

COALITION CALENDAR

Jan. 25-26, 2018 Coalition Meeting: Human Rights in STEM Education

Meeting participants will learn from case examples and contribute to discussions aimed at identifying key challenges, considering potential models for integrating human rights into STEM education, and articulating needs and opportunities for mentoring and other types of support. The meeting will be held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC. [Registration is now open.](#)

December 7: Evaluation 101 for Human Rights Organizations, Part 4

The final webinar in this four part series, *Scientific Partnerships for Human Rights Program Evaluations*, will be held on Dec. 7 at 11:00 am ET. [Register Here](#). The third installment, held on November 2, focused on participatory methods to answer different evaluation questions. A recording of the webinar is [now available](#).

December 10: International Human Rights Day

December 10 is International Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the day in 1948 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Human Rights Day is an opportunity to launch a web presence with information about the Coalition and additional resources on human rights for your members (policy statements, internal human rights-related committees, etc). The Secretariat has prepared materials for each member organization's website and stands ready to assist with other Human Rights Day efforts. Please contact Theresa Harris at tharris@aaas.org for more information and to share your organization's plans.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

APS Announces 2018 Sakharov Prize Recipients

The American Physical Society (APS) has awarded the 2018 Andrei Sakharov Prize, which recognizes outstanding leadership and/or achievements of scientists in upholding human rights, to [Narges Mohammadi](#), an Iranian physicist, engineer, and human rights defender currently serving a 16-year sentence in Evin Prison (Tehran), and [Ravi Kuchimanchi](#), a physicist and founder of the Association for India's Development (AID), which addresses issues of human rights and social justice in the villages of India.

Coalition Members Respond to U.S. Withdrawing from UNESCO

Several member organizations of the Coalition have issued statements (*see below*) in opposition to the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication.

[American Anthropological Association](#)

[American Association of Geographers](#)

[American Physical Society](#)

[American Association for the Advancement of Science](#)

Coalition Members Support Congressional Briefing on Human Trafficking

The National Science Prevention Coalition (NPS), composed of scientists, educators, practitioners and clinicians, policy makers, foundation representatives, and affiliated organizations, housed at Pennsylvania State University, held a [Congressional briefing](#) on human trafficking on Nov. 2. The briefing included a panel of researchers that described (1) conditions that increase a person's vulnerability to trafficking victimization, (2) community-based strategies that can be tailored to local needs by task forces and key stakeholders, and (3) strategies that have the potential to reduce

individual risk of victimization. Among the sponsors for the program were Coalition members: the American Psychological Association, the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues.

Sciencepalooza: Celebrating the Benefits of Science

The Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition celebrated the [benefits of science](#) on World Science for Peace and Development Day, Nov.10.

AAG's Geography Awareness Week Focused on Civil Rights

The theme of the American Association of Geographers (AGA)'s Geography Awareness Week, being held Nov. 12–Nov.18 is “[The Geography of Civil Rights Movements.](#)” Its focus is designed to empower educators to shed light on the historical and contemporary struggles of historically disenfranchised groups who have faced and fought various forms of discrimination.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 20: Applications Due: USC Assistant Professor in Geography and Human Rights

The [Department of Geography](#) at the University of South Carolina (USC) invites applications for a full-time tenure track position at the rank of [Assistant Professor](#) in the area of Geography and Human Rights starting Aug. 16, 2018.

Nov 24: Applications for Interactive E-Learning Module: The Right to Development

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the University for Peace, and the UN University's International Institute for Global Health are jointly offering a four-week (Jan. 10 to Feb. 6, 2018) [interactive and instructor-led e-learning module](#) to train stakeholders on the normative, theoretical, and practical importance of and mechanisms for operationalizing the Right to Development in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Applications are due Nov. 24, 2017.

Nov. 27: Call for Abstracts: Data Justice 2018

The Data Justice Lab, a research collaboration at Cardiff University's School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, is hosting a conference, *Data Justice 2018*, to be held May 21–22, 2018, to examine the relationship between datafication and social justice by highlighting the politics and impacts of data-driven processes. The conference will combine academic papers with hands-on workshops relating to the methods of investigation, policy, and design, and the organizers are accepting [submissions](#) of abstracts for both types of sessions. Among the topics to be addressed are: social justice and data, data governance, data discrimination, and data colonialism. Abstracts should be submitted by Nov. 27, 2017.

Nov. 30–Dec. 1: Behind Bars: Ethics and Human Rights in U.S. Prisons

The Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School will hold a [conference](#) to examine various aspects of human rights and health issues in U.S. prisons. In collaboration with educators, health professionals, and those involved in the criminal justice system—including former inmates, advocates, and law enforcement—the conference will clarify the issues, explore possible policy and educational responses, and establish avenues for action. [Register beforehand.](#)

Dec. 1: Applications for Scholarships in Public Health for Refugees

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has launched a [scholarship program](#) to support an individual who has been displaced due to the conflicts in Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan, or Somalia. These students will receive full tuition while pursuing a masters of public health graduate degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in conjunction with the Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health.

Dec. 6: Applications Due: UK-US Early Career Research Collaboration Workshop

The British Academy is inviting [applications](#) for early-career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration workshop on the broad theme of violence. The workshop will be held Feb. 10–11, 2018 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Dec. 7-8: Protecting the Rights of Individuals Fleeing Conflict

The U.S. National Academies' Committee on Human Rights will host a [public symposium](#) on the role of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in assisting refugees and other individuals who have been forcibly displaced. Scholars, innovators and humanitarian organizations, among others, will examine strategies being used to promote rights and dignity in situations of displacement and identify specific ongoing challenges that scientists, engineers, and health professionals can help to address.

[Register here.](#)

Dec. 8: The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patents for Humanity Awards

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is accepting [applications](#) through Dec. 8, 2017 for [Patents for Humanity](#), an awards competition to recognize innovators who use game-changing technology to meet global humanitarian challenges. The program provides business incentives for reaching those in need; winners receive an acceleration certificate to expedite select proceedings at the USPTO as well as public recognition of their work

Feb. 20, 2018: Applications for Course on Health Systems Through Crisis and Recovery

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy, is hosting a [course](#), "Health Systems Through Crisis and Recovery," from April 9–20 2018, which will focus on human rights, conflict management, and development cooperation. Applications are due Feb. 20, 2018.

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

U.N. Addresses Human Rights Concerns Post Hurricane Damage in Puerto Rico

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a [statement](#) addressing concerns regarding the lack of an effective emergency response in Puerto following Hurricane Maria. The statement, issued Oct. 30, 2017, notes that approximately 2.8 million residents are without electricity and further cites concerns over inadequate access to clean water, food, and housing. UN officials are calling on U.S. and Puerto Rican authorities to remove regulatory and financial barriers to reconstruction and recovery and to ensure that reconstruction efforts be guided by international human rights standards.

Training for Healthcare Providers To Document Torture Supports Asylum Seekers

Experts trained by Physicians for Human Rights gathered at the University at Buffalo in October to [train healthcare providers](#) in physical, gynecological, and psychological forensic evaluation for asylum seekers. The university also trained providers at the Buffalo Federal Detention Center in Batavia, New York. The training supports refugees who are more likely to be granted asylum with documentation of the torture they experienced, which can become apparent during a medical exam.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Science Forum Issues Science for Peace Declaration

The [8th World Science Forum](#), which was organized by Royal Scientific Society of Jordan, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the International Council for Science (ICSU), brought together more than 1,000 delegates from 120 countries to discuss critical global issues and the potential of science to address them holistically. The conference, held Nov. 7–10 in Jordan, concluded with the [Science for Peace Declaration](#), a global call for action to strengthen the ties between science and society to attain the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), a multinational action plan by the UN to address poverty, inequalities, and climate change. The declaration brings up the [AAAS Statement on](#)

[Scientific Freedom and Responsibility](#), which was a project of AAAS's Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility.

Springer Nature Blocks Access to certain articles in China

Springer Nature, which publishes the science magazines, *Nature* and *Scientific American*, [pulled access to a small number of articles in China](#) to comply with specific local regulations. *The Financial Times* estimated that at least 1,000 Springer *Nature* articles had been blocked in China for containing sensitive keywords. The move follows an earlier move by Cambridge University Press to pull back certain articles in China, a decision it later reversed after concerns for academic freedom were raised.

Examining Human Rights and Renewable Energy

A recent [article](#) in *OpenGlobalRights*, an online human rights forum, examines human-rights concerns in projects using renewable energy. The authors from the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, which tracks the human rights policy and performance of more than 7,000 companies in more than 180 countries, reports that only five out of 50 wind and hydropower companies it outreached to have public commitments to respect the international standard of free, prior, and informed consent for indigenous people. The authors provide recommendation on how the global human rights and environmental communities, along with businesses and governments, can work together proactively to prevent abuses.

Impact of Climate Change on Children Raised as Human Right Concern

Another recent [article](#) in *OpenGlobalRights* raises the importance of considering the impact of climate change on children, particularly in light of an UN conference on climate change being held Nov. 6–17, in Bonn, Germany. The [Conference of the Parties \(COP 23\) to the UN Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#) will include further discussion on the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Agreement and will examine financing climate action to enable countries to cooperate, adapt and build resilience, report progress, and create an environment for sustainable development. Experts at the UN issued a [statement](#) that outlines the importance of human rights in these climate-change policies and actions.

Climate Change Lawsuits on the Rise

A recent article in [The Economist](#) reports on the increase in litigation involving climate change. The article cites information from the Grantham Institute, a research institute in London, that showed 64 cases, where the negative effects of carbon emissions are central, have been filed outside the U.S. in the past 15 years, with 21 such cases filed since 2015. Approximately 20 such cases are filed annually in the U.S, according to the article, which further cites that the number of national climate-change laws and policies globally has increased from approximately 60 in 1997 to nearly 1,400. The article further examines the role of science in climate-change assessments and impacts in legal proceedings.

PEOPLE

Activist For Disappeared Persons in Mexico Wins Human Rights Award

Graciela Pérez Rodríguez, a founding member of the Forensic Citizen Science project, has been awarded the [Human Rights Tulip](#), an annual recognition from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, given to individuals or organizations that promote human rights worldwide in innovative ways. Forensic Citizen Science project, a national collective of disappeared persons' family members in various Mexican states, helped establish the Mexican National Citizen Registry of Disappeared Persons and a DNA database run by and for citizens, which facilitates the identification of victims' remains. She will be given the award on Dec. 8 in recognition of International Human Rights Day.

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