COALITION CALENDAR

December 7: Webinar: Evolving Perspectives on Anthropology and Human Rights (11 am ET)
The Coalition's final webinar of 2021 will explore the American Anthropological Association's historic perspectives on human rights and contemporary projects that reflect current perspectives from the field. For more information and to register, click here.

December 10: International Human Rights Day
December 10 is International Human Rights Day. If your organization is holding an event to mark the day, please let us know! We would be happy to share information about your activities in this newsletter and on social media.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

2021 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference: Recordings Available Online
Thanks again to everyone who attended the Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference, especially the session organizers and host committee. If you registered and would like to watch the recordings of any of the sessions, you can do so by logging in to the conference website. The videos will be available on the website through the end of November. After that, they will be available on the AAAS YouTube channel.

Recorded Webinar: Documenting Sexual Violence
On October 27, the Coalition's Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations project team held a webinar on MediCapt, a mobile application that Physicians for Human Rights, together with end users in healthcare, law enforcement and legal practice in Kenya and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, developed to improve the collection, documentation, and storage of forensic medical evidence of sexual violence. More information and the recording are available here.

CALLS FOR INPUT

Nov. 18, 23, 29, Jan. 15: White House Seeks Public Input on AI Bill of Rights
The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has launched a series of listening sessions and events in November to engage the public in the process of developing a Bill of Rights for an Automated Society. There are already several ways for the public to share their perspectives: (1) responses may be submitted to a request for information on current or planned uses of AI-enabled biometric technologies in the private and public sectors until January 15, 2022, and (2) members of the public can email OSTP with their comments about the use of AI and other data-driven technologies in their lives. In addition, in November, OSTP is holding two virtual public listening sessions on AI-enabled biometric technologies and six public events that will bring together stakeholders to discuss the risks and benefits AI holds for democratic participation. A list of past and upcoming programs and ways to participate may be found here.

Nov. 30: UN Report on Climate Change Impacts and Human Rights
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking input on the adverse impact of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations. Input is due November 30, and further information may be found here.

Dec. 31: Call for Input: UN Reports on Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water

The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation is seeking input for two reports: (1) the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of indigenous peoples, which will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2022; and (2) the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation of people living in impoverished rural areas, which will be presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2022. Input is due by December 31, and further information may be found here.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Job: Oxfam America, Senior Advisor, Health and Vaccine Equity, Private Sector Department
Oxfam, a global organization working to end the injustice of poverty, is seeking a Senior Advisor, Health and Vaccine Equity, Private Sector Department to strengthen Oxfam America's capacity to engage key U.S.-based private-sector actors through advocacy and campaigning. Further information may be found here.

Jobs at WITNESS (Rolling deadline)
WITNESS, a global human rights organization using video and technology to protect and defend human rights, is seeking applicants for two positions in its Technology, Threats and Opportunities Program: (1) a Media Technologist and (2) a Senior Program Manager.

Job: Postdoctoral Fellow, Human Rights and Transitional Justice, Harvard University
The Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, a university-wide academic and research center in humanitarian crisis and leadership, under the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow, Human Rights and Transitional Justice, with strong analytical and statistical skills to evaluate the effectiveness of transitional justice policies such as prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations, and vetting and lustration. The data and evidence generated by this project will serve to design better policy to address the complex needs of survivors of violence and conflict for accountability, with particular emphasis on the need to prevent, respond to, and end impunity for sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and mass atrocity. The one-year fellowship is expected to begin on or around January 1, 2022, with the possibility of extension. Further information may be found here.

Job: Data Scientist at Human Rights Data Analysis Group
Human Rights Data Analysis Group, a non-profit group developing statistical techniques to assess and understand mass violence, including by governments, is seeking a Data Scientist, with a commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to work on data-related projects. Examples of project work include: reviewing the group's data deduplication framework; writing and running web crawlers and PDF scrapers; using natural language processing techniques to help partners gather useful information from very large collections of documents; performing data archeology; and running the group's automated data processing and analysis infrastructure. Further information may be found here.

Nov. 30: Nominations for 2021 Constellation Prize, Recognizing Engineers in Human Rights
Nominations are being accepted for the 2021 Constellation Prize, which recognizes engineers and their collaborators working for environmental protection, social justice, human rights, and peace. The Constellation Prize was co-founded by Mira Olson, Associate Professor in the Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering Department at Drexel University, and Darshan Mukesh Arvinda Karwat, Assistant Professor in the School for the Future of Innovation in Society and The Polytechnic School at Arizona State University. They are part of the committee reviewing nominations of the Constellation Prize, which was first awarded in 2020. Nominations for the 2021 awards are due November 30, 2021, and further information may be found here.

Dec. 2-4: Social Practice of Human Rights Conference, University of Dayton

The University of Dayton will hold the 2021 Social Practice of Human Rights conference (in person and virtually) on December 2–4, 2021, to address the perils and potential the pandemic has created for human rights advocacy. Further information may be found here.

Jan 1: Call for Papers: Special Issue on Psychology and Human Rights
The International Journal of Psychology is calling for abstracts for proposed articles for a special issue on recent theoretical, methodological, empirical, and practical advances in the psychology of human rights. Articles should evaluate conceptual models and applications of psychology and human rights (including evidence-based practices) that have been implemented in different contexts and new directions in research. Topics may include, but are not limited to: the human rights of indigenous peoples; human rights in legal, mental health, penal and/or detention systems; human rights in national security and defense, military and civic behavior and in displaced populations. Abstracts for a proposed paper are due January 1, 2022, and further information may be found here.

Jan 31: American University's 2022 Human Rights Essay Award Competition
The Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law is accepting submissions for the upcoming 2022 Human Rights Essay Award Competition. American University Washington College of Law will award two winners—one for submissions in English and one for submissions in Spanish—with a full scholarship to complete the Certificate of Attendance or Diploma in the 2022 Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, which will take place from May 30 to June 17, 2022. The topic of the 2022 Competition is "Climate Change and Human Rights: Impacts, Responsibilities, and Opportunities." Submissions are due January 31, 2022, and further information may be found here.

Feb. 15: Call for Papers: *Forced Migration Review*
The journal *Forced Migration Review* is seeking articles for an issue, to be published in July 2022, which will focus on voice and representation and response and accountability as it relates to policy and practices stemming from forced migration and displacement. Articles are due February 15, 2022, and further information may be found here.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

U.S. Gov't Launches Plan for an AI Bill of Rights
The President's Science Advisor and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director, Dr. Eric Lander, and OSTP's Deputy Director for Science and Society, Dr. Alondra Nelson, announced last month that OSTP will be developing a Bill of Rights for an Automated Society. "Our country should clarify the rights and freedoms we expect data-driven technologies to respect," they said in an October 22 joint statement. "What exactly those are will require discussion, but here are some possibilities: your right to know when and how AI [artificial intelligence] is influencing a decision that affects your civil rights and civil liberties; your freedom from being subjected to AI that hasn't been carefully audited to ensure that it's accurate, unbiased, and has been trained on sufficiently representative data sets; your freedom from pervasive or discriminatory surveillance and monitoring in your home, community, and workplace; and your right to meaningful recourse if the use of an algorithm harms you." In the coming months, OSTP says it will be working with partners and experts across the federal government, academia, civil society, the private sector, communities, and the general public to develop such a bill of rights. See also related story under *Calls for Input* on how these stakeholders can participate.

EEOC Launches Initiative on AI and Algorithmic Fairness in Employment Practices
The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has launched an initiative to ensure that AI and other emerging tools used in hiring and other employment decisions comply with federal civil rights laws that the agency enforces. The initiative will examine more closely how technology is fundamentally changing

the way employment decisions are made. It aims to guide applicants, employees, employers, and technology vendors in ensuring that these technologies are used fairly, consistent with federal equal employment opportunity laws.

U.S. Gov't Adds NSO Group, Others to Entity List for Malicious Cyber Activities

The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security has put NSO Group, an Israeli technology firm, and three other foreign companies on its Entity List. NSO Group and Candiru, another Israeli firm, were added to the List based on evidence that these entities developed and supplied spyware to foreign governments that used these tools to maliciously target government officials, journalists, businesspeople, activists, academics, and embassy workers. The U.S. Commerce Department said the move to add these organizations to the Entity List is "part of the Biden–Harris Administration's efforts to put human rights at the center of U.S. foreign policy, including by working to stem the proliferation of digital tools used for repression."

White House Seeks Ideas for Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Science

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) recently launched a new initiative, *The Time is Now: Advancing Equity in Science and Technology Ideation Challenge*, to gather public input on ideas or examples of existing or promising actions that expand equity and inclusion in science and technology. The challenge, which is available on Challenge.gov, opened October 14 and closes November 19. The input from the public is part of a larger effort to gather ideas to galvanize action and spur action for achieving equity and inclusion in science and technology. Dr. Eric Lander, the President's Science Advisor and Director of OSTP, and Dr. Alondra Nelson, Deputy Director for Science and Society at OSTP, announced the initiative last month and also spoke at the AAAS Forum on Science & Technology Policy held in mid-October. Further information, including how to offer input, may be found here.

UN Expert Visiting U.S. To Assess Rights of Minorities

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, is visiting the U.S. from November 8–22 to examine legislation, programs, policies, and practices that affect people belonging to national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, including effective political participation, education, access to justice, and administration of criminal justice. He will present a report of his visit at a forthcoming session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Article Examines Racism in U.S. Criminal Justice System Through Psychological Science

A recent article in *Science* examines the role of psychological science in shaping popular understandings of racism and discusses how to contribute more meaningfully to its reduction. The authors assert that beliefs about the nature of racism—as being solely due to prejudiced individuals rather than structural factors that disadvantage marginalized racial groups—work to uphold racial stratification in the criminal justice system. Although acknowledging structural racism facilitates the perception of and willingness to reduce racial inequality in criminal justice outcomes, the authors assert that many appear to willfully ignore structural racism in society.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Addresses Impact of Climate Change

Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, addressed the human rights impact of climate change at a side event, "Climate Impacts as Drivers of Migration: Science, Human Rights and Policy Response," at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), which was held in Glasgow, Scotland, October 31 to November 12. "Climate change is already severely affecting a number of human rights, including to food, health, water and sanitation, education and decent work–and even the right to life," she said in a November 11 statement.

To address the impact climate change has had on migration, she announced the launch of the first report of the UN Human Rights Office's new research and capacity building project on human rights, climate change, and migration in the Sahel, a region in Africa where the severe climate crisis is already driving migration decisions. "There is an urgent need for human rights-based, community-led adaptation and mitigation measures in the Sahel, including pathways that enable regular migration as a climate-change adaptation strategy," she said.

SBTi, UN Global Compact Launch Science-Based Net-Zero Corporate Emissions Standard
The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), a global body enabling businesses to set emissions reduction targets based on science, has launched the Net-Zero Corporate Standard as a science-based certification of companies' net-zero targets in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of keeping planetary warming to 1.5 °C. The SBTi is a collaboration between the UN Committee for Development Policy, the UN Global Compact, the World Resources Institute, and the World Wide Fund for Nature. The UN Global Compact is a voluntary initiative of businesses to align their operations and strategies with 10 principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption.

Companies adopting the Net-Zero Standard will be required to set both near- and long-term science-based targets. Near-term targets cover immediate emissions reductions for the next 5–10 years while long-term science-based targets determine the total level of decarbonization by 2050 or before. Through the standard, the SBTi clarifies that science-based net-zero requires companies to achieve deep decarbonization of 90–95% before 2050. The Net-Zero Standard was developed in consultation with an independent Expert Advisory Group, made up of experts from academia, civil society, science, and business. More than 80 companies took part in a road test of the standard in August 2021.

UN Secretary-General Calls for Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, Global Recovery
In comments made at the opening of the G-20 Summit in Rome late last month, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on G-20 leaders to step up efforts to ensure the global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is fair, inclusive, and prevents further suffering. Specifically, he called for vaccine equity and reiterated the importance of the G-20 to adopt and coordinate action to support the global vaccination strategy led by the World Health Organization, which aims to vaccinate 40% of people in all countries by the end of this year and 70% by mid-2022. He also called on leaders to pursue a post-pandemic path that can simultaneously relaunch the global economy while addressing inequality and trust between developing and developed countries.

Survey: Scientists Had Negative Fallout After Media, Social Media Interviews on COVID-19
A recent survey by *Nature* of more than 300 scientists who gave media interviews or commented on social media about COVID-19 showed that more than two-thirds reported negative experiences as a result of their media appearances or their social media comments, and 22% had received threats of physical or sexual violence. The survey also examined the chilling effects that these experiences have had on researchers' willingness to participate in future media or social media activity. An editorial in *Nature* examines the need to protect scientists in light of these findings.

Meta, Facebook's Parent Company, Plans To Shut Down Facial Recognition System
Meta, the newly named parent company of Facebook, announced earlier this month that it was shutting down the Face Recognition system on Facebook as part of a company-wide move to limit the use of facial recognition in its products. The announcement follows criticism from civil, privacy, and digital rights groups over the technology. More than a third of Facebook's daily active users have opted into its Face Recognition setting and are able to be recognized, and its removal will result in the deletion of more than a billion people's individual facial recognition templates although the company will continue to evaluate the technology. Jerome Pesenti, Vice President of Artificial Intelligence, said that the company still sees facial recognition

technology as "a powerful tool, for example, for people needing to verify their identity, or to prevent fraud and impersonation. We believe facial recognition can help for products like these with privacy, transparency and control in place, so you decide if and how your face is used. We will continue working on these technologies and engaging outside experts."

Amnesty International Calls for End to Misuse of Facial Recognition Technology in India

Amnesty International is calling on governmental authorities in India to stop the use of facial recognition technology as a mass surveillance tool, particularly in the city of Hyderabad. Amnesty International says that India has a lengthy record of using facial recognition technology in contexts where human rights are at stake, with recent examples including enforcing COVID-19 lockdown measures, identifying voters in municipal elections, and policing protests. It says that minorities and historically disadvantaged sections of society are particularly at risk from these mass surveillance practices.

UN Experts Raise Human Rights Concerns Over Cyber Activities by Private Entities

UN experts are expressing concerns over the human rights impacts from military and security services in cyberspace, including data collection, intelligence, and surveillance, provided by private companies and mercenaries. To prevent and mitigate the negative human rights impacts caused by mercenaries and mercenary-related actors in cyberspace, they are calling on States to refrain from recruiting, using, financing, and training mercenaries. They pointed out that a wide range of human rights are involved: human rights to life, economic social rights, freedom of expression, privacy, and the right to self-determination. They also noted that human rights defenders, journalists, LGBTI people, and migrants can be affected in a differentiated manner by these activities.

IHRN, National Academies Call for Human Rights Protection for Mexican Scientists

The Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), an alliance of more than 90 national honorary scientific societies, issued a statement in support of 31 Mexican scientists and scientific administrators who are facing accusations of serious financial crimes. "We share the concern expressed by many other scientific organizations that our colleagues are being subjected to government harassment and call upon Mexican authorities to ensure that any further investigation of these individuals is in accordance with Mexico's commitments under international human rights law," their statement said.

In addition, the three International Secretaries of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in the U.S. issued a letter to Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of Mexico, and and a letter to Marcelo Luis Ebrard Casaubón, Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to voice their concerns that the scientists are being subjected to harassment and intimidation, the negative human rights aspects of their situation, and the chilling effect on the broader scientific community. They, too, are calling on Mexican authorities to ensure that any further investigatory actions proceed in accordance with Mexico's commitments under international human rights law.

Autism Study Paused Over Concerns on DNA Sampling and Data Collection

A large, UK-based study of genetics and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) was paused in late September following criticism that it failed to properly consult the autism community about the goals of the research and concerns over data sharing and the potential misuse of data. The study had aimed to collect DNA samples, together with information on participants' mental and physical health, from 10,000 autistic people and their families to study the genetic and environmental contributions to ASD and co-occurring conditions. A recent article in *Nature* details the issues.

UN Experts Call for Protection of Human Rights of People Affected by Dams

Four UN human rights experts issued a joint statement calling for protection of the human rights of people

affected by dams and other water infrastructure in light of new, large hydroelectric projects. They explain that emerging green financing mechanisms, such as green and climate bonds, provide new financial tools to hydropower projects, which are being developed without regards to human rights standards and safeguards. They point to forced displacement caused by these projects that violates several human rights, such as rights to housing, food, water and sanitation, and education; the rights of affected indigenous peoples over their territories and their rights to free, prior and informed consent; and violations of the rights to life and freedom of expression through the criminalization of protests, threats, attacks and even murders of individuals opposing dams. They are calling for governments to ensure fair compensation to affected people, guarantee human rights, and enforce international human rights obligations and related standards and guidelines. They are also calling on governments, the power-generation industry, and financial institutions to halt planned new, large hydropower dams and prioritize the optimization of existing dams and the development of other renewable energies with lower social and environmental impacts.

Refugee Scientists Explain How They Continued Research with Organizations' Support

A recent article in *Nature* details the experience of three refugee scientists (two from Syria and one from Yemen) who participated in programs by two international organizations that provide support to at-risk researchers: the Institute of International Education-Scholar Rescue Fund, a New York-based non-profit organization that supports international researchers, and the Council for At Risk Academics, a London-based charity that helps academics to continue their work at one of 124 partner universities and institutions in the U.K, or in other safe locations.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Council of Europe: Role of Academia in Addressing Climate Change and Human Rights

Dunja Mijatović, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, made a speech, "Climate Change, Human Rights and Environmental Defenders—What Role for Academia?" at the 9th Human Rights and Science Symposium, convened in late October by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Human Rights Committee of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The theme of this year's conference was "Human Rights and Climate Change." In her speech, Commissioner Mijatović outlined six ways in which academicians have and can contribute to global discussions and policy-making on climate change and human rights.

Report: Impact on Human Rights under the EU's Proposed AI Regulation

Human Rights Watch has issued a report to describe the impact the European Commission's proposal to regulate artificial intelligence (AI) would have on recipients of benefits of social welfare programs in the European Union. The report explains that AI and other forms of algorithmic decision-making pose a risk to economic and social rights by applying these digital tools in governments' decision to deny or limit access to benefits and other social services under programs used to address poverty and income inequality.

International Science Council Launches Podcast Series on Refugee and Displaced Scientists

The International Science Council has launched a series of six podcasts on the theme of "Science in Exile," which feature interviews with refugee and displaced scientists who share their science, their stories of displacement, and their hopes for the future. The podcasts may be found here.

Guidance for Measuring Sexual Harassment Prevalence Using Campus Climate Surveys

The Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which presents information and identifies guidance based on existing research literature, has issued a guidance document, *Guidance for Measuring Sexual Harassment Prevalence Using Campus Climate Surveys*. Questions about sexual harassment prevalence are often situated within a broader survey that asks questions about social concerns such as gender issues, respect, or culture, commonly

called a "climate survey." The guidance document provides information on conducting climate assessments to measure sexual harassment prevalence.

Lessons Learned: Afghanistan Withdrawal and Safeguarding Human Rights Evidence
A recent article in *Just Security* examines the technology and ways to safeguard materials used to document human rights abuses, particularly in conflict-ridden areas. Pointing to the withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan as an example of how quickly a war situation may change and the risk to hard-copy documentation, the author details ways to modernize evidence safehouses and how these technologies might be deployed in future investigations that take place in high-risk conflict zones. She cites work by the Starling Lab, based at the University of Southern California and Stanford, which has developed and deployed tools to preserve and validate evidence of historical events and human rights abuses.

PEOPLE
Thanks and Farewell from Jessica Wyndham
A personal note from Jessica Wyndham, Director of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program:

"Fourteen years to the day that I started at AAAS will also mark my last day as my family and I make our move back to my first home of Australia. Some of my greatest joys, growth experiences, and moments of pride have come from my engagement with you, the individuals who comprise the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Yes, while the membership of the Coalition may be organizational, it is each of you, in your disciplines, in your sectors, in your institutions, and in your communities that have driven the work of the Coalition forward. In my opening remarks to the recent Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference [attached] I reflected on what you have achieved in the past 12 years of the Coalition and on the challenges that still lie ahead. I wish you all the very best in continuing to meet those challenges and those others that will undoubtedly emerge. *Bonne chance*."