

COALITION CALENDAR

Webinar: December 8: Visible.lgbt: Innovation on Documenting LGBTQ+ Rights Violations in Mexico

The next webinar in the Coalition's [Scientific Collaborations with Human Rights Organizations](#) webinar series takes place on Thursday, December 8, from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM. The webinar highlights the work of "Visible," Mexico's largest repository of data on discrimination and violence against LGBTQ+ people in the country. The event is co-sponsored by the Coalition and the Movement Engaged Research Hub of the Center for Social Science Research at George Mason University. More information [is available here](#), and you can [register for the webinar here](#).

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Update on ASA's Statistics without Borders

Statistics Without Borders (SWB), an outreach group of the American Statistical Association, will reach an important milestone in 2023—its 15th year of statistical research, educational programs, and projects that all have a common goal: enlisting volunteers to use statistics and data science for the greater good. In its largest project to date, SWB is working with the African Institute for Professional Development, an NGO based in Rwanda, which aims to close the gap between the skills an individual possesses upon completing their training and the skills an employer expects a newly hired employee to have. Overall, more than 75 SWB volunteers across six continents have built educational content in statistics/biostatistics, monitoring and evaluation, econometrics, and R programming. Another recent SWB partnership is with HelpAge International, a network of 158 organizations focused on promoting the well-being and inclusion of older women and men and reducing poverty and discrimination in later life. With SWB, HelpAge sought to better understand Sustainable Development Goals indicators as applied to older individuals in India, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, and Ukraine. More information about SWB's work can be found [here](#).

CALLS FOR INPUT

Jan. 20, 2023: Addressing Inequalities from the COVID-19 Pandemic

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is seeking input for a report on promoting and protecting economic, social, and cultural rights in the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. OHCHR will convene a three-day workshop on February 6–8, 2023 on that focus. The workshop sessions will encompass focused advocacy on easing economic burdens, vaccine equity, removing structural impediments, and developing technical assistance programs to enhance the capacity-building of States, especially developing and least-developed States. Input is due by January 20, 2023, and further information may be found [here](#).

Feb 3, 2023: New Technologies & Enforced Disappearances

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances is seeking input for a thematic study on new technologies and enforced disappearances. "New technologies" refer to technological innovations that have occurred mostly over the past 20 years, including hardware and software information and communication technologies (e.g., satellite imagery, digital social networks, and online datasets), artificial intelligence and deep learning, and digital forensic and biodata. Input is due February 3, 2023, and further information may be found [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

Finding Ethical Ways in Evaluating Human Remains in Anthropological Research

A recent [article](#) in *Science* examines ethical issues when working with human remains by providing an example of how researchers used dental analysis in a nondestructive way to learn more about unidentified individuals' past and their disease profile from one of the U.S.'s most studied collections of human remains, the Robert J. Terry Anatomical Skeletal Collection, now at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. The collection was amassed largely from thousands of people who died in public institutions in St. Louis, Missouri, in the late 19th and early 20th century—most of them poor or institutionalized. Providing an example of one unidentified man from the 1930s, the researchers used dental calculus—or hardened plaque—to determine cause of death, including how structural racism contributed to his death and helped build the collection itself. Addressing the complex issues of ethics and social justice that surround repositories such as the Terry collection, the researchers are now working with the Smithsonian and other institutions to [create new guidelines for studying anthropological collections](#) in a more ethical way that respects both the individuals in the collections and their modern-day communities.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Job at Meedan: Senior UX Designer

[Meedan](#), a global technology not-for-profit that builds software and programmatic initiatives to strengthen journalism, digital literacy, and accessibility of information, is seeking applicants for a Senior UX Designer to create high-quality visual experiences that help journalists and academics bring critical information and context to communities around the world. Further information may be found [here](#).

Job: Dec. 1: Networks and Communications Manager at European AI Fund

The European AI Fund, a philanthropic initiative supporting civil society organizations shaping the policy direction of artificial intelligence (AI) in Europe, is seeking a Networks and Communications Manager to be responsible for a variety of functions, including staying up to date with the latest developments on policy around AI, building relationships in the field, and identifying opportunities for the European AI Fund and its partners to engage as well to coordinate and develop its external communications plan. Further information may be found [here](#).

Dec. 1-3: General Assembly of U.S. Section of Scholars at Risk

From December 2-3, the first-ever General Assembly of the U.S. Section of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network will be held in New Orleans, hosted by and in partnership with Xavier University of Louisiana. An optional, pre-conference gathering will be held on Thursday, December 1. The meeting will bring together leaders and advocates from SAR member universities and educational associations to raise awareness of attacks on scholars, students, and the higher education community and set the Section's protection and advocacy agenda for the coming years. While this is an in-person event, SAR will distribute an online recap of the meeting and related resources to those who wish to receive it. Further information may be found [here](#).

Dec. 6-9: World Science Forum (Cape Town, South Africa)

The World Science Forum (WSF), an international conference on global science policy that brings together scientists, researchers, the private sector, civil society, and the media to discuss the role of science in addressing challenges facing humanity, will take place December 6–9, 2022, in Cape Town, South Africa. The theme will be Science for Social Justice. Further information may be found [here](#).

Job: Jan. 1: Policy Director at Data & Society

Data & Society, a nonprofit research organization studying the social implications of data-centric technologies and automation, is seeking a Policy Director, to work internally to coordinate policy

engagement opportunities across its research programs, and externally to represent and position its research and researchers to engage with multiple policy-focused communities on emerging technology and society issues. Applications are due January 1, 2023, and further information may be found [here](#).

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

15 States Seek To Keep COVID-19 Era Policy Limiting Asylum Seekers in Place

Fifteen states [have filed a motion](#) to keep a COVID-19-era policy in place that allowed U.S. authorities to restrict asylum seekers from crossing the U.S.–Mexican border into the U.S. The policy, invoked in the form of a public emergency health order under Title 42 of the Public Health Service Act, was first launched in March 2020 by the Trump Administration to purportedly defend against the spread of COVID-19, but was seen by human rights groups, immigration groups, public health experts, and others as a tactic to limit asylum seekers into the U.S. The Biden Administration had sought to end the policy and attempted to rescind it earlier this year, but following a lawsuit by certain states, a Louisiana federal judge ruled in May that the U.S. government must keep the directive in place. Despite its efforts to end the Title 42 policy, the Biden Administration last month (October 2022) [expanded](#) the expulsion policy to include Venezuelans, in light of increasing numbers of migrants fleeing that country. A motion by 15 states now seeks to delay a [court order issued earlier this month](#) (November 2022) that would lift the expulsion measure on December 21, 2022. Attorneys general in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming assert that ending the policy would increase the flow of migrants into the U.S. and harm their states. [Physicians for Human Rights](#) is among the groups that support the ruling to end the Title 42 policy.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Urges Twitter To Lead With Human Rights

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk [issued an open letter](#) to Elon Musk, CEO of Twitter, urging him to “ensure human rights are central to the management of Twitter” under Musk’s leadership. The letter follows reports of the elimination of Twitter’s entire human rights team and all but two of the ethical artificial intelligence team. The UN Human Rights Chief set out six fundamental principles from a human rights perspective that need to be front and center in the management of Twitter: (1) protection of free speech by standing up for the rights to privacy and free expression and to transparently report on government requests that would infringe those rights; (2) eliminate the viral spread of harmful disinformation, like that seen during the COVID-19 pandemic; (3) avoid amplifying content that results in harm to other people’s rights, such as information that incites discrimination, hostility or violence on Twitter; (4) maintain transparency through research to better understand the impact of social media and to maintain access to Twitter’s data through its open application programming interfaces; (5) protect privacy by refraining from invasive user tracking and amassing related data, which would include unjustified requests from governments for user data; and (6) keep in Twitter’s responsibilities to maintain a rights-respecting and safe platform apply not just to English-language content, but globally.

UN Human Rights Committee Makes Landmark Decision on Climate Justice

In a [ground-breaking decision](#), the U.N. Human Rights Committee found that Australia’s failure to adequately protect Indigenous Torres Islanders against the adverse impacts of climate change violated their rights to enjoy their culture and be free from arbitrary interferences with their private life, family, and home. The Committee issued its decision in late September after examining a joint complaint filed by eight Australian nationals and six of their children, all Indigenous inhabitants of four small, low-lying islands in Australia’s Torres Strait region. They claimed their rights had been violated as Australia failed to adapt to climate change by upgrading seawalls on the islands and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In the same decision, the Committee indicated that despite Australia’s series of actions, such as the construction of new seawalls on the four islands that are expected to be completed by 2023, additional

timely and appropriate measures were required to avert a risk to the Islanders' lives since without robust national and international efforts, the effects of climate change may expose individuals to a violation of their right to life. A recent [article](#) in *Nature* provides further analysis of the decision.

UN Experts Urge Protection of Human Rights in Climate Policy & Actions

UN experts [called on](#) States to fully integrate human rights standards and principles in negotiations during the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), which was held earlier this month in Egypt. With regard to climate change, they point to that among the human rights being threatened and violated are the rights to life, adequate food, safe drinking water and sanitation, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, adequate housing, self-determination, just and favorable conditions of work, development, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and livelihoods, as well as the right to education and cultural rights. They said climate change is also contributing to human rights violations with specific adverse impacts on women and girls and against groups in marginalized situations, such as migrants, minorities, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, older persons and persons with disabilities, including albinism.

The UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, also stressed the negative impact of climate change and its relationship with systematic racism. She [urged](#) UN member states and stakeholders within the UN environmental and climate governance system to stop racially discriminatory human rights violations relating to climate and the environment and recommended meaningful participation of racially, ethnically, and nationally marginalized persons and peoples in global and national climate governance.

Scientists Denounce Ongoing Repression in Iran

The Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN), an alliance of more than 90 honorary societies defending the rights of scholars and academic institutions under threat, issued a [statement](#) on October 10 expressing strong concerns over the ongoing crackdown on human rights in Iran, including recent attacks on universities by security and paramilitary forces, along with the arrest of university students engaged in peaceful demonstrations. It is calling upon Iranian authorities, in line with Iran's obligations as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to cease unnecessary use of force in response to popular demonstrations and to ensure the release of students and others who have been arbitrarily detained. It is further calling upon authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and assembly in the country and to refrain from further attacks on educational institutions. A recent [article](#) in *Science* also provides perspectives from scientists and researchers on the crisis in Iran.

***Nature* Article Examines Science, Local Communities in Protecting Indigenous Rights**

A recent [article](#) in *Nature* provides a detailed example of how Indigenous peoples in isolated areas of the Peruvian Amazon are working to protect their lands and the role that science and technology is playing in that effort. The article points out that scientists, advocates, and policymakers increasingly recognize that achieving climate and conservation goals is not possible unless they are aligned with efforts to help Indigenous communities secure and protect their territories. The article describes how these efforts raise broader questions about the human rights of Indigenous people and the impacts on isolated groups in the forest who have no voice in discussions about policies that affect their lives.

UN Experts, Human Rights Groups Call for Release of Turkish Medical Association Head

UN experts [are calling](#) on Turkey to stop using counter-terrorism legislation to intimidate human rights defenders and immediately release recently detained Sebnem Korur Fincancı, a forensic medical practitioner and anti-torture expert. Fincancı, Chairperson of the Turkish Medical Association and

Executive Committee Member of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey, helped develop the United Nations' reference standards on the investigation and documentation of torture cases (the Istanbul Protocol). She was arrested at her house on October 26 on unclear grounds, believed to be in retaliation for her public comments calling for investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons and associated deaths by the Turkish military. In addition, four leading international human rights and medical NGOs—Physicians for Human Rights, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, DIGNITY, and Redress—also issued a [statement](#) condemning her detention and calling for her release.

Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit Examines the Right to Science

Last month, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was one of several organizations that [participated](#) in the [Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit](#), which brought together high-level representatives from research, government, diplomacy, industry, philanthropy and civil society to explore ways to make the most of the benefits of emerging science and technology while tackling the challenges that come with them. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, participated in a panel on how to revive the human right to science. Challenges, progress, and recommendations for future action were discussed. Videos of discussions, presentations, and interviews from the Summit may be found [here](#).

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Freedom House Releases Report on Internet Freedom

Freedom House, which works to defend human rights and promote democratic change with a focus on political rights and civil liberties, has issued a new [report](#), *Freedom on the Net 2022: Countering an Authoritarian Overhaul of the Internet*. The report assesses the level of internet freedom in 70 countries, documents how governments censor and control the digital sphere, and makes recommendations to policymakers and companies on how they can protect internet freedom.

New Report Calls for End to GPS Tagging on Immigration Detainees in UK

Three UK-based organizations—Bail for Immigration Detainees, Public Law Project, and Medical Justice—have released a new [report](#), *Every Move You Make: The Human Cost of GPS Tagging in the Immigration System*. The report examines the negative impact on individuals subject to GPS electronic monitoring while on immigration bail. The groups recommend ending this practice and if not ended, to implement safeguards to protect those individuals subject to GPS tagging.

New Report Details Use of Automated Decision-Making Systems in D.C. & Rights Impact

The Electronic Privacy Information Center, a non-for-profit group focused on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues in the information age, has issued a new [report](#), *Screened & Scored in the District of Columbia*, which examines the use of automated decision-making systems by government agencies in D.C., showing the extent of their use, a lack of transparency, and lack of knowledge by the public of these systems. The report examines the use of 29 systems from more than 20 government agencies, describes how these systems might be impacting residents, and offers suggestions for how people in the District can respond.

National Academies' Webinars: Human Rights Implications of Attacks on Scientists & Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the fall of 2022, the Committee on Human Rights of the U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a webinar series that examined the problem of threats and other attacks on scientists and health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, along with implications for freedom of expression, the right to information, and other internationally protected human rights. Topics covered in the series included: the targeting of scientists and public health professionals for providing evidence-based health information; global patterns of violence against health workers; censorship and the

right to information; science communication and human rights amid public health emergencies; and constructing a human rights framework for online health-related speech. The recordings may be accessed [here](#) (see end of page).

Scholars at Risk Releases Annual *Free to Think* report

Scholars at Risk's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project has released the [2022 *Free to Think*](#) report. Released annually, the report explores concerning trends in attacks on higher education communities around the world with the aims of raising awareness and urging diverse state and non-state stakeholders to join Scholars at Risk in protecting and promoting academic freedom.

PEOPLE

Margaret Satterthwaite Named UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Former Coalition Steering Committee member [Meg Satterthwaite](#) has been appointed United Nations [Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers](#). An [article by NYU Law School](#) provides more information and highlights Meg's goals of making legal systems more transparent and accessible. Congratulations, Meg!

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