

COALITION CALENDAR

New Deadline! July 10: Apply to Be a Coalition FutureGen Scholar

Calling all graduate or undergraduate students passionate about science and human rights: apply to be a Coalition SciTech and Human Rights FutureGen Scholar! Up to three Scholars will each receive a \$5,000 stipend to support a project that addresses issues of SciTech and Human Rights on their campus or in their community. Applications are open through July 10. More information, and a link to the application, [available here](#).

October 23-24: 2023 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference

The 2023 Coalition meeting will take place October 23-24 and will feature both a virtual component and in-person sessions at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. The goals of this year's event are to strengthen the Coalition's abilities to act as a constituency for the human right to science and provide opportunities for Coalition members to learn from each other's accomplishments, challenges, and differing approaches to advancing the right to science. More information and registration will be available soon.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

ACS Reaffirms Support for Scientific Integrity in Federal Agency Decision-Making

The American Chemical Society (ACS) issued a [position statement](#) to reaffirm its support for scientific integrity in federal agency decision-making. "ACS strongly supports the use of insightful, comprehensive scientific and engineering input to the development and evaluation of policy options," said ACS in its statement. "ACS also encourages the use of scientific integrity policies that help federal, state, and local governments obtain and integrate scientific assessments into policy development and implementation." ACS made several recommendations to ensure scientific integrity, including that government agencies should regularly review and improve their procedures for obtaining and utilizing unbiased scientific and technical input for policy development.

APSA Issues Statement on State Legislation Attacking Academic Freedom

The American Political Science Association (APSA) issued a [statement](#) to raise concerns over recent state legislation that it says threatens academic freedom. It specifically points to bills in the Texas Senate (SB 16, 17, and 18) as examples of attempts to redefine academic freedom in order to permit the suppression of certain types of scholarship, institutional programs, and critical thought. In particular, it points to SB 17, which would ban diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at public institutions, and SB 18, which would jeopardize academic freedom by putting pressure on faculty at public institutions through the weakening of tenure protections. APSA had previously issued a [statement](#) in March on Florida's HB 999 bill, which would prohibit general education core classes from teaching content as it relates to "critical theory" pertaining to race, ethnic studies, gender, feminism, queer studies, social justice and intersectionality, and which would also prohibit curriculum, based on what the bill terms as "unproven, theoretical, or exploratory content."

CALLS FOR INPUT

July 2: UN Call for Input: Neurotechnology and Human Rights

The United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is seeking input for a report to be presented in September 2024 to the Council on the impact, opportunities, and challenges of

neurotechnology with regard to the promotion and protection of all human rights, including recommendations on how human rights opportunities, challenges, and gaps arising from neurotechnology could be addressed by the Human Rights Council. Input is due July 2, and further information may be found [here](#).

July 7: UN Seeking Input on Gender Disinformation and Human Rights

The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression is seeking input on the gender dimensions of disinformation for a thematic report to be presented to the UN General Assembly. Among the issues for which input is being requested is what measures States, digital companies, or international organizations have taken to combat “gendered disinformation” and to what extent do these responses comply with international human rights law standards, in particular freedom of expression. Input is due July 7, and further information may be found [here](#).

Aug. 4: Call for Input: UN Draft Recommendation on Racial Discrimination & the Right to Health

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is [seeking input](#) on the [first draft](#) of a General Recommendation (N° 37) on racial discrimination and the right to health. The Committee issued the draft recommendation in April and is now seeking further input. The draft recommendation identifies common issues of concern and provides guidance on measures to address them in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Input is due by August 4, and further information may be found [here](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING

New Study Shows Global Extractive & Industrial Projects Disproportionately Impact Indigenous Peoples and Their Human Rights

A new [study](#) in *Science Advances* finds that Indigenous peoples are disproportionately and systematically impacted by environmental conflicts stemming from ongoing extractive and development projects around the world. The [study](#) found that Indigenous peoples compose about 6.2% of the world’s population but are estimated to be involved in at least 34% of documented environmental conflicts worldwide. Most of these conflicts are caused by mining (24.7%), fossil fuels (20.8%), dams (15.2%), and the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and livestock sector (17.5%), and most were identified on Indigenous ancestral lands across Central and South America, the Indian subcontinent, Western Africa and Southeast Asia. The study analyzed 3081 environmental conflicts over development projects to quantify Indigenous peoples’ exposure to 11 reported social-environmental impacts jeopardizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The full study may be found [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

June 30: Nominations Due for 2024 AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is presented by AAAS to honor organizations or individuals (including but not limited to scientists, engineers, or health professionals) who have advanced scientific freedom and responsibility under challenging circumstances. Their exemplary actions advance trustworthy science – science that is conducted and communicated responsibly, upholding the values of scientific freedom and human rights, including the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress. Nominations are due June 30. Learn more and [make a nomination here](#).

Job: Sept. 15: Coalition Member AMS Seeks Executive Director

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director. The AMS Executive Director holds the responsibility of overseeing a large and diverse

spectrum of people, programs, and publications. The desired starting date is February 1, 2024. Applications are due September 15, and further information may be found [here](#).

Sept. 21-22: Scientific Evidence and the Courts Conference at AAAS

Registration is now open for the September 21-22 “Scientific Evidence and the Courts” conference, hosted by AAAS in collaboration with the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine. This event will examine critical issues regarding the admission and use of scientific and technical findings in the United States justice system. This event will be in-person with a livestream option for virtual attendees. More information, and the link to register, [available here](#).

Oct. 11-14: Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference (Washington, DC)

The 2023 Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference, October 11-14 in Washington, DC, will examine the role of mapping/cartography in representing and promoting diverse voices, experiences, and knowledge within the classroom, in research, and through public pedagogy. Coalition member the American Association of Geographers is a sponsor. Further information may be found [here](#).

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Biden Administration Seeks New National Lab to Study Impact of Climate Change on Disadvantaged Communities

President Joe Biden is asking Congress for \$35 million to begin planning a new national laboratory to study the impact of climate change on poor communities. The proposal for the lab, which would join the 17 basic science, energy, and weapons labs run by the Department of Energy (DOE), is outlined in the President’s fiscal year 2024 budget for DOE that the President submitted this spring. The new lab would be built at one of the country’s 104 historically Black colleges and universities. A recent [article](#) in *Science* provides further details on the proposed lab.

White House Announces New Efforts To Guide Federal Research of AI & Support Rights

Last month, the Biden Administration announced new efforts to advance the research, development, and deployment of “responsible” artificial intelligence (AI) that protects individuals’ rights and safety. Among the actions taken was the release of a [National AI R&D Strategic Plan](#) by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The plan provides an updated roadmap to focus federal investments in AI research and development. The OSTP also issued a [Request for Information](#) to seek input on national priorities for mitigating AI risks, protecting individuals’ rights and safety, and using AI to benefit individuals. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology has issued a [new report](#) that summarizes the risks and opportunities related to AI in teaching, learning, research, and assessment. In addition, the White House held a [listening session](#) with workers last month to hear firsthand experiences with employers’ use of automated technologies for surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, and management. The listening session included workers representing diverse sectors of the economy, including call centers, trucking, warehousing, healthcare, and freelance work, as well as policy experts, researchers, and policymakers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Groups Provide Support to Assist Sudanese Scholars

Since fighting broke out in April between the Sudan Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces militia, several organizations have issued statements and outlined actions to support the people of Sudan, and in particular, researchers, scientists, and academics threatened by the violence and conflict in the country.

- The Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies [condemned](#) attacks on civilians and describes how the violence is affecting access to healthcare and education;
- [ScienceOpen](#), a research and publishing network, [launched](#) a collection of research to share academic outputs from and about Sudan and updates of recent scholarly developments in the country.
- The [Sudanese Researchers Foundation](#) reissued a joint statement, currently signed by 894 members.
- [The Scholar Rescue Fund of the Institute of International Education](#) (IIE) and IIE released separate [statements](#).
- [Physicians for Human Rights](#) published a joint statement with Sudanese and international health and human rights organizations.

EU Moves Closer to New Legislation Governing AI in a Rights-Based Framework

Earlier this month, the European Parliament [adopted](#) a [negotiating position](#) on the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act, proposed legislation in the European Union that seeks to ensure that AI developed and used in Europe is fully in line with EU rights and values, including human oversight, safety, privacy, transparency, non-discrimination, and social and environmental well-being. Considered as one of the world's first laws governing AI, talks will now begin with EU countries in the European Council on the final form of the law. The aim is to reach an agreement by the end of this year.

The proposed rules adhere to a risk-based approach and establish obligations for providers and those deploying AI systems depending on the level of risk the AI can generate. AI systems with an unacceptable level of risk to people's safety would be prohibited, such as those used for social scoring (classifying people based on their social behavior or personal characteristics). To ensure protection of individual rights and safety, the proposed measures call for the AI systems falling into the following eight specific areas to be registered in an EU database: (1) biometric identification and categorization of natural persons; (2) management and operation of critical infrastructure; (3) education and vocational training; (4) employment, worker management, and access to self-employment; (5) access to and enjoyment of essential private services and public services and benefits; (6) law enforcement; (7) migration, asylum and border-control management; and (8) assistance in legal interpretation and application of the law.

UN Experts Call for Oversight, Regulation of Digital Tools to Protect Human Rights

UN experts [are calling](#) for greater transparency, oversight, and regulation to address the negative impacts of new and emerging digital tools and online spaces on human rights. The experts expressed concern about the proliferation of invasive spyware and a growing array of targeted surveillance technologies used to unlawfully target human rights defenders, activists, journalists, and civil society in all regions. The experts stressed the need to ensure that these systems do not further expose people and communities to human rights violations, including through the expansion and abuse of invasive surveillance practices that infringe on the right to privacy, facilitate the commission of gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, and discrimination. They also expressed concern about impacts on freedoms of expression, thought, peaceful protest, and access to essential economic, social and cultural rights, and humanitarian services.

UN Experts Seek Human Rights Be Incorporated in Treaty on Plastic Pollution

UN experts [are urging](#) States and other stakeholders to put human rights considerations at the center of an international treaty on plastic pollution that is currently under negotiation. Over the last two years, the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly have adopted resolutions recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, which includes non-toxic environments, which the UN experts say should prompt and guide initiatives addressing plastic pollution. They are seeking a binding instrument on plastic pollution to be completed by the end of 2024.

UN Holds Inaugural Forum for Women in Diplomacy, Science, and Youth

The UN [held](#) the International Day of Women in Diplomacy Inaugural Forum on June 23 to bring together women in diplomacy, women in science experts, and young people to discuss the role of women diplomats in supporting three pillars of sustainable development: economic prosperity, social justice, and environmental integrity. The forum was organized by the World Youth League and the Women in Science International League under the Royal Academy of Science International Trust. A video of the conference may be found [here](#).

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Podcast Episode: Supporting Displaced Researchers

A recent [podcast](#) from *Nature* examines how to support displaced researchers by featuring two scientists who fled Yemen and Syria. The episode is part of a seven-part series about freedom and safety in science.

Recent Study Examines Laboratory Safety and Research Productivity

The National Bureau of Economic Research, an organization of 51 members from North American research universities, economics professional organizations, and the business and labor communities, has issued a [working paper](#) to address the impact of laboratory safety practices on research productivity in response to an increase in lab safety regulations at the University of California following lab safety incidents there. The study found that laboratory safety may shape the production of science, but the study did not support the claim that safety practices impose a significant tax on research productivity. A recent [article](#) in *Science* further examines the study's findings, which safety experts contend may help to support cultural and institutional change to address poor laboratory practices in academia.

New Report Documents Attacks Against Healthcare Workers in Armed Conflicts

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, which represents 40 organizations working to protect health workers and services threatened by war or civil unrest, has released a [new report](#) that documents attacks against healthcare workers in armed conflicts globally in 2022. The study documents 1,989 attacks and threats against healthcare facilities and personnel across 32 countries and territories in armed conflict and situations of political violence throughout 2022. The reported figure represents the most severe year of attacks against healthcare in the last decade globally. Over half of all attacks were reported in just two countries, Ukraine and Myanmar. The report identifies more than 750 attacks perpetrated by the Russian Federation on healthcare in Ukraine alone—the most committed in a single year in one country.

PEOPLE

Welcome to New Coalition Members from SRCD

Coalition member the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) has appointed two new representatives to the Coalition Council: Lindsay Trammell, SRCD's Director for Policy; and Roman McNeil, Science and Publications Associate. Welcome, Lindsay and Roman!

A Special Thank You to Judith Torney-Purta

Dr. Judith Torney-Purta, longtime Coalition member and representative for the American Educational Research Association (AERA), is stepping back from service on the Coalition Council. Judith's [distinguished career](#) as a developmental and educational psychologist, and involvement with the Coalition

as an expert on education and human rights, have made a true difference. Thank you again, Judith, and we wish you well.

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