Given the exodus of over 3 million Ukrainian refugees to Poland, Polish universities are committed to assisting the global higher education community in welcoming and protecting at-risk scholars. The Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow, Poland, a recent SAR member institution, rose to the occasion in light of the war in Ukraine.

Since March 2022, as many as 63 interns and 12 lecturers from Ukraine are continuing their work safely at the Academy through short-term research and teaching positions. Students are assigned to different studios, where they can continue their studies and finalize their diplomas through online communication with their supervisors from Ukraine.

To combat the language barrier, Ukrainian students and lecturers work in groups to support each other as they integrate into the Academy’s community. The Academy
also provides Polish language classes for Ukrainians and ensures the presence of an interpreter. Scholarships and meal vouchers, accommodations, learning aids such as canvas stretchers, papers, paints and tools, and a charity auction have also been made available to support students from Ukraine. Looking ahead, the Academy intends to establish a special scholarship fund for Ukraine called HeART FOR UKRAINE, to be allocated to students from Ukraine in 2022/2023.

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**Advancing human rights using psychology**

How can psychology be used to make a positive impact on critical social issues, including advancing human rights? The American Psychological Association (APA), through its long-term partnership with SAR, has spearheaded efforts to promote the rights, mental health, and well-being of scholars, human rights defenders, and other civic actors at risk. In response to recent crises, APA advocated for the evacuation of several Afghan mental health professionals facing death threats due to their collaboration with Western institutions and supported Ukrainian colleagues at the National Psychological Association of Ukraine to share resources and form a mental health hotline. Other initiatives include training SAR staff on secondary trauma and self-care, a Global Psychology Alliance webinar series as part of the Vivian G. Prins Speaker Series providing psychologists around the world an opportunity to hear the stories of SAR scholars, and a Congressional seminar hosted by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (Division 9 of APA) about protecting and promoting the human rights of scientists, scholars, and students around the world, featuring remarks from SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn.

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**Scholars seeking hosts**

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.
A Scholar of Journalism from Afghanistan

This activist and scholar of journalism (MA) has published extensively in several regional news outlets, and his research focuses on medical tourism and the pharmaceutical industry. He has multiple years of university teaching experience, including courses on journalism, multimedia, and interpersonal communication. He reports threats to his life related to his public criticism of the Taliban and is seeking teaching or research opportunities in the United States beginning immediately. (Afghanistan 710)

A Scholar of Environmental and Food Chemistry from Yemen

This scholar specializes in environmental and food chemistry (PhD) focusing his research most recently on the micronutrient and elemental analyses of various food products, principally maple syrup, and the implementation and design of novel maple syrup adulteration detection methods. He has several years of university-level lecturing and publishing experience at Yemeni academic institutions and most recently in Canada. He reports general, situational risk due to the ongoing civil war in Yemen and direct threats of violence following his relocation from Yemen. He is seeking research opportunities in Canada beginning immediately. (Yemen 695)

All Scholars Seeking Assistance »
Abduljalil Al-Singace’s hunger strike passes one year

As of July 7, Bahraini scholar Dr. Abduljalil Al-Singace has been on hunger strike for one year. Dr. Al-Singace was arrested in 2011 and has since been held in Bahrain’s Jau Prison. He began refusing sustenance to protest his ill-treatment, and to demand the return of confiscated research. Dr. Al-Singace’s health has deteriorated rapidly while on hunger strike, and Bahraini authorities have not provided him with appropriate medical care. Join SAR in calling for Dr. Al-Singace’s immediate release so he can receive urgent medical care.

Listen: Higher Education in Ukraine

“As Ukrainians are shielding Europe right now from Russian autocracy, the world can shield Ukrainians from the fear of being forgotten.”

Liz Shchepetylnykova, civil society activist & expert on education policy in Ukraine

On the Free to Think podcast, SAR Executive Director Robert Quinn talks with Yulia Bezvershenko, a visiting scholar at Stanford University, and Liz Shchepetylnykova, a civil society activist, on the state of higher education in Ukraine after four months of war.

As Russia invaded Ukraine, and war broke out across the country, professors and students in Ukraine fought to keep education going. Even from bomb shelters, they provided lectures online and completed their coursework. “[I]t’s very important to provide this feeling of future, of opportunities.” Bezvershenko and Shchepetylnykova describe how Ukrainian students and researchers are experiencing the war, explain
why many scholars are opting to stay in the country, and offer advice on immediate and long-term strategies for supporting the students, scholars and higher education institutions of Ukraine.

News & Events

Recording available: International Conference: LIBERTAS. SPACES AND PRACTICES OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Recordings of key sessions from the University of Padova’s recent conference on academic freedom are now available. The conference, held on June 22, 2022, was organized in collaboration with Scholars at Risk Italy and Scholars at Risk Europe in honor of the 800th anniversary of the University of Padova. The event aimed to promote knowledge and understanding of processes that – across the centuries and still today – present challenges to academic freedom. Sessions included a discussion of student advocacy efforts, and a presentation of SAR Italy’s proposal for a national program of scholarships for at-risk researchers and students. Recordings are available here.

Recording available: Inspireurope Webinar: EU-funded fellowships and inclusion of researchers at risk

A recording is now available of this webinar organized by the EU-funded Inspireurope project on June 29th, 2022, to address practices of inclusion of researchers at risk in EU fellowship programmes. Speakers shared practical suggestions for how to support applications from researchers at risk to MSCA and other EU-funded programmes.

“UK government to help fund Ukraine university twinning scheme” | The PIE News, June 29, 2022

The British government yesterday announced it would provide £190,000 in funding for a program that matches UK universities
with Ukrainian ones to support students and academics affected by the war. […] Sinead O’Gorman, director of Scholars at Risk Europe, which works to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom, commented that “two elements of the UK’s response to the crisis facing the higher education sector in Ukraine are particularly commendable”.

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