

COALITION CALENDAR

June 30: Apply to be a Coalition FutureGen Scholar!

The Coalition invites applications from undergraduate and graduate students to become SciTech and Human Rights FutureGen Scholars. This annual initiative provides a \$5,000 stipend to support students in carrying out projects that address the intersections of science, technology, and human rights on their campus or in their community. Applications are due June 30, and more information is [available here](#).

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Coalition Members' Statements on Recent U.S. Mass Shootings

Several Coalition members have issued statements regarding the mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, to provide support for the victims, their families, and communities at large, and to offer perspective from their disciplines on how to address such tragedies:

- American Education Research Association: Statements following shootings in [Uvalde](#) and [Buffalo](#).
- American Statistical Association: Statement following shooting in [Buffalo](#).
- Society for Research in Child Development: Statements following shootings in [Uvalde](#), [Buffalo](#), and calls to address [racially motivated violence](#).

Global Alliance Statement: Internally Displaced People & Refugees in Ukraine

The Global Alliance for Social Justice and Behavioral Health issued a [statement of support](#) to all individuals and families suffering forced migration and displacement due to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. It urged that war crimes and humanitarian injustices happening within Ukraine, including differential treatment of people of color, be addressed, and outlined both the short- and long-term mental health impact on internally displaced people and refugees. Its statement provided a human rights framework for these concerns and outlined ways on how to address them.

WHAT WE'RE READING

A Call to End "Helicopter Research" & Forging Equitable Research Partnerships

A recent [article](#) in *Science* addresses the problem of "helicopter research," whereby researchers from wealthy countries conduct field research in poorer countries and extract data without respectful collaboration. The issue was addressed at a recent conference, the World Conference on Research Integrity, held in Cape Town, South Africa. Consensus-gathering events at the conference compiled ideas that will be fed into an eventual statement, which a team of collaborators plans to submit to an academic journal. The scientists, ethicists, and others at the meeting hope their new framing will elevate the issue and help spur systemic solutions rather than leaving the task of building fair collaborations up to individual researchers.

Chile Moving to Address Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Scientific Research

A recent [article](#) in *Science* outlines a draft for a new constitution in Chile, to be voted on in September, which seeks to address the rights of Indigenous peoples and moves to address equitable research in the country. The draft constitution recognizes the existence of Indigenous knowledge and protects Indigenous peoples' identities, cultures, and territories, including nature in its "material and immaterial dimensions." It also gives Indigenous peoples the right to repatriate objects and human remains and mandates that the Chilean government develop mechanisms for such repatriation. Although the draft constitution is not

explicit about research with Indigenous communities, the article points out that it could encourage a more collaborative approach that considers local and ancestral knowledge. The article outlines the historical and recent problems with protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples with respect to research and the efforts being made to address this issue.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

June 30: 2023 AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

AAAS is now accepting nominations for its 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. Nominations are accepted through June 30. For more information, to read about past recipients, and to submit a nomination, [click here](#).

June 30: AAAS David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy

June 30 is the deadline for submitting nominations for the 2023 AAAS David and Betty Hamburg Award for Science Diplomacy, which recognizes an individual or a limited number of individuals working together in the scientific and engineering or foreign affairs communities who are making an outstanding contribution to furthering science diplomacy. Further information, including how to submit a nomination, may be found [here](#).

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Congress Introduces the Counter Human Trafficking Research and Development Act

A bill, *The Counter Human Trafficking Research and Development Act*, was introduced last month in the U.S. House of Representatives that would direct the President, through the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to establish a National Counter Human Trafficking Research and Development Initiative. The purpose of this initiative is to improve efforts to prevent, identify, and disrupt human trafficking by supporting coordinated research where key knowledge gaps exist and development of standards for data sharing are needed. Theresa Harris, the Interim Program Director of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, was one of several experts who [testified](#) in February on the data challenges impacting human trafficking research and the development of anti-trafficking technological tools. A summary of the bill may be found [here](#), and the legislative status of the bill [here](#).

White House Science & Technology Head Calls for Greater Inclusion in Policy Formation

Alondra Nelson, Acting Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, provided the [keynote address](#) at a recent event of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to address what she called the “grand challenges” of achieving equity in scientific research and policy formation and decision-making and the need for community engagement to achieve that equity. She stressed that community engagement in science and research is critical to address issues such as the climate crisis and societal inequities, including health disparities and environmental injustice. She stressed the need to include individuals and communities that have historically been excluded in federal policy formation and decision-making. She highlighted one method gaining ground in research and science known as “co-production of knowledge,” which brings individuals and groups affected by research into every step of the scientific process, so that they are partners in a study’s design, progression, and outcome. A video of her comments may be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Developments in Case of Greek Statistician Andreas Georgiou

A recent [article](#) in *Significance*, a bimonthly magazine of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Royal Society of Statistics, provided an update on the case of Andreas Georgiou, the former national statistician of Greece from 2010–2015, who was convicted on the grounds that he violated the duties of

his office during the country's financial and debt crisis by providing statistical information to Eurostat, the European Union's statistical agency. The ASA and others have strongly criticized what they see as the wrongful conviction and investigation of Georgiou for performing his duties as Greece's national statistician. Since his conviction in 2018, Georgiou has sought various legal remedies, and most recently, his legal team asserts that his right to a fair trial was violated. His team contends that the Greek government should have sought guidance under the European Statistics Code of Practice before convicting him of breach of duty, and by not doing so, violated his human rights, specifically a right to a fair trial under European law. The matter is now with the Greek government to either voluntarily recognize that it had not sought proper guidance, which could result in a retrial, or the matter could be addressed in a trial before the European Court of Human Rights.

Academics, Others Criticize UN Human Rights Commissioner's Visit to China

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet [met](#) with senior officials in China last month to discuss China fulfilling its obligations under international human rights law. Bachelet's visit, the first by a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to China in 17 years, was [criticized](#) for not addressing specific human rights violations and cases, particularly human rights violations by Chinese authorities against Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities. In an [open letter](#), dozens of academics from across Europe, the U.S., and Australia called on the UN to release a long-awaited report on human rights abuses in China. Further details on the letter may be found [here](#). Bachelet subsequently [announced plans to not seek another term](#) and will step down when her term ends August 31.

Academic Groups Issue Declaration for International Academic Cooperation

The academic exchange organizations of the G7 states, eight additional countries, and the Academic Cooperation Association, a global federation for international cooperation in higher education, [issued](#) a joint declaration to call for international cooperation in times of crisis. The "Berlin Declaration on International Academic Cooperation amidst a World in Crisis" is the outcome of the Higher Education Summit 2022 held in Berlin, Germany, last month. Against the background of the war in Ukraine, the signatories of the declaration see themselves united "in the belief that democratic states which cherish and share fundamental values such as freedom, including academic freedom, and the rule of law, should stand together, and that their higher education institutions need to continue to collaborate closely." The full declaration may be found [here](#).

First-Hand Account from a Ukrainian Researcher on Persevering Amid War

A recent [article](#) in *Chemistry World* provides the account of one scientist from the Institute of Food Biotechnology and Genomics at the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on how he is continuing his work during the war, and how he and his family are persevering despite encountering many obstacles.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Council of Europe Report: Human Rights Impact of AI on the Doctor-Patient Relationship

A [report](#) by the Council of Europe examines the known and potential impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) systems on the doctor-patient relationship as relates to human rights. The report identifies six themes: (1) inequality in access to high-quality healthcare; (2) transparency to health professionals and patients; (3) risk of social bias in AI systems; (4) risk of doctors losing understanding of the patient's context and perspective on their own well-being; (5) risks of automation bias, doctors losing skills by relying on AI, and issues of liability; and (6) impact on the right to privacy. The full report may be found [here](#).

NED Report: The Global Struggle Over AI Surveillance

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a nonprofit foundation dedicated to the growth and

strengthening of democratic institutions globally, has issued a new [report](#), *The Global Struggle Over AI Surveillance: Emerging Trends and Democratic Responses*, to address the challenge of safeguarding democratic principles and processes as AI technologies enable governments to collect, process, and integrate data about the online and offline activities of individual citizens. The release of the report marks the launch of the International Forum for Democratic Studies' "Making Tech Transparent" series, which focuses on crafting transparent and participatory processes around the use of emerging technologies in politics and governance. The full report may be found [here](#).

Racial & Ethnic Discrepancy in Medical Testing in COVID-19 Patients

A recent [article](#) in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* examines racial inequalities in using oxygen saturation levels in treating patients with COVID-19. Researchers analyzed data from more than 7,000 COVID-19 patients who were treated in five hospitals in Baltimore between 2020 and 2021 and found that compared with white patients, pulse oximeters, which are used to measure oxygen levels, overestimated blood oxygen levels in Black, Hispanic, and Asian patients. Pulse oximeters, which indirectly measure oxygen saturation levels using light that passes through blood in a fingertip, are widely used but have been criticized because they can give erroneous measurements in darker skinned patients. A recent *Science* [article](#) summarizes the study.

National Academy of Sciences Recorded Briefing: Investigations and Prosecutions of Researchers of Asian Descent & Impact on Human Rights and the Scientific Enterprise

The Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine held a [briefing](#) that examined the effects of racial and ethnic profiling on human rights and the scientific enterprise, with a focus on criminal investigations and prosecutions of researchers of Asian descent in the U.S. Two professors from Temple University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology discussed their experiences as the targets of unjust criminal prosecutions and the need to ensure that efforts to protect national security are consistent with human rights standards. The full recordings may be found [here](#).

Online Courses for Addressing Government Internet Shutdowns

Advocacy Assembly, a digital learning website featuring courses for journalists, campaigners, and activists, has launched the Advocacy Assembly Shutdown Academy to share knowledge and skills needed to help people identify, measure, circumvent, and advocate against government shutdowns of the internet. It features 10 free online courses in eight languages designed to educate activists, journalists, or anyone impacted by internet disruption. Further information, including the list of courses, may be found [here](#).

Seven Essential Questions for Ethical War Crimes Documentation

RD, an online forum for discussing the use of data in social change and advocacy, has posted an [article](#) to examine the considerations for those collecting, investigating, and analyzing open-source information in Ukraine and elsewhere. The article details questions that can help guide journalists, human rights defenders, investigators, and others working on evidence and accountability efforts.

New ISC Report Outlines Impact of COVID-19 on National and Global Policy

A new [report](#) by the International Science Council (ISC), *Unprecedented & Unfinished: COVID-19 and Implications for National and Global Policy*, warns that COVID-19 is likely to worsen inequalities for at least five years if renewed global cooperation is not achieved. It maps out three potential scenarios for the year 2027 and calls for the UN to establish a Science Advice Mechanism to inform future pandemic response. The ISC is composed of 200 international scientific unions and associations as well as national and regional scientific organizations, including academies and research councils. The full report may be found [here](#).

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