Countdown to SAR 2020 Global Congress - Join Us!

Register today for 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). Join scholars, advocates, and leaders in human rights and higher education for an opportunity to network, learn, and share your experiences.

CONFERENCE DETAILS - NEWLY ANNOUNCED!

Washington, DC

On March 25-26, AAAS and SAR will co-host a series of workshops and trainings on academic freedom advocacy. Join us for sessions about case selection, advocacy strategies, and state/multi-state advocacy and a session specifically tailored to university leaders and networks. All are welcome, including students! There will be a
special Student Advocacy Workshop in DC on Wednesday that will include panels, mock meetings, discussions, student case presentations, and preparation for students to spend Thursday on Capitol Hill advocating for academic freedom issues.

Baltimore, MD

On March 26-28, Johns Hopkins University (JHU) will host pre-conference meetings and the 2020 Global Congress, including keynotes, plenaries, and breakouts in addition to networking and presentation of the 2020 Courage to Think Award. On Thursday pre-conference meetings will include SAR USA and other SAR section meetings at JHU, and workshops held at the nearby conference hotel, the Inn at the Colonnade, will include a Practitioners at Risk Workshop held in partnership with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Speaker Highlights for the 2020 Global Congress

Featured 2020 Global Congress speakers will include David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Ronald J. Daniels, President of Johns Hopkins University, in discussion with Johnathan Cole, Provost and Dean of Faculties, Emeritus, Columbia University, Laurel Leff, author of “Well Worth Saving: American Universities’ Life-and-Death Decisions on Refugees from Nazi Europe,” and Paula Johnson, President of Wellesley College, in discussion with Hahrie Han, Inaugural Director of the SNF Agora Institute. With over 50 additional speakers across 20 sessions, panels, and discussions at the Congress, it will be an invaluable opportunity to network with leading figures in human rights, advocacy, and higher education.

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 Science Education from Nigeria

This scholar has several years of teaching experience at universities in Nigeria, where he has instructed courses on computer-based learning, pedagogy, and science education, among others. He specializes in computer-based learning in science instruction, and has authored several international, peer-reviewed publications in the field. This scholar faces loss of position and threats to his academic career in Nigeria, and seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Nigeria 554)

A Scholar of Geography from China

This scholar of human geography specializes in environmental policy, political ecology, and pastoralism. He has several years of experience conducting research at universities in China and the United States, and has a strong record of publishing international, peer-reviewed research. This scholar reports having faced surveillance, intimidation, and detention in China, and seeks research opportunities in the United States beginning in May 2020. (China 612)

A Scholar of Pharmacology from Palestine

This scholar has more than a decade of experience instructing courses in pharmacology at universities in Palestine and the United Kingdom. He has focused much of his career on curriculum design, and spearheaded a program to create and disseminate more interactive, online courses in the field. He has published several articles in international, peer-reviewed journals, most recently on carbon-monoxide releasing molecules. This scholar reports risk due to the ongoing, situational violence in Palestine, and seeks teaching and/or research opportunities in a safe location beginning in June 2020. (Palestine 610)
Free Niloufar Bayani on International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On International Day of Women and Girls in Science, join SAR in calling for the release of Niloufar Bayani, a researcher, conservationist, and scholar imprisoned in Iran for her scientific research.

Ms. Bayani is the program manager of the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation and former project consultant for UN Environment. On January 24, 2018, she and her colleagues were arrested while conducting field research on asiatic cheetahs. Almost two years later, on November 23, 2019, authorities convicted and sentenced Ms. Bayani to ten years in prison on charges of “contacts with the U.S. enemy state” and “gaining illegitimate income.” Authorities also reportedly ordered Ms. Bayani to repay all of her paychecks from the United Nations for the time she was employed at UN Environment.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a day to celebrate women and girls, who are leading initiatives in science and demands action to remove barriers holding them back. Protect Ms. Bayani’s right to scientific research and academic freedom by signing and submitting this letter today.

Join the Network!

Scholars at Risk invites higher education institutions to join our network. Please reach out to madeline.everett@nyu.edu if your university is interested in a Scholars at Risk membership. Not sure if your university is already a member? Check out our Membership Directory to look at the 500 higher education institutions that have already pledged to protect academic freedom.
Events

#SpeechMatters2020: Participation and Protect on Campus | Feb. 27 | Washington, DC

SAR staff will be attending the University of California’s 2nd Annual Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement Conference. The theme for this year’s conference is #SpeechMatters2020: Participation and Protest on Campus.

Read More »

2020 Philipp Schwartz Forum | Mar. 9 | Berlin, Germany

The 2020 Philipp Schwartz Forum of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation provides an opportunity for threatened researchers, host institutions, funding organisations, and partners in Germany and abroad to discuss current issues and strategies related to the topic of threatened scholars.

Read More »


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).

Register Now »

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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