SEPTEMBER 2022

A record response from the SAR Network

Over the past 12 months, the SAR network has created more than 170 placements for at-risk scholars around the world — to date the highest number of placements in a single year. With its members and global partners, SAR responded to an unprecedented number of requests for assistance from individuals in 45 countries, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Turkey, Russia, Yemen, and beyond.

Tremendous efforts on behalf of Afghan scholars in particular have in the last year created more than 50 appointments in Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States.

One such scholar is Prof. Dr. Adbullah Shafaee, who has used his private law expertise to advance the rights of Afghan women and the Hazara people. Shafaee's activities and public criticism of extremism in Afghanistan exposed him to an increasingly precarious situation and risk from the Taliban after the fall of Kabul, leading him to seek safety outside the country.

Shafaee arrived at his SAR-arranged position at the University of Turin in May 2022. In an interview for *UniTo News* on World Refugee Day, he shared his desire to help his people by bringing awareness to widespread ethno-religious persecution and discrimination under the Taliban.

Watch the full interview and read more about Prof. Dr. Adbullah Shafaee here.

We continue to seek placements for scholars across a wide range of academic disciplines from Afghanistan and many other countries. If your institution is able to host a threatened colleague, please review this list of over 35 scholars for whom we are currently seeking positions, and contact the SAR staff at hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

MSCA4Ukraine fellowship scheme

As part of the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine fellowship scheme, Scholars at Risk Europe will provide advisory and matchmaking services for host organisations and researchers from Ukraine. As an initial step, SAR Europe is inviting prospective host organisations that are seeking to connect with a researcher from Ukraine to complete a form on the MSCA4Ukraine website here. Information for researchers seeking hosts will follow in due course.
General Information about MSCA4Ukraine:

- Preliminary information for applicants, including eligibility criteria for host organisations and researchers is available on the MSCA4Ukraine website here. As outlined on the website, applications must be submitted by prospective host organisations.
- A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is available here.
- If you do not find a response to your query in either the preliminary information for applicants or in the FAQ section of the MSCA4Ukraine website, you are invited to submit your query here.
- A call for fellowship applications with more detailed information on application requirements, such as eligibility, evaluation and selection criteria will be published in the second half of September 2022.
- You may sign up to the MSCA4Ukraine mailing list here here.

We invite you to share this update widely with prospective host organisations in your network.
Read more »

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 Dental Sciences

This scholar of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics focuses on bone cell biology, osteocytes, and bone biomechanics for functional recovery and reconstruction. In addition to his several years of teaching and research experience on osteocyte differentiation, morphology, and biomechanics, he has worked concurrently as an orthodontist in medical centers and clinics in Yemen and Saudi Arabia. He reports general, situational risk due to the ongoing civil war in Yemen and seeks teaching and/or research positions in Finland beginning immediately. [Yemen 585]

A Scholar of Translation Studies

This scholar specializes in translation studies. In her current work, she analyzes literary translations in Ukrainian and Russian, political discourse and rhetoric for ESL and translation students, and intersemiotic and interlingual translations. She has over a decade of lecturing and publishing experience, including courses on news translation, cognitive linguistics, paratext studies, rhetorical analysis, and public speaking skills. She reports risk of violence and instability due to the war in Ukraine and seeks research positions in a safe location beginning immediately. [Ukraine 583]

A Scholar of Sustainable Engineering

This scholar of electrical engineering specializes in renewable energy and has explored floating off-shore wind turbine technology in his recent work. He has over two decades of teaching and research experience in academia, including a strong publication background on the topics of sustainable wind energy, high-voltage instrumentation, partial discharge, and detection + warning systems. He reports risk of violence and loss of position in Yemen, and is seeking teaching or research opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. [Yemen 712]

SEE ALL SCHOLARS >

Opportunity to act in Sweden

"In the early years, when SAR Sweden launched in 2016, very few scholars were hosted in the country. Over time, we expanded through outreach to universities and actors outside academia, developed new funding streams, and took advantage of opportunities to raise awareness of academic freedom.

We are delighted by our network growth in Sweden; our section has grown to thirty members, of which a handful are affiliate members.

We have been grateful to host over 20 scholars**.** Our growth over time has let us respond during

moments of crisis, like the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but also to offer sustained support to at-risk scholars regardless of scholarly discipline or country origin."

Karolina Catoni, Chair SAR-Sweden
Read more »

Are you a SAR Network member interested in writing a Network Reflection? We would love to hear from you. Please email us at scholarsatrisk@NYU.

SAR attends the UN Universal Periodic Review

Last month, SAR's Senior Advocacy Officer Jesse Levine attended the 41st United Nations Universal Periodic Review pre-sessions at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. He held meetings with European and American diplomats to discuss the status of academic freedom and the importance of protecting scholars and universities around the world.

Mr. Levine was joined by Herlambang Wiratraman, a colleague from the Indonesian Caucus for Academic Freedom (KIKA), who spoke on the pattern of repression targeting outspoken scholars and students in the country. In preparation for the pre-sessions, SAR made submissions to the UPR for Brazil, Indonesia (in collaboration with KIKA), and India (in collaboration with McGill University's Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism.
Read more »

Marfa Rabkova sentenced to 15 years in prison

On September 6, 2022, Marfa Rabkova, a third-year student at European Humanities University, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in Belarus in apparent retaliation for her nonviolent expressive activity. In a trial closed to the public, Ms. Rabkova was found guilty of thirteen charges including "organizing, participating in, and training others to participate in mass riots," "inciting social hostility towards the government," and "involvement in a criminal organization."

Over the past two years since Ms. Rabkova's arrest, her health has declined. Despite this, authorities continue to deny her access to appropriate medical care.

Read SAR's letter to Alexander Lukashenko, the President of Belarus, calling for the immediate release of Ms. Rabkova here. You can support Ms. Rabkova by signing this letter in your own name. **Take action »**

Free online course on academic freedom

Given the threats facing scholars and higher education institutions today, promoting and defending academic freedom is critical, not only to academics, but to all of society.

Starting September 12th, Scholars at Risk is holding its next run of the free online course, "Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters," developed in collaboration with the University of Oslo and partners on the Academic Refuge Project. In this free online course, you'll learn how to:

- Define academic freedom & related values
- Identify threats to academic freedom in different contexts
- Promote & defend academic freedom
- Demonstrate the importance of academic freedom to democracy
- Apply frameworks to respond to incidents that implicate academic freedom

Since its initial launch in 2018, this online course has enrolled over 5,600 participants from 142 countries. Once registered, participants will have access to the course for five weeks.
Register today »

Updated resources for scholars and students

SAR's updated catalog of alternative resources includes global job, fellowship, and funding opportunities, a list of academic associations, calls for papers, and resources for human rights defenders, journalists, and artists. SAR will continue to update these lists with the hope that they may be useful to SAR partners, scholars, and applicants, especially students and others

who may not qualify for SAR's protection services. If you are aware of an opportunity to include in the catalog, please contact Fiona Hull at fh2209@nyu.edu. **Read more »**

News and events

"Afghan scientific expertise scattered, one year on from Taliban takeover"

Rebecca Trager, *Chemistry World* | August 22, 2022

"Afghanistan's research infrastructure may be idling, but students and researchers who managed to escape abroad continue their work and plan to return to help rebuild their homeland [...] Typically, it's at least a months-long process for people to escape Afghanistan and reach their final destination, according to [Robert Quinn, SAR Executive Director]." **Read more »**

SAR in Barcelona, Spain for the 32nd Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition I September 13-16, 2022

Three SAR staff members, Emily Moore, Denise Roche, and Miriam Alphonsus, will be representing Scholars at Risk at the EAIE 32nd annual conference and exhibition from September 13-16 in Barcelona, Spain. Contact us at ma4834@nyu.edu to schedule a meeting or stop by our booth, A50, anytime during the conference. See you there! **Read more »**

SAR at Sciences Po, Academic Freedom Week I September 13-16, 2022

Sciences Po will be hosting a week dedicated to examining all aspects of academic freedom. A series of round table discussions will bring together students, researchers, academics, and university presidents to explore a variety of perspectives on the issue. During this week, SAR's Director of Membership, Joyce Pisarello will be speaking on the panel 'Measuring and Advocating for the Academic Freedom Index' on September 15, 2022. **Read more »**

SAR at European Research and Innovation Days 2022 | September 28-29, 2022

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. Ms. Sinead O'Gorman, SAR Europe's Director, will be a featured speaker at the European Research and Innovation Days 2022, on an online panel entitled 'Standing with Ukraine.' **Read more »**

FUNDACIÓN JAIME BRUNET PRO DERECHOS HUMANOS UNIVERSIDAD PÚBLICA DE NAVARRA NAFARROAKO UNIBERTSITATE PUBLIKOA GIZA ESKUBIDEEN ALDEKO FUNDAZIOA

Jaime Brunet International Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights | Deadline: Sept 30, 2022

The Brunet Foundation at the Public University of Navarre's 2022 Jaime Brunet Prize is called with the aim of distinguishing: a) work related to human rights b) a career dedicated to the promotion of human rights, and consists of a diploma, a sculpture commemorating the award, and €36,000 in cash. The prize may be awarded to a) individuals, b) work teams, or c) institutions or agencies regardless of their status or nationality. **Read more »**

NED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program | Deadline: October 17, 2022

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program is an international exchange program that offers five-month fellowships to leading democracy activists, journalists, civil society leaders, and scholars from around the world to conduct independent projects at the National Endowment for Democracy. **Read more »**

IAU 2022 16th GENERAL CONFERENCE 25-28 October Dublin, Ireland

SAR at the International Association of Universities General Conference, University College Dublin | October 25-28, 2022

IAU invites its Members and the global higher education community to rethink and reimagine higher education for the future. Dr. Joel Hanisek, SAR Europe's Policy & Programme Manager, will be a featured speaker at the IAU General conference on a panel addressing: "How to Foster a Culture of Democracy and Human Rights in the Curriculum?" taking place at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. **Read more »**

CIVIS3i announces a second call for applications for 16 postdoctoral fellowships I Deadline: October 27, 2022

CIVIS3i fellowships are awarded through a highly competitive, strictly merit-based selection process, and are awarded to talented individuals with challenging and innovative research projects of top academic quality. Applications are invited from academics of all nationalities and all disciplines. **Read more »**

Recognising Refugees, Refugee Studies Centre Conference I Keble College, University of Oxford | Call for papers deadline: October 31, 2022

Forty years ago, in 1982, the Refugee Studies Centre was founded at the University of Oxford. Its aim was to understand the causes, consequences, and responses to forced migration. The RSC is therefore delighted that the theme for its 40th Anniversary Conference is Recognising Refugees.This theme is intended to generate reflection on the processes and practices through which refugees and displaced people are formally and informally recognised by societies, institutions, and governments.

Read more »

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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