

COALITION CALENDAR

Aug. 7: Steering Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Coalition's Steering Committee will be held August 7 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Nov. 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development

UNESCO's theme for the 2018 commemoration is "[Science, a Human Right](#)." The theme was chosen in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 27) and to draw attention to the UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Symposium on Human Rights and Higher Education

The Coalition symposium was a success! Thank you to those who participated and contributed to the wonderful discussions. [Watch the recorded symposium in full »](#)

2018 AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Student Essay Winners

This year's winners include graduate student [Irene Fogarty](#) from the University College Dublin for her essay on conservation and the human rights of indigenous peoples, and undergrad Neil Thivalapill from Columbia University for his essay on neglected tropical diseases. [Read more »](#)

Welcome, New Coalition Steering Committee Members

The Coalition Council approved the following new Steering Committee members: John Dale (Society for the Study of Social Problems), Mary Gray (American Statistical Association), Tal Simmons (Virginia Commonwealth University), and Yvonne Vissing (Salem State University). Mindy Reiser (member-at-large) was reappointed for a second term. Thank you to past committee members Brian Gran, Michele Irwin, Margaret Satterthwaite, and Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn for your contributions to the Coalition.

Coalition Members Share Research on the Negative Impacts of Family Separation

Several Coalition member organizations have issued statements in response to the recent US "zero-tolerance" immigration policy that allowed for the separation and detainment of immigrant children from their parents or guardians at the US–Mexico border: the [American Anthropological Association](#), the [American Educational Research Association](#), the [American Psychological Association](#), the [Global Alliance on Behavioral Health and Social Justice](#), and the [Society for Research in Child Development](#) (SRCD). In addition, SRCD hosted a webinar, "[The Science of Childhood Trauma and Family Separation: A Discussion of Short- and Long Term Effects](#)." The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) has published a virtual issue of *Social Issues* about the effects of child maltreatment and family separation. The issue, [The Caged Children Generation: When Governments Authorize the Practice of Child Maltreatment](#), compiles recent articles from SPSSI journals to inform public discourse on the psychological and social consequences of parent–child separations.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

July 24: International Human Rights and Technology Conference in Australia

The Australian Human Rights Commission is holding an [international conference on human rights and technology](#) in Sydney, which will examine the human rights impacts of Big Data, artificial intelligence, and social media. Invited speakers include representatives from business, government, and academia.

Aug 1: Call for Nominations – AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility

The [AAAS Award for Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#) is presented annually to honor scientists and engineers, or their organizations, whose exemplary actions have fostered scientific freedom and responsibility. The deadline for nominations is August 1. A list of past recipients can be found [here](#).

Call for Input: Survey on Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing and Natural Sciences

The International Science Council (ISC), a nongovernmental organization whose mission is to give scientists worldwide the opportunity to collaborate on projects and exchange information, has initiated a project, [“A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It.”](#) The project is seeking the input of those involved in the mathematical, computing, and natural sciences at all levels, including students, in a [global survey](#) to collect data about the situation of scientists and mathematicians worldwide as well as focused information about women in these fields. The data provided will help inform interventions by the ISC and member unions to increase participation, especially for women. The survey is open until October 2018 with the goal of reaching 45,000 respondents in more than 130 countries.

Job: Director of Research and Investigations (Physicians for Human Rights)

Physicians for Human Rights, a non-profit organization committed to using medicine and science to document and call attention to mass atrocities and severe human rights violations, is searching for a [Director for the Research and Investigations program](#). The position primarily involves management, oversight, and development in existing research and investigations program areas and new program development within the organization’s framework of investigating, documenting, and advocating to prevent human rights violations.

Job: Research Program Manager (Access to Medicine Foundation)

The Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark team at the Access to Medicine Foundation, a non-profit organization guiding pharmaceutical companies on access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries, is looking for an experienced [Research Program Manager](#) to join the team in charge of developing the Antimicrobial Resistance Benchmark, a new tracking tool for evaluating how pharmaceutical companies are taking action to limit antimicrobial resistance.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

Recent Ads Raise Awareness about Civil Rights for Undocumented Students

[The Leadership Conference Education Fund](#), a national organization that also engages on the state and local levels to advance civil and human rights, has launched [Spanish language radio ads](#) in Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, regarding civil rights protections for undocumented students. The ads emphasize that the Constitution and the Supreme Court guarantee all children in the U.S. the right to attend school regardless of immigration status.

U.S. Professors Cite Human Rights Breaches in Immigration Policy for Family Separations

More than 2,000 faculty members at colleges and universities across the U.S. signed an [open letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to [denounce](#) recent US immigration policy under which children have been separated from their parents at the U.S.–Mexico border. The letter says that separation of children from primary-care providers as part of enforcement of US immigration laws constitutes an “extreme human rights breach.”

The National Academies Cite Health and Human Rights Concerns in Family Separations

The Presidents of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine issued a [statement](#) on June 20 urging the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to immediately stop separating migrant children from their families. Highlighting the National Academies' body of evidence on the factors that affect the welfare of children, the Presidents point to the danger of immigration enforcement actions that separate children from their parents. "Research indicates that these family separations jeopardize the short- and long-term health and well-being of the children involved," said the Presidents in their statement. "In addition, the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies, which has a long history of addressing issues at the intersection of human rights, science, and health, stresses that the practice of separating parents from their children at the border is inconsistent with U.S. obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Some Projects by Technology Companies Raise Concerns Among Employees

A recent [article](#) in the *New York Times* highlights several recent examples of how employees of technology companies, such as Amazon, Google, and Microsoft, have raised concerns or protested over the use of technology in certain company projects with governmental agencies. Among the examples noted are Amazon's sale of facial recognition technology to law-enforcement agencies, a data processing and artificial intelligence project by Microsoft with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and a Google project with the US Department of Defense to use machine learning to improve the accuracy of drones.

Microsoft CEO Raises Human Rights in Facial Recognition Technology; Seeks Regulation

In a [blog post](#) on July 13, Microsoft Chief Executive Officer Brad Smith highlighted human rights issues in facial recognition technology and called on the US Congress to form an expert commission on how best to regulate the technology in the US. "Facial recognition technology raises issues that go to the heart of fundamental human rights protections like privacy and freedom of expression," said Smith. "These issues heighten responsibility for tech companies that create these products. In our view, they also call for thoughtful government regulation and for the development of norms around acceptable uses." He further added that "Congress should create a bipartisan expert commission to assess the best way to regulate the use of facial recognition technology in the United States. This should build on recent work by academics and in the public and private sectors to assess these issues and to develop clearer ethical principles for this technology."

Asylum Seekers in the U.S. On Track for Lowest Levels, Study Says

Researchers from the University of Minnesota released a [study](#) that provided a comprehensive needs and readiness assessment of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program. The study found that the recent number of people seeking asylum in the U.S. is drastically lower this year than last and that the U.S. is on track to admit the fewest refugees since creation of the resettlement program. The study was conducted to understand the current sociopolitical climate, particularly as it relates to Syrians. The researchers' [findings](#) were published in the journal, *International Migration*.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Conflict Resolution: Examining Ways to Protect Against Nation-State Cyberattacks

An [article](#) in *Just Security*, an online forum for the analysis of law, rights, and U.S. national security policy based at the New York University School of Law, points out that while governments, companies, and civil society organizations have recognized the importance of protecting human rights online, the international community has failed to fully uphold these core principles in cyberspace. It points to recent efforts by Microsoft to address this shortcoming by proposing the creation of a "Digital Geneva Convention" to protect civilians from nation-state cyberattacks. The authors assert that while Microsoft's concept is a step in the right direction, there are better examples from existing models of international conflict reduction for preventing conflicts in cyberspace. The article outlines several alternatives.

Placing Human Rights in the Debate on Artificial Intelligence

In a [commentary](#), [Christiaan van Veen](#) at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at the New York University School of Law and Senior Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, and [Corinne Cath](#) of the Oxford Internet Institute, a multi-disciplinary department of social and computer science at Oxford University and the Alan Turing Institute, the UK national institute for data science, discuss the value human rights can add to the debate on the use of artificial intelligence (AI). They also examine what the global human rights community can do to ensure that human rights become part of the discussions on the future of AI.

Further, in an [article](#) in *Open Democracy*, Dunja Mijatović, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, examines human rights issues in the use of artificial intelligence (AI). She asserts that finding the right balance between the benefits of technological developments and human rights protection is an “urgent matter.” She says that AI can negatively affect a wide range of human rights, particularly when decisions are made using systems with no transparency, accountability, and safeguards on how systems are designed, how they work, and how they may change over time. She calls for stronger cooperation between state actors—governments, parliaments, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies—private companies, academia, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and also the public at large. She emphasizes that states need to make sure that the private sector, which bears the responsibility for AI design, programming, and implementation, upholds human rights standards.

Researchers Advance New Metrics to Measure Human Rights Globally

A team of researchers at the University of Georgia (UGA) is using a new [approach](#) to measure how countries address civil and political rights issues. The team, which includes K. Chad Clay, Assistant Professor in UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs and co-founder of the [Human Rights Measurement Initiative \(HRMI\)](#), a collaborative program among academics, human rights practitioners, and nongovernmental organizations to advance human rights, developed several human rights metrics by conducting pilot surveys in October and November 2017 among human rights experts from 13 countries: Angola, Australia, Brazil, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. The researchers said that HRMI’s work is meant to improve on pre-existing civil and political rights measures, both in terms of coverage and in usefulness for gauging how countries are meeting the needs of their people. The team plans to host a workshop in South Africa in the fall to get feedback from NGOs and human rights advocates to improve and expand their measures.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Gender and Internet of Things (G-IoT) Resource List

Researchers at the University College London (UCL) in collaboration with the London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium, Privacy International and the PETRAS IoT Research Hub have put out a [resource list](#) that is intended as supplementary material to better inform and guide victims of technology-facilitated abuse as well as those working with them. It lists organizations that produce guidelines and advice and highlights known methods of abuse that perpetrators may exploit. It also serves as a reference point to provide additional information on common cybersecurity and privacy issues. The list is part of research that examined the implications of ‘Internet of Things (IoT) technologies, such as smart voice assistants or wearables, on victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Guides for Documenting Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Iraq, Myanmar and Sri Lanka

The Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) and international anti-torture organization REDRESS have launched [a series of country-specific supplements](#) to assist those documenting and investigating conflict-related sexual violence in [Myanmar](#), [Sri Lanka](#) and [Iraq](#). The supplements [complement](#) the *International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict*, which is a

resource for practitioners, covering theoretical, legal and practical aspects of documentation of sexual violence as a war crime, crime against humanity, act of genocide, or other serious violation of international criminal, human rights, or humanitarian law. The country-specific supplements examine the specific context for such violence in the country, the forms it commonly takes and impacts it may have, available legal avenues for justice at the domestic and international levels, specific evidential and procedural requirements and relevant practical issues that may arise when documenting conflict-related sexual violence crimes.

PEOPLE

Congratulations to [Sheryl Luzzadder Beach](#), who has declared her goal for her year as President of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) to highlight the connections between geography and human rights.

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