

COALITION CALENDAR

January 25-26, 2018 Coalition Meeting: STEM Education and Human Rights

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.

July 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 srhl@aaas.org.

October 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. See [here](#) for more information.

COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Oct. 19: AERA Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research, Washington, D.C.

Alfredo J. Artiles (Arizona State University), Dean of Graduate Education and the Ryan C. Harris Professor of Special Education, will present the Annual [Brown Lecture in Education Research](#), which features the important role of research in advancing understanding of equality and equity in education.

Coalition Member Support for DACA

Several Coalition member organizations, as well as [AAAS](#), have issued statements supporting legal protection for immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

[American Anthropological Association](#)

[American Mathematical Society](#)

[American Physical Society](#)

[American Psychological Association](#)

[American Sociological Association](#)

[Society for the Study of Social Problems](#)

LSA Provides Input for UN Human Rights Experts

The Linguistic Society of America (LSA) [shared findings](#) regarding children's access to information in their native languages for an upcoming UN report on protecting the rights of the child in humanitarian situations. The submission and the final report will be made available on the UN's website.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Oct. 4: Extreme Poverty in the United States

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Professor Philip Alston, will undertake an official visit to the United States in December 2017. His visit will focus on the interlinkages between poverty and the realization of human rights. Among other topics, the Special Rapporteur is interested in learning how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and algorithmic decision-making may affect the human rights of those living in poverty in the United States. More information, including instructions for submitting comments, is available [here](#).

Oct. 16: Right to Health and Sustainable Development Goals

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights [requests](#) submissions for its upcoming report on the Sustainable Development Goals and Health.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sept. 25: Pilot Project Proposals to Connect Indigenous and Western Knowledge

The National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE) (a member of the Coalition) has received a grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to establish and advance robust partnerships between indigenous peoples and local formal and informal educators to improve educational outcomes for all students, promote cultural understanding, and foster long-term collaborations on issues of common concern. Pilot teams are expected to modify at least one course using one of the following themes: (1) conservation and cultural perpetuation, (2) water, or (3) food and health. More information and application forms are available [here](#).

Sept. 28-29: Human Rights and the Arctic

The seventh [Human Rights and Science Symposium](#), hosted by the Council of Finnish Academies, will discuss the human rights dimension in Arctic studies. The focal themes revolve around the rights of indigenous peoples, preconditions of scientific research in the Arctic, and the human rights perspectives in research and utilization of natural resources. While the program on September 28 is only for European science academy representatives, the event on September 29 is open to the public.

Oct. 2-4: 2017 Social Forum Highlights Human Right to Health

The 2017 Social Forum, an [annual meeting](#) convened by the United Nations Human Rights Council, will focus on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases and epidemics.

Oct. 20: 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, 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.

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 a cultural and scientific learning experience to address the needs of traumatized persons or communities worldwide. The course involves 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

Study Using AI to Infer Sexual Orientation Stirs Criticism

GLAAD, a LGBTQ media advocacy organization, and Human Rights Campaign have [questioned](#) the scientific validity of a [study](#) conducted by researchers at Stanford University using machine vision to infer sexual orientation by analyzing people's faces. The researchers developed an algorithm to predict someone's sexual orientation using photographs from electronic sources, such as dating sites and Facebook, and corresponding information about sexual orientation. The study, which was peer reviewed and is forthcoming in *the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, was outlined in a recent [article](#) in *The Economist*.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Solutions Summit Highlights STEM for Human Rights and Sustainable Development

The Solutions Summit, an annual event held during the UN General Assembly, aims to draw attention to innovative applications of science and technology that help address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The leaders of eleven selected projects, which include mHealth to reduce maternal mortality and STEM education for refugees, will each give a 'lightning talk' outlining their projects during the Summit September 19-21. The talks can be viewed [here](#).

Human Rights Commission Hears Testimony on the Right to Food in Central America

On September 7, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held a [hearing](#) on “Monocultures, Agrochemicals, and Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights.” Human rights NGOs from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras testified that increasing development of monocultures and agrochemicals in this region has infringed on local communities’ access to land and has had a negative effect on the right to food, the right to health, the right to water, and the right to a healthy environment, among other human rights.

Former UN Commissioner Speaks On Climate Change and Human Rights

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, discussed the role of human rights in climate change in a recent TED Talks, a multidiscipline discussion forum. Now head of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, she discussed the impact of climate change on people and their rights to food and safe water, health, education, and shelter and how climate change poses a threat to human rights. A video of her talk and transcript can be found [here](#).

Businesses Commit to Use Science-Based Targets in Reducing Greenhouse Emissions

The Science Based Targets initiative, a partnership between the UN Global Compact, CDP Worldwide, the World Resources Institute, and the World Wide Fund for Nature, [reports](#) that 90 additional companies have joined the initiative, which commits businesses to use science-based targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in their operations and value chains. More than 300 companies are part of the initiative, including 50 US companies that have committed to set science-based targets, which is more than any other country.

NEW REPORTS AND RESOURCES

Study Examines Prevalence of Hookworm Parasites in Rural Alabama

A new [report](#) published in *The American Journal of Tropical Hygiene and Medicine* documents the prevalence of hookworm infection in Lowndes County, Alabama. As noted by [Catherine Coleman Flowers](#) during her remarks at the January 2017 Coalition meeting, these gastrointestinal infections are related to poverty and open-sewage systems. The report details a prevalence study using molecular diagnostics. The study found that gastrointestinal parasites known to be endemic to developing countries are identifiable in American poverty regions, and areas with lower disease burden are more likely to be identified by using quantitative polymerase chain reaction methods.

PEOPLE

AAAS Member Central Spotlights Coalition’s Student Competition Winner

Vivekanand Vimal’s research and his winning project in the Coalition’s first digital media competition were [featured on the AAAS Member Spotlight blog](#). Learn more about the neuroscientist’s work and his winning entry!

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