

COALITION CALENDAR

January 25-26, 2018 Coalition Meeting: Vote on the Meeting Theme

The next Coalition meeting will be held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC, January 25-26, 2018. Vote on the meeting theme at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQ23SGJ>. The theme will be announced September 4, so please vote soon!

July Coalition Meeting Videos and Other Resources Available Online

Many thanks to everyone who made the July 2017 Coalition meeting a success. Want to share the presentations from the meeting with your class, or catch a speaker you missed? [Videos, summaries, and resources](#) are now available. Watch the Coalition's Trellis group and this newsletter for news about the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' activities around the right to science.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

New Report: Giving Meaning to the Right to Science

The second [report](#) arising from the Science and Human Rights Coalition's work on the "Right to Science" gives an international perspective to the meaning of the right. The report reveals shared perceptions of the benefits of science to society across borders, as well as some differences between disciplines.

Oct. 19: AERA Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research

The Annual [Brown Lecture in Education Research](#) is designed to feature the important role of research in advancing understanding of equality and equity in education. The Lectureship was inaugurated in 2004 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, in which the US Supreme Court took into account scientific research in issuing its landmark ruling. This year, Alfredo J. Artiles (Arizona State University), Dean of Graduate Education and the Ryan C. Harris Professor of Special Education, will present the Brown Lecture.

Coalition Members Respond to Charlottesville

Several Coalition member associations issued statements and shared resources from their respective disciplines regarding racism and hate speech.

[American Anthropological Association](#)

[American Association of Geographers](#)

[American Educational Research Association](#)

[American Psychological Association](#)

[American Sociological Association](#)

[Society for Research in Child Development](#)

ASA Features Article on Statistics Against Discrimination

The American Statistical Association's magazine, *CHANCE* and its *AmStat* newsletter featured an [article](#) by Coalition Council member Mary Gray, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at American University, on the use of statistics to address university policies that have discriminatory impacts.

Student Competition Winners Highlighted

Winners of the Coalition's student competitions were applauded by their universities in articles [here](#) and [here](#).

APA Questions Policy Barring Transgender People from Serving in US Military

Citing recent scientific findings and its 2008 resolution supporting full equality for transgender and gender-variant people and legal and social recognition of transgender individuals, the American Psychological Association (APA) questioned the rationale behind the Administration's recent decision to ban transgender individuals from serving in the military. The full statement is available [here](#).

ASA Reiterates Call to Drop Charges Against Greek Statistician

The American Statistical Association (ASA) issued a [statement](#) to provide further support to Dr. Andreas Georgiou, former president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), following his conviction by an appeals court in Greece on charges of violation of duty. In his role at ELSTAT, he was responsible for producing public finance data on the Greek economy, including on Greece's budget deficit. He was subsequently subject to criminal and civil charges for slander, criminal complicity against the state, and violation of duty. Although earlier acquitted of violation-of-duty charges, he was retried and convicted in July 2017. The ASA notes that his data have been accepted many times since 2010 by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union. The ASA is calling for all charges to be dropped. In addition, ASA President, Barry Nussbaum, issued an opinion piece calling on the US Department of State and US Congress to intervene.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Sept. 8: Rights of Children in Humanitarian Situations

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [invites](#) information for a new report on protecting the rights of the child in armed conflict, complex emergencies, and natural disasters.

Oct. 16: Right to Health and Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [requests](#) submissions for its upcoming report on Sustainable Development Goals and Health.

Call for Comments: Performance Indicators for the International Criminal Court

The [International Criminal Court \(ICC\) Forum](#), an online discussion hosted by the UCLA School of Law's Human Rights Project in collaboration with the ICC Office of the Prosecutor, invites comments from experts regarding the ICC's performance indicators. Key questions posed are: what are appropriate ways to measure the ICC's progress towards its goals, and how can the performance of the ICC as a whole be properly assessed?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Experts Invited for New Asylum Witness Database

The Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS) is launching a new searchable database of qualified and pre-vetted country specialists and health professionals to serve as expert witnesses in support of asylum seekers in the US. This service will be offered to attorneys and experts alike, free of charge. If you are an expert and would like to be included in the database, CGRS invites you to send your basic information, including preferred contact, areas of expertise and a copy of your CV, to CGRS-ExpertDB@uchastings.edu. CGRS will then follow up with you as they get closer to the go-live date of the website. Contact CGRS Staff Attorney Robyn Barnard at BarnardRobyn@uchastings.edu with any questions about the project.

Aug. 31: Call for Manuscripts: Human Rights and Infectious Diseases

A new cross-journal article collection in [BMC International Health and Human Rights](#) and [BMC Infectious Diseases](#) is looking to highlight studies that illuminate human rights infringements as structural determinants of infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted infections. This includes epidemiologic studies, interventional outcomes leveraging implementation research, implementation research methods, mathematical modeling studies, and qualitative study of

the contexts in which infectious disease programs are being implemented. Research to be considered for inclusion can be submitted directly to [BMC International Health and Human Rights](#) and [BMC Infectious Diseases](#) or you can email presubmission inquiries to Philippa.Harris@biomedcentral.com

Sept. 1: AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility is presented annually by AAAS to honor scientists and engineers whose exemplary actions have fostered scientific freedom and responsibility. More information about how to make a nomination is available [here](#).

Sept. 5-6: United Way Business Leaders Forum to Combat Human Trafficking

Leaders from Nokia, Total, Deloitte, and IBM are among the speakers representing industry, government, and NGOs who will discuss what the business community is doing to stop human trafficking. Information and registration are available [here](#).

Sept. 6–Oct. 17: Environment, Development, and Human Rights e-Course

The Human Rights Center of the University for Peace is offering a [six-week course](#) that will examine the linkages between the environment, development, and human rights and how these linkages may assist efforts to protect both the environment and human rights. The interdisciplinary course will address climate change, environmental degradation, mitigation and adaptation, migration, human rights based approaches to the environment, loss and damage, and the environment and human rights in the light of the post-2015 development agenda.

Sept. 28-29: Human Rights and the Arctic

The seventh [Human Rights and Science Symposium](#), hosted by the Council of Finnish Academies, will discuss the human rights dimension in Arctic studies. The focal themes revolve around the rights of indigenous peoples, preconditions of scientific research in the Arctic, and the human rights perspectives in research and utilization of natural resources. While the program on September 28 is only for European science academy representatives, the event on September 29 is open to the public.

Oct. 2-4: 2017 Social Forum Highlights Human Right to Health

The 2017 Social Forum, an [annual meeting](#) convened by the United Nations Human Rights Council, will focus on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases and epidemics.

Nov. 5-17: Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program

The [Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma's](#) (HPRT) Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program is [seeking applicants](#). The training program offers a cultural and scientific learning experience to address the needs of traumatized persons or communities worldwide. The course involves a two-week learning program in Italy followed by five months of collaborative online learning. Certificates of completion are awarded by HPRT and the Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Settlement Reached Against Psychologists Who Created CIA Enhanced Interrogation

A [settlement](#) was reached in a civil lawsuit brought by three victims of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) "enhanced interrogation" program that was adopted after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The plaintiffs—two former detainees and the family of a third who died in custody—had sought unspecified punitive and compensatory damages against two psychologists under contract with the CIA to create the interrogation program. The American Psychological Association issued a [statement](#) emphasizing that the settlement does not relieve the psychologists of their ethical responsibilities.

Concerns over Human Trafficking Addressed by Communities in Path of Solar Eclipse

Representatives from [Kentucky](#), [Nebraska](#), and other areas in the path of the solar eclipse on Aug. 21 highlighted concerns about human trafficking due to the large crowds expected in these locations. The [Kentucky Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force](#) led an effort in that state to inform the public about what human trafficking is, what signs to look for, and what the community can do to combat it.

Human Rights Groups Seek Congressional Intervention in Asylum Denial for Scholar

A [coalition of human rights advocacy groups](#), including Scholars at Risk, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, the Middle East Studies Association, and Refugees International, has called on the US Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate the US Customs and Immigration Service's announcement that it intends to deny the application of Syrian writer, scholar, and human rights activist, Dr. Radwan Ziadeh, and urge the immigration service to reverse its decision. Dr. Ziadeh had been denied asylum on the basis that he engaged in terrorist activity when organizing a series of working groups and conferences that examined pro-democratic policies in Syria. The groups called that assertion "baseless" and point to his well-established study of international affairs, including serving as a visiting scholar at Harvard, Columbia, New York University, Georgetown, and George Washington University.

UN Global Compact CEO Offers Commentary on Human Rights and Business

Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director, UN Global Compact, a UN voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to human rights and sustainability practices, issued a [commentary](#) to highlight the importance of business in human rights issues in the aftermath of the violence resulting from protests in Charlottesville, Virginia earlier this month and the ensuing debate over the US government's statements on this event. She noted several CEOs of UN Global Compact companies decided to step down from the current Administration's economic council, citing anti-discrimination concerns, including Kenneth Frazier (Merck & Co.), Brian Krzanich (Intel), Denise Morrison (Campbell Soup), and Inge Thulin (3M). She issued her support for business leaders in supporting human rights and in disavowing racism and intolerance.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Turkish Crackdown Takes Toll on Academic Output

The failed coup in Turkey in 2016 has had serious impact on the country's academic productivity. A recent [article](#) in *Chemistry World* points out that since the attempted military takeover in July 2016, the number of papers published by Turkish scientists and academics has dropped by 28% to 27,600. The greatest fall in publications was seen in the social sciences followed by medicine. The article also points to data that show that more than 8,000 academics have lost their jobs since the coup. A recent [article](#) in *University News* points to further issues facing academics in Turkey and highlighted by Scholars at Risk, including including criminal investigations, detentions, prosecutions, mass dismissal, expulsion, and restrictions on travel.

UN Debates Universal Basic Income as a Human Right

Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, presented a [report](#) at the UN Human Rights Council in "universal basic income" (UBI) as a means to protect and promote human rights in light of the economic insecurity caused by globalization and technological change. UBI involves regular payment made to an individual to guarantee a floor income as opposed to a payment based on needs of households. The report calls for acknowledgement that economic insecurity represents a fundamental threat to human rights and calls for the rights to work, social security, and an adequate standard of living to be accorded prominence on the human rights agenda. A follow-up discussion with Alston is available [here](#).

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Article Examines Role of Science in Torture

An [article](#) in the *Texas Law Review* explores the issue of whether there was scientific rationale for interrogation methods used by the Central Intelligence Agency following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The article points to documents that claim that CIA conducted a clandestine program of human-subjects research on the risks and efficacy of torture. The article asserts that on the basis of available science there is no evidence that torture is more effective than lawful interrogation and that interviewing strategies grounded in persuasion and cognition may be most effective.

PEOPLE

The American Statistical Association (ASA) honored **Mary Gray** with the 2017 Karl E. Peace Award for Outstanding Statistical Contributions for the Betterment of Society. Dr. Gray was honored for her “innovative use of statistics for fighting discrimination through the promotion of equality and human rights; for legal advocacy in court cases; and for leadership in multiple societies, including as first president of the Association for Women in Mathematics and chair of the American Middle East Educational and Training Services.” Mary Gray is a representative of the ASA to the Coalition. Congratulations!

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