SAR's New Handbooks and Online Trainings

In August, SAR launched new versions of our handbooks for scholars and hosts, along with brand-new online trainings for scholars. Since our founding in 2000, we have regularly offered guidance to scholars before, during, and after a SAR-arranged placement. We have also provided advice to universities as they host at-risk scholars on their campuses. The updated versions of our existing handbooks - consisting of the Scholar Guide, How to Host, and Vivian G. Prins SAR Speaker Series publications - further this work and serve as a repository of information and FAQs for scholars and hosts regarding SAR placements, hosting, and speaker series events. These handbooks also include the latest information and advice, incorporating learnings from hosts’ and scholars’ experiences since the handbooks were first printed in 2011.

We are also pleased to share two new online modules that we have developed for SAR scholars, “Making the Most of a Placement” and “Planning for a Transition.” Since 2016 we have held 10 in-person workshops in Europe and North America for over 300 scholars to discuss how to best take advantage of opportunities provided by a SAR placement and how to plan ahead of a visit’s end or other career transitions in a workshop setting. Now, we have distilled this guidance into online training modules.
These online trainings offer our guidance to those scholars who cannot attend the workshops in person.

We’re eager to share these new resources with the SAR network, and we hope the new handbooks and online trainings will provide guidance to even more scholars, and will be a resource for universities inviting scholars to campus.

If you would like printed versions of the handbooks, please write scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu with “Handbook Request” in the subject line. Copies of the handbooks will also be available at SAR events, including the SAR 2020 Global Congress.

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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.*

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**A Scholar of Social Philosophy from Indonesia**

This scholar has more than a decade of experience instructing university courses in sociology and philosophy. A strong researcher as well, he has authored numerous publications on human rights, political power, and electoral politics, among other topics. This scholar faces risk of arrest and harassment in Indonesia and seeks teaching and/or

**A Scholar of Law from Eritrea**

Specializing in refugee rights and human rights law, this scholar has nearly two decades of experience conducting research in academia and as a legal practitioner. The scholar also has several years of university teaching experience, leading courses including constitutional law, private and public law, and public international law. He reports risk of arrest and violence in Eritrea, and

**A Scholar of Development Studies from Iran**

This junior scholar's work sits at the intersection of gender, identity, and rights. She is particularly interested in exploring these topics as they relate to religion and agency, and she has a few years of experience conducting academic research and teaching in her field. She reports risk of arrest and loss of position in Iran, and seeks research opportunities in a safe
SAR Spotlight: Scholar Interviews in Partnership with Index on Censorship

This month’s spotlight features SAR scholar Dr. Kassem Alsayed Mahmoud and his experience in search of academic freedom. In the spotlight, he speaks about the impact of the revolution in Syria on higher education in the country among other topics relating to his experiences in Syria and abroad. Dr. Mahmoud’s interview is part of series in partnership with Index on Censorship, a nonprofit that campaigns for and defends free expression worldwide. The series entails interviews with SAR scholars about their experiences navigating threats to academic freedom and continuing their work in a variety of environments. Check out our “Spotlight” page for new interviews in the future.

Read More »

Following her White House visit, join Jewher Ilham in calling for the release of her father, Professor Ilham Tohti

Professor Ilham Tohti is an economist and public intellectual who was wrongfully sentenced to life in prison in China 5 years ago. His daughter, Jewher Ilham, met with President Trump on July 17th to discuss her father’s ongoing detention. Join Ms. Ilham and SAR in calling for his release!

Professor Tohti, a member of the Uyghur ethnic community, advocated for Uyghur rights and promoted dialogue between Uyghur and Han Chinese through his site, “Uighurbiz.net.” On January 15, 2014, police raided
Professor Tohti’s home, arrested him, and held him incommunicado for five months. On September 23, 2014, the Urumqi Intermediate People’s Court sentenced Professor Tohti to life in prison on a charge of separatism that apparently stems from his teachings at Central Minzu University and writings published on Uighurbiz.net. The sentencing was upheld on appeal. In her meeting with President Trump, Ms. Ilham stated that she had not had any news about her father’s condition since 2017, as family visits were no longer possible.

SAR calls for letters, emails, and faxes respectfully urging authorities to ensure that the circumstances of Professor Tohti's arrest, detention, and conviction are examined, that any charges or convictions related to his peaceful academic activities are reversed, and that in the interim, his access to family is ensured and his case is addressed in a manner consistent with internationally recognized standards of due process, fair trial, and detention, in accordance with China's obligations under international law.

Take Action! »

New Resources

The EU-funded Academic Refuge project, which includes as partners UNICA, the University of Oslo, the University of Ljubljana, and SAR, has released an e-handbook, Promoting Core Higher Education Values: Perspectives from the Field. This free resource gathers testimonies on embedding academic values and refugee integration from more than 25 higher education institutions around the world.

Download »

The EU Erasmus+ funded S.U.C.R.E. Project has published the report, Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education. This free resource provides recommendations for the integration of refugee scholars based on surveys with host institutions, at-risk and refugee scholars being hosted at universities, and academic mentors.

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Events

SAR Chapter Launch: University of the Sunshine Coast | August 19th | Queensland, Australia

On the 19th of August 2019 the Australian University USC will officially launch its USC Scholars at Risk Chapter. The chapter will not only work to advocate for the collective good of the Scholars at Risk network, but will have a positive impact on the extracurricular experiences of its student body.

SAR How-to-Host & Scholar Training Workshop | Sept. 12-13 | Xavier University, Louisiana

On September 12th and 13th, this SAR workshop brings SAR scholars and university representatives together for an evening cocktail reception on Thursday and a full-day workshop at Xavier on Friday.

Scholars at Risk at EAIE | Sept. 24-27 | Helsinki, Finland

Scholars at Risk will have an exhibit at the upcoming European Association for International Education conference in Helsinki, Finland. SAR will also speak on a panel at the conference alongside partners from Central European University, Hungary, on Wednesday, September 25 from 1:30-2:30. Please stop by the SAR table to learn more!

Scholars at Risk at the SPHR Conference at the University of Dayton | Oct. 4th | Dayton, Ohio

Scholars at Risk’s Chelsea Blackburn Cohen will speak on a panel about censorship and academic freedom at the Social Practice of Human Rights conference at the University of Dayton.

Focusing on Freedom: Academic Freedom in Central and Eastern Europe | Oct. 3rd | Banská Bystrica, Slovakia
The Bratislava Policy Institute, Matej Bel University and the Hanns Seidel Foundation will host an interational conference exploring academic freedom in Central and Eastern Europe. Interested parties may RSVP electronically or submit topical papers for consideration by September 15th.


Save the date! Scholars at Risk invites you to the SAR Network 2020 Global Congress on March 25-28, 2020, convened in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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**Connect with Us**

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. Our international network of institutions and individuals shares a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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