

## COALITION CALENDAR

### **Jan. 26-27: Coalition Meeting | Human Right to Water**

Registration is now open! Sessions will focus on the human right to water and the roles of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in protecting this right. Confirmed speakers include: Marc Edwards and Yanna Lambrinidou (Virginia Tech); Inga Winkler (Columbia University); Mauricio Pardón (PAHO); Brian Schmaefsky (Lone Star College); Joyell Arscott (Duke University); Catherine Flowers (Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise); Sacoby Wilson (University of Maryland); and Andrew Rosenberg (Union of Concerned Scientists). The agenda and registration are available [here](#).

### **Executive Directors' Circle: Jan. 27, 8:30–10:00 a.m.**

Executive Officers of the Coalition's member and affiliated organizations have been invited to participate in the Executive Directors' Circle, which will include a discussion of the science and human rights landscape in the new administration. AAAS's CEO Rush Holt will chair the meeting. Executive officers should contact Jessica Wyndham at [jwyndham@aaas.org](mailto:jwyndham@aaas.org) if they plan to attend.

### **Coalition Council Meeting: Jan. 27, 1:00–5:00 p.m.**

Representatives of Coalition member organizations will come together to further discuss and make decisions concerning implementation of the Coalition's "future visioning" process. If you are a member of the Coalition Council, please note that when you register for the Coalition meeting. If you can only attend the Council meeting and do not plan to attend the other portions of the two-day Coalition meeting, please email Jessica Wyndham at [jwyndham@aaas.org](mailto:jwyndham@aaas.org).

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Article 15 Questionnaire: We Need Your Feedback**

Have your say! Help us reach scientists, engineers and health professionals across the globe! Please respond to this [brief questionnaire](#) aimed at understanding the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications, which is codified in the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and then **forward [the link](#)** to your colleagues in other countries.

### **President-Elect Trump & the Right to Water**

In an [article](#) in *Sigma Xi Speaks*, Jeffrey Toney, a Coalition representative of Sigma Xi, an international honor society of science and engineering, discusses the future of clean water under the new US Presidential Administration and the role scientists can play in the right to water, including through the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition.

### **Linguistics Society of America Adopts New Guidelines for Inclusive Language**

The Linguistics Society of America (LSA) has adopted a new set of [Guidelines for Inclusive Language](#), which include updates to the LSA's Guidelines for Nonsexist Usage. The new guidelines are recommended for use by linguists in their teaching, writing, research, and related professional activities.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

### **Dec. 31: Questionnaire: Climate Change and Child Rights**

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights invites input for an upcoming report on climate change and child rights. More information and questionnaire available [here](#).

### **Seeking Respondents to Survey on Nonmedical DNA Applications**

The Duke Initiative for Science & Society at Duke University is seeking respondents for a [survey](#) that will examine: (1) general views and attitudes toward genetic testing and (2) perspectives on the use of DNA in immigration, missing persons, and human trafficking.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **March 17: Call for Proposals: Human Rights Research and Advocacy**

The University of Dayton's Human Rights Center is calling for theoretical and applied research [proposals](#) from scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and advocates on a broad array of topics in human rights for a conference, "[The Social Practice of Human Rights: Charting the Frontiers of Research and Advocacy](#)," for Nov. 8–10, 2017.

### **Jan. 16: Call for Papers-International Criminal Justice: Theory, Policy and Practice**

The Socio-Legal Studies Association's [annual conference](#), being held at Newcastle University in the UK, Apr. 5–7, 2017, will include four panel discussions as part of an [international criminal justice stream](#). Both individual papers and panel submission (of three related papers) can be submitted for consideration. Select papers from the conference will be published in a forthcoming edition of *The Hague Justice Journal*.

### **Job Opportunity: Director of Programs, Human Rights Program, The Carter Center**

The Carter Center is [seeking](#) a Director of Programs for its Human Rights Program, who will be responsible for designing and implementing activities related to the human rights portfolio, through high-level contacts with representatives of governments, non-governmental organizations and international organizations, including the United Nations.

### **Call for Applications: Fellowship in Human Rights and Income Inequality**

The [Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice](#) at the University of Texas at Austin, an interdisciplinary human rights center housed in the School of Law, seeks applications for a two-year residential [fellowship](#) beginning in Summer 2017 in which the Fellow will provide intellectual and administrative leadership for a multi-year project on human rights and economic inequality.

### **Jan. 9: Applications Due for Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships**

The Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF) is accepting [applications](#) from scholars facing threats to their lives or careers. Professors, researchers, and public intellectuals from any country, field, or discipline may apply.

### **Diploma in Sustainable Development and Human Rights Offered**

The Human Rights Center of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace is offering a [new Professional Development Diploma](#) in Sustainable Development and Human Rights, courses for which can be taken entirely online. The program focuses on the human rights dimensions of sustainable development with a major thrust on the implementation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals through human-rights-based approaches.

## **SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA**

### **Opponents of Dakota Pipeline Score Victory; Voice Human Rights Concerns**

Opponents of a plan to construct the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would transport crude oil across four states from North Dakota to Illinois, scored a victory when the [US Army Corps of Engineers denied a permit](#) needed to build a section of the pipeline. In September, [the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples](#) called on US authorities to halt the construction of the pipeline on the grounds that it posed a significant risk to the drinking water of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and

threatened to destroy their burial grounds and sacred sites. The future of the pipeline, however, remains uncertain as opponents of the pipeline gathered in Washington DC to express concern over President-Elect Trump's previous public support of the pipeline, according to reports by the [Washington Post](#) and [PBS](#). The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, part of the Organization of American States, invited representatives of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and Yankton Sioux Tribe to speak at a [hearing](#) on Dec. 9 in Washington on the "Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Persons in the Context of Projects and Extractive Industries in the United States."

### **President Obama, Former President Carter Speak Out on Human Rights Day**

In a [commentary](#) in the *Wall Street Journal*, former President Jimmy Carter, in recognition of Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, addressed the role individuals can play to promote human rights worldwide. He emphasized the country's founding principles of equal protection under the law and stressed the importance of protecting the rights of racial and religious minorities and guaranteeing women equal access to leadership and protection under the law. He said that the only title "higher and more powerful than that of President is citizen." [President Barack Obama also recognized](#) Human Rights Day and declared the week beginning Dec. 10 as Human Rights Week.

### **The Nexus of Design and Spatial Analysis Discussed at AAAS for Human Rights Day**

Bradley Samuels, partner of SITU, a Brooklyn-based company focused on design, visualization, and spatial analysis, provided the [keynote address](#) at the AAAS Human Rights Breakfast on Dec. 7. He explained how his firm's research division leverages design skills and technical expertise to present complex information pivotal to human rights cases.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Examining the Internet as a Human Right**

An [analysis](#) released by the Brookings Institution explored the impact of the UN's decision to consider the Internet a human right as stated in [Article 19](#) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The analysis found that Article 19 is a "soft" law in that it "only recommends actions for nation states," thus "lacking any enforcement mechanisms as a 'hard' law would." The analysis suggests that the UN could promote universal Internet access through the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

### **UN Urges the Global Community to 'Stand up for Someone's Rights'**

UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon's [message](#) to the global community in recognition of Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 called on individuals to "stand up for someone's rights today, tomorrow, and every day." He emphasized the commitment of the UN to focus on the interdependence of the three pillars of the UN—peace, sustainable development, and human rights. Ban-Ki Moon's message to "stand up for someone's rights" refers to the organization's new global human rights campaign, "[Stand Up for Someone's Rights Today!](#)"

### **UN Holds Special Session on Human Rights Violations in South Sudan**

The UN Human Rights Council held a [special session](#) on December 14 to discuss the situation of human rights in South Sudan in which it warned about an imminent risk of violence in South Sudan escalating along ethnic lines with the potential for genocide. The Council [adopted a resolution](#) in which it condemned the ongoing violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in South Sudan and reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. It urged the government of South Sudan to appoint a Special Representative on sexual and gender-based violence.

### **Discrimination Toward Rohingya People has Severe Consequences for Health**

An [article](#) in the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, outlined the effects of discrimination towards Rohingya people in Myanmar and other Asian countries. The report, cited in a recent [New York Times article](#), said that the government of Myanmar's role in discrimination toward the Rohingya people's access to reproductive care, beginning in the 1970s, could be categorized as genocide or ethnic cleansing. Separately, Amnesty International issued on [report](#) condemning a recent campaign of violence against the Rohingya people that may amount to crimes against humanity.

### **Forbes Commentary Notes Leadership Challenges in 2017 Are About Human Rights**

Based on an [annual list](#) of the top 10 business and human rights issues in 2017 by the London-based think tank, Institute for Human Rights and Business, a [commentary](#) in *Forbes* relates these issues directly to leadership challenges in 2017. Among the top 10 issues are the role of business in addressing income inequality and the "rise of the gig economy," referring to Internet-based work, which offers workers greater flexibility but can limit workers access to labor unions and important benefits such as health insurance. The list calls on the private sector to set forth opportunities to incorporate refugees, estimated at 65 million displaced people, according to [White House information](#), in the global economy through employment, education, and empowerment.

### **Microsoft Forms Partnership for Human Rights Education**

In honor of Human Rights Day, Microsoft [announced a new partnership](#) with the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley to affirm its commitment to human rights in business education. The company released [an updated global human rights statement](#) that asserts that technology is an essential medium to the promotion of human rights worldwide and is part of the company's commitment to consider vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. The partnership with UC Berkeley plans to integrate human rights issues such as privacy, freedom of expression, and inclusion.

## **MUST-READ REPORTS**

### **Global Support For Placing Limits on War; But Greater Indifference to Torture**

The results of a [survey](#) by the International Committee of the Red Cross that examined how people perceive a range of issues relating to war indicates overwhelming support in the belief that wars should have limits, but also reveals deeply concerning views on torture and civilian casualties.

### **Guide for Protecting Higher Education from Attack Launched**

The Global Coalition to Protect Education From Attack (GCPEA) has launched its [Guide to implementing the Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education from Attack](#). This guide provides direction on the implementation of [Principles of State Responsibility to Protect Higher Education From Attack](#), which includes six major recommendations to protect educational institutions and maintain academic autonomy in communities under "conflict and insecurity."

## **PEOPLE**

### **Thank you to Project Proposal Review Panel**

Over the past month, Cliff Duke, Jerry Krase, and Elaine Scheye have volunteered their time to review the first round of proposals received through the Coalition's new process for selecting and approving Coalition projects. This process is an important part of the Coalition's move to increase its agility and responsiveness and to create more opportunities for individuals to get involved. Thank you Cliff, Jerry, and Elaine for your time and wise advice!

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