
COALITION CALENDAR

April 30, 2018: Deadline for Coalition Student Competition Submissions

The last day to submit to the 2018 AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Student [Essay](#) and [Digital Media](#) competitions is April 30. Undergraduate and graduate students from all majors are encouraged to submit essays and digital projects that explore the connections between human rights and science, engineering and the health professions. More information can be found [here](#).

May 15, 2018: Webinar – Humanitarian Response and Integration to Restore the Well-being of Colombian and Venezuelan Refugees in Ecuador

Maria Veronica Gottret, Nicole Kast of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will present a Webinar on the findings of the final evaluation of the project “Filling Critical Gaps in the Humanitarian Response and Integration of Immigrants to Restore the Well-Being of Colombian Refugees and Vulnerable Ecuadorians.” This project, implemented from 2011-2017, sought to protect the freedom and lives of immigrants from Colombia, and later Venezuela, to Ecuador. [Register »](#)

July 12-13, 2018: Human Rights and Higher Education

Save the date for the next Coalition meeting, where we will explore the human rights responsibilities of academic institutions, how these obligations frame important issues such as inclusion, academic freedom, accountability, and community relationships, and ways Coalition members can help address these critical concerns.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AAG Hosts 2018 Annual Meeting in New Orleans

The [meeting](#) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) had focused discussion on three set themes (“[Black Geographies](#)”, “[Hazards, Geography, and GIScience](#)” and “[Public Engagement in Geography](#)”). The agenda included several sessions on geography and human rights, including applications of geospatial technologies in assisting human rights causes.

World Congress for Freedom of Scientific Research

Jessica Wyndham, AAAS, presented on the right to science, drawing on research conducted with Margaret Weigers Vitullo (American Sociological Association) under the auspices of and in collaboration with the Coalition. The focus of her remarks was on the benefits of scientific progress that are not material, but which are derived from the scientific process, which lead to scientific knowledge that is actionable by individuals and should inform policy making. Also participating in the Congress was Mikel Mancisidor, member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights who announced that the Committee will be considering a draft “General Comment” on the right to science at their session in September/October 2018. [View the recording >>](#)

AAAS at the March for Science

Theresa Harris, AAAS, presented the [Coalition’s Campus Events Toolkit](#) at the AAAS March for Science Teach-in Tent. A number of Coalition members partnered with the March, including: American Anthropological Association, American Association of Geographers, American Educational Research Association, American Physical Society, American Psychological Association, American Sociological Association, Linguistic Society of America, Sigma XI, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and Society for Research in Child Development.

Webinar – Using Outcome Harvesting to Assess Efforts to Reduce Child, Early and Forced Marriages in India

Ricardo Wilson-Grau, the developer of outcome harvesting, and Margo Mullinax of American Jewish World Service (AJWS) discussed their use of outcome harvesting to assess results achieved via AJWS's child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) program in India. Ricardo presented outcome harvesting and its application to AJWS' CEFM program. Margo then discussed how the decision to use outcome harvesting aligned with AJWS's approach to research, learning and evaluation, including a dedication to feminist research and meaningful measures of progress when addressing issues that have complex root causes. [View the recording »](#)

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Call for Judges: Coalition Student Competitions

Would you like to help select the next winners of the Coalition's student competitions? Judges will be assigned a set of essays or digital projects to review and score between May 1- 21. If you are interested, please email Theresa Harris at tharris@aaas.org.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Job: Associate, Human Rights (Business for Social Responsibility)

The Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) is in search of an [Human Rights Associate](#) to be responsible for conducting research and analysis, writing, logistics planning, and other support on BSR advisory services for the benefit of BSR members, funders, or other clients. This would include participating in business consulting and training work as required. The position is full-time and based in Paris or Copenhagen and will have a primary focus on business and human rights.

June 1: Call for Input on UN Report: Development and Human Rights

The [Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council](#) of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking input on a questionnaire on the ways in which development contributes to the enjoyment of human rights.

July 1: Global Mental Health, Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program

The Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and Harvard Medical School Department of Global and Continuing Education accredit a [six-month certificate program](#) in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. The first two weeks (November 4-16, 2018) of the program will take place in Italy and the following six months (November 2018 to May 2019) will continue online. The application deadline is July 1, 2018.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

New US Law Raises Concerns Over Data Privacy

As part of the \$1.3-trillion omnibus spending bill signed into law in late March 2018 was the Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data Act, the "CLOUD Act," which includes a measure that gives [US investigators access to data stored on overseas cloud servers](#), resolving a long-running legal battle between law enforcement and [technology companies](#). In a [blog](#), Microsoft explains its view of the law, which it says creates the foundation for a new generation of international agreements and preserves the rights of cloud service providers like Microsoft to protect privacy rights until such agreements are in place. With the new law, the US Supreme Court [ruled](#) in April 2017 that it would not decide whether federal prosecutors can force Microsoft to turn over digital data stored outside the United States. The move followed arguments in the case in February 2018 and the enactment of the new federal law that both sides said made the case moot. Meanwhile, opponents of the CLOUD Act argue that access to information stored overseas could infringe upon [privacy rights](#) and allow foreign governments to obtain communications content without prior judicial authorization and conduct real-time surveillance on Internet service users. In a [blog](#), Neema Singh Guliani, a

legislative counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, and Naureen Shah, senior director of campaigns at the US section of Amnesty International, discuss concerns over the implications for human rights.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Adopts Action Plan to Address Needs of Internally Displaced People

The United Nations [has launched](#) a set of measures to strengthen protection of internally displaced persons as well as find solutions to address their problems. “Addressing the protection needs of the forcibly displaced and seeking solutions to their plight contribute to greater stability for countries and whole regions,” said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in announcing the three-year Plan of Action. The framework, formally called the Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced People (2018-2020), calls on all relevant actors to step up efforts to prevent, respond to, and resolve internal displacement. It also proposes concrete activities to strengthen the participation of internally displaced persons in decisions concerning them, and expand national laws and policies on internal displacement as well as actions to improve data collection and analysis on displacements globally. By the end of 2016, more than 40 million people were displaced within their own countries due to insecurity or rights violations, according to information from the UN. An additional 24 million were displaced due to disasters. Every year, an estimated 15 million people are also displaced by development projects.

Extraction of DNA from Human Remains in Chile Raises Ethical Concerns Among Scientists

The Chilean National Monuments Council, a government agency, has [initiated](#) an investigation of whether the remains of a child were illegally exhumed in 2003, exported to another country, and later used for research. The issue involves the so-called Atacama skeleton for which a team of researchers from Stanford University in California and the University of California, San Francisco used DNA for whole genome sequencing and recently published their results in an [article](#) in *Genome Research*, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal, which has raised ethical concerns in the biological, archaeological, and anthropological communities. In a subsequent [article](#) in *Genome Research*, the researchers outlined that their research was conducted ethically but assert that their results “call for immediate and more urgent attention to the many complex issues related to the study of human remains.” Also, the publishers and editors of *Genome Research* issued a [statement](#) to initiate community discussions aimed at establishing journal policies and author guidelines necessary for the publication of studies involving historical and ancient DNA samples.

Organizations Seek to Assist Displaced Scientists

A recent [article](#) in *Physics Today* describes the personal stories of academics that are refugees and the institutional efforts being made to address their hardships in the wake of increased refugees on a global basis. More than 65 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced, about 22.5 million of whom are refugees from conflict or persecution, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency, but no reliable data exist as to the number of scientists among them. The article highlights the work of several organizations addressing the needs of academics who are refugees, including the [Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund \(IIE-SRF\)](#), [Chance for Science](#), and the [Council for At-Risk Academics](#).

UN Using Various Approaches to Secure Info on Human Rights Violations in Myanmar

In a [statement](#) by Marzuki Darusman, Chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, which was formed by the UN Human Rights Council, said that the team is in the process of verifying, authenticating, corroborating and analyzing information, with a view to presenting its findings in September 2018 on the human rights situation in Myanmar from 2011 onwards as part of a final report to the Council. The research thus far involves more than 600 in-depth interviews with victims and witnesses of alleged human rights violations and abuses as well as consultations with experts, activists, civil society actors, and diplomats. The team is also in contact with people and organizations who are providing information, including the raw data from their research, and the UN team has received and analyzed satellite imagery,

photographs and video footage of events. The UN Human Rights Council [adopted a resolution](#) in March 2017 calling for an independent international fact-finding mission to establish the facts and circumstances of alleged human rights violations and abuses by military and security forces in Myanmar.

Amnesty International Calls on Twitter to Address Human Rights Violations of Women

Amnesty International is [calling](#) on Twitter to implement a series of recommendations to address allegations of the company's failure to meet its human rights responsibilities to ensure safety online and prevent violence and abuse toward women. Amnesty International issued a [report](#) based on qualitative and quantitative research about women's experiences on social media platforms, including the scale, nature and, impact of violence and abuse directed toward women on Twitter, with a particular focus on the UK and US. Amnesty International's research outlined the [human rights responsibilities](#) that Twitter should be held accountable for.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

New Report Details Attacks on Healthcare in Syria

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has issued a report, [Beyond Imagination: Seven Years of Conflict in Syria](#), to detail how a pattern of targeted attacks on healthcare in Syria are causing civilians to be subject not only to the direct consequences of warfare, but also from denial of adequate medical care, malnutrition, and starvation. In the report, PHR's researchers have corroborated 492 attacks on healthcare sites, including 79 hospitals that were struck more than once, from the start of the conflict through the end of 2017. At least 847 medical personnel have been killed in this time period.

New Technologies for Human Rights Law and Practice

Set to be released April 26, [New Technologies for Human Rights Law and Practice](#) provides a roadmap for understanding the relationship between technology and human rights law and practice. The open-access book provides practical insight and strategies to address how new technological innovations provide opportunities to promote and protect human rights but at the same time, they pose risks, including issues of accountability and transparency and the role of human rights in regulating providers of such technology.

PEOPLE

AAG Announces 2018 Wilbanks Award for Transformational Research

The American Association of Geographers presented the new award to Coalition member representative and AAG Executive Director, [Douglas Richardson](#).

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