

## COALITION CALENDAR

### September 12: Early Registration Deadline for 2023 AAAS Science, Technology and Human Rights Conference

**What will you do to help make the right to science real?** The 2023 Coalition meeting will take place this October and will feature both a virtual component (October 16-20) and in-person sessions at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC (October 23-24). The theme is *The Human Right to Science: Pathways for Action*. More information [is available here](#).

Coalition members receive discounts on registration; sign up by **September 12** to take advantage of additionally discounted early registration rates. The draft program will be available soon. [Register here](#).

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Coalition Members Respond to Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action

On June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court [struck down](#) affirmative action programs at Harvard and the University of North Carolina. Coalition member organizations have responded by reaffirming their commitments to diversity and sharing resources about how equity and inclusion strengthen their disciplines and the scientific enterprise. Information is included in chronological order. If your organization has taken an action that is not mentioned here, please contact us.

- American Psychological Association: [APA Reaffirms Support for Equity, Inclusion in College Admissions, in Light of SCOTUS Ruling](#) (August 7)
- American Political Science Association: [APSA Statement on Supreme Court Rulings on Affirmative Action](#) (July 19)
- Acoustical Society of America: [ASA Statement on Diversity and Inclusiveness in the Field of Acoustics](#) (July 5)
- American Association of Geographers: [AAG Stands in Support of Equitable Education at Colleges and Universities](#) (June 30)
- American Chemical Society: [ACS Responds to Recent U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action](#) (June 30)
- American Sociological Association: [Response to the Supreme Court's Decision on Affirmative Action](#) (June 30)
- American Educational Research Association: [Statement on Supreme Court Decision on Race in College Admissions](#) (June 29)
- Joint Letter co-signed by the American Anthropological Association, American Philosophical Association, American Sociological Association, and Linguistic Society of America: [Supreme Court Moves Race-Conscious Admissions in the Wrong Direction](#) (June 29)
- AAAS: [AAAS Reaffirms Commitment to Foster DEI across STEMM Amid Legal Landscape](#) (June 29)

### APSA Statement Condemns Legal Targeting of Disinformation Researchers

In July, Coalition member the American Political Science Association (APSA) issued a statement that condemns as an attack on academic freedom recent legal actions taken against scholars who research disinformation. [Read the statement here](#).

## CALLS FOR INPUT

### **Oct. 2: Promoting Environmental Democracy: Procedural Elements of the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment is seeking input for a report to the UN Human Rights Council on the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. More information [available here](#).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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 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](#).

### **Nov. 2-5: NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice FORGE Conference**

The [Future of Rights and Governance](#) (FORGE) Conference will launch the NYU Center for Human Rights and Global Justice’s [FORGE 2025-2035 Program](#) designed to identify, incubate, and mainstream experiments for change that help bolster the efficacy and legitimacy of global governance and justice in the next decade and beyond. Hosted in New York City, FORGE 2023 will differ from panel-based conventional conferences by creating spaces to actively share [thematic](#) ideas and develop experiments for change that could transform the fields of global rights and justice. The [schedule](#) will showcase the approach taken to convene this global gathering of scientists, scholars, practitioners, artists, lawyers, policy makers, and more.

*Thanks to Youssef Farhat for this submission.*

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

### **New York City Law Regulating AI Bias in Hiring Takes Effect**

In July, New York City became the first jurisdiction in the U.S. attempting to regulate bias in hiring caused by the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems. [More>>](#)

### **Ethical Review at Philadelphia’s Mütter Museum**

An article in *Science* describes a controversial ethical review at the Mütter Museum over the treatment of human remains in its collection. [Science article>>](#)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### AI's Shortcomings with African Languages

African researchers and coders are working to address the errors and gaps in AI that lead to many African languages being greatly underrepresented in AI research and products. [More>>](#)

### Musk's Twitter Changes May Imperil War Crimes Investigations

Raquel Vazquez Llorente of WITNESS describes how the platform (now rebranded as "X"), under Elon Musk's "erratic policymaking...may now hamper investigations into international crimes." [Read>>](#)

### Israeli Scientists Protest Education Policies

Groups of Israeli researchers are speaking out against government policies they argue infringe on academic freedom and damage the country's scientific enterprise. [Article in Science>>](#)

### Mexico's New Science Law Challenged in Court

Human rights and scientific groups are among those who are challenging the recently passed General Law on Humanities, Science, Technology, and Innovation. Among the arguments is that the new law violates scientific freedom. [Learn more>>](#)

### Scholars at Risk, Other Organizations Demand Release of Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace

On July 8, Scholars at Risk (SAR) and 18 other organizations issued a [joint letter](#) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of [Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace](#). Dr. Al-Singace is a Bahraini scholar who has been in prison since 2011, following his participation in pro-democracy protests. He has been on a hunger strike for over two years to protest the confiscation of his research documents and has been denied medical care by Bahraini authorities.

*Thanks to Ayodele Abinusawa for this update.*

### Rebuilding Ukrainian Science

Articles in [Nature](#) and [Undark](#) highlight efforts to rebuild the scientific community in Ukraine in the midst of the ongoing war.

## NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

### Additional Resources from Scholars at Risk

SAR has shared two recent webinar recordings related to academic freedom and human rights:

1. On July 11, SAR co-organized with State Mission sponsors Uruguay, the European Union, Portugal, and France a UN Human Rights Council side event on academic freedom, "[From Words to Action: Implementing Academic Freedom under UN Human Rights Standards](#)." The event featured opening remarks by Mr. Eamon Gilmore, European Union Special Representative for Human Rights and Ms. Farida Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Education. A panel discussion followed with Ms. Shaheed; Mr. Mikel Mancisidor, Member, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Mr. Jesse Levine, SAR Senior Advocacy Officer; and Mr. Hector Ulloa, Outgoing President, Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH). Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger Pagani, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations in Geneva, offered closing remarks.
2. On June 28, the International Community of Iranian Academics organized the panel discussion "[Academic Freedom in Iran: How Ideology Can Affect Science](#)." The discussion shed light on the

enduring struggle for academic freedom in Iran since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979 and included first-hand accounts from panelists, who offer valuable insights into the mechanisms behind state oppression and its profound impact on science and higher education in Iran.

*Thanks to Ayodele Abinusawa for sharing these resources.*

## **PEOPLE**

### **Thank You to Ellen Platts**

Ellen Platts, one of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)'s representatives to the Coalition Council, is stepping down from that role after completing her PhD. Congratulations, Dr. Platts, and thanks for everything you have done for the Coalition, especially your work to provide more opportunities for students.

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