

COALITION CALENDAR

October 24: Steering Committee Meeting

The Coalition Steering Committee will meet at the AAAS headquarters in Washington DC from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Coalition Project Proposals Due Nov. 15

The Steering Committee of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition invites proposals for projects that further the goals of the Coalition. Details are available [here](#).

Dec. 7: Human Rights Day Breakfast

Join us from 8:30-11:00 am at the AAAS headquarters in Washington DC to commemorate Human Rights Day. Details will be available soon.

Jan. 26-27, 2017: Coalition Meeting | Human Right to Water

Save the date for the next meeting of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Sessions will focus on the human right to water and the roles of scientists, engineers, and health professionals in protecting this right. Watch your email for the agenda and registration.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Coalition's Work in Human Rights Highlighted

An [editorial](#) in the September 2016 edition of *Science & Diplomacy*, a quarterly publication of the AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy, highlighted the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition as an inspirational and productive initiative supporting the role of science in human rights.

Coalition Stirs Discussion on Climate Justice

A recent [article](#) in *Open Democracy* by Ellen Platts and Claire Sabel, both with the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program of the AAAS, explores how collaborations with scientists and community partners could lead to rights-based solutions to climate change challenges, drawing from discussions from the July 2016 Coalition meeting.

Seminar on LGBTQ Non-discrimination and Inclusivity: Oct. 25

A Congressional lunch seminar, hosted by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), entitled, "Toward LGBTQ Non-discrimination and Inclusivity: What We Know and What We Need," will be held Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 12:00-1:15 pm in Washington DC. Additional details and information to register may be found [here](#).

Call for Papers: Mainstreaming Human Rights in Geography: Abstracts Due Oct. 27

The American Association of Geographers (AAG) is [calling for papers](#) for a special theme within the 2017 AAG Annual Meeting that will explore the intersections of human rights and geography and will build on the AAG's initiatives to mainstream human rights in geography and the AAG. Papers from all disciplines, subfields, and perspectives are welcomed.

Upcoming Lecture: Statistics and Racial Profiling: Nov. 7

A [lecture](#), “Driving While Black in New Jersey,” sponsored by the WSS Human Rights Statistics Program, ASA Statistics Without Borders, and the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program, will recount the experiences of a statistical expert witness in a case brought by the New Jersey Public Defenders with respect to racial profiling in traffic stops by New Jersey State Police.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

University of Minnesota Offers Graduate Program in Human Rights: Nov. 3 Webinar

The University of Minnesota is offering a webinar for interested students to learn about the university’s [master of human rights](#), an interdisciplinary degree that emphasizes research methods for the study and practice of human rights. Information to register may found [here](#).

IRCT Scientific Symposium Highlights Torture Experts: Dec. 5-9

The IRCT Scientific Symposium is the largest gathering of torture rehabilitation experts. Participants include survivors of torture, clinicians, researchers, lawyers, funders and policy-makers. The research papers to be presented at the meeting were selected from 240 abstracts across a range of topics and research areas. Program details and registration are available [here](#).

UNITAR Offers Online Course on Human Rights and the Environment

The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is offering an online course on Human Rights and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development from November 14 to December 12, 2016. For more information, visit the UNITAR [website](#).

SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

UN Calls for Halt of Dakota Oil Pipeline in Support of the Rights of Indigenous People

The [UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples](#) has called for US authorities to halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which will transport crude oil across four states from North Dakota to Illinois, on the grounds that it poses a significant risk to the drinking water of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and threatens to destroy their burial grounds and sacred sites. The UN asserts that the tribe was denied access to information and excluded from consultations at the planning stage of the project and environmental assessments failed to disclose the presence and proximity of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Amnesty International Urges More Action by the US on Human Rights

In an [article](#) in *Time* magazine, Margaret Huang, Executive Director for Amnesty International USA, called on President Barack Obama to move on three human-rights issues in the remaining days of his administration as part of a focused [campaign](#) by the group. These include closing the prison at Guantánamo Bay; stop sending arms to countries that use them to commit war crimes and human rights violations; and grant protection to those fleeing violence in Central America.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Urges Protection of Children’s Rights Against Exposure to Pollution

The [UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and hazardous substances and wastes](#) is urging governments and businesses to prevent the widespread childhood exposure to toxics and pollution which he says has triggered a “silent pandemic” of childhood disease and disability.

His comments preceded a day-long panel debate of international experts on children's rights and the environment organized by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland in late September.

UN, WHO Form New Working Group To Advance Health and Human Rights

A new [High Level Working Group for the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents](#), co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), will work for one year to generate high-level political support, at both national and international levels, for the implementation of the human rights-related measures called under the UN Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030). These efforts include guidance on how human rights can be integrated into health programming and how to better measure the impact of human rights on health outcomes.

Uighur Scholar in Chinese Prison Given Human Rights Award

Two years after Chinese authorities sentenced the Uighur scholar Ilham Tohti, an economics professor at Minzu University in Beijing, to life imprisonment for promoting separatism and violence, the Martin Ennals Foundation, a Swiss-based foundation, has [awarded him a human rights prize](#) for his efforts to foster dialogue and understanding. The award recognizes human rights defenders who have worked at great personal risk and aims to generate international recognition that may afford them some protection.

Protection of Human Rights at Mega Sporting Events Addressed

Martina Navratilova, former tennis athlete, addressed global business executives, sporting officials, and human rights organizations, on their role in protecting human rights at major sporting events. In a [conference](#) at the US State Department, Navratilova said that sport governing authorities, such as the International Olympic Committee and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), organizers of the World Cup and other soccer events, have failed to protect people marginalized by their events. The conference, organized by the US, Switzerland, and the international think tank, the Institute for Human Rights and Business, discussed ways to improve human rights conditions surrounding mega-sporting events, including with respect to forced housing displacement, LGBT and gender equality, fair labor standards, and workers' rights.

MUST-READ REPORTS

Special issue of Psychology & Society Focuses on Human Rights

The intersection of psychology and human rights is the theme for the recent [issue](#) of *Psychology & Society*, an online, peer-reviewed journal. The issue examines the nexus of human rights and social psychology with particular emphasis on the variety of methodologies and theories that can be used to understand how human rights are understood, constructed, and enacted in social contexts.

Human Rights Reports Utilize Scientific Evidence

Three different human rights organizations have released major reports that included consultations with scientists and engineers as central to the findings:

- *Human and Environmental Costs of Black Gold*: Documenting the impacts of oil extraction on human rights in Colombia, the [International Federation for Human Rights \(FIDH\) acknowledged](#) the work of chemist and On-call Scientist Roberto Marin.

- *Rent Courts, Statistics, and Human Rights*: Maryland Legal Aid released a new [report](#) examining errors, legal obligations, and lack of services in Maryland rent courts. Coalition member Art Kendall contributed statistical and methodological guidance to the report.
- *Chemical Weapons Use in Darfur*: Amnesty International has released a [report](#) showing evidence of the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Darfur. Keith Ward (biophysics) and Jennifer Knaack (toxicology) provided independent corroboration that the evidence suggested exposure to chemical warfare agents.

New Report on Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Michel Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, has published a [report](#) describing the increasingly dangerous situation for activists who have defended the rights of communities to a safe and healthy environment. The report recommends actions governments should take “to reverse this worrying trend and to empower and protect those defenders for the sake of our common environment and sustainable development.”

People

A New Addition to the Coalition’s Family

The Coalition Secretariat is delighted to share the happy news that Jessica Wyndham’s daughter, Kara, arrived on September 24. Mother, father, and baby are all doing well. Very best wishes to Jessica while she takes a short break from her responsibilities as Coalition Coordinator and Interim Program Director at AAAS.

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