COALITION CALENDAR

October 21-22: **2021 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference (Online)**
Stay tuned: registration for the 2021 conference opens soon! Early registration will be available through September 1. The call for student e-posters will be issued in July. A preliminary agenda will be posted on the Coalition website in early August.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

American Mathematical Society Observes Azat Miftakhov Day, Shares Petition in Support of Andreu Mas-Colell
On June 16, the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and other members of the international mathematics community organized Azat Miftakhov Day in solidarity with Miftakhov, a mathematics graduate student at Moscow State University who has been under arbitrary detention by Russian authorities since 2019 for alleged vandalism. Miftakhov, whose six-year prison sentence was recently upheld by the Moscow City Court, has reportedly been tortured in custody. The day included several mathematics lectures and speeches to support Miftakhov and call for his release. Earlier this month, the AMS Committee on the Human Rights of Mathematicians wrote a letter to the U.S. State Department calling on President Joe Biden to raise Miftakhov's case at his June 16 summit with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. More information and videos from the day are available here.

The Committee on the Human Rights of Mathematicians is also monitoring the case of Spanish mathematical economist Andreu Mas-Colell. A former Minister of Economy and Knowledge for the Government of Catalonia, Mas-Colell is under scrutiny by Spain's Tribunal de Cuentas, which is investigating the purported use by the Catalan government of public funds to promote Catalan independence. As the AMS notes, Mas-Colell may have all of his assets seized, even though no specific charges have been made against him. AMS has shared a link to a petition in support of Mas-Colell, which is available here.

Global Alliance Updates: Resolutions on Asylum & Transgender Youth and Podcast on a Human Rights Perspective on Mental Health in Tanzania
The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice issued three resolutions on human rights, two related to the U.S. immigration system and one on the rights on transgender and gender diverse student athletes. It also devoted a podcast episode to mental health and human rights in Tanzania.

The organization issued one resolution on family well-being through the asylum-seeking process, recommending more compassionate alternatives to immigration detention be adopted in the U.S. to frame the asylum-seeking process as a human right. In a second resolution, the Global Alliance denounced the separation of migrant families by the Trump administration as a human rights violation, and issued a series of recommendations to support the family reunification process and address the long-term trauma caused by the policy. The organization also issued a resolution to express concerns with recently passed or proposed legislation and actions aimed to exclude transgender and gender diverse (TGD) student athletes. Separately, as part of its *Think about Policy* podcast series, the Alliance hosted Hilda Charles Tizeba, Assistant Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Law in Tanzania and founder and CEO of the mental health organization Guided Path, as the featured speaker in the episode, *Mental Health in Tanzania: A Human Rights Perspective.* The podcast may be found here.

CALLS FOR INPUT

June 30: UN Survey: Good Practices To Support Environmental Human Rights Defenders

The Universal Rights Group, the United Nations Environment Program, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the support of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, Professor David Boyd, are seeking input for a project designed to support and protect environmental human rights defenders, their communities, and work by participation in a survey to gather information on good practices supporting the work of environmental human rights defenders. Participation in the survey is due by June 30, and may be downloaded here.

Survey on Authorship in International Collaborations

Researchers funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, working in partnership with Coalition member Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, are inviting researchers to participate in a survey on "perceptions and practices of authorship in international collaborations." The survey aims to develop an empirical basis to understand authorship challenges within these collaborations, and will inform the development of educational materials to be published by Sigma Xi on research collaborations and the responsible conduct and reporting of research. More information and a link to the survey are available here.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

June 29: Call for Papers: Conference: Technological Stewardship & Responsible Innovation

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) is calling for papers for the International Symposium on Technology and Society (ISTAS), the flagship conference of the IEEE's Society on Social Implications of Technology, to be held October 28 to October 31, 2021. ISTAS is a multi/inter/trans-disciplinary forum for engineers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, philosophers, researchers, social scientists, technologists, and polymaths to collaborate, exchange experiences, and discuss the social implications of technology. Hosted by the University of Waterloo and the University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada), ISTAS21 will take place primarily online; select in-person, live-streamed events will be held in Waterloo, COVID-19 permitting. The ISTAS21 theme, *Technological Stewardship and Responsible Innovation*, invites participation from academics and practitioners who are engaged in current debates about the status, future, and significance of technology in today's society, and who are interested in topics related to ethics, sustainability, equity, and social values within the tech industry. The program includes several sub-themes: (1) health systems; (2) privacy & security; (3) technology policy & governance; (4) sustainable cities & communities; (5) artificial intelligence & automation; and (6) ethical and human values in emerging technology. The deadline for submissions is June 29, and further information may be found here.

June 29-30: National Academies Summit on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in STEMM

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is holding on June 29–30 a two-day national summit, *Addressing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in 21st Century STEMM Organizations*. The conference will: (1) discuss policies, strategies, and practices for confronting systemic racism; (2) identify ways to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) settings; and (3) examine the effect of systemic racism on the careers of individuals belonging to racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in the STEMM workforce. Further information may be found here.

June 30: Nominations for 2022 AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

AAAS is accepting nominations for the AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, which honors scientists, engineers, and their organizations whose exemplary actions have demonstrated scientific freedom and/or responsibility in challenging circumstances. The types of actions worthy of this award include: acting to protect the public's health, safety or welfare; focusing public attention on important

potential impacts of science and technology on society by their responsible participation in public policy debates; or providing an exemplary model in carrying out the social responsibilities of scientists and engineers or in defending the professional freedom of scientists and engineers. Nominations are due June 30.

July 28: NSF Grant Solicitation: Disrupting Operations of Illicit Supply Networks
The National Science Foundation is calling for research grant proposals on the use of IT and other systems approaches to disrupting the operations of trafficking networks, which are defined broadly to include networks involved in child labor, forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and trafficking of licit and illicit goods. Further information may be found here.

September 15: Nominations for Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Awards
Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA) is now accepting nominations for the Edward O'Brien Human Rights Education Awards. The awards are bestowed annually on one individual and one organization who have made significant contributions to human rights education in the United States. Any member of HRE USA or its organizational affiliates can submit a nomination. More information is available here.

Job: Director, Innovation Lab, Human Rights First
Human Rights First (HRF) is seeking a Director of its Innovation Lab, which is designed to meet the technology needs of the human rights community. The Director will be responsible for developing and executing the Innovation Lab's strategic plans and priorities, establishing and refining the lab's innovation process and personnel footprint, liaising with the Technology Advisory Board, supporting the development and fielding of technological requirements within HRF, as well as external lab relations to include fundraising and public appearances. Further information may be found here.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Environmental Inequities: Article Examines Air Pollution Exposure Faced by Minorities
A recent article in *Science Advances* explains that racial-ethnic minorities in the U.S. are exposed to disproportionately high levels of ambient fine particulate air pollution, the largest environmental cause of human mortality. The authors quantify the sources of such pollution as a means to highlight potential opportunities for addressing this persistent environmental inequity.

Anthropologists Call for African American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Three anthropologists who authored a recent op-ed in *Nature* are recommending the creation and passage of new legislation, the African American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (AAGPRA), to protect graves and provide guidance on the care and repatriation of human remains in scientific collections. Modelled on existing federal legislation for Native American remains and cultural items, the authors assert that such a law would also address a growing interest in genetic samples, both for genealogical testing services and for medical and historical research. They outline four steps over the next two years to develop the AAGPRA, including calling on universities and museums to catalog the remains of Black Americans in their collections and pause research pending consultation with descendant communities.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

G-7 Commit to Supply of COVID-19 Vaccines; Human Rights Groups Urge Further Action
Leaders from the G-7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K., and the U.S.) announced at the G-7 Summit that they have committed to provide at least 870 million additional doses to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for low-and middle-income countries in 2021 and 2022, with the aim to deliver at least half by the end of 2021. The new vaccine-sharing commitment brings the total number of COVID-19 vaccines pledged from the G-7 countries to 1 billion doses since February 2021 and 2 billion doses since the start of the pandemic, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The donations will be facilitated

by the COVAX Facility, a mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

In advance of the summit, human rights groups called for additional action to address the pandemic. Human Rights Watch issued a letter to G-7 leaders to call for the following: (1) support for India's and South Africa's proposal at the World Trade Organization to temporarily waive certain intellectual property rights under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS); (2) boosting manufacturing capacity in the developing world; and (3) asking G-7 countries to use their voting power on the boards of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and regional development banks to enable investment in public health systems and bottom-up economic relief to address the pandemic.

In addition, nine UN human rights experts urged G-7 leaders to take action to ensure equitable access to COVID vaccines to the Global South. They also endorsed a statement by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that said that unequal access to vaccines for least developed and developing countries is discriminatory and undermines progress toward the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The WHO also issued a statement in advance of the summit urging G-7 countries to take action to increase COVID-19 vaccine access.

Physicians for Human Rights Calls for Release of COVID-19 Health Official in Myanmar
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) is condemning the arrest by Myanmar's military junta of senior members of Myanmar's health sector leadership, including Dr. Htar Htar Lin, former Director and Program Manager of Myanmar's Expanded Program on Immunization, who led the country's COVID-19 vaccine rollout, and is calling for their immediate, safe, and unconditional release. Having served as the focal point for Myanmar's COVID-19 vaccine procurement and rollout plan in collaboration with the Serum Institute of India and the World Health Organization's COVAX initiative, a program for equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, Dr. Htar Htar Lin was accused by the military of corruption, misuse of public funds, and incitement of anti-junta sentiment. "Physicians for Human Rights joins Myanmar's medical community in calling for an end to the deliberate attacks against health care in Myanmar and for the release of all those detained for the peaceful exercise of their human rights," said PHR in a June 12, 2021 statement.

Dutch Court Makes Landmark Ruling in Corporate Climate Policy and Human Rights Case
In a landmark ruling rendered late last month, a Dutch court ordered Royal Dutch Shell to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by a net 45% by the end of 2030 compared to 2019 levels, citing violations of domestic and international law governing climate change and human rights. The lawsuit was brought by Friends of the Earth Netherlands (Milieudefensie), an environmental NGO, together with 17,000 co-plaintiffs and six other organizations. "The CO_2 emissions of the Shell group, its suppliers and customers are greater than those of many countries," said a spokesperson for The District Court of The Hague in explaining the ruling. "This contributes to global warming, which leads to dangerous climate change and poses serious risks to human rights, such as the right to life and undisturbed family life. It is generally accepted that companies must respect human rights. That is an independent responsibility of companies, which is separate from what states do. This responsibility also extends to suppliers and customers." An analysis of the case by *The New York Times* may be found here and by CNN may be found here.

Belgian Court Rules that Country's Climate Change Policy Violates Human Rights
Klimaatzaak, a Belgian non-profit group and a plaintiff in a climate change case against the Belgian government, reports that the Belgium's Court of First Instance declared that the Belgian state had committed an offense under Belgian civil law and breached the European Convention on Human Rights by not taking all "necessary measures" to prevent the "detrimental" effects of climate change, The court ruled that Belgian authorities had breached the right to life and the right to respect for private and family life. The verdict

followed a six-year legal battle launched by Klimaatzaak, which represented more than 58,000 citizens. A recent [article](#) in *The Guardian* outlines the verdict and case.

Science Article Addresses Human Rights and Climate-Forced Population Displacement

A recent [op-ed](#) in *Science* says "climate-forced population displacement is among the greatest human rights issues of our time," and is calling for a focus on human rights and decolonization of research to change institutional structures of knowledge production to help communities define their future in a climate-altered world. The authors assert that to ensure that communities' right to self-determination is protected and government-forced relocations are not repeated, communities must lead and define research on climate-forced displacement and managed retreat that involves them and the lands upon which they dwell and subsist.

Nigerian Government's Ban of Twitter Raises Human Rights Concerns

The Nigerian government has suspended Twitter operations in the country following the removal of a tweet by Twitter by President Muhammadu Buhari for breaching the site's rules regarding disinformation and violence, according to a [report](#) by the BBC. The country's decision has brought widespread condemnation from human rights groups and international organizations who say it will limit free speech in Nigeria. [Human Rights Watch](#) called the ban "a blatant and unjustified restriction on civic space and people's right to information through social media."

Labor Rights Under Pressure at Mexico's Federal Science Funding Agency

A recent [article](#) in *Science* highlights the issue of labor rights at Mexico's National Council of Science and Technology (Conacyt), the country's federal science funding agency, in the midst of a series of wrongful terminations and delays in hiring new scientists at the agency despite having a policy goal to do so. The problem is prevalent in the Cátedras Conacyt (Conacyt Professorships) program, launched seven years ago as a means to retain early-career scientists in the country. The article cites a combination of budget cuts, politics, and a widening rift between the government and scientists.

Universities, Students Seek Human Rights Reforms in Colombia in Wake of Growing Violence

University students from in Colombia from all fields have led demonstrations, and nearly 8,000 Colombian researchers have signed a letter rejecting police brutality in the wake of growing violence in the country, according to a recent [article](#) in *Science*. The Colombian Association of Evolutionary Biology and the Colombian Botanical Association have released statements supporting protesters and demanding respect for human rights. University and academic leaders have sought to foster a national dialogue to help the country overcome the crisis. Last month, the presidents of the seven largest universities in the country signed an open [letter](#) to Colombian President Iván Duque Márquez over human rights violations and outlined six fundamental policy changes to address the crisis. These included a restructuring of the country's fiscal policy, universal and equitable access to healthcare, implementation of the 2016 peace agreements with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrilla movement, institutional mechanisms to reduce police violence, and universal quality education.

UN Human Rights Experts Seek Environmental Justice in Chile over Toxic Waste Dumping

UN human rights experts [highlighted](#) their concerns over the continued impact on a local community from toxic waste dumped by a Swedish company in the northern Chilean city of Arica nearly 40 years ago. In 2013, 796 Arica residents, including human rights defenders, started legal action in Sweden against the company, Boliden Mineral AB, which paid a local company, Promel Ltda., to receive the waste. The Court of Appeal for Northern Norrland held that the claims of the victims were time limited, and the Swedish Supreme Court declined to hear the case. The UN experts say this action amounts to a denial of environmental justice, in breach of the right to a fair trial recognized in the European Convention on Human Rights. "Authorities in Sweden and Chile must cooperate and put an end to the long-standing human rights violations," the experts said in a June 7, 2021 statement.

Scholars at Risk Calls for Human Rights Protection for Belarus' Higher Ed Community
The European University Association, the European Students' Union, and Scholars at Risk (SAR) have issued a joint statement condemning the "criminalization" of students and academics in Belarus. In late May, they called on Belarusian authorities to protect and promote academic freedom and related fundamental rights and urged European governments to support at-risk scholars and students from Belarus. The call follows the beginning of a trial against 11 students and one professor from universities in Minsk who participated in peaceful protests in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential elections and in the wake of the forced diversion and landing of a Ryanair passenger plane in Minsk last month and detainment of a journalist and a student of the European Humanities University. Separately, SAR issued its own statement urging the UN Human Rights Council and the EU Working Party on Human Rights to take measures to address the ongoing attacks on the higher education community in Belarus and to support students and scholars who continue to suffer arrest, detention, prosecution, expulsion, and wrongful dismissal.

UK Government Creates Dedicated Team to Protect Researchers from Security Threats
The UK government is establishing a new dedicated team, the Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT), within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to offer researchers advice on how to protect their work from hostile activity and ensure international collaboration is done safely and securely. The new team will promote government advice on security-related topics, such as export controls, cybersecurity and protection of intellectual property. The team will respond to requests from British universities who have identified potential risks within current projects or proposals.

Led by Chile, Neurorights Emerging as Important Human Rights Issue
An op-ed in *Scientific American* outlines the need for "neurorights" protection in light of recent medical innovations, most notably brain-computer interface technology (BCI), which has the potential to revolutionize the field of neuroscience and assist in the treatment of neurological disorders, such as strokes and Alzheimer's disease, but has also raised human rights concerns. The article points to the need for government regulation, as is currently being debated in Chile, where the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research has begun to debate a "neurorights" bill to be written into the country's constitution. The Chilean bill sets out to protect the right to personal identity, free will, mental privacy, equitable access to technologies that augment human capacities, and the right to protection against bias and discrimination and would be the first of bill of its kind to establish a regulatory framework to protects human rights from the manipulation of brain activity. The Neurorights Initiative at Columbia University, which was launched by Columbia University's Neurotechnology Center in 2019, is a leading advocate for such protection.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

AAAS Issues Report on AI in COVID-19 Response and Human Rights Impact
AAAS has issued a report, *Artificial Intelligence and COVID-19: Applications and Impact Assessment,* which examines the way in which artificial intelligence (AI) has been applied in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its human rights impacts. Jessica Wyndham, director of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program and a co-author of the report, said: "At the onset of COVID-19, there was a clear demand for using AI to fight the pandemic. However, no one was looking at the entire picture of how AI was in fact deployed and what ethical or human rights questions were arising from their implementation. We wanted to see the implications of these selected applications, paying particular attention to underserved populations. We wanted to see what worked, what didn't and what we could learn from that for any future health crises."

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre Launches Company Dashboards
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, a UK-organization seeking to advance human rights in businesses, has developed dashboards for 40 companies across the technology sector to provide a suite of

information about company policy and practice in relation to human rights. The companies were selected based on their size, coverage, and regional diversity, within four (sometimes overlapping) subsectors: digital platforms, telecommunications, hardware or electronics, and surveillance technologies. The full list of company profiles may be found here.

New Report Documents Human Rights Impact of Uganda's National Digital ID System
The Digital Welfare State and Human Rights Project of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University, in collaboration with Ugandan research partners the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights and Unwanted Witness, have issued a report on Uganda's national digital ID system and its impact on the right to health and social protection for women and older persons. This research is part of the Everyone Counts! Initiative, which aims to fill a gap in the current understanding of the exclusionary and human rights impact of national digital ID systems being introduced rapidly in the Global South. The report, *Chased Away and Left to Die*, documents the wholesale exclusion of large portions of the Ugandan population from the digital ID system, which is mandatory to access government and private services.

New Report Highlights Rising Violence Against Health Workers, Institutions Globally
A new report and interactive map by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) highlights the rising global incidence of violence against health workers, facilities, and transport from 2016 through 2020. SHCC is composed of international nongovernmental organizations, including human rights groups, working to protect health workers, services, and infrastructure. Its members include Physicians for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, the Center for Public Health and Human Rights at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Insecurity Insight, and others. SHCC is calling for stronger enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 2286, which was adopted in 2016, and which included 14 directives to end or reduce violence against healthcare institutions and workers.

Resources on Newly Released Méndez Principles for Interrogations
Just Security, an online forum for the analysis of national and international security, has issued a series of articles that outline the origins and the scientific, legal, and ethical underpinnings of the newly released "Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering," also known as the "Méndez Principles." These principles are an expert-led initiative responding to a 2016 call to the U.N. General Assembly by Juan E. Méndez, a human rights activist and former U.N. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. Based on science, law, and ethics, the principles propose a concrete alternative to interrogation methods that rely on coercion to extract confessions and provide guidance on obtaining accurate and reliable information in full respect of human rights. The Méndez Principles series on Just Security may be found here.

Additionally, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the Anti-Torture Initiative of the Center for Human Rights at American University's Washington College of Law, and the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights at the University of Oslo held a panel discussion to discuss the Principles. A list of speakers, which included Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, may be found here and a video of the discussion here.

Physicians for Human Rights Webinar: COVID-19 Recovery and the Right to Health
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) hosted a panel discussion on how the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of healthcare workers in speaking out for health and human rights on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of panelists and a video of the discussion may be found here.

Science Article Examines Use of DNA to Reunify Separated Migrant Families

A recent article in *Science* highlights the appropriate use of DNA to support family reunification in immigration systems given legal, psychological, and medical vulnerabilities of separated migrant families. The authors propose a replicable, scalable, and sustainable framework to collect and manage sensitive DNA data to support the reunification of families in a manner that is secure, ethical, and humane and minimizes potential risks of government misuse of sensitive data.

UNESCO Report Highlights Need for Greater Investment, Diversity in Science
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has issued a new report that analyzes investment in science globally and explains the need to overcome disparities among countries, including as it relates to diversity in science. The report notes that during the period from 2014 to 2018, spending on science worldwide increased by nearly 20%, and the number of scientists rose 13.7%, but that two countries–the US and China–accounted for nearly two-thirds of this increase, or roughly 63%. The report also says that science needs to become more diverse, citing that just a third of researchers are women. The report also calls for new models for the circulation and dissemination of scientific knowledge, an issue UNESCO has been working on since 2019. The agency has been preparing a framework for open science ahead of its next General Conference in November.