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The January 2021 Coalition newsletter includes additional coverage in US news to include recently signed executive orders from the new Administration with human rights implications.

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## COALITION CALENDAR

### **October 21-22: 2021 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference**

Save the date! The annual AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference will held on October 21-22, 2021. More information about the conference format and the call for proposals coming soon.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Coalition Members Condemn Attempted Insurrection in Washington, DC**

Numerous Coalition members issued strong statements condemning the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021 as results from the U.S. Presidential election were being certified by Congress. Below are links to statements and other resources shared by Coalition members. Many of the statements shared anti-racism resources and affirmed the importance of strengthening democratic institutions.

[American Anthropological Association](#)

[American Association of Geographers](#)

[American Educational Research Association](#)

[American Mathematical Society](#)

[American Philosophical Association](#)

[American Political Science Association](#)

[American Psychological Association](#)

[American Sociological Association](#) (in *Contexts* magazine)

[Council on Undergraduate Research](#)

[Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice](#)

### **American Physical Society Sends Letter on U.S. R&D Priorities to Biden Administration**

The American Physical Society (APS) issued a [letter](#) on December 14, 2020 to then President-Elect Joe Biden and his transition team to provide detailed policy recommendations to support U.S. research and development. These recommendations focused on the following: (1) stimulus support for the scientific community; (2) international collaborations and research security; (3) visa and immigration policy for international students and scholars; (4) increasing participation of women and racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S. scientific and technical workforce; (5) nuclear threat reduction; and (6) investments for scientific research to address climate change.

### **APS Issues Statement Following Assassination of an Iranian Nuclear Physicist**

Following the recent assassination of an Iranian nuclear physicist, the American Physical Society (APS) also issued a [statement](#) to condemn the use of violence against scientists. It reiterated the [APS Statement of the International Nature of Physics and International Cooperation](#), adopted in 1989, which affirms that science transcends national boundaries and that “science requires that governments respect basic human rights, allow open communication, and avoid interference with the rights of scientists as they carry out their professional work.”

## **Global Alliance Marks National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

Monday, January 11 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the United States. To mark the Day, the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice shared resources on human trafficking and ways Global Alliance members and the public can help prevent it. More information is [available here](#).

## **Recordings from 2020 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference Available**

The Coalition Secretariat continues to add recordings of sessions from the October AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Virtual Conference to the AAAS [YouTube channel](#). Popular videos include [The Human Right to Science](#) and [The Ethics of Human Challenge Trials during COVID-19](#). The remaining recordings will be posted soon – stay tuned!

## **COVID-19 & Human Rights Resources**

The COVID-19 and human rights [resources page](#) on the Coalition website features resources on [academic freedom and assisting colleagues at risk](#), combating [COVID-19 misinformation](#), the [rights of vulnerable and marginalized people](#), and more. Please feel free to share additional resources you have found helpful or information about what your organization is doing to respond to the pandemic.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Jan 31: Job: ELAW Staff Scientist**

The Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) is seeking a scientist to join its team in Eugene, Oregon. The qualified candidate will have an advanced degree in a field that adds unique value to its science team, which includes scientists in biochemistry, marine ecology, and geography. The science team helps public interest lawyers interpret technical information to use in their advocacy to help their clients and NGO partners participate effectively in decisions that affect their ecosystems and communities. Applications are due January 31 and further information may be found [here](#).

### **Jobs: University of Virginia, Chair, Assistant Professor, Responsible Data Science**

The University of Virginia (UVA) School of Data Science is seeking a Chair of Responsible Data Science, who will assume directorship for the Center for Data Ethics and Justice within the School of Data Science. As Center Director, the Chair of Responsible Data Science will become part of the leadership team of the School and play a vital role in shaping its future. The Director position carries with it a five-year renewable endowed appointment. Further information may be found [here](#).

UVA is also seeking applicants for an Assistant Professor position (full-time, tenure-track) with a focus on social research for responsible data science. Responsible data science may include research in data ethics, open science, fairness, accountability, transparency, and equity in big data or related fields. Scholars in the social sciences or humanities, and in particular, those whose work emphasizes social justice, are invited to apply. Further information may be found [here](#).

### **March 1: Call for Submissions: *Forced Migration Review***

*Forced Migration Review* is seeking articles for a specially themed issue, to be published June 2021, which will explore public health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the context of displacement, including a focus on the response to and reduction of the risk of epidemics and pandemics. It welcomes submissions relating specifically to COVID-19 but is also seeking articles on policy and practice in public health/WASH affecting displaced populations more broadly. The submission deadline is March 1, and further information may be found [here](#).

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

### **President Biden Issues Executive Orders on Discrimination, Migrants, and the Environment**

President Joe Biden issued a series of executive orders with human rights implications pertaining to the following: health equity in the COVID-19 response; racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ discrimination; refugee and migrant rights; and climate change, environmental protection, and environmental justice. Highlights of these executive orders are outlined below.

### **Executive Order to Address Health Equity in COVID-19 Response**

President Biden issued an [executive order](#) to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and other underserved populations. The executive order establishes within the US Department of Health and Human Services a COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force to provide specific recommendations for mitigating the health inequities caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and for preventing such inequities in the future. The task force is also charged with developing recommendations for expediting data collection for communities of color and other underserved populations and identifying data sources, proxies, or indices that would enable development of short-term targets for pandemic-related actions for such communities and populations. It is also charged with developing a set of longer-term recommendations to address data shortfalls and other foundational data challenges, including those relating to data intersectionality, that must be tackled in order to better prepare and respond to future pandemics. The executive order also directs other federal departments and agencies to consult with the task force to strengthen equity data collection, reporting, and use related to COVID-19 and to determine whether pandemic response plans and polices provide for equitable allocation of personal protective equipment, tests, vaccines, therapeutics, and other resources.

### **Whole-of-Government Initiative to Advance Racial Equity**

President Biden signed an [executive order](#) that puts into place a series of measures to advance equity in federal policymaking and resource allocation. The executive order designates the White House Domestic Policy Council to coordinate efforts to embed equity principles, policies, and approaches across the federal government, remove systemic barriers, provide equal access to opportunities and benefits, identify communities the federal government has underserved, and develop policies designed to advance equity for those communities. The executive order also directs federal agencies to conduct equity assessments in their agencies and deliver an action plan within 200 days to address unequal barriers to opportunity in agency policies and programs. The executive order also establishes an Interagency Working Group on Equitable Data, co-chaired by the Chief Statistician of the U.S. and the U.S. Chief Technology Officer, to ensure that federal data reflect the diversity of the U.S. population. It also tasks the Office of Management and Budget to study new methods that federal agencies can use to assess whether proposed policies advance equity. The order also calls for federal agencies to equitably deliver government benefits and allocate federal resources to advance fairness and opportunity.

### **Executive Order to Address Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination**

President Biden issued an [executive order](#) on preventing and combating discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. The executive order directs the heads of each federal agency to review all existing orders, regulations, guidance documents, policies, programs, or other agency actions to ensure that they are consistent with laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation and to take appropriate action if found not to be in non-compliance. The executive order references a 2020 US Supreme Court ruling (*Bostock v. Clayton County*) that affirms that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is a form of prohibited sex discrimination. The executive order was supported by LGBTQ rights groups. “Biden’s Executive Order is the most substantive, wide-ranging executive order concerning sexual orientation and gender identity ever issued by a United States president,” said Alphonso David, President, Human Rights Campaign, in a January 20, 2021 [statement](#).

### **President Biden Moves Forward on Plans for Reforming US Immigration System**

President Biden took several actions relating to reforms to the U.S. immigration system, with human rights groups supporting several of the actions. He issued an [executive order](#) that revoked the prior Administration's policy that restricted the entry into the U.S. of individuals from primarily Muslim and African countries and that instructs the U.S. State Department to restart visa processing for affected countries, a move [supported](#) by Human Rights Watch.

Biden also signed a [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing the US Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, to take all appropriate actions to preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) guidance, which provides temporary relief from deportation on a case-by-case basis to young people who were brought to the U.S. as children. Separately, President Biden [has proposed](#) reforms for the U.S. immigration system, including measures for refugees and asylum seekers, under a bill sent to Congress, The U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021. The proposal would create an earned roadmap to citizenship for certain eligible undocumented individuals, reform family-based immigration, prohibit discrimination in immigration policy based on religion, promote immigrant and refugee integration and citizenship, and reform the immigration judicial process. United Nations officials offered their support for the proposal as it relates to refugees and the U.S. asylum system. "Long a strong advocate for refugees, Mr. Biden has made important commitments to restoring the U.S. refugee resettlement program and ensuring that human rights and humanitarian values are at the center of the U.S. asylum system," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in a January 20, 2020 [statement](#).

President Biden also signed [an executive order](#) to revoke the prior Administration's orders setting out a plan to exclude noncitizens from the census and apportionment of Congressional representatives and signed [an executive order](#) that revokes the prior Administration's executive order that allowed federal funds to be withheld to sanctuary jurisdictions.

Human Rights Watch outlined to the new Administration a [series of measures](#) for specific reforms for U.S. policy and practices in the immigration, refugee, and asylum systems.

### **Executive Order Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Justice**

President Joe Biden signed an [executive order](#) to address the climate crisis, ensure environmental protection, and advance environmental justice and the role of science in realizing these goals. The executive order directs all executive departments and agencies to immediately review and take appropriate action to address federal regulations and other executive actions taken during the last four years that were harmful to public health, damaging to the environment, unsupported by the best available science, or otherwise not in the national interest. The executive order also places a temporary moratorium on oil and natural gas leasing activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and revokes the previous Presidential permit granted to the Keystone XL pipeline; both projects had been opposed by environmental and indigenous rights groups.

The executive order also re-establishes the Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and directs the issuance of an interim social cost of GHG schedule to ensure that federal agencies account for the full costs of GHG emissions, including climate risk, environmental justice, and intergenerational equity. In a [separate action](#), President Biden signed a new instrument of acceptance by the U.S. of the [Paris Agreement](#), an international treaty on climate change in which governments commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through plans known as nationally determined contributions. The U.S. was one of the original signatories to the agreement, which was adopted in December 2015, but later withdrew in 2017. With the action taken by the Biden Administration to re-enter the treaty, the Paris Agreement will enter into force for the U.S. on February 21. The move was [supported](#) by the United Nations, including by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Biden also issued another [executive order](#) to provide further details on the Administration's climate-change policy

## **Debate Arises Over the Use of Racially Based Algorithms in Clinical Testing**

A recent [article](#) in *Nature* examines the use of racially based algorithms used in clinical testing for kidney disease that may be causing inaccurate results. The testing applies a correction factor, which has been in use since the late 1990s and applied to Black individuals. The testing uses creatinine levels, which along with other information are put into algorithms to calculate a person's estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) to evaluate kidney function. High creatinine levels lead to a low eGFR, which is a sign of kidney disease. The correction factor inserts a multiplier when calculating the eGFR of Black individuals, thereby potentially providing results indicating healthier kidney function than there actually may be. There is debate over whether the correction factor is scientifically valid or should be eliminated in testing methods.

## **Socioeconomic Factors Contribute to Higher COVID-19 Infection Rates Among Minorities**

An [article](#) in *The New York Times* reports on recent studies that showed that social and environmental factors are the chief contributors to higher incidence of COVID-19 infection in minority groups in the U.S. The studies showed higher rates of COVID-19 infection among minority groups compared to non-minority groups. The studies attribute the higher incidence due to socioeconomic factors, such as overcrowded housing, work-related exposure, and poor access to healthcare. Although the incidence of COVID-19 infection was higher in minority groups, the studies showed that hospitalization and mortality rates were fairly on par with those of non-minority COVID-19 patients. These findings differed from other and earlier studies that showed higher rates of hospitalization and mortality among minorities.

## **U.S. Customs Officials Subjected Detainees to COVID-19 Health Risks, PHR Report Says**

A recent [report](#) by Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), in collaboration with faculty and student researchers at Harvard Medical School, shows that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) subjected detainees to health risks from COVID-19 that violated their constitutional and human rights by not following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance or ICE's own Pandemic Response Requirements. The report says that ICE failed to apply measures necessary for identifying, treating, and mitigating the spread of coronavirus within its detention centers and retaliated against detained people who voiced complaints. The report was informed by interviews with 50 people who were detained in 22 different ICE facilities, both public and privately-run detention centers, across 12 states and who were released from ICE detention between March 16 and August 12, 2020.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **UN Expert Calls on Facebook to Protect Minority Rights in Online Content**

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, is [calling](#) on Facebook's Oversight Board, which reviews Facebook's content-moderation decisions, to take the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities into account. Although supporting the Oversight Board's recent decision to accept its first six cases involving appeals against decisions to remove content, the UN is calling for further protection of minorities. "Minorities are the most likely target of online hate speech, and we know that online hate speech against minorities often leads to severe real-world harm, and may even lead to ethnic cleansing and genocide," said de Varennes in a December 27, 2020 statement. "Hate speech online is one of today's most acute challenges to human dignity and life." In particular, he says that Facebook's Oversight Board should consider Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN General Assembly's 1992 Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, as well as other jurisprudence on the rights of minorities. He is calling on Facebook to bring its Community Standards into line with the understanding of "hate speech" in the recent UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. He also said Facebook's omission of protection for linguistic minorities from hate speech is contrary to international human rights law.

### **Human Rights Groups Urge Rights-Based AI Regulation in the EU**

Human Rights Watch [joined](#) more than 60 civil society and rights groups in signing an [open letter](#) to the European Commission to call for regulatory limitations as part of rights-based artificial intelligence (AI) regulation as the European Commission plans to publish its proposal for AI regulation in the first quarter of 2021. In the letter, the groups provided examples of practices that they said should be prohibited or legally restricted in the AI standards. These include: (1) biometric mass surveillance; (2) uses of AI at the border and in migration control; (3) social scoring and AI systems determining access to social rights and benefits; (4) predictive policing; and (5) the use of risk assessment tools in the criminal justice system and pre-trial context.

### **UN Moves Process Forward for Producing a Recommendation on the Ethics of AI**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) [is proceeding](#) with a process to produce a Recommendation on the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI) to govern how the technology is applied globally to ensure that the technology has a strong ethical base, which encompasses the rule of law and human rights. Important areas that need to be considered were addressed in a [recent UN communication](#) and include the importance of bringing more diversity in the field of data science to reduce bias and racial and gender stereotyping; the appropriate use of AI in judicial systems to make them fairer as well as more efficient; and finding ways to ensure that the benefits of the technology are spread among many people as possible.

The process for producing the Recommendation began in 2020 and will continue in 2021. In March 2020, 24 specialists with multidisciplinary and pluralistic expertise on the ethics of AI were appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO to form an Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG). The AHEG produced draft text for a Recommendation on the ethics of AI and following multi-stakeholder input and consultation, transmitted a [draft Recommendation](#) to UN member states in September 2020 to gain their comments by December 31, 2020. These comments will be taken into consideration by the Director-General of UNESCO when preparing a final report on the Recommendation. This final report will contain one or more draft texts for the Recommendation. It will be communicated to UN member states and submitted to a special committee of governmental experts to be convened in 2021 with two sessions anticipated for April and June 2021. The special committee will decide on the final draft of the Recommendation, which will then be submitted to UNESCO's General Conference by the end of 2021.

### **Human Rights Watch Calls for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa**

Human Rights Watch (HRW) [highlighted](#) recent reports, actions, and three initiatives to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in the African Union. In November 2020, the Chairperson of the African Union, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, convened a meeting with other African leaders to strategize on options for acquiring and financing COVID-19 vaccines in Africa, which he estimated would cost at least \$12 billion, according to information from HRW. HRW highlights three initiatives for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines: (1) the COVAX Facility, a global initiative that brings together governments and manufacturers to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines reach those in greatest need; (2) the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), a common shared pool of rights to technologies, data, and expertise to allow for the manufacture of medical products, including vaccines, to address COVID-19; and (3) implementation of a waiver, proposed in October 2020 by India and South Africa, to some provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) of the World Trade Organization, which would allow countries to collaborate on the COVID-19 response, including vaccine development and distribution, without certain restrictions governing intellectual property.

### **UN Experts Call Out Cambodian Authorities for Privacy Violations of COVID-19 Victims**

Three United Nations experts—Special Rapporteurs respectively for the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the right to privacy—[have called](#) the publication by Cambodian authorities of personal

information of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as a “deplorable” breach of privacy. In early December, the Cambodian Ministry of Health disclosed the identity and personal information of individuals infected with COVID-19. The information was widely disseminated by the mainstream media and on social media. A Ministry of Health press statement later affirmed its commitment to respect individuals’ right to privacy and human dignity and removed photographs of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19. The UN experts, however, remain concerned that the press statement retains personal data and emphasize that any personal information collected in contact tracing should be limited to that which is strictly necessary and proportional to stop the spread of the disease.

### **Police Access to Singapore’s COVID-19 Contact Testing Info Raises Privacy Rights Concerns**

Information from a COVID-19 contact testing system in Singapore can be used for criminal investigations, according to a [report](#) in the *MIT Technology Review*. The policy contradicts the privacy policy originally outlined when the government launched its TraceTogether app in March 2020. The tracer’s privacy policy was changed in early January 2021. TraceTogether, which is accessed via a smartphone app or a small wearable device, is used by nearly 80% of Singapore’s 5.7 million residents. Human rights groups have raised concerns over privacy rights with the new policy in Singapore and overall with respect to potential misuse of contact testing information.

### **Chinese Journalist Who Documented Coronavirus Outbreak Jailed for Four Years**

An independent Chinese journalist who reported from Wuhan, China at the height of the initial coronavirus outbreak has been jailed for four years by a Shanghai court, according to a [report](#) by CNN. Zhang Zhan was found guilty of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble,” according to one of her defense lawyers. The offense is commonly used by the Chinese government to target dissidents and human rights activists. Zhang is the first citizen journalist known to have been sentenced for her role in reporting on the coronavirus pandemic. She is one of a number of independent reporters who have been detained or disappeared in China since the beginning of the pandemic.

### **UN Experts Call on Israel To Ensure Equal Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Palestinians**

United Nations human rights experts [are calling](#) on Israel to ensure swift and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for Palestinians in the occupied territories. The UN experts said available information indicates that COVID-19 vaccines, which have been ordered separately by the Palestinian Authority, may not be delivered en masse to the West Bank and Gaza for many weeks (as reported on January 14). “The right to health is also a fundamental human rights issue,” said Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory, and Tlaleng Mofokeng, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. “International human rights law, which applies in full to the occupied Palestinian territory, stipulates that everyone enjoys the right to ‘the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health’. The denial of an equal access to healthcare, such as on the basis of ethnicity or race, is discriminatory and unlawful.”

### **Human Rights Groups Raise Concerns of Technology Applied in Policing Uighurs**

Human rights groups have raised concerns over the development of systems that could be used to track Uighurs, a Muslim minority in China, according to a Reuters [report](#). Research by human rights groups suggests that Chinese technology firms are building Uighur detection systems using facial recognition technology to alert authorities to people’s whereabouts, which enables authorities to apply predictive policing tools to identify whom to detain. The U.N estimates that more than a million Chinese Muslims, many of whom are of Uighur ethnicity, have been detained in the province of Xinjiang, where activists say crimes against humanity and genocide are taking place.

### **Canada, UK Take Action to Address Human Rights Abuses in Xinjiang, China**

The Canadian federal government [announced](#) a series of measures to ensure that Canadian companies are not complicit in human rights abuses against Uighur Muslims or the use of forced labor in China's Xinjiang Province. The measures include new requirements for firms that do business in the region and a pledge to ban the export of products from Canada to China if there is a chance they could be used by Chinese authorities for surveillance, repression, arbitrary detention, or forced labor. In parallel, the UK government also issued [measures](#) to help ensure that UK organizations are not complicit in, nor profiting from, human rights violations in Xinjiang. The UK government announced it will review which UK products can be exported to Xinjiang and introduced financial penalties for businesses that do not comply with the Modern Slavery Act. Further measures include increasing support for UK public bodies to exclude businesses complicit in human rights violations from their supply chains. These measures are intended to ensure that UK organizations are not contributing to human rights violations in Xinjiang.

## NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

### **IHRN Creates Repository for Human Rights Approach to COVID-19 Pandemic**

The International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), which addresses issues of science and human rights, has created a [repository](#) of informational resources from national academies of science that are examining the connections between science, engineering, health, and human rights and that are working to promote rights-based approaches to the COVID-19 pandemic. The repository, which will be continually expanded, includes reports, statements, webinars, interviews, and other existing resources on a variety of topics, as well as information relating to ongoing academy projects worldwide. The IHRN invites academies to contact it with information concerning relevant initiatives.

### **JAMA Article Examines Patient Experiences of Discrimination in U.S. Healthcare System**

A recent [article](#) in *JAMA Network Open*, an open-access journal of the American Medical Association, examines the prevalence, frequency, and types of discrimination in the U.S. healthcare system. The authors report that the patient experiences of discrimination in the healthcare system (21.4%) were more common than previously known and that these experiences typically occurred more than once. The five most commonly reported primary types of discrimination identified by the authors are based on race/ethnicity, educational or income level, weight, sex, and age.

### **Satellites Data and Machine Learning Used to Identify Forced Labor Risk on Fishing Vessels**

A [recent article](#) in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* describes how satellite data and machine learning can be used for detecting forced labor risk on individual fishing vessels. The authors point out that forced labor in fisheries is increasingly recognized as a human rights crisis and that no methods previously existed for remotely identifying individual fishing vessels potentially engaged in these abuses on a global scale. By combining expertise from human rights practitioners and satellite vessel monitoring data, the authors showed that vessels reported to use forced labor behave in systematically different ways from other vessels. This information provides new opportunities for market, enforcement, and policy interventions.

## PEOPLE

### **UN Awards Dr. Robert Bullard Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award**

The United Nations has [awarded](#) the UN Environment Program's Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement award to Dr. Robert Bullard for [his commitment and service](#) to environmental justice. Dr. Bullard, who has been described as the father of the environmental justice movement, was a keynote speaker at the July 2016 Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting on [Climate Change and Human Rights](#), where he highlighted the disparate impacts of climate change on Black communities. He is a member of the AAAS and the American Sociological Association, a Coalition Member. [Dr. Bullard](#) is the former Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University (TSU) (2011-2016) and is currently the Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at TSU. Prior to

coming to TSU, he was the founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University.

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