

## COALITION CALENDAR

### **January 25-26, 2018 Coalition Meeting: Human Rights in STEM Education**

Thank you for voting on the Coalition meeting theme. Based on strong interest in the topic, the next Coalition meeting will focus on human rights in STEM education. The meeting will be held at AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC, January 25-26, 2018. Please save the date - registration and additional meeting details will be available soon.

### **Nov. 2: Evaluation 101, Part 3 - Participatory Methods to Answer Different Evaluation Questions**

Learn how a spectrum of methods may be used to answer different kinds of evaluation questions in the human rights and democracy sector. [Register here](#). This webinar series is a Coalition project led by Oliver Moles.

## COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### **July 2017 Coalition Meeting Videos and Other Resources Available Online**

[Videos, summaries, and resources](#) from the July Coalition meeting are now available. Please share these resources with your networks. If you are interested in using them for a class or presentation and would like to use the video files or other materials, please contact the Secretariat at [srhrl@aaas.org](mailto:srhrl@aaas.org).

### **Webinar: Political Science and Human Rights—Exploring the Connections**

On October 4, the American Political Science Association and the Coalition [co-sponsored a webinar](#) that explored the various and diverse ways that human rights and political science intersect. The webinar addressed ways to engage human rights in teaching, research, and service in subfields throughout political science. Additionally, the speakers discussed human rights standards that apply to scholarly activities and how to protect the rights of political scientists. Other Coalition member organizations interested in co-organizing a webinar on human rights and their discipline are encouraged to contact the Coalition Secretariat.

## ACTION ALERTS

### **Scholars at Risk Seeks Support for Venezuelan Economist**

[Scholars at Risk \(SAR\)](#) says it is “gravely concerned” about the arrest and detention of Professor Santiago Guevara, an economist from the University of Carabobo in Venezuela, who has been held in custody for over seven months in apparent retaliation for his nonviolent academic expression. SAR asks for emails, letters, and faxes to urge authorities to ensure Professor Guevara’s release, drop any charges against him, and provide needed medical care while in custody.

### **ASA Continues Support of Former Greek Statistician**

The American Statistical Association (ASA) wrote a [new letter of support](#) for Dr. Andreas Georgiou, who became president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) in August 2010, where he was responsible for producing public finance data on the Greek economy. In providing that data, which included an assessment of Greece’s budget deficit, he was subject to criminal and civil charges for slander, criminal complicity against the state, and violation-of-duty charges. The letter, written to Alexis Tsipras, the Prime Minister of Greece, calls for all charges and proceedings against him and other ELSTAT statisticians to be dropped.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

### Nov. 3: Child, Early and Forced Marriage

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [requests](#) input regarding data and research that has been conducted on child, early, and forced marriage. The information will support an upcoming report to the UN General Assembly.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Oct. 31: Neglected Tropical Diseases and Human Rights

The *Health and Human Rights Journal* is [seeking papers](#) on neglected tropical diseases and the right to health. Papers should demonstrate strong methodological approaches, high writing quality, and a robust rights-based analysis.

### Nov. 1: Abstracts Due: Disasters, Displacement and Human Rights

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville has issued a [call for papers](#) for its third conference on Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights (DDHR). The theme is “Transitions: Crisis, Uncertainty, and Opportunity.” This conference, which will be held Feb. 9-11, 2018, is open to all disciplines, approaches, methods, and concepts within the broad realm of disasters, displacements, and human rights.

## SCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USA

### Apple’s FaceID Raises Concerns Over Consumer Privacy and Mass Surveillance

Apple unveiled a new line of phones earlier this month with [one feature raising concern over privacy](#): FaceID. The tool use facial recognition to identify people and unlock their phones, which raises concern for this kind of technology in violating consumer privacy and potentially being used in government mass surveillance.

### Young Scientists Offer Perspectives on Role of Science and Human Rights

In a recent [article](#) in *Science*, published by AAAS, young scientists were asked how knowledge in their field (through information, methodologies, services, and/or products) could support civil, political, economic, social, or cultural rights. The article summarizes responses, including how science could be applied to rights to food, health, information, education, privacy, culture, and a healthy environment.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### UN Human Rights Committee To Review Countries’ Human Rights Compliance

The UN Human Rights Committee, which monitors implementation by states of one of the main international human rights treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from Oct. 16 to Nov. 10, 2017 to review select countries’ compliance with the treaty. The dates and countries to be reviewed at the upcoming session are: Oct. 16-17, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Oct. 17-18, Dominican Republic; Oct. 18-19, Australia; Oct. 19-20, Jordan; Oct. 23-24, Mauritius; Oct. 24-25, Cameroon; and Oct. 25-26, Romania. These countries are among the 169 states that have ratified the ICCPR and are required to be reviewed regularly by 18 international independent experts. The committee will also hear from NGOs and national human rights institutions.

### Australia Among Countries Elected to UN Human Rights Council

[Australia was one of 15 nations](#) elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), marking the first time the country has served on the council. The HRC is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system made up of 47 states responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights globally. The newly elected countries will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018. Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Slovakia, Ukraine, Chile, Mexico, Peru,

Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Spain were also elected to the body while Nigeria and Qatar won second terms. Nikki Haley, the UN Ambassador from the US, criticized the election of Congo to the council, which was also [criticized](#) by Human Rights Watch. In a [statement](#), Haley said that the US is leading an effort to reform the HRC, most recently through a ministerial meeting during the UN General Assembly, where she said more than 40 countries called for a more effective HRC. Australia's election to the HRC was also cited as a concern through a [report](#) developed by more than 30 NGOs, which criticized the country's human rights practices with respect to refugees and indigenous people.

### **Egyptian Legal Scholar and Human Rights Activist Recognized in International Award**

The 2017 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders [was given](#) to Mohamed Zaree, a human rights activist, legal scholar and the Egypt Country Director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), for his contribution to promoting human rights amid the government's escalating harassment and intimidation of activists. Sometimes referred to as the Nobel of human rights prizes, [the award](#) recognizes those who "have shown deep commitment to human rights and face great personal risk." He assumed this role in the CIHRS after government pressure on CIHRS prompted the group to relocate its headquarters to Tunis in 2014. Zaree has been under a travel ban since May 2016. He remains present and active in Egypt and represents CIHRS inside the country.

## **NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **New AAAS Statement on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility**

[This Statement](#) is an enduring articulation of the meaning of and connections between scientific freedom and scientific responsibility, which the [AAAS Board adopted](#) on October 12. The Statement is accompanied by a [web resource portal](#) that features articles expanding upon the significance of the Statement, relevant articles from *Science* going as far back as 1949, downloadable posters available in the six languages of the U.N., and updates of AAAS activities relating to scientific freedom and responsibility.

### **Report Looks at Gender Based Violence Research Methodologies**

Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (r2hc), a group seeking to improve health outcomes, and ELRHA, a group providing support for research on humanitarian policy and practices, have released a [guidance document](#) that offers recommendations in the areas of research methodology and research ethics to support researchers in developing humanitarian gender-based-violence-themed research proposals.

### **Report Examines Noncompliance of Protecting Human Subjects in HHS Research**

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General has [published a report](#) that examines the adequacy of current whistleblower protection for complainants who make disclosures of noncompliance of protection for human subjects. The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) receives and responds to alleged violations of protection for human subjects in research conducted or supported by the HHS, and the report examines and offers recommendations to OHRP to ensure whistleblower protection.

### **Scholars at Risk Released *Free to Think 2017*, the Third Installment**

[Free to Think 2017](#) is the third installment in Scholars at Risk's reporting of attacks on higher education communities, which analyzed 257 reported attacks on higher education communities in 35 countries from September 1, 2016, to August 31, 2017.

### **An Introductory Reading List to Responsible Data and Indigenous Peoples**

The Responsible Data Forum, a collaboration between human rights organizations, academic institutions, and other groups involved in developing tools and strategies for dealing with the ethical,

security and privacy challenges facing data-driven advocacy, has compiled [resources](#) to provide an introduction to responsible data protocols for indigenous communities.

## **PEOPLE**

### **New Executive Directors: Laura Namy and Jamie Vernon**

The January 26, 2018, meeting of the Coalition Executive Directors Circle will include two new members. The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) recently appointed [Laura Namy](#) as its Executive Director. Sigma Xi's new Executive Director and CEO, [Jamie Vernon](#), stepped into that role over the summer. From the Coalition Secretariat, welcome!

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**Editor: Patricia Van Arnum**

**Associate Editor: Mary Cate Carroll**

**Contributors: Joel Ericson, Theresa Harris, Jessica Wyndham**