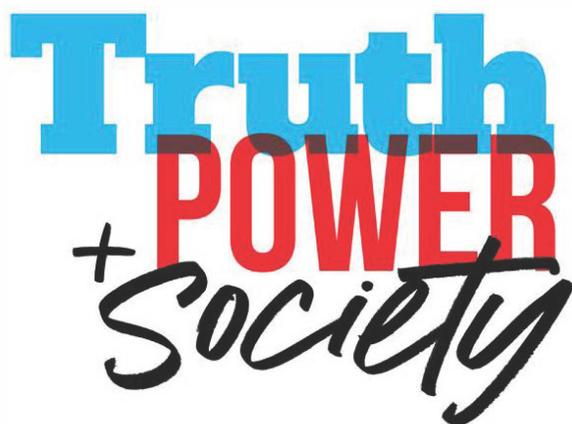




Defending the human rights of scholars and protecting academic freedom worldwide



## Global Congress 2020 Goes Virtual



*The Promise of  
Higher Education in  
Challenging Times*

**SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK  
2020 GLOBAL CONGRESS**



Scholars at Risk would like to thank our global community for your patience and understanding as we navigate together the current uncertainties regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). As announced yesterday to all participants, we have **canceled the in-person gatherings for the Global Congress 2020** in Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD. We are currently planning to provide key elements of the program **in a virtual/online format** to be delivered on **Thursday, March 26** and **Friday, March 27**, between 9:30 AM New York (-4 GMT) and 2:00 PM New York (-4 GMT). Please save the dates and look out for future announcements by email and on the [SAR website](#).

While the invaluable opportunity to gather in-person has been postponed, the virtual format will offer an alternative for many network members and partners who otherwise would not have been able to travel to an in-person event. The virtual Congress will be a reduced program with shorter sessions suitable for online participation and we plan to record the sessions so that they're available via the SAR website. We are grateful to speakers who have offered to contribute to the program.

As the public health situation clarifies, we will be looking for an opportunity to reschedule the Congress. We were already planning an event in New York City for the week of **November 16-20, 2020** to mark the release of the annual [Free to Think](#) report and the close of SAR's 20th anniversary year. We will be exploring the possibility of incorporating elements of the in-person Congress, in whole or in part, at that time. We

would appreciate your marking your calendars with the possibility. We look forward to providing you more information in the coming days and weeks. Please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

[Read More»](#)

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## Call for Contributions from Researchers at Risk and Host Organizations in Europe

[Inspireurope](#), an EU-funded “Initiative to Support, Promote and Integrate Researchers at Risk in Europe” coordinated by SAR Europe based at Maynooth University in Ireland,  invites your contributions. The project is mapping the quality of existing support for researchers at risk in Europe, in order to inform recommendations on how to improve institutional, national and European level policy frameworks and funding instruments for researchers at risk.

To gather your suggestions, the [European University Association](#) (EUA); one of the 10 Inspireurope project partners, is kindly asking for contributions from both researchers at risk and host and employer institutions, through two online questionnaires:

1. The **questionnaire for researchers at risk** provides an opportunity to share your experiences of accessing support in Europe. Link: [https://eua.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bCxsP8Hg4RkqpXn](https://eua.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bCxsP8Hg4RkqpXn)
2. The **institutional questionnaire** seeks to gather information on the practices and challenges faced as an institution interested or involved in supporting researchers at risk. Link: [https://eua.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_d1ovqprgfwESQiF](https://eua.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d1ovqprgfwESQiF)

The questionnaires should take between 10-15 minutes to complete. The deadline for contributions is **April 10, 2020**. Further information is available [here](#).

For questions or comments related to the questionnaires, please contact EUA directly at [inspire@eua.eu](mailto:inspire@eua.eu)

[Complete the Researchers at Risk Questionnaire»](#)

[Complete the Institutional Questionnaire»](#)

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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](mailto:apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu).*



### **A Scholar of Engineering from Iraq**

This scholar specializes in bridge and tunnel engineering and has several years of teaching experience at a university in Iraq. A strong researcher in the field, this scholar has published numerous academic articles in international journals and has held research positions in Iraq and China. He reports facing threats to his life and threats of violence in Iraq, and seeks research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Iraq 812)



### **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 seeks research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Eritrea 535)



### **A Scholar of History from Tajikistan**

This scholar has several years of experience conducting research on education and Central Asian history at universities in Tajikistan and Western Europe. He has authored several articles in his field in international publications, and he has taught numerous courses on an array of historical studies. He reports risk of arrest and harassment in Tajikistan, and seeks research opportunities in Sweden beginning June 2020. (Tajikistan 501)

**All Scholars Seeking Assistance »**

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## Release Scholars Imprisoned in Iran for Health Concerns

As of March 9, 2020, Iranian authorities have reportedly released roughly 70,000 individuals from prisons, in an effort to contain the outbreak of a novel coronavirus

disease known as COVID-19. Authorities have not, however, released imprisoned scholars who have long been in need of urgent medical care and who are therefore at greater risk of experiencing adverse effects of the disease. The scholars include Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, a scholar of disaster medicine, and Ms. Niloufar Bayani, a conservationist, and Drs. Adelkhah and Marchal, researchers at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po).



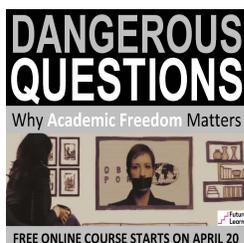
Dr. Djalali was sentenced to death on October 21, 2017, and has been repeatedly denied access to medical care despite severely deteriorating health. A specialist who conducted a series of blood tests on Dr. Djalali informed him that his bone marrow cells have severely weakened, indicating a high possibility of leukemia. Ms. Bayani was sentenced to ten years in prison on November 23, 2019. On February 18, 2020, in a series of letters published by BBC Persian, Ms. Bayani alleges she was subjected to psychological and physical torture and threats of sexual violence by her male interrogators. Drs. Adelkhah and Marchal, who have been in prison in Iran since June 5, 2019, are reported to have rapidly deteriorating health. SAR is gravely concerned about the health and well-being of these scholars, especially given that their ongoing health issues may make them more susceptible to COVID-19.

[Free Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali»](#)

[Free Ms. Niloufar Bayani»](#)

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## Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters



Are some questions too dangerous to ask? What happens to scholars and students who ask those questions? How can you contribute to strengthening core higher education values, such as academic freedom? These are among the questions we will discuss in “Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters,” a free online course on the FutureLearn platform created by the Academic Refuge project. The three-week course begins on April 20.

[Register Today»](#)

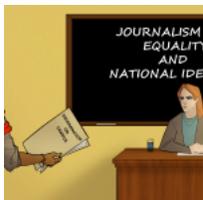
# Events



## SAR 2020 Global Congress | March 26-27, 2020 | Online

The SAR Network 2020 Global Congress will convene virtually on March 26 and 27, 2020. For program updates and information for registered participants, click below.

[Read More »](#)



## Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters | April 20, 2020 | Online

The EU-funded 'Academic Refuge' project, on which Scholars at Risk is a partner, will hold a three-week online course that explores the meaning of academic freedom and how it relates to core higher education and societal values.

[Register Today»](#)



## InSPIREurope Stakeholder Forum | June 8, 2020 | Paris, France

The 2020 InSPIREurope Stakeholder Forum will be hosted by the French national PAUSE program at the Collège de France, Paris. It will bring together stakeholders from across Europe involved in activities to support researchers at risk.

[Register Today»](#)

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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.

Scholars at Risk values your privacy and data security. You have received this email consistent with our [privacy policy](#) based on your prior consent.

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