

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting

Agenda

January 26-27, 2017
AAAS Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

The Human Right to Water

Throughout the first day, participants will discuss the role of the science and technology communities in upholding the human right to water and the implications of the human rights framework for scientists, engineers, and health professionals who work to improve access to safe, affordable water supplies. Sessions will highlight examples of actionable scientific research that is contributing to human rights-based water policies. In addition, panelists will share models for collaborative partnerships with frontline communities. Meeting attendees will be invited to participate in small group discussions in which they will identify specific actions members of the Coalition can take within their associations and institutions.

Coalition meetings convene scientists, engineers, and health professionals with human rights leaders and policy makers to discuss emerging issues at the nexus of science and human rights. The Coalition serves as a catalyst for the increased involvement of scientific, engineering, and health associations and their members in human rights-related activities.

Thursday, January 26

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

Introduction: **Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS

9:15 a.m. **Keynote Address: Human Rights and Flint's Water Crisis** (*Auditorium*)

Introduction: **Dorothy J. Phillips**, American Chemical Society

Speaker: **Marc Edwards**, Virginia Tech

10:00 a.m. **Plenary Session I: Actionable Science and the Human Right to Water** (*Auditorium*)

In this panel, speakers will explain the evolution of the internationally recognized right to safe, accessible, and affordable water and highlight examples of research that has informed evidence-based policies aimed at preventing or mitigating violations of the human right to water in the United States and around the world. How has this research informed human rights advocacy? How can it impact policies aimed at protecting the right to water? What are some of the most urgent needs for partnerships between scientists, non-governmental organizations, and communities around this fundamental right?

Speakers: **Suren Moodliar**, Mass Global Action
 Mauricio Pardón, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)
 Brian Shmaefsky, Lone Star College
 Inga Winkler, Columbia University

Moderator: **Joyell Arscott**, Duke University

11:15 a.m. **Break**

11:45 a.m. **Roundtable Discussions** (*Revelle, Abelson-Haskins*)

Participants are invited to engage in informal, open discussions with experts on different aspects of the right to water. In addition to the plenary speakers, facilitators will include **Kelly Miller** (access to water for the homeless) and **Rebecca Landy** (international human rights advocacy for the right to water), both of the US Human Rights Network. Select a "table topic" or a speaker with whom you want to explore their presentation in more depth. Participants can stay at one table or move between the discussions.

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Concurrent Lunchtime Workshops**

Introduction to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (*Revelle*)

This session is for new and potential members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Participants will learn about the goals and activities of the Coalition and the international human rights framework that guides its work, giving special attention to the connections of human rights to science and technology.

Speaker: **Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS

Envisioning Socially Just Public Engagement: An Important Intersection of Scientific Responsibility and Human Rights (*Abelson-Haskins*)

Collaboration with the public is essential for scientists and engineers whose work informs decisions, practices, and policies that impact public health, safety, and wellbeing. However, the skills needed to collaborate with communities in socially just ways are rarely taught in STEM curricula. In this workshop, participants will learn about basic principles that can be used to guide the design of scientific and engineering interventions, which are beneficial and elevating to all parties involved. The workshop will draw from anthropology, feminist philosophy, and environmental justice work, as well as a teaching module titled “Learning to Listen” that was developed as part of a National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored project in engineering ethics education. “Learning to Listen,” a training that was distinguished by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) as exemplary, challenges students and practitioners alike to listen carefully to the communities they serve in order to recognize the technical and moral relevance of diverse, expert and non-expert, voices.

Speaker: **Yanna Lambrinidou**, Virginia Tech
Nicky Sheats, Thomas Edison State University

2:00 p.m. **Plenary Session II: What is the Role of Scientists in Supporting the Human Right to Water?** (*Auditorium*)

Drawing from case studies, the speakers will address the benefits of collaboration, key elements necessary for building effective partnerships, critical concerns for defining research questions and advocacy goals, and the ethical responsibilities of researchers and policy makers. What does the power differential between scientists and communities mean for just scientific involvement in the promotion and support for the human right to water? Do scientists and engineers have more to offer than technical advice and information? Can they (and should they) facilitate citizen empowerment? Is there a role for the scientific community in citizen transformation and healing following these types of injustice?

Speakers: **Catherine Coleman Flowers**, Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise
Yanna Lambrinidou, Virginia Tech
Sacoby Wilson, University of Maryland

Moderator: **Andrew Rosenberg**, Union of Concerned Scientists

3:15 p.m. **Break**

3:45 p.m. **Small Group Discussions**

Building on the plenary discussions, each group will identify strategic actions Coalition members and their partners can take to help inform their networks and protect the human right to water. Choose one of the following discussion groups:

- Research Needs and Opportunities for Collaboration (*Auditorium*)
Facilitator: Natallia Sianko, Clemson University
- Developing Education Resources and Strategies (*Revelle*)
Facilitator: Mark Frezzo, American Sociological Association
- Sharing Knowledge with Our Networks: Outreach and Communication (*Abelson*)
Facilitator: Jeffrey Toney, Sigma Xi
- STEM-Human Rights Partnerships for Policy Change (*Haskins*)
Facilitator: Rebecca Landy, US Human Rights Network

5:00 p.m. **Report Back from Small Group Discussions** (*Auditorium*)

5:20 p.m. **Closing Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

5:30 p.m. **Reception** (*2nd Floor*)

7:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns for the Day**

Friday, January 27

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to projects that connect networks, build capacity, engage individuals, and promote awareness. The working meetings provide an opportunity for members to define new projects and move forward with existing initiatives. Prospective members can explore ways they can get involved in the Coalition's activities.

Unless otherwise noted, all are welcome to attend these working meetings, which will be conducted according to the Chatham House Rule regarding attribution.

If you are a member of the Executive Directors' Circle, please see the security desk upon your arrival to pick up a security badge. A badge is necessary to access the 12th floor.

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Executive Directors' Circle** (*invitation only*) (12th Floor Boardroom)

Chair: **Rush Holt**, AAAS

9:00 a.m. **Student Meeting** (*Revelle*)

All students are invited to this informal discussion with leaders of the Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition, who will share examples of student organizing, engaging with their campus community, and ways AAAS and Coalition members can support you. We will also discuss the 2017 AAAS Science and Human Rights student competitions and other opportunities for students to get involved in current Coalition projects.

Facilitator: **Bill Lenart**, CWRU Science and Human Rights Coalition

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Project Team Meetings** (*concurrent*)

During this session, Coalition project teams will work towards their project objectives, identify responsibilities for key activities, and develop a timeline for work to be completed before the July Coalition meeting. A list of current projects, along with the project leader's name, is provided in the meeting folder. If you would like to suggest a new project, please speak with the Secretariat staff before this session.

11:45 a.m. **Plenary Discussion: Project Team Reports** (*Abelson-Haskins*)

During this session, project team leaders will share progress they have made, identify opportunities for collaborations between the teams, and invite Coalition members to contribute to the projects. Coalition members will also be invited to make recommendations to strengthen the new project selection procedure, which is intended to help the Coalition become more responsive to current challenges and emerging opportunities.

12:30 p.m. **Council Lunch** (*Council Members and Student Delegates only*) (*Abelson-Haskins*)

1:00 p.m. **Council Meeting** (*Council Members only*) (*Revelle*)

5:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns**