

COALITION CALENDAR

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

Register now! Sessions will focus on the human right to water and the roles of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in protecting this right. In addition to panels that highlight successful partnerships and emerging opportunities to get involved, the meeting will offer a workshop on building community partnerships that advance justice. 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 are 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 if they plan to attend.

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

If you are a member of the Coalition Council, please note that when you register for the Coalition meeting. If you will only attend the Council meeting and no other portions of the two-day Coalition meeting, please email Jessica Wyndham at jwyndham@aaas.org.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

LSA Executive Committee OKs Statement Supporting Opponents of Dakota Pipeline

The Executive Committee of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) has approved a [statement](#) in support of those working to prevent the construction of a natural gas pipeline adjacent to the reservation of the Standing Rock Sioux. In September 2016, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples called for a halt to the pipeline, which would transport crude oil across four states from North Dakota to Illinois, on the grounds 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 statement, to be voted on by the full LSA membership, expresses concerns about the “disturbances to cultural autonomy, sacred spaces, and traditional ways of living,” and the impact on the “social fabric and linguistic continuity of this community.”

CWRU Science and Human Rights Coalition Holds Film Screening for Human Rights

In honor of Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Science and Human Rights Coalition held a [screening and discussion](#) of the film, [Blue Gold: World Water Wars](#), a documentary that examines the implications of a dwindling water supply.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Feb. 9: OECD Accepting Comments on Business Due Diligence Guidance

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is currently developing general *Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct* to provide practical support to companies on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, inclusive of human rights impacts. The OECD is [asking for comment](#) on two draft documents: [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#) and the [Companion to the Due Diligence Guidance](#).

March 1: UN Seeks Input on Impact of Overincarceration

The Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights is seeking [input](#) for a report on the non-

discrimination and protection of persons with increased vulnerability in the administration of justice with respect to the causes and effects of overincarceration and overcrowding.

March 10: Call for Concept Notes: Humanitarian Research

The US State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) is calling for [research concept notes](#) that address one of the following: (1) financial tools most effective and sustainable at different stages of humanitarian assistance for refugee populations; (2) the impact of statelessness on economic development; or (3) other compelling humanitarian research topic. After reviewing concept notes, the PRM will invite select organizations to expand their submissions into full proposals with detailed budgets.

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.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Special Rapporteur of Human Rights Visits Myanmar Amidst Escalating Violence

Amid [reports](#) of increasing violence against members of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar, the [UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar](#), Yanghee Lee, began a 12-day visit to the country on Jan. 9 to address a broad range of human rights issues with government authorities and various stakeholders, including political and community leaders, civil society representatives, victims of human rights violations, and members of the international community. In line with her mandate from the UN Human Rights Council, Lee has proposed benchmarks to help monitor and assess progress in the situation of human rights in Myanmar and hopes, at the end of her visit, to arrive at mutually agreed benchmarks with the government, which will include priority areas for technical assistance and capacity building. Following her visit, she will present a report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2017.

UN Addresses Business's Role in Human Rights in Advance of World Economic Forum

In advance of the World Economic Forum, an annual gathering of business and political leaders, to be held Jan. 17–20 in Davos, Switzerland, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein [called on](#) business leaders to use their influence to stand up for human rights and prevent rights violations in the countries where they operate. Zeid also welcomed the increasing participation by large multinational corporations in the annual [UN Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) and the growing implementation of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

Science Feature Highlights Investigations in Mexico

A recent [article](#) in *Science* examines how forensic anthropologists are working to assist individuals, families, and other organizations in addressing the "epidemic of disappearances." Since the beginning of the drug war in 2006, more than 28,000 people have gone missing across the country, according to Mexico's National Registry of Missing or Disappeared Persons. The article examines the work of the Mexican Forensic Anthropology Team (EMAF), which uses scientific and legal expertise in investigating these cases.

UN Secretary General Urges Conflict Prevention to Promote Peace

In his first time [speaking](#) before the Security Council as Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres spoke on the importance of conflict prevention and highlighted the need for diplomacy to achieve peace, in partnership with regional organizations, civil society and the business community. Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, who chaired the meeting [noted](#) that "Investing in prevention is not only

morally right. It is the smart, economically sound and sustainable thing to do," stressing that "we need" a "new political consensus in support of prevention."

MUST-READ REPORTS

Report Provides Indicators for Assessing Business-Related Impacts on Human Rights

The Institute for Development and Peace (INEP), a social science research institute of the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, has issued a report, [*Assessing Business-Related Impacts on Human Rights*](#), which identifies the application of proposed indicators with respect to state approaches to protecting rights-holders against business-related harm in terms of law, policy, regulation, adjudication and participation in multilateral, international and regional organizations. The study also presents a practical methodology for how the proposed indicators can strengthen current private-sector approaches in corporate social responsibility with respect to human rights.

Human Rights Watch Issues World Report

Human Rights Watch has issued its [*World Report 2017*](#), a review of human right practices around the globe. It summarizes key human rights issues in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide, drawing on events from late 2015 through November 2016.

UN Issues Publications to Support States in Human Rights Implementation

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has issued two [new publications](#) to provides tools for states for their human rights protection systems as they face increasing requirements for implementing treaties and the associated reporting as well as following up on recommendations from international human rights mechanisms. [*The Practical Guide for Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms*](#) and its accompanying [Study](#) provide best practices from states that created central structures, called National Mechanism for Reporting Follow-up (NMRF), to coordinate among the various government ministries, specialized institutions, parliament, and the judiciary, and to consult with civil society and national human rights institutions.

PEOPLE

Welcome to New Coalition Members

At the January Coalition meeting, we will welcome representatives from two new organizational members. Hector Delgado and John Dale will attend on behalf of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Bill Lenart and Symone Alexander will represent the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Science and Human Rights Coalition, a student-led organization chartered at CWRU last year.

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