Summary Report on Activities

2016–2017
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

In the photo above, I am holding a microphone. The setting is the 2016 Global Congress that Scholars at Risk held in Montreal. The image is apt. I am calling out my thanks to you for supporting SAR, calling out as warmly as possible.

The SAR network exists for two great reasons, which you understand. First, it sustains the women and men who are risking their lives to improve our lives. They are teachers, researchers, scientists, librarians, writers, bloggers, and more: all those who take to the spoken and written word to advance the cause of thought, of inquiry, of ideas. They embody and cultivate a human community that thinks without fear, that asks difficult questions, and that seeks honest answers.

Next, our network exists to sustain a culture of respect for higher education values; for the university as a place that has the freedom and autonomy to seek truth and to generate and share knowledge, not for personal gain or in service to authority, but for the broadest public good. In brief, in such a university, no scholar should be at risk.

This past year we faced extraordinary challenges in this work, with more scholars seeking our help than ever before. We documented more attacks on scholars and on academic freedom than ever before. We rose to this challenge together, as a network. Together we helped more scholars than ever before. More universities and colleges joined the network and welcomed at-risk scholars than ever before. More partners, volunteers and donors stepped forward than ever before, each doing our part. Together, we are making a difference.

“This past year we faced extraordinary challenges in this work, with more scholars seeking our help than ever before.”

Thank you.
We are so very grateful.

CATHARINE R. STIMPSON
SAR BOARD CHAIR
Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of institutions and individuals whose collective mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

Confronted with record levels of attacks on scholars and universities, the global higher education community is responding. Our global network has grown to **506 universities, colleges and associations in 37 countries**. These are organized into country sections, with a total of **9 national sections** so far, with several more forming. This year the network welcomed the SAR Germany Section (with 34 members) and SAR Finland Section (with 11 members). These are joined by **8 partner networks**—partnerships with leading higher education associations that help extend the reach of SAR activities to every region of the world. All of this means more opportunities and more support for at-risk scholars, and more voices promoting academic freedom for universities and colleges everywhere.

**CELEBRATING OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS**

SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn on accepting for SAR the **Anne Frank Special Recognition Award** from the Embassy of the Netherlands, at the Library of the U.S. Congress, Washington D.C., September 14, 2017. Pictured are the Dutch Ambassador Henne Schuwer, Father Leo O’Donovan of co-honoree Jesuit Refugee Service, Rob Quinn and several SAR scholars.

**SUPPORTING FREE INQUIRY**

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, gives opening address at SAR Ireland Section annual event, Trinity College Dublin, Nov 2016.

“…I fully endorse the assertion invoked by our gathering this morning: ideas are not crimes.”

– PRES. MICHAEL D. HIGGINS

**SAR SECTIONS & PARTNER NETWORKS**

Cara-SAR UK Universities Network | Communauté Université Grenoble Alpes | Compostela Group | CONAHEC | EUA | Magna Charta Observatory | OSSREA | SAR-Canada | SAR-Finland | SAR-Germany | SAR-Ireland | SAR-Norway | SAR-Switzerland | SAR-Sweden | Swissuniversities | UAF-SAR Netherlands and Belgium Section | UNICA | ARES | ACUP
SAR’s core protection work provides direct assistance to threatened scholars, including by arranging temporary positions at SAR member institutions and a range of other services.

**Scholars Seeking Help**

Over the last two years, applications for urgent assistance have increased by, on average, 400% over the prior five-year period. This is in large part due to the continuing conflicts in Iraq and Syria, and extraordinary pressures on scholars and universities in Turkey. SAR’s current caseload of scholars seeking assistance exceeded 700 earlier this year, and remains over 600 currently.

**Universities & Colleges Respond**

The global SAR network is responding to the crisis. Last year, SAR helped a record 366 scholars, including arranging over 158 positions, our highest annual totals ever. These positions represent over $5.8 million contributed by host campuses and partners that goes directly to supporting at-risk scholars and their families.

**Other Services & Trainings**

SAR’s staff helped hundreds of scholars with other services, beyond arranging positions. These include advisory services, legal referrals, career advisement, and **transition training workshops**, which help scholars build long-term success after temporary positions end. Over 100 participants from 74 universities in 39 countries participated in 4 workshops in Europe and North America. SAR also provided **22 SAR Emergency Fund grants** to scholars for in-country needs; travel and accommodations for new positions, interviews or presentations; visa fees to take on new positions; or legal costs.

**“The staff’s dedication and sensibility to our humanity as scholars deeply touched me. I left with a desire to communicate more frequently and tap into the available network and resources more than before. I appreciate how much their commitment for years remain vibrant and I applaud their work and outstanding willingness to stand for humanity and justice.”**

- **SAR SCHOLAR AT A TRANSITION TRAINING WORKSHOP, 2017**

**“SAR was the only one who stood by us at a time of uncertainty...They did not do lip service; they in fact, helped me strengthen my job search material, invited me to meet distinguished scholars, and provided me with the opportunity to speak to academics and students at one of the best schools in this country. This exposure turned out to be critically important not only for my resume, but also for building my confidence. I am thankful to SAR for helping me establish myself as an academic in higher education in the U.S.”**

- **SAR SCHOLAR FROM PAKISTAN, HOSTED IN NORTH AMERICA**

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**A CRISIS OF ATTACKS ON SCHOLARS**

Average monthly applications (2010–2017)

**TOP 5 SCHOLAR ORIGINS**

- **TURKEY**
- **SYRIA**
- **IRAQ**
- **ETHIOPIA**
- **IRAN**

**TOP 5 RISKS TO SCHOLARS**

- **ARREST / IMPRISONMENT**
- **INSECURITY / CONFLICT**
- **WRONGFUL DISMISSAL**
- **HARRASSMENT / THREATS**
- **KILLING / DISAPPEARANCE**

**TOP 5 HOST COUNTRIES**

- **GERMANY**
- **U.S.A.**
- **BELGIUM**
- **NORWAY**
- **NETHERLANDS**
SCHOLARS HOSTED

Agricultural Engineering (Syria)
Anthropology (Turkey)
Applied Physics (Syria)
Applied Psychology (Turkey)
Arabic Music (Syria)
Archaeology (Iraq)
Archaeology (Syria)
Archaeology (Syria)
Bionanotaxonomy (Venezuela)
Biochemistry (Venezuela)
Biology & Environmental Sciences (Turkey)
Business (Syria)
Business Administration (Turkey)
Business Administration (Turkey)
Cardiovascular Pharmacology (Iraq)
Chemical Engineering (Ukraine)
Chemistry (Syria)
Child Development & Education (Turkey)
Civil Engineering (Syria)
Civil Engineering (Syria)
Classical Archaeology (Syria)
Clinical Biochemistry (Turkey)
Clinical Dentistry (Yemen)
Clinical Psychology (Turkey)
Clinical Psychology (Turkey)
Communications & Political Science (Yemen)
Communications Sciences (Turkey)
Computer Engineering (Ukraine)
Computer Science (Syria)
Computer Science (Syria)
Conservation & Sustainable Development (Iran)
Cultural Anthropology (Turkey)
Cultural Sociology (Iran)
Cultural Studies (Turkey)
Development (Zimbabwe)
Development Studies (Ethiopia)
Developmental Psychology (Turkey)
Developmental Psychology (Turkey)
Economics (Syria)
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Educational Sciences (Turkey)
Electrical Engineering (Turkey)
Electronics & Telecommunications (Turkey)
English Literature & Gender Studies (Pakistan)
Evolutionary Biology (Turkey)
Fine Arts (Turkey)
Food Engineering & Food Sciences (Syria)
Food Sciences (Syria)
Gender Studies (Bangladesh)
Governance & Global Affairs (Turkey)
Health Policy & Economics (Turkey)
Health Services Research (Saudi Arabia)
History (Turkey)
History (Turkey)
History (Turkey)
History of Medicine (Syria)
History of Medicine (Syria)
Human & Women's Rights (Iran)
Human Rights & Development Economics (Pakistan)
Hydraulic Engineering (Iran)
Hydraulic Engineering (Iran)
International Law & Human Rights (D.R.Congo)
International Law & Human Rights (Iran)
Journalism (Iran)
Journalism (Turkey)
Land & Water Management (Iraq)
Language & Literature (China)
Law (Bangladesh)
Law (Turkey)
Law (Turkey)
Law & Human Rights (Ethiopia)
Law & Human Rights (Ethiopia)
Law & Human Rights (Iran)
Linguistics (Iran)
Linguistics & Translation Studies (Iran)
Literary Studies (Turkey)
Mathematics (U.R.Congo)
Mathematics (Turkey)
Mathematics (Turkey)
Media & Communications Studies (Turkey)
Media & Communications Studies (Turkey)
Media & Communications Studies (Turkey)
Modern Turkish History (Turkey)
Music Theory (Syria)
Natural & Applied Sciences (Turkey)
Obstetrics & Women's Health (Turkey)
Pharmacology (Syria)
Philosophy (Afghanistan)
Philosophy (Iran)
Philosophy (Iraq)
Philosophy (Pakistan)
Philosophy (Turkey)
Philosophy of Law (Turkey)
Physics (Syria)
Physics (Turkey)
Physics & Engineering (Syria)
Physiology & Animal Production (Syria)
Political Science (Iran)
Political Science (Turkey)
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Political Science (Turkey)
Political Science & Gender Studies (Turkey)
Political Science & International Relations (Turkey)
Political Science & Philosophy (Turkey)
Political Science & Public Administration (Turkey)
Political Theory & Science (Turkey)
Policing & International Studies (Turkey)
Psychiatry (Turkey)
Psychiatry (Turkey)
Psychology (Syria)
Psychology (Syria)
Psychological Sciences (Syria)
Public Administration (Ukraine)
Public Law (Turkey)
Public Relations (Turkey)
Serbian Languages (Syria)
Social & Political Science (Athens)
Social & Political Science (Syria)
Sociology (Syria)
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Sociology (Syria)
Sociology (Syria)
Sociology & Global Studies (Turkey)
Theatre Arts & Middle Eastern Literature (Syria)
Theatre Studies (Turkey)
Translation Studies (Turkey)
Urban & Regional Planning (Turkey)
Urban Studies (Turkey)
Zoology (Syria)

HOSTS

Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin
Bielefeld University
Binghamton University, SUNY
Bonn International Center for Conversion
Boston University
Carleton College
Carleton University
Dalarna University
Delft University of Technology
Endicott College
Erasmus Rotterdam University
European University Viadrina
Fordham University
Forum Transregionale Studien
Framingham State University
Frankenförder Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
Freie Universität Berlin
Georgetown University
German Archaeological Institute
Goethe University Frankfurt
Harvard University
Heidelberg University
Helmut Schmidt University
HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management
Humboldt University of Berlin
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin
Ithaca College
Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz
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Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
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RWTH Aachen University
Stanford University
Technical University of Berlin
Technical University of Braunschweig
Technical University of Chemnitz
Technical University of Munich
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Université Libre de Bruxelles
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University of Hamburg
University of Kassel
University of Konstanz
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University of Lucerne
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University of Portsmouth
University of Potsdam
University of Saskatchewan
University of Siegen
University of Stuttgart
University of Tampere
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
University of Tromsø
University of Twente
University of Ulm
Utrecht University
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Wageningen University
Weber State University
Wellesley College
Western University
Whitman College
Xavier University of Louisiana

Includes universities that created positions for scholars in FY17, including for scholars unable to take up due to outside factors, including travel restrictions.

Xavier University of Louisiana

Includes scholars who were offered SAR positions but who were unable to take them due to external factors, including travel restrictions.
SAR’s advocacy work aims to increase protection for vulnerable individuals by documenting the problem of attacks on higher education and seeking accountability of perpetrators in order to deter future attacks.

This year SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and its annual report, Free to Think 2017, documented 257 attacks on university communities in 35 countries, compared with 158 attacks in 2016. Dozens of volunteer researchers throughout the global SAR network contribute by submitting and verifying incident reports, and by supporting related advocacy.

Students participating in SAR Student Advocacy Seminars and Legal Advocacy Clinics are playing an increasingly visible role in SAR’s advocacy. Seminar students develop research and leadership skills while advocating on behalf of imprisoned scholars identified by SAR’s Scholars-in-Prison Project. Faculty-led legal clinics research attacks on university communities and prepare reports and submissions to human rights entities.

This year SAR held a record 12 advocacy seminars and clinics. With their help, SAR campaigned for over 50 imprisoned scholars and students, and generated over 7,000 appeals from the network and written submissions to the UN and national authorities.

SAR’s research and learning work aims to increase security for scholars and universities by increasing understanding of academic freedom and related core higher education values among states, higher education communities, and the public.

STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD
Students participating in the SAR Student Advocacy Day after meeting with officials at the U.S. Capitol building in March 2017.

“The experience was unique, relevant, and deeply meaningful... and fun!”
– STUDENT PARTICIPANT

STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM
SAR staff led workshops this year in Africa, Europe, North America and South America on hosting scholars and promoting higher education values. Pictured are participants in a June 2017 workshop in Norway, part of an EU Erasmus+ funded joint project with the University of Oslo, University of Ljubljana and the UNICA network.

This year SAR members organized over 80 SAR-related events bringing the message of core higher education values to ever greater audiences. These events attract new member institutions, volunteers, partners and donors, all of which help SAR create more protection opportunities for at-risk scholars, and opportunities for advocacy and learning.

Among these events were workshops in Africa, Europe, North America and South America on promoting higher education values. With invaluable feedback from network members, SAR produced a revised publication, Promoting Higher Education Values: A Guide for Discussion, and a corresponding supplement for trainers leading workshops, complete with exercises. The publications will support individuals and groups throughout the global network in leading their own local discussions and workshops about academic freedom, multiplying the impact of SAR’s work and helping to build the conversation about why academic freedom and universities matter, and how best to protect them.
Scholars at Risk is grateful for the generosity of our supporters with special thanks to the Office of the Provost and New York University for hosting our network headquarters. We are especially grateful this year to the European Union’s Erasmus + programme, Ilene Cohen for her editorial assistance with SAR publications, and to Yitzhak Pasha, Charles Fellers, Hayden Bui, Laura Brayton and their colleagues at Kirkland & Ellis, LLP, for assistance this year in registering Scholars at Risk as an independent, not-for-profit corporation.

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$25,000+

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$10,000+

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$5,000+

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*Matching gift

List from Sept. 2016 to Sept. 2017

**Financials (2016 – 2017)**

**Sources of Support**

FGANTS
MEMBERS
INDIVIDUALS
HOST CAMPUS (NYU)

**FY17 Summary**

Total Revenue

$2,026,333

Total Expenses

$1,558,935

Protection Services

$786,158

Monitoring & Advocacy

$430,804

Research & Learning

$188,992

Admin & Fundraising

$152,982

Leveraged for At-Risk Scholars

$5,842,718

(Return on protection costs)

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University.
Join SAR in Berlin on April 23–26, 2018 for the Scholars at Risk Network Global Congress, *The University and the Future of Democracy*. Jointly convened by Scholars at Risk, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and Freie Universität Berlin, the biennial congress is the largest and most important gathering of SAR's global network. It is where we come together to share experiences, to celebrate achievements, to set new goals, and above all, to be inspired by the stories and courage of the scholars and students we serve.

"We are here to protect those men and women who risk their lives...and to advance the cause of thought, of inquiry of ideas... Thought builds society, thought builds human flourishing and human well-being."

– CATHARINE R. STIMPSON, SAR BOARD CHAIR
This year Scholars at Risk helped more scholars, documented more attacks, published more reports and held more events reaching wider audiences than ever before.

But the need for our help continues to grow. Please become part of our network.

GIVE TODAY

ONLINE: www.scholarsatrisk.org | CALL: +1-212-998-3318

“I just got the appointment letter from the university, great news. I really believe that this would not be possible without SAR’s support. It helps me and my family, and gives us hope, inspiration and energy.”

– A SCHOLAR’S MESSAGE UPON RECEIVING AN OFFER TO CONTINUE HIS RESEARCH AT A SAR NETWORK-MEMBER UNIVERSITY