
FOUNDING STATEMENT OF THE SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

RECOGNIZING the central importance of scholarship, academic freedom, and higher education for the promotion and protection of peaceful, democratic societies; recognizing that academic communities worldwide, including scholars, administrators, students, and their institutions, have long been targets of attack by agents seeking to curtail expression, silence dissent, and control the flow of information in society; recognizing that such attacks, against any member of the global academic community, threaten the common educative mission of every member of that community; recognizing the shared responsibility of all scholars, administrators, students and their institutions to join in solidarity in defense of their colleagues; and further recognizing that past and on-going efforts to meet that responsibility on an individual, ad hoc, or emergency basis, despite much success, have failed to eliminate the need for common action, we

RESOLVE that there should be established a permanent network of universities, colleges and similar centers of research, study and teaching; that this network, in collaboration with like-minded institutions, groups and individuals, should dedicate itself to protecting the fundamental human rights of scholars and other members of the global academic community, including among them independent scholars, public intellectuals, writers, artists, and others engaged in the discovery, development and strengthening of the community of ideas; that among its activities, this network should devote its greatest energies to assisting scholars facing the most grave threats to their being and to their profession, including but not limited to threats resulting from displacement, discrimination, censorship, intimidation, harassment, and violence; that where these threats are of such gravity that other forms of assistance would prove ineffective or insufficient, the network should endeavor to provide positions of personal and professional sanctuary within its membership; and that although temporary, the design of these positions should be such as to assist scholars in resuming their careers;

RESOLVE that this network should in addition charge itself with raising awareness, understanding of and respect for academic freedom (including its constituent freedoms of expression, opinion, and thought), higher education, scholarship, and the free exchange of ideas; promoting intervention and advocacy in defense of academic freedom and the human rights of scholars; and otherwise undertaking such activities as the network and its membership may in due course deem appropriate; and

RESOLVE that this network should be known as the **Scholars at Risk Network**, and thereafter

PLEDGE to support this network by receiving, disseminating and sharing information about the network, its aims and activities; by participating in activities to raise awareness and understanding of attacks on members of the academic community; and by encouraging the participation of colleagues and institutions in the network including, but not limited to, promoting where possible efforts to assist scholars at risk through provision of temporary academic positions or other suitable assistance.

*Adopted June 2000, at the University of Chicago.
Incorporated into the bylaws of the Scholars at Risk, Inc., as amended August 2, 2017.*

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