

**AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition
Council Meeting – DRAFT Minutes
July 27, 2017
AAAS Headquarters, Revelle
Washington, DC**

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Welcome and Meeting Objectives

Jessica Wyndham (AAAS) welcomed the Council. She outlined the agenda for the meeting, the objectives of which were to: agree to steps for increasing the visibility of human rights and the Coalition in the online presence of Coalition member organizations; define a plan for building on the Coalition’s efforts to define the right to science and contribute to the UN process; inform pilot efforts of AAAS in engaging members in the work of the Coalition, and undertaking an internal human rights assessment.

The minutes from the January 2017 Council Meeting were approved without change.

Member Actions to Address Human Rights

American Physical Society has been advocating for the release of Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, a scholar who was detained in Iran (2016) on charges of “collaboration with hostile governments” and “acting against national security,” for practicing his right to academic freedom. Juan Gallardo provided an update on Djalali’s well-being and encouraged representative of the Council to help with the efforts to petition the government before the second trial.

The American Statistical Association released a statement on January 31, 2017 opposing the Trump Administration’s travel ban. Ali Arab, a representative to the Coalition Council for the American Statistical Association, was elected by the membership of Amnesty International USA to serve a three-year term on that organization’s Board of Directors. Mary Gray shared that she attended a meeting with the Statistical Institute in Europe, where she participated in a panel on statistics and human rights; this event was held in partnership with Statistics Without Borders.

The American Association of Geographers has a new Vice President, Coalition Council member Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach, who has worked to mainstream human rights into geography. The organization hosted 250 presentations at their last meeting that were related to geography and human rights. Additionally, AAG issued a statement on January 30, 2017 calling on President Trump to rescind the executive order on immigration and visas.

The American Sociological Association is preparing for their annual meeting (Toronto, 2018). There will be 440 sessions related to human rights. Like other Coalition member organizations, the American Sociological Association released a statement on January 30, 2017 responding to the Trump Administration's executive order on immigration and travel visas. Jessica Wyndham (AAAS) and Margaret Weigers Vitullo (ASA) presented research on the right to science to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Mark Frezzo (ASA) mentioned that an event will be hosted in August dealing with human rights and global justice.

American Educational Research Association held their annual meeting which featured 3000 sessions in total—many of which addressed human rights. The meeting was held in Austin, Texas during the time of state legislation barring transgender persons from using the restroom associated with their gender identity. Although AERA did not formally take opposition, the organization did issue statements to make clear their disapproval of the proposed law. AERA also wrote statements in opposition of the President's travel ban and limitations on travel visas (January 30, 2017).

Capital Areas Social Psychological Association brought to the Council's attention that the Fall issue of *Chance Magazine* will focus on human rights and the applications of statistics. Arthur Kendall suggested that this would be a great supplementary piece for university statistical courses.

The American Chemical Society featured a story in their magazine *Chemical & Engineering News* on the organization's disapproval of the Trump travel ban, which was published in February of this year. ACS's statement opposing the travel restrictions was released on January 30, 2017.

The Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition created a newsletter. Additionally, the group held three seminars this year: one focusing on Myanmar, the second on access to medicine, and another on "alternative facts". CWRU SHR Coalition is interested in starting a focus group on assessing the different views toward the right to science at universities.

Sociologists Without Borders intends to provide support to the International Sociological Association in its human rights endeavors. Brian Gran (SWB) was invited to participate on their panel in 2019. Mark Frezzo (American Sociological Association) and Gran are working in a group on a human rights indicator project using World Happiness metrics in assessing human rights protections in various nations.

The American Mathematical Society has been active on human rights issues in Turkey. Other international human rights work to which AMS is contributing includes the issue of freedom of movement for scientists abroad. AMS wrote a statement on January 30, 2017, criticizing the travel ban put in place by the Trump Administration.

The Society for the Study of Social Problems is gearing up for their Social Science scholarship in "Activism for Social Justice". SSSP will meet in Montreal this August with new resolutions on health care, refugee rights, the Paris Climate Accord, and academic freedom and protected speech. An award and \$5,000 will be given out to a grassroots organization for their work on behalf of impoverished communities and people of color. The organization has been getting more responses to their letters supporting professors' right to free expression. Additionally, SSSP has issued multiple public statements in opposition of the current Administration's immigration and travel restrictions and against various discriminatory "bathroom bills" targeting transgender people.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science continues manage On-Call Scientists, which has contributed to 135 projects since 2008 with over one thousand volunteered having signed-up in the same period. In addition, AAAS is working with various associations and other AAAS programs to support human rights work. Theresa Harris (AAAS) announced that there will be a AAAS symposium in Austin, Texas at the annual meeting in 2018. In addition, the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program (in conjunction with HelpAge USA) has released a report that examines gender-based violence against older people in displaced situations.

Richard Watkins of Sigma Xi was a speaker for the March for Science in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Right to Science: Next Steps

Wyndham congratulated the Council on the progress made on conceptualizing the right to science from the perspective of the scientific community, and suggested that it was time to take the impact of the Coalition's effort to a broader audience—UN agencies, diplomatic missions, and non-governmental organizations who can use right to science as a messaging tool.

To that end, AAAS is working with Coalition partner to plan two events in New York City: one event would take place at the UN headquarters with representatives from agencies/missions with the purpose of bringing the right to science to their attention, updating them on the ongoing UN process, and tying the right to other issues of current interest and relevance to them such as the sustainable development goals; the other event would be held with human rights groups and NGOs, and focus on the complimentary nature of the right to science in advocating for additional rights. Margaret Weigers Vitullo (American Sociological Association) brought up the possibility of working with Coalition members who held Consultative Status with the UN and wondered if that would be helpful; other Coalition members (AAAS, APA and American Statistical Association) have this status already and its potentially use is to reach a broader audience at the UN. Coalition participants in the event have not yet been identified, but Council members emphasized that the messaging brought to these events shows how the right to science can be used to accomplish the wider goals of the UN, agencies, and NGOs. Further, Dorothy Phillips (ACS) emphasized that we should approach groups that have not experienced the benefits of science to show them the practical nature of the right to science in traditionally nonscientific areas of human rights advocacy.

Wyndham asked the Council about what next steps should be taken in regards to the right to science. John Dale (Society for the Study of Social Problems) suggested working with institutional review boards at universities across the country to begin a dialogue about an agreed meaning of the "right to science." Mary Gray (American Statistical Association) suggested that the Coalition put greater effort into working with the human rights community, not just the scientific community. Reaching out to humanitarian organizations allows the Coalition to gain important insight into what matters to the human rights community and to show how the right to science can help accomplish a multitude of goals.

Human Rights Day 2017: A Day of Coalition Action

Wyndham reminded the Council that International Human Rights Day is December 10 and encouraged members to accomplish two goals: (1) create a page on their organization's website dedicated to human rights with references and links that offer additional information and resources, and (2) organize an

activity associated with Human Rights Day. Ideas for the activity included the creation of videos, op-eds, a blog, or to host webinars. Council members supported these objectives.

Coalition Projects

The Coalition has transitioned from being organized around working groups to supporting specific projects that require approval from the Steering Committee. This is consistent with the goals set by the Council last year. The Steering Committee appointed a review panel who will be deciding on project proposals in the coming weeks at their next meeting. The floor was opened to suggestions from Council members for potential projects. Juan Gallardo (APS) would like the Council to do more to promote the welfare of scientists. Oliver Moles (CASPA) suggested the Council look at old proposals to generate ideas. Mary Gray (American Statistical Association) proposed that the Coalition develop language that can be used in grant writing.

Theresa Harris (AAAS) promised that more opportunities for the Coalition to get involved will be posted to the Coalition website. This was in response to the suggestions of Council members who are concerned that current and upcoming projects are not being publicized enough.

Information Item: IIE Scholar Rescue Fund STEM Initiative (SSI)

Harris introduced James King, Assistant Director of the Institute of the International Education Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF), who presented on the organization's work. IIE-SRF awards fellowships to established professors, researchers, and public intellectuals who face threats to their lives and careers in their home countries. Almost 50% of all awardees are from Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The program offers qualifying scholars one-year placements as visiting professors, researchers, or lectures at participating host universities. IIE-SRF is active in 10 countries: Syria, Turkey, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, the DRC, China, and Zimbabwe (ONE MORE). Since 2002, the initiative has partnered with more than 345 institutions.

King highlighted the Partnerships for Scholarly Advancements (PSA) initiative, which aims to create a network of organizations and individuals committed to assisting fellows and alumni in their career advancement and professional development. PSA launched in February 2017 and focuses on academic and professional writing, English-language training, career counseling and mentorship, networking, and legal counseling.

Other Business

Wyndham announced that the next Coalition meeting will take place on January 25-26, 2018.

Meeting Attendees

Ali Arab	American Statistical Association
Toni Carbo	Association for Information Science and Technology
John Dale	Society for the Study of Social Problems
Hector Delgado	Society for the Study of Social Problems
Mark Frezzo	American Sociological Association
Juan C Gallardo	American Physical Society
Brian Gran	Sociologists Without Borders
Mary Gray	American Statistical Association
Lori Hill	American Educational Research Association
Arthur Kendall	Capital Area Social Psychological Association
Bill Lenart	Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition
Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach	American Association of Geographers
Oliver Moles	Capital Area Social Psychological Association
Dorothy Phillips	American Chemical Society
Lindsey Thomas	Council on Undergraduate Research
Gabe Twose	American Psychological Association
Margaret W. Vitullo	American Sociological Association
Joe Watkins	American Mathematical Society
Richard Watkins (phone)	Sigma Xi

Observers

Tee Guidotti	Sigma Xi
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