SCHOLARS AT RISK

Defending the human rights of scholars and protecting academic freedom worldwide

Scholars at Risk Network to Establish SAR Slovakia Section

Leaders from universities across Slovakia will convene on May 23, 2019 at Art Books Coffee in Bratislava to launch the Slovakia section of Scholars at Risk (SAR). The launch is organized by the Bratislava Policy Institute, which will act as the secretariat of the section during a three-year pilot phase.

The establishment of the SAR Slovakia section comes at a time of growing concern around academic freedom in Eastern Europe. “We need to promote academic freedom among students and scholars, the true values of university life. We need it in this time of commercialization,” said Viera Žúborová, the Executive Director of the Bratislava Policy Institute.

SAR sections are groups of higher education institutions and associations that are nationally organized to coordinate national and local-level activities in support of academic freedom and higher education values. The SAR Slovakia section is being established to expand knowledge about academic freedom in the world and foster a community that nurtures the free exchange of ideas and opinions.

“SAR is proud to partner with the Bratislava Policy Institute and universities in the Slovak Republic as we stand in solidarity with educators, researchers and students around the world who are threatened for peacefully expressing ideas and asking questions,” commented Joyce Pisarello, Director of Membership and University Relations at SAR. “Academic freedom is fundamental to providing quality higher education. We look forward to working with our partners in Slovakia to preserve and promote the freedom to think, locally and globally.”

The founding members of the Slovakia Scholars at Risk Network are:

- Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts
- Bratislava Policy Institute
- Matej Bel University
Pan-European University
University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava

The SAR Slovakia section launch will be held in association with the 2019 Freedom Festival, which will take place on May 24. Participants will gather in Bratislava to explore ways to mobilize Slovak society to better understand and defend academic and creative freedoms, which include freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of thoughts, freedom of research, and freedom of art. The program features documentaries, discussions, exhibitions, plays, and concerts which highlight injustice and celebrate freedom of expression.

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Scholars of the Month

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals that exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.

A Scholar of Sociology from Bangladesh

This junior scholar of sociology specializes in Western political thought as well as ethnicity and minority studies, and has spent several years instructing university-level courses on these topics in Bangladesh. Complementing this expertise, the scholar is an active writer and researcher who recently published articles exploring sociology of religion and

A Scholar of Language and Linguistics from Syria

This scholar has over three decades of teaching experience at universities in the Middle East, where he has led courses on phonology and phonetics, semantics, syntax, and more. He has authored several publications in international and regional academic journals, on topics including English and Arabic linguistics, translation, syntax, and morphology. He faces risk due to the

A Scholar of Political Science and Women's Studies from Turkey

This scholar has nearly two decades of university-level teaching experience in Turkey and North America, where she instructed courses in political and global communication, women and media, international political history, and more. She is an active researcher in the field, and has authored numerous publications on global politics and gender. She faces risk of arrest,
socioeconomic status. He faces risk of arrest, violence, and harassment in Bangladesh and seeks research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Bangladesh 562)

ongoing situational violence, harassment, and loss of position in Turkey and seeks research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning January 2020. (Turkey 603)

All Scholars Seeking Assistance »

Professor Saibaba Denied Bail Despite Severe Medical Complications

Join SAR in calling for the release of Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba, a professor of English literature at Delhi University and human rights activist imprisoned in India. Professor Saibaba was denied bail on medical grounds despite suffering from several health issues that need immediate and sustained medical care.

On May 9, 2014, police arrested Professor Saibaba as he was leaving the university and alleged that he’s connected with the Communist Party of India. Nearly three years later, on March 7, 2017, Professor Saibaba was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on a charge of “being a member of a terrorist gang or organization,” without credible evidence.

Professor Saibaba suffers from post-polio syndrome and 19 health issues, including life-threatening acute pancreatitis and impacted gallbladder stones, which require immediate surgery. Although Professor Saibaba applied for bail on medical grounds and submitted records of his health conditions, on March 25, 2019, a court rejected his plea. Professor Saibaba remains in solitary confinement in need of immediate medical attention.

Free GN Saibaba! »

Course on Academic Freedom Launches
April 15 - Sign Up Today!

There is still time to sign up for "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters," an online course that explores what academic freedom is, and why it matters not only to scholars but to all of society. Since its launch last summer, learners from more than 120 countries have registered. The course, which was created by Scholars at Risk, the University of Oslo, UNICA, and the University of Ljubljana, is currently open for enrollment and accessible via the FutureLearn platform.

Support Scholars at Risk When you Shop on Amazon

Scholars at Risk is now officially a registered charity with the Amazon Smile Program! When you designate Scholars at Risk as your official charity, SAR will receive .05% of the purchase price on eligible purchases made, at no additional cost to the shopper.

Support SAR as your Amazon Smile charity of choice:

(1) Go directly to SAR's unique AmazonSmile URL: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-2385660, and whenever you purchase items through Amazon Smile, SAR will get a donation.
(2) For more information about the Amazon Smile program click here: Amazon Smiles FAQs.

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Events

26th General Assembly of the German Rectors' Conference I May 14 I Rostock, Germany

SAR staff Leona Binz will attend the closed general meeting of the German Rectors’ Conference. Please stop by our booth to learn how to get involved in SAR’s work.

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SAR Slovakia Launch I May 23 I Bratislava, Slovakia

Representatives from universities in Slovakia will convene in Bratislava on May 23, 2019 to launch the Slovakia section of Scholars at Risk.

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Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences I June 7 I Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences is the convergence of over 70 scholarly associations, each holding their annual conference under one umbrella.

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Higher Education Values in Practice: Integration of Highly Skilled Refugees and At-Risk Academics in Europe I June 13 I Brussels, Belgium

This event will focus on academic values and the role of the higher education community in supporting students and scholars with a refugee background, and at-risk academics.

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