IN APRIL 2018, Scholars at Risk held our biennial Congress in Berlin. It was an inspiring event, a reminder of why we do our work in this troubled world. I was honored to be there with so many of you.

I now take this opportunity to provide you with this annual report on our activities in 2017-2018.

“As we discussed in Berlin, our mission remains the same: protect scholars and defend academic freedom. However, our world has grown more troubled. Authoritarian, dictatorial and “illiberal” governments are working to restrict academic freedom. They clamp mouthcuffs on academics, censor scholarship, and punish dissent. They fear what modern universities represent: freedom of thought, inquiry, and expression. Simultaneously, an unprecedented refugee crisis is increasing the globe’s store of misery, with many scholars and students among them.

As a result, the need for SAR’s services is increasing. We have more applications for help. We are arranging more placements. We are doing more advocacy. We are expanding our global network—to create opportunities for even more scholars—as you will read in this report. Your support makes these activities possible. Thank you.

But these troubling times also show that the need for SAR’s very existence is growing, because knowledge and truth itself are under threat. These must be defended. You know this. But from time to time I see another, different kind of scholar at risk. Not at physical risk, like those we serve, but at moral risk—comfortable and secure, yet indifferent to those around them who are being punished for their ideas.

Members of the SAR community are not among the indifferent. You are not indifferent. Together, we are responding to these troubled times. Together, we are helping those who have the courage to think and ask questions. Together, we are making a difference.

With immense gratitude, and all best wishes,

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.

The environment in which SAR fulfills its mission is increasingly difficult, placing growing demands on our services. Authoritarian regimes on the rise are actively working to restrict academic freedom, while an unprecedented refugee crisis has record numbers of scholars seeking help. The higher education community is responding. Our global network is now **507 universities, colleges and associations in 39 countries.** These are organized into **10 national sections** with several more forming. The sections are joined by **13 partner networks**—partnerships with leading higher education networks that help extend the reach of SAR activities to every region of the world. All this means more opportunities to help scholars, raise awareness, and demand greater protection for universities, scholars, students, and academic freedom.

**International Advisory Committee**

The voice of the network membership is SAR’s International Advisory Committee (IAC), pictured above, comprised of representatives of SAR sections and partner networks. The IAC embeds international perspective into SAR’s structure and governance and provides a forum and communication channel for all involved. This allows for greater coordination of activities across regions, more sharing of best practices leading to improved support for scholars, and more opportunities to advance academic freedom worldwide.

**SAR SECTIONS & PARTNER NETWORKS**

- Academy for Research and Higher Education
- Cara-SAR UK Universities Network
- Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP)
- Colonial Academic Alliance
- Communauté Université Grenoble Alpes
- Compostela Group of Universities
- Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration (CONAHEC)
- European Students Union (ESU)
- European Universities Association (EUA)
- International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)
- Magna Charta Observatory
- SAR Canada
- SAR Finland
- SAR Germany
- SAR Ireland
- SAR Norway
- SAR Sweden
- SAR Switzerland
- Swissuniversities
- SAR United States
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences
- UAF-SAR Netherlands and Belgium
- Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (UNICA)

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“Academic freedom should be allowed to flourish because our future relies on the progress of thought, science and technology, and deep knowledge of societal challenges is of the utmost importance for the development of policy measures and for the well-being of any country and community. If academic discourse is muzzled by limiting free expression and by persecuting scientists, our entire future is at stake.”

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**Convening Network Members**

Polish university representatives meet at the 2017 Villa Decius-SAR conference to discuss forming a SAR Poland section.

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**Academic Freedom, Does It Still Matter?**

Excerpt from Introduction to the 2017 Villa Decius-SAR Conference.

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"Academic freedom should be allowed to flourish because our future relies on the progress of thought, science and technology, and deep knowledge of societal challenges is of the utmost importance for the development of policy measures and for the well-being of any country and community. If academic discourse is muzzled by limiting free expression and by persecuting scientists, our entire future is at stake."

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"Academic Freedom, Does It Still Matter?, Krakow, Poland"
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**
Due to spreading conflicts and pressures on academics and universities around the world, SAR has continued to receive an elevated number of requests in recent years; this year receiving 521 new applications, with the majority from Turkey and large numbers from across the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia. SAR currently handles a caseload of over 700 scholars seeking help.

**Universities & Colleges Respond**
The global SAR network is responding to the current crisis. Together, we helped a record 383 scholars this year, including arranging 124 positions. These positions represent nearly $4.8 million contributed by host campuses and partners that directly supports at-risk scholars and their families.

**Training & Other Services**
Beyond arranging positions, SAR provides scholars with advice, legal referrals, career advisement, and other services for 351 scholars this year alone. SAR staff leads training workshops for scholars and hosts, including four trainings this year for 162 participants. The trainings share best practices for hosts and prepare scholars to graduate from SAR support by identifying next opportunities, in exile or upon return.

**Emergency Assistance Grants**
SAR also provides gap-filling emergency assistance grants. This year SAR provided a record number of 45 emergency grants to scholars for in-country needs; travel for interviews, conferences, or to take up new positions; visa fees; legal costs or family support for those detained or facing charges.

**How SAR Helps**
The chart at right shows the journey of a scholar seeking help. SAR typically works with scholars for 3–5 years before “graduation” from SAR’s direct assistance.

**Top 5 Host Countries**
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- USA
- Canada

**Top 5 Origin Countries**
- Turkey
- Syria
- Iraq
- Iran
- Yemen

**Scholars Apply for Assistance**
Scholars apply or are referred to SAR for assistance; SAR evaluates their situation for one (or both) of two options.

**Option 1**
- **Safe Return**
  - 84 host universities
  - $4.8 M direct support
  - 45 emergency grants
- **Scholar Hosting**
  - SAR refers appropriate candidates to network members for possible temporary positions.

**Option 2**
- **Transition**
  - SAR works with scholars and hosts in planning and navigating transitions, including one of two final options.
  - 95 universities
  - 32 countries
- **Advice & Other Assistance**
  - SAR provides advice or assistance with relocation, integration and adjustment, job skills or other services.

**Top 5 Risks to Scholars**
- Arrest / Imprisonment
- Insecurity / Conflict
- Wrongful Dismissal
- Harassment / Threats
- Killing / Disappearance

**Scholars**
- 521 applications
- 351 scholars assisted
- 124 scholar placements

**Universities**
- 84 host universities
“Me and my family would like to thank SAR and UAF so much for your help, support, and efforts to provide this opportunity, for saving our lives, changing our lives for the better, and ensuring our successful future.”
- AN IRAQI ARCHAEOLOGIST AT A SAR-MEMBER UNIVERSITY IN THE NETHERLANDS

“I am so happy that I am in a good and safe place. Here there is no danger of snipers to put fear in my heart while crossing the roads, no mortar shells, and no sounds of bombing nearby as I faced in Syria. I can start a new life, with new hope, and I can restart my research that has been stopped since 2011.”
- A SYRIAN SCHOLAR OF LINGUISTICS AT A SAR-MEMBER UNIVERSITY IN NORWAY

“Through [SAR’s] support over the course of my academic and work career, I had the opportunity to complete my PhD at a host university. I sent copies of my research on HIV and AIDS to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, UNICEF, and to Ministers of Health of several countries in Southern Africa. I have presented papers about my research at many conferences. SAR enabled me to not only maintain focus on my studies and research, but to also join a host college as a visiting professor.”
- A ZIMBABWEAN SCHOLAR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT A SAR-MEMBER COLLEGE IN CANADA

**SCHOLARS HOSTED**

During the 2017–18 academic year, host campuses and other partners created positions for the scholars listed below by their discipline and country. The list includes scholars whose positions commenced that year, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, as well as those offered positions which have not yet commenced due to arrest, travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

**Arts & Humanities (22)**
- Arabic Language & Linguistics (Syria)
- Archaeology (Syria)
- Archaeology (Syria)
- Archaeology & Anthropology (Iraq)
- Architecture (Turkey)
- Comparative History (Turkey)
- Comparative Literature (Turkey)
- Cultural Studies & Humanities (Turkey)
- French Literature (Syria)
- History (Tajikistan)
- History (Turkey)
- History (Turkey)
- History & Islamic Studies (Tajikistan)
- Kurdish Linguistics (Iran)
- Latin American & Spanish Literature (Honduras)
- Linguistics & Semitic Languages (Syria)
- Near Eastern Studies (Turkey)
- Philosophy (Iraq)
- Philosophy (Tajikistan)
- Philosophy (Turkey)
- Philosophy (Turkey)

**Business & Finance (14)**
- Business & Politics (Turkey)
- Business Administration (Turkey)
- Business Management (Turkey)
- Economics (Syria)
- Economics (Syria)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Economics (Turkey)
- Education Management (Libya)
- Financial Mathematics (Turkey)
- Human Resource Management (Syria)

**Journalism & Writing (5)**
- Journalism Studies (Turkey)
- Media & Communication Studies (Turkey)
- Media & Communication Studies (Turkey)

**Law & Human Rights (9)**
- Law & Human Rights (D.R. Congo)
- Law & Human Rights (Ethiopia)
- Law & Human Rights (Iraq)
- Law & Human Rights (Iran)
- Law & Human Rights (Rwanda)
- Law & Human Rights (Turkey)
- Law & Human Rights (Zimbabwe)
- Public Law (Turkey)
- Public Law (Turkey)

**Mathematics & Information Sciences (3)**
- Computer Science (Syria)
- Computer Science (Turkey)
- Mathematics (Eritrea)

**Music & Performing Arts (3)**
- Music (Turkey)
- Musicology (Turkey)
- Opera Studies (Turkey)

**Physical & Life Sciences (21)**
- Agricultural Engineering (Syria)
- Bioanalytical Chemistry (Venezuela)
- Biochemistry (Venezuela)
- Biochemistry & Food Sciences (Yemen)
- Chemistry (Syria)
- Civil & Railway Engineering (Syria)
- Civil Engineering (Syria)
- Electrical Engineering (Turkey)
- Electronics & Telecommunications Engineering (Turkey)
- Environmental Engineering (Iraq)
- Evolutionary Biology (Turkey)
- Geotechnical Engineering (Syria)
- Horticulture (Syria)
- Hydraulic Engineering (Iraq)
- Land & Water Management (Iraq)
- Mechanical Engineering (Iraq)
- Mechanical Engineering (Syria)
- Molecular Genetics (Syria)
- Physics (Iraq)
- Physics (Syria)
- Physiology & Animal Production (Syria)

**Social Sciences (38)**
- Applied Psychology (Turkey)
- Clinical Psychology (Turkey)
- Clinical Psychology (Turkey)
- Communications & Political Science (Yemen)
- Cultural Anthropology (Turkey)
- Cultural Sociology (Iran)
- Cultural Studies & Sociology (Turkey)
- Development Studies & Food Security (Ethiopia)
- Education (Turkey)
- Educational Psychology (Iran)
- Ethnology (Turkey)
- Geography (Syria)
- Governance & Civil Society (Pakistan)
- Governance & Global Affairs (Turkey)
- Government & International Relations (Bangladesh)
- Human Development & Family Studies (Turkey)
- Human Geography (Syria)
- International & Comparative Education (Yemen)
- Medical Anthropology (Uganda)
- Peace & Conflict Studies (D.R. Congo)
- Political Science (Iran)
- Political Science (Turkey)
- Political Science (Turkey)
- Political Science & European Studies (Somalia)
- Political Science & International Relations (Turkey)
- Political Science & Law (Turkey)
- Political Science & Public Administration (Turkey)
- Political Science & Public Administration (Turkey)
- Political Science & Public Administration (Turkey)
- Public Administration (Turkey)
- Public Administration (Turkey)
- Social Anthropology (Syria)
- Sociology (Iran)
- Sociology (Iran)
- Sociology (Turkey)
- Sociology (Turkey)
- Sociology & Gender Studies (Iran)
- Urban Studies (Turkey)
Free to Think 2018, the annual report of SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project, documents 294 attacks on university communities in 47 countries (up from 257 attacks in 2017). Dozens of volunteer monitors throughout SAR’s global network contribute by submitting and verifying incident reports and by supporting related advocacy. Since 2011, SAR has documented 999 incidents involving 1,403 attacks on higher education in 105 countries.

SAR-affiliated legal clinics increase monitoring coverage while training students on academic freedom and human rights. Students produce reports on specific incidents involving attacks on higher education and analyze country conditions relating to academic freedom. This year, students in 8 SAR clinics helped prepare academic freedom reports on Ethiopia, Colombia, and Côte d’Ivoire for submission to national and international human rights bodies.

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.

HOSTS

SAR is grateful to the host campuses and other partners listed below that created positions for scholars during the 2017–18 academic year. The list includes positions commenced that year, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, as well as positions offered which have not yet commenced due to arrest, travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

Åbo Akademi University
Bielefeld University
Bonn International Centre for Conversion
Brandeis University
Carleton University
Delft University of Technology
Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Forum Transregionale Studien
Frankenförder Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
Freie Universität Berlin
Ghent University
Goethe University Frankfurt
HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management
Hochschule Düsseldorf
Hogeschool van Amsterdam
International Psychoanalytic University Berlin
Ithaca College London Center
Justus Liebig University Giessen
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Leibniz Institute on Society and Space
Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Leiden University
Mannheim University of Applied Sciences
McGill University
Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences
Nord University
Norwegian University of Science & Technology
OsalMet University
Osnabrück University
Radboud University Nijmegen
Ruhr University Bochum
Rutgers University
RWTH Aachen University
San Diego State University
Siena College
Simon Fraser University
Södertörn University
Technical University of Berlin
Technical University of Braunschweig
Technical University of Munich
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Tilburg University
Université de Lille
Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
Université Grenoble Alpes
Université Libre de Bruxelles
University of Agder
University of Amsterdam
University of Bayreuth
University of Bergen
University of Bremen
University of British Columbia
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Connecticut
University of Copenhagen
University of Duisburg-Essen
University of Geneva
University of Gothenburg
University of Göttingen
University of Groningen
University of Guelph
University of Kassel
University of Konstanz
University of Lausanne
University of Münster
University of Oslo
University of Ottawa
University of Padova
University of Potsdam
University of Siegen
University of Strasbourg
University of Stuttgart
University of Tromso
University of Twente
University of Washington
University of Windsor
Utrecht University
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Wageningen University
Wellesley College
Whitman College
Xavier University

SAR is grateful to the host campuses and other partners listed below that created positions for scholars during the 2017–18 academic year. The list includes positions commenced that year, positions arranged that will be taken up shortly, as well as positions offered which have not yet commenced due to arrest, travel restrictions, visa denials, or other external factors.

Free to Think 2018 highlights ongoing pressures on the university spaces in Turkey, China, Iran, Nicaragua, the United States, Russia, and Hungary, among others, and recommends actions by states, the higher education community, and civil society to increase protections for academic freedom.

2018 Free to Think Report
Read the complete report on the Scholars at Risk website: scholarsatrisk.org/resources/free-to-think-2018
“This world needs people of good will who are committed to sustained action...We need people devoted to defending freedom of expression and fighting for freedom from oppression. At a time when authoritarian rulers are clamping down on dissent, we need the next generation to shine a light in the darkest corners.”

- ROGER WILLIAMS
UNIVERSITY’S LATE PRESIDENT,
DONALD J. FARISH, DISCUSSING
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN
THE SAR STUDENT ADVOCACY
SEMINARS, PROVIDENCE
JOURNAL, JUNE 2, 2018

Students participating in Student Advocacy Seminars play an increasingly important role in SAR’s advocacy work. Seminar students develop research and leadership skills while advocating on behalf of imprisoned scholars and students identified by SAR’s Scholars in Prison Project. This year, students in 13 seminars helped SAR campaign for 45 scholars and students and generated 6,537 appeals from the network.

Seminar participants put their advocacy skills into practice at SAR’s annual Student Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. This year 34 students and faculty from 8 colleges and universities gathered to exchange best practices, discuss advocacy strategies with guest experts, and meet with elected officials.

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

This year SAR released two new publications about academic freedom. Promoting Higher Education Values: A Guide for Discussion explores the meaning of academic freedom, why it matters, and how to respond when it is threatened. Promoting Higher Education Values: Workshop Supplement offers exercises and advice for self-study by individuals, or for group discussion in workshops and classes.

Building on these publications, SAR and partners co-created an online course on academic freedom. Called Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters, the course features interactive video lectures, animations, quizzes, polls, and exercises to make the material accessible and to encourage discussion. The course had over 1,000 registrants from 98 countries in its first session, showing the demand for information about academic freedom.

“The course reminds us all that higher education is at its best, and serves society best, when given the space to ask questions, no matter how difficult or sensitive...Academic freedom isn’t just for a few privileged intellectuals who want to be left alone. Academic freedom is an essential condition for free, open societies...If you value the freedom to have your own opinions, to ask questions, to discuss difficult topics honestly without fear, then academic freedom matters enormously to you too.”

- SAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ROBERT QUINN

SAR’s New Online Course
An animation from Dangerous Questions, a new online course on academic freedom, produced as part of an Erasmus+ project by SAR, the University of Oslo, UNICA, University of Ljubljana, EUA, EAIE, Al-Fanar Media, and University World News.
SAR’s biennial Global Congress brings together leading scholars, advocates, students, and professionals to rethink issues of academic freedom and related values, to learn from each other, and to help shape SAR’s agenda for the coming years.

The 2018 Global Congress convened in Berlin from April 23–26 as a joint venture between Scholars at Risk, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and Freie Universität Berlin. This was SAR’s largest congress yet, with 522 participants from 71 countries representing over 250 organizations and institutions, discussing the theme, The University and the Future of Democracy. The event featured workshops on protection, advocacy, higher education values, and student expression, followed by keynotes, plenaries, parallel sessions, and networking aimed at promoting SAR-related and academic freedom-related activities.

SAR’s Courage to Think Award
SAR’s Courage to Think Award is given to individuals or groups; to those who have experienced threats personally, those who have worked to assist them, or those who work to promote wider understanding of, and respect for, academic freedom and related values.

At the 2018 Global Congress, SAR presented its Courage to Think Award to Turkey’s Academics for Peace (Barış İçin Akademisyenler) for their “extraordinary efforts in building academic solidarity and in promoting the principles of academic freedom, freedom of inquiry, and the peaceful exchange of ideas.” The award recognizes Academics for Peace’s efforts to build solidarity among scholars inside and outside of Turkey, share vital information, and organize material support for colleagues who have lost their positions, their livelihoods and, in some cases, their liberty, in retaliation for peaceful, expressive activity.

“Our recipients tonight, are not one courageous individual, but many who are using their skills as researchers, as writers, as teachers, as people of the mind, as people of consciousness to resist a dark moment...In doing so, they are an embodiment of the responsibility to explain and to defend higher education and democratic values.”
– SAR BOARD CHAIR, CATHARINE R. STIMPSON, PRESENTING THE AWARD

“Our aim remains the same: promoting peace. And that is the driving power of our resistance and solidarity.”
– TEBESSÜM YILMAZ, ACCEPTING THE AWARD ON BEHALF OF ACADEMICS FOR PEACE

“Academic freedom and institutional autonomy are key...to a democratic society. How universities respond to scholars at risk is a litmus test of its practice, and its ability to contribute to democracy at all.”
– PROF. DR. SUSANNE BAER, FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF GERMANY, KEYNOTE REMARKS

Promoting Academic Freedom
(TOP) SAR’s 2018 Global Congress participants gather for a photo on the steps of the Henry Ford Building of Freie Universität Berlin. (BOTTOM) Read the complete Congress report on the Scholars at Risk website: scholarsatrisk.org/event/berlin
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 for the European Union’s Erasmus + programme, Ilene Cohen for her editorial assistance with SAR publications, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Freie Universität Berlin for their 2018 Global Congress partnership. We give thanks to the many colleagues and partners around the world who have gone out of their way to help threatened and refugee scholars, especially those who have helped to arrange visits, host events, mentor scholars, or who have otherwise provided help or advice.

LEADERS
$25,000+
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Anonymous
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Charina Endowment Fund
Erasmus +
Jan Kruckowski
National Endowment for Democracy
Open Society Foundations
Stichting Polar Lights
Vivian G. Prins Foundation
Winston Foundation

CHAMPIONS
$10,000+
AAUP Foundation
Fritt Ord Foundation
Microsoft

DEFENDERS
$5,000+
Jonathan F. Fanton
Newman’s Own Foundation
Robert & Barbara Quinn

Family Foundation
Carol Tolan
Rosalie J. Wolf

ADVOCATES
$1,000+
Anonymous
Lisa Anderson

Jonathan Cole
Lynn Coons
Jonathan Dwight Culler
Harvey P. Dale
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Alison Gray
Hanna Gray
Ben & Cristina Heineman
Jenny Holzer
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SUPPORTERS
$500+
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Dora Galacatos
Judith Goldstein
Alice H. Henkin
Michael Hirschhorn
Thomas Keenan
Anthony & Lenore Martin
Barbara McElroy
Maura Monaghan
Joan Shigekawa
Pat & Brent Smith
Mike Sweeney
Elizabeth Wood

BENEFACTORS
$499 & BELOW
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Semahagn Abebe
Susan Albertine
Frank Albrecht
Liviu Andreeescu
Ari Arad
Lloyd Axworthy
Gordon Babst
Alan Becker
Ulrike Beisel
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*matching gift
List from Sept. 2017–Sept. 2018

FINANCIALS (2017 – 2018)

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

FY17 SUMMARY

$2,298,550
$1,870,660

Protection Services
Monitoring & Advocacy
Research & Learning
Admin & Fundraising
Leveraged for At-Risk Scholars

7% 25% 68%

Grants Members Individuals

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University.
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Looking Ahead

In 2020, the Scholars at Risk Network will celebrate its 20th anniversary and 10th Global Congress. SAR invites individual institutions, groups of institutions, and SAR sections or partners interested in hosting the Global Congress in 2020 or 2022 to submit a proposal.

For more information, please contact Lauren Crain, SAR Director of Research and Learning: lauren.crain@nyu.edu

“...Without knowledge, there is no culture; without culture, there is no society. Therefore, protecting scholars at risk and creating sustainable networks of experts for culture on a global level is not only a humanitarian obligation, but an indispensable investment in the future of our planet.”

–Prof. Dr. Markus Hilgert, Director, Ancient Near East Museum at Pergamonmuseum, from his keynote remarks at SAR’s 2018 Global Congress
This year Scholars at Risk helped more scholars, provided more placements, trainings and services, documented more attacks, triggered more appeals, and convened the largest ever congress gathering—reaching wider audiences than ever before.

But the need for SAR’s help continues to increase. Please become part of our network and our community of supporters.