants. The lawsuit alleges that the companies “are knowingly benefiting from and providing substantial support” to the artisanal mining system in the DRC.

Study Stresses Need for Human Rights Due Diligence in Production Sites in China

A recent [report](#) by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, an independent think tank, says that members of the Uighurs, a persecuted ethnic minority from China's western Xinjiang region, have been funneled to work in factories in other provinces under conditions that strongly suggest forced labor. The report estimates that more than 80,000 Uighurs were transferred to work in factories across China between 2017 and 2019. The period coincides with China's campaign of mass internment of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, which the government says is needed to root out terrorism and separatism. Some Uighurs have allegedly been placed in these factories from the internment camps in Xinjiang, where experts estimate more than 1.5 million members of ethnic minorities are being held. The report highlights the need for companies, including technology companies with production in China, to conduct human rights due diligence on their factory labor in China, including robust and independent social audits and inspections. A [recent article](#) in *Forbes* highlights a finding from the report that 83 multinational and Chinese companies directly or indirectly have supply chains connected to such sites.

Protection of Data and Privacy Rights in Africa is Lacking, New Report Says

Privacy International, an organization focused on the human right to privacy, has issued an [analysis](#) of data and privacy protection in Africa. The analysis explains that Africa is often a testing ground for technologies produced elsewhere in the world, but that the continent's inhabitants are excluded from basic rights and safeguards to protect privacy. It says that 24 African countries out of 53 have adopted laws and regulations to protect personal data, and the number is slowly rising. The report says that the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation stands as a model for Africa, but EU data-protection laws, although applicable outside the EU, have uneven application and enforcement in Africa when it comes to data-processing activities.

UN Issues Assessment in Advance of International Conference on Chemicals Management

In advance of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), scheduled to convene in October 2020, in Bonn, Germany, the UN Environment Program has released an assessment of chemicals and waste management's linkages with other issues, including human rights. The report also provides options for coordinating and cooperating on areas of common interest. The report recognizes the need for multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and that such cooperation would help streamline and avoid duplication of efforts, increase visibility of priority topics, and bundle resources to achieve common goals. The authors identify options to coordinate and cooperate across seven clusters: human rights, health, world of work, biodiversity, climate change, agriculture and food, and sustainable consumption and production. Cross-cutting themes highlighted in the report relate to strengthening the science-policy interface, enhancing national coordination and implementation, and promoting stakeholder involvement.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Guides for Scientific Integrity at Nine Federal Agencies Provide Assistance to Researchers

The Climate Science Legal Defense Fund has published a [series of guides](#) to scientific integrity at nine federal agencies. The guides are designed to help researchers understand their employer's policy and navigate the process of filing a scientific integrity complaint. They also reveal which agencies have strong policies and where the policies are lacking.

UN Secretary General Report: A Call to Action for Human Rights

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has released a [report](#), *The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights*, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UN to underscore the importance of human rights, particularly in areas in which human rights may be challenged or threatened. He outlined seven key areas for action: human rights at the core of sustainable development, the importance of human rights in times of crisis, gender equality and equal rights for women, public participation and civic space, the rights of future generations, collective action, and new frontiers of human rights.

New Report Examines the Psychological Impact of Family Separation at US Borders

A new [report](#) from Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) examines the psychological impact of family separation of asylum-seeking parents and children implemented as part of U.S. border-control policies. PHR's investigation sought to explore two key questions: (1) What traumatic experiences did asylum seekers report in their home countries, during their journey to the U.S., and during and after their apprehension at the border? and (2) What were the psychological effects associated with the forced separation of children from their parents and other family members after entry into the U.S.? Based on psychological evaluations of asylum-seeking parents and children who were separated by the US government in 2018, PHR found pervasive symptoms and behaviors consistent with trauma; most met diagnostic criteria for at least one mental health condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, major depressive disorder, or generalized anxiety disorder consistent with, and likely linked to, the trauma of family separation.

Videos from Symposium on Human Rights and the Climate Crisis

The Promise Institute for Human Rights and the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, both at the UCLA School of Law, and the *Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs* hosted a symposium, *Human Rights and the Climate Crisis*, which explored the potential of rights-based legal mechanisms to both halt and seek remedy for environmental harms, with a particular focus on climate change. Videos of panels and discussion from this conference may be found [here](#).

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