
COALITION CALENDAR

March 16: Can Statistics Help Us Better Understand Human Trafficking?

In a lecture co-sponsored by the AAAS, the Washington Statistical Society, the Capital Area Social Psychological Association, and others, Davina Durgana, senior researcher and statistician on the Global Slavery Index of the Walk Free Foundation, will present recent efforts to evaluate the technical and statistical merits of potential methods of estimating human trafficking prevalence in the United States. Can't make it in person? Watch along [here on Facebook Live](#) at 12:30pm EDT.

April 1-30: Call for Entries: Student Competitions

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit entries for the Science and Human Rights Coalition's essay and digital media competitions. For both competitions, applications will be accepted between April 1 and April 30:

Essay Competition: Students are invited to submit an essay (up to 1,500 words) on any topic at the intersection of science and human rights. Rules and how to enter may be found [here](#).

Digital Media Competition: Students are invited to submit a creative work using digital media (videos, podcasts, games, apps) that explores the connections between science and human rights. Rules and how to enter may be found [here](#).

April 1: New Coalition Project Proposals Due

Do you have an idea for a project to further the Coalition's goals? Submit your proposal to the Secretariat by April 1. [More information »](#)

July 27-28: Save the Date! Coalition Meeting | Article 15

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting in July will focus on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Presentations will include updates on the Coalition's project to better define this right in international human rights discourse and opportunities for future involvement by Coalition members.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

AAA Adopts Resolution Against Torture

The American Anthropological Association (AAA) Committee on Human Rights adopted a [resolution](#) reaffirming support for the UN Declaration and Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The resolution further states that no anthropologist should knowingly contribute to these human rights violations; that anthropologists should intervene to try to stop torture and report it if they witness such acts; and calls on the US administration to uphold its obligations to prohibit torture under international law.

APSA Posts Video of Plenary Address Examining the Progress of Human Rights

The [American Political Science Association](#) recently posted a [video](#) from its 2016 meeting of the plenary address by [Kathryn Sikkink](#), professor of human rights policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and professor at the RadcliffeCarr Center for Human Rights Policy. Titled "Are We Making Progress on Human Rights? Transformations in Knowledge and Activism," the talk lays out Professor Sikkink's arguments that the so-called death of human rights has been greatly exaggerated. Sikkink directly and methodically challenges the pessimistic rhetoric that has infected human rights writing and punditry in recent years and argues that rigorous academic analysis suggests that there is much reason to hope.

April 5-9: Mainstreaming Human Rights in Geography and the AAG

The [2017 Annual Meeting](#) of the [American Association of Geographers \(AAG\)](#), held April 5-9 in Boston, will explore a special theme of the intersection of human rights and geography and build on the AAG's decade-long initiatives on mainstreaming human rights in geography and the AAG. The meeting will feature 50 sessions with more than 250 presentations from leading human rights organizations, academia, government, and international organizations.

AAAS Speaks at Engineers Without Borders' Human Rights and Science Forum

Theresa Harris, Project Director in the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, spoke at the [Science, Technology, and Human Rights Forum](#), organized by the New Jersey Institute of Technology's chapter of [Engineers Without Borders](#) on Feb. 21. She spoke on human rights issues that the AAAS is advancing with respect to scientists and engineers, including freedom to associate with other scientists, freedom to conduct research (responsibly), freedom to communicate scientific knowledge, and freedom of movement (including the right to travel) as well other human rights work of the AAAS. The forum also featured presentations from students about the relationship between science and human rights.

AAAS Honors Kurt Gottfried, Professor Emeritus of Physics, Cornell University

[Kurt Gottfried](#), professor emeritus of physics at Cornell University and a recognized expert on nuclear arms control, was [awarded](#) the AAAS [Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award](#) "for his long and distinguished career as a 'civic scientist,' through his advocacy for arms control, human rights and integrity in the use of science in public policy making." He was presented the award at the AAAS Annual Meeting held February 16-20 in Boston.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

April 7: UN Seeks Input on Human Rights to Water and Sanitation

The UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation is creating a report about the regulation of water and sanitation services in the context of realization of human rights. The Special Rapporteur is seeking input through a [questionnaire](#). The report is to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in September 2017.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

March 29-31: RightsCon Brussels Focuses on the Internet and Human Rights

[RightsCon](#), a conference addressing issues of the Internet and human rights, will be held in Brussels on March 29-31, and will bring together 1,200 attendees from 80 countries with 500+ organizations, tech companies, universities, startups, and governments represented to shape the global conversation on how to keep the Internet open, free, and secure.

April 30: Call for Workshop Submissions and Paper Proposals

[Workshop submissions and paper proposals](#) are invited for the International Conference on Human Rights Education (ICHRE), a forum for practitioners, policy-makers and academics, to explore innovative education solutions to global challenges. The conference, which will be held on November 30 to December 3 in Montreal, will gather 300 participants for practical workshops and sessions on human rights education.

Aug. 7-11: Summer School on Voting Rights for Mathematicians

Tufts University will hold a five-day program, [Geometry of Redistricting: Summer School](#), with the principal purpose of training mathematicians to be expert witnesses for court cases on redistricting and gerrymandering.

Aug. 21: Submission for Special Issue on Business and Human Rights

The *Nordic Journal of Human Rights* invites [submissions](#) for a special issue on research methods

related to business and human rights (BHR) to be published in 2018. The special issue will focus on the interdisciplinary potential of BHR research by inviting contributions that develop new methods for research and analysis or pragmatically apply methods across academic disciplines.

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 an art, cultural and scientific learning experience to address the needs of traumatized persons or communities worldwide. The course offers 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

UN Urges US to Adopt Consulting Practices For Indigenous Peoples' Rights

The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, [Victoria Tauli-Corpuz](#), is [calling](#) on all levels of US government to adopt consistent practices when consulting with indigenous peoples on issues that may affect their rights, such as the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would transport crude oil across four states. Tauli-Corpuz. She made her comments at the the end of a mission to the US to assess the impact of energy development projects, saying that the legislative regime regulating consultation, while well intentioned, has failed to ensure effective and informed consultations with tribal governments and that the breakdown of communication and lack of good faith in the review of federal projects leaves tribal governments unable to participate in dialogue with the US on projects affecting their lands, territories, and resources.

US State Department Transmits Human Rights Reports to Congress

The US State Department's Bureau of Human Rights, Democracy, and Labor has transmitted the [2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) to the US Congress. The reports, issued annually by the State Department, provide policymakers with an accounting of human rights conditions in nearly 200 countries and territories worldwide, including all member states of the United Nations and any country receiving US foreign assistance. The reports cover internationally recognized individual civil, political, and worker rights as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. They are used by US legislative, executive, and judicial branches as a resource for shaping policy and guiding decisions, informing diplomatic engagements, and determining the allocation of foreign aid and security sector assistance.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Experts Urges for New Treaty for Pesticides, Citing a "Global Rights Concern"

The UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, [Hilal Elver](#), and the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics, [Baskut Tuncak](#), are [calling](#) for a comprehensive new treaty to regulate and phase out dangerous pesticides in farming and move toward more sustainable agricultural practices. The experts noted that pesticides are responsible for 200,000 acute poisoning deaths each year and that 99% of those deaths occur in developing countries. They called for special protection for pregnant mothers and children who are particularly vulnerable to the health hazards of pesticide exposure.

UN Commission Says Aleppo Aerial Campaign Violated International Law

A [report](#) by a UN-mandated Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria says that the tactics used by the Syrian government forces and their allies in the conflict in Aleppo between July and December 2016 resulted in unparalleled suffering for Syrian men, women, and children and amounted to war crimes. The report, which was scheduled to be presented on March 14 at the UN Human Rights Council, was based on 291 interviews, including with citizens of Aleppo City, review of satellite imagery, photographs, videos and medical records.

UN Expert Details Relationship Between Human Rights & Biodiversity

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, [John H. Knox](#), made an [appeal](#) to the international community and governmental bodies to meet human rights obligations in protecting biodiversity. His appeal followed publication of the first ever UN [report](#) addressing the relationship between human rights and biodiversity. The report describes the importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity for the full enjoyment of human rights, including rights to life, health, food, and water and added that protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and others directly dependent on natural ecosystems is not only required by human rights law, it is often the best way of protecting biodiversity.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

New Report Highlights Best Practices for Data Collection on Gender Minorities

The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law has issued a [report](#) that explores international priorities and best practices for the collection of data about gender minorities. The report follows a 2016 meeting by researchers to consider the current lack of international standards for collecting data about gender minorities in official, large-scale surveys and the importance of robust data about gender minorities to promote knowledge, increase visibility, and better inform the development of policy that impacts gender minority people.

New Resource on PTSD for Frontline Civilians

The International Peace and Security Institute (IPSI), an international think tank addressing issues of peace and sustainable development, has designed a [series](#) of interactive flexible materials that prepare US civil servants and the foreign service community serving in foreign environments, particularly high-stress environments, to increase their resilience skills, their literacy on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and related trauma and stressor-related disorders, and their ability to cope with traumatic events at an individual and organizational level.

On International Women's Day, UNAIDS Releases New Report

A [report](#) by the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) outlines the need for greater HIV prevention and treatment services for women and girls and for addressing the underlying issues contributing to HIV incidence: domestic violence, sexual abuse, and a lack of access to education, health services, and decision-making power. The report notes that protecting the human rights of women and girl and providing support for girls' and women's empowerment contributes to political and social stability and better health outcomes. The report, issued on International Women's Day on March 8, shows that in 2015 globally, there were 18.6 million women and girls living with HIV, 1 million new infections and 470,000 women and girls dying of AIDS-related illnesses.

PEOPLE

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition welcomes a new Council member. [Richard Watkins](#) will represent Sigma Xi, alongside that organization's longtime representative, Jeffrey Toney. We look forward to Dr. Watkins' contributions to the Coalition's activities.

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