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## COALITION CALENDAR

### June 20, 2018: Webinar – Women’s Empowerment in Research Roles

At 10 am EST, Sarah Hénon from ActionAid and Eva Otero from Leitmotiv Social Consultants will share reflections on three participatory evaluations carried out in Cambodia, Guatemala and Rwanda, which tested participant-led methods for measuring the impact of ActionAid programs in terms of shifts in power in favor of women. [Register »](#)

### July 12-13, 2018: Human Rights and Higher Education

[Register](#) for the next Coalition meeting, where we will explore the human rights responsibilities of academic institutions, how these obligations frame important issues such as inclusion, academic freedom, accountability, and community relationships, and ways Coalition members can help address these critical concerns. Speakers will include Shirley Malcom, AAAS Director of Education and Human Resources; Jeff Toney, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Kean University; and Karen Horting, Executive Director and CEO of Society of Women Engineers. [More information »](#)

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### May 24, 2018: SPSSI to Host Webinar on Human Rights and Migration

As part of the 2018 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Expert Policy Webinar Series, the organization’s Graduate Student Committee is hosting an installment on Human Rights and Migration. The presenter is Professor Jacqueline Bhabha from the T.H. Chan School of Public Health at Harvard University, and she will discuss the multifaceted drivers of distress migration, the legal and political gaps in the current system of migration and refugee management, the dramatic human rights violations at issue, and current international moves to address these shortcomings. [Register »](#)

### LSA Representative Published in *Science*

[Michel DeGraff](#), Professor of Linguistics, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, member of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), and LSA Representative to the Coalition, published a letter in *Science* on linguistics’ role in the right to education by examining the importance of providing primary school education in native (noncolonial) languages. [Read »](#)

### APS Recognizes Scientists’ Work in Human Rights

The American Physical Society (APS) [awarded](#) its 2018 Andrei Sakharov Prize, which recognizes scientists for their leadership and accomplishments in advocating for human rights, at the APS April meeting in Columbus, Ohio. [Ravi Kuchimanchi](#) was selected “for his continued research in physics while simultaneously advocating for global policies that reflect science.” The award announcement highlighted Kuchimanchi’s work with the Association for India’s Development (AID), a group he founded, which works with marginalized groups in India, providing support in diverse fields, from agriculture and the environment to healthcare and human rights. [Narges Mohammadi](#) was recognized “for her leadership in campaigning for peace, justice, and the abolition of the death penalty and for her unwavering efforts to promote the human rights and freedoms of the Iranian people.” Mohammadi is currently serving a 16-year prison sentence in Iran for criticizing the Iranian judicial system’s treatment of minorities and other violations of human rights.

### Humanitarian Response and Integration to Restore the Well-being of Colombian and Venezuelan Refugees in Ecuador Webinar

Maria Veronica Gottret, Nicole Kast and David Leege of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) gave a presentation focusing on their use of SenseMaker™ in evaluating a refugee support project aimed at filling critical gaps in the humanitarian response and integration of Colombian and Venezuelan refugees in Ecuador, as well as assisting vulnerable Ecuadorians. [View the recording »](#)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Job: Executive Director (The Engine Room)**

The Engine Room, a non-profit organization that assists activists, organizations, and other social-change agents make the most of data and technology to increase their impact, is seeking an [Executive Director](#). In this role, the Executive Director will work closely with The Engine Room board and senior management team to meet organizational objectives, with a focus on strategy, management, administration, financial health, partnerships and fundraising.

### **Job: Associate, Human Rights (Business for Social Responsibility)**

Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a global nonprofit business network and consultancy dedicated to sustainability, is in search of an [Human Rights Associate](#) to be responsible for conducting research and analysis, writing, logistics planning, and other support on BSR advisory services for the benefit of BSR members, funders, or other clients. This would include participating in business consulting and training work as required. The position is full-time and based in Paris or Copenhagen and will have a primary focus on business and human rights.

### **Call for Manuscripts on Journal of Technology in Human Services**

The *Journal of Technology in Human Services* is [seeking manuscripts](#) focusing on: #resist, social media for policy advocacy, eGovernment, open data and civil society, open data and the nonprofit sector, data ethics, data justice and allied subject matter.

### **June 1: Call for Input on UN Report: Development and Human Rights**

The [Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council](#) of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is seeking input on a questionnaire on the ways in which development contributes to the enjoyment of human rights.

### **July 1: Global Mental Health, Trauma and Recovery Certificate Program**

The Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and Harvard Medical School Department of Global and Continuing Education accredit a [six-month certificate program](#) in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery. The first two weeks (November 4-16, 2018) of the program will take place in Italy and the following six months (November 2018 to May 2019) will continue online. The application deadline is July 1, 2018.

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

### **Disability Rights and Information Technology Examined**

As part of the Harvard Law School Library's book talk series, Visiting Professor of Law and Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability Michael Ashley Stein and Jonathan Lazar, Professor of Computer and Information Sciences and Director of the Undergraduate Program in Information Systems at Towson University, discussed their book, *Disability, Human Rights, and Information Technology*, which examines disability rights in the information age. The authors observed that despite the availability and minimal cost of technology to enable people with disabilities to access information and communications technology on an equal footing as consumers without disabilities, prevailing practice around the globe continues to result in unequal access. A video of their discussion may be found [here](#). Lazar will also present at the July [Higher Education and Human Rights Symposium](#).

### **Physicians for Human Rights Voices Concern Over Cross-Border Immigration Policy**

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) issued a [statement](#) to voice “grave concern” over an announcement by US Attorney General Jeff Sessions that the Justice Department plans to employ a “[zero-tolerance](#)” policy for illegal entry on the US southwest border and implement, [a plan](#) that is intended to deter new migrants with the threat of jail sentences and separate immigrant children from their parents. “The ‘zero-tolerance’ measure... will lead to more families being separated and to children—who are already traumatized and fleeing violence—being further injured, emotionally and potentially physically, because of the abrupt way in which they are removed from their family unit and the inappropriate conditions in which they are subsequently detained,” said Kathryn Hampton, PHR’s Asylum Network Program Officer in the statement.

### **Article Highlights Difficulties, Resources for LGBTQ Communities in STEM**

A recent [blog](#) in *Scientific American* examines difficulties encountered by sexual and gender minorities in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields and highlighted several resources addressing LGBTQ issues in STEM. The first [project](#) examines sexualities and gender diversity in STEM through nationwide surveys. Another resource, Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics ([OSTEM](#)), is a national society dedicated to educating and fostering leadership for LGBTQA communities in the STEM fields.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **EU Moves Forward to Address Socio-Economic, Ethical Issues in Artificial Intelligence**

The member states of the European Union (EU) signed an [agreement](#) in April to cooperate on the development of artificial intelligence (AI), which includes cooperating on the key issues of ensuring Europe's competitiveness in the research and deployment of AI, to dealing with social, economic, ethical and legal questions. The European Commission (EC) will start work with member states to have a coordinated plan on AI by the end of the year. The EC also plans to present [ethical guidelines](#) on AI development by the end of 2018, based on the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights, taking into account principles such as data protection and transparency, and building on the work of the [European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies](#). To help develop these guidelines, the EC says it will bring together all relevant stakeholders in a [European AI Alliance](#), in a plan that it had earlier announced in March.

### **UN Forum Highlights Role of Science and Technology in Solving Global Problems**

The role of science and technology in offering part of the solution to climate change, inequality and other global issues was [highlighted](#) on the 2018 Integration Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council held in early May. The meeting brought together key stakeholders to review policies that support an integrated approach to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. “New advances in science and technology hold immense promises for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” said UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Liu Zhenmin. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) seeks to build on the UN Millennium Development goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize human rights for all, achieve gender equality, empower women and girls, and to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental).

### **Forensic Architecture: Using Technology to Expose Human Rights Violations**

A recent [article](#) in *Architect's Journal*, describes the work of [Forensic Architecture](#), an independent research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London, which conducts advanced architectural and media research on behalf of international prosecutors, human rights organizations, and political and environmental justice groups. The agency is named for the emerging field of forensic architecture, which refers to the production and presentation of architectural evidence (buildings and urban environments) and their media representations. Its premise is that analyzing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in urban, media-rich environments requires modelling dynamic events as they unfold in space and time to create

navigable 3D models of sites of conflict and the creation of animations and interactive cartographies on the urban or architectural scale.

### **Hungarian Scientists on Edge as Country is Poised to Force Out Top University**

A recent [article](#) in *Science* examines the concerns being raised by academics in Hungary on the government's nationalist agenda and intensifying political pressures on science. The pro-government paper *Figyelő*; recently published a list of more than 200 people it called "mercenaries" of George Soros, the American-Hungarian billionaire philanthropist. The list included investigative journalists and human rights advocates—and 30 academics from the Soros-founded, Budapest-based Central European University (CEU). CEU, which has 17 research centers focusing on social sciences, business, environment, math, and other topics, has become subject to tightening restrictions that some fear could force it out of Hungary.

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **Reports Highlight Measures of LGBT Acceptance and Inclusion Worldwide**

The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law highlights three recent [reports](#) that use measures of LGBT acceptance and inclusion to examine the correlations between the economic, legal and social impact of LGBT inclusion worldwide. Among the measures used was the LGBT Global Acceptance Index (GAI), a ranking of the social acceptance of LGBT people and rights in countries.

### **A Survey of Mobile Phones, Mental Health, and Privacy at Syrian Refugee Camp in Greece**

A new [report](#), *Refugee Connectivity: A Survey of Mobile Phones, Mental Health, and Privacy at a Syrian Refugee Camp in Greece*, uses social science methods in the field to understand the role technology and connectivity play in refugees' lives and addresses key information gaps for international organizations, NGOs, governments, academic researchers, and technologists. The [report](#) is the result of 2017 field research by Data & Society, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's (HHI) Signal Program on Human Security and Technology, and Centre for Innovation at Leiden University.

### **The Long Arc of Human Rights: A Case for Optimism**

A [review](#) in *Foreign Affairs* highlights the new book, *Evidence for Hope: Making Human Rights Work in the 21st Century* by Kathryn Sikkink, Professor of Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, which asserts that human rights laws, institutions, and activism have produced positive change despite pessimism among scholars and practitioners. She addresses two main criticisms: the legitimacy and effectiveness of human rights law, institutions, and movements.

### **New Report on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Peacebuilding**

A new [report](#), *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustaining Peace: An Introduction*, highlights the importance of economic, social and cultural rights to improve the success of conflict prevention, peace-making, transitional justice, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The report was informed by consultations that took place as part of a wider impact and knowledge-exchange project, *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustaining Peace: Developing New Insights into Peacebuilding*, as a collaboration between Lancaster University Law School, Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva and the Geneva Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Amanda Cahill-Ripley, Academic Lead, Lancaster University, and Karol Balfe, Head of Tackling Violence and Building Peace, Christian Aid Ireland, [presented](#) the project's research and report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Sustaining Peace in late March.

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