

# SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK CANADA SECTION

## Press Release

### Threats to Academic Freedom Scholars at Risk Network December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Ottawa, ON: The Steering Committee of the Canadian Section of the Scholars at Risk Network (SAR) along with Gary Anandasangaree (MP, Scarborough Rouge Park), Peter Kent (MP, Thornhill), and Murray Rankin (MP, Victoria) will host a series of panel discussion on academic freedom at the Canadian Parliament and the University of Ottawa on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Media are invited to attend.

The session will begin with a dynamic panel conversation in the Canadian Parliament that will bring attention to the **SAR Network** and the **struggle for academic freedom**. The morning session in Parliament will be followed by attendance at Question Period in the House, and a public lecture at the University of Ottawa on the importance of academic freedom. In addition to the scholars currently being hosted by Canadian institutions, **Dr. Homa Hoodfar** and the **Hon. Irwin Cotler** will be joining as discussants and contributors on this day. In addition, **Dr. Irv Epstein** from the SAR Board of Directors will be in attendance.

Media are invited to attend the following sessions:

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| 10:30am – 12:00pm | Panel in the Canadian Parliament<br>(RCR Building – 1 Wellington Street, Room C-180)   |
| 4:00pm – 5:30pm   | Public Panel Discussion at the University of Ottawa<br>“ <b>Academic Freedom in a Volatile World</b> ”<br>(57 Louis-Pasteur, Fauteux Hall Room 147, 1st Floor) |

**Contact:** [scholarsatriskcanada@gmail.com](mailto:scholarsatriskcanada@gmail.com)

#### Background:

Around the world today, scholars are attacked because of their words, their ideas and their place in society. Those seeking power and control work to limit access to information and new ideas by targeting scholars, restricting academic freedom, and repressing research, publication, teaching and learning. The SAR Network responds to these threats through awareness-raising, advocacy and the provision of university placements for scholars who are at risk in their home countries.

SAR is an international network of higher education institutions, associations and individuals acting together to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and defend everyone's

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right to think, question and share ideas freely and safely. SAR Canada, launched in 2012, engages Canadian institutions with the global SAR effort and enhances national coordination of activities in support of academic freedom, university autonomy, and related values. In joining SAR Canada and hosting scholars, Canadian universities, academic leaders, and staff send a strong message of solidarity with scholars and institutions in situations where academic freedom is restricted and research, publication, teaching and learning are repressed.

The SAR Canada Steering Committee,



**Viviana Fernandez**  
Directrice adjointe | Assistant  
Director  
Centre de recherche et  
d'enseignement sur les droits de  
la personne |  
Human Rights Research and  
Education Centre  
Université d'Ottawa |  
University of Ottawa  
Viviana.Fernandez@uottawa.ca



**Dr. Melanie Adrian**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Law and Legal  
Studies  
Carleton University  
melanie.adrian@carleton.ca



**Nandini Ramanujam**  
Associate Professor  
(Professional)  
Executive Director and  
Director of Programs  
Centre for Human Rights and  
Legal Pluralism  
Faculty of Law, McGill  
University  
nandini.ramanujam@mcgill.ca



**Anneke Smit**  
Associate Professor  
Faculty of Law  
University of Windsor  
asmit@uwindsor.ca