Getting Involved

Promoting academic freedom through protection, advocacy, and learning.
The Network at a Glance

**SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR)** is an international network of institutions, associations, and individuals whose collective mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

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### 650+ network institutions | 43+ countries | 1,700+ scholars assisted | 300+ host institutions | $42M in support

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**SAR Sections**

The SAR Network is increasingly organized into national sections—geographic groupings of higher education institutions organized for the specific purpose of participating in SAR-related activities.

- **SAR Australia**
- **SAR Canada**
- **SAR Denmark**
- **SAR Finland**
- **SAR Flanders**
- **SAR Germany**
- **SAR Greece**
- **SAR Ireland**
- **SAR Italy**
- **SAR Netherlands**
- **SAR Norway**
- **SAR Slovakia**
- **SAR Sweden**
- **SAR Switzerland**
- **UK-SAR Universities Network (with CARA)**
- **SAR United States**
- **SAR Wallonia-Brussels**

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**SAR Europe**

SAR’s European office is hosted by Maynooth University, Ireland. SAR Europe works with SAR sections and partners in Europe to strengthen support for scholars and to promote academic freedom. To this end, SAR Europe coordinates the multi-partner EU-funded Inspireurope+ project, and convenes the European Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy. SAR Europe also coordinates the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine scheme to support displaced researchers from Ukraine.

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### Network Membership

Membership is open to accredited higher education institutions and educational associations worldwide. SAR member organizations make a commitment to academic freedom, designate a SAR representative, establish a SAR committee, and contribute an annual membership subscription. Members are encouraged to participate in activities across SAR’s three programmatic areas: protection, advocacy, and learning.

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**PROTECTION**

SAR protects scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being by arranging temporary research and teaching positions, and by providing advisory and referral services.

**ADVOCACY**

SAR has established several initiatives to identify, document and take action in response to attacks on scholars, students and their higher education communities through reporting, monitoring, seminars, and clinics.

**LEARNING**

SAR convenes higher education community members and the public to discuss academic freedom and develop proactive practices that strengthen the university space through projects, workshops, courses, dialogues, and trainings.
In the 2020–2021 academic year, SAR received over 1,000 applications and arranged academic placements for 147 scholars from a variety of disciplines (see figure, right). A majority of these scholars came from Afghanistan, Turkey, Yemen, Myanmar, and Ethiopia. From May to November 2021, SAR received over 1,300 applications from scholars and practitioners from Afghanistan alone. SAR also received many requests from across the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia.

How SAR Helps

SCHOLAR APPLIES
(or is referred)

Initial Evaluation
SAR evaluates a scholar’s situation to determine how the organization and network can best help them.

Scholar Hosting
The scholar may be hosted for a SAR-arranged visiting academic position at a network institution or an external SAR-supported opportunity.

Advice & Assistance
The scholar receives advice and assistance on relocation, integration adjustment, job skills, and more from SAR and the host institution.

Transition
The scholar receives support from SAR to transition to longer-term opportunities.

Dr. Hanadi Ibrahim
SYRIA

Dr. Ibrahim completed her PhD in analytical chemistry in France in 2010 and was eager to return to Syria. “I strive to make a difference in the world through scientific research,” Ibrahim said. She wanted to help her country and people with her expertise in early diagnosis and treatment of diseases. But when she arrived in February 2011, Syria was on the brink of civil war. Along with fellow scholar-activists, Ibrahim released a video in which she called on fellow academics to join a general strike and participate in civil disobedience aimed at stopping the regime’s assault on the Syrian people. The regime labeled her a traitor, accused her of treason, and confiscated her property. She reached out to SAR, which helped arrange positions at Western University and Simon Fraser University, where she continues to research and publish while hoping for an end to the conflict in Syria.

Dr. Semahagn Abebe
ETHIOPIA

Dr. Adebe is a former public prosecutor and lecturer in criminal and administrative law in Ethiopia, with expertise in transitional justice and human rights. In 2006, after discussing conditions of unlawful imprisonment, torture, and corruption in Ethiopia with his class, he was accused of criticizing the government and sympathizing with opposition leaders. He was put under surveillance and directed to stop discussing Ethiopia’s legal system. Unable to continue his work, he fled the country, eventually completing his PhD at the University of Gottingen. Fearing further persecution should he return to Ethiopia, SAR helped arrange positions at the National University of Ireland, Galway, McGill University, the University of Connecticut, and Endicott College. He remains a dedicated human rights advocate, and frequently speaks at public events on African studies and human rights.
Advocacy

Scholars in Prison Project Campaigns
SAR raises awareness of and garners support for scholars and students in prison or facing other threats.

Student Advocacy Seminars & Legal Clinics
Students research and conduct advocacy related to imprisoned scholars and attacks on higher education.

Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
Researchers document and analyze attacks on higher education, including physical violence, imprisonment, prosecution, and restrictions on travel.

Reports & Publications
SAR reports and publications, such as Free to Think, encourage international dialogue on higher education values and related issues.

Learning

Speaker Series
Members invite SAR scholars to campus to share their academic work and stories of courage and perseverance.

Workshops
SAR members co-organize workshops and trainings for faculty, researchers, staff, and students on Promoting Higher Education Values.

Conferences & Events
At SAR’s biennial Global Congress, members come together and share best practices for protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom.

Projects
SAR promotes academic freedom through a podcast, resources to support academic freedom trainings, a free online course, the Academic Freedom Index, and more.

GIVE TODAY
Your participation is vital to our work around the world! Consider supporting SAR by making a monthly contribution. For more information about giving, contact:
Starr Miller
Senior Development Officer
starr.miller@nyu.edu

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New York, NY 10003, USA
www.scholarsatrisk.org
EMAIL: scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
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c/o MUSSI, Maynooth University
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland
www.sareurope.eu
EMAIL: sareuropepre@mu.ie
TEL: +353 1 7086177
@sar_europe
## Membership Directory

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*Affiliate members

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University of Bayreuth | University of Bonn |
University of Bremen | University of Cologne |
University of Duisburg-Essen | University of Düsseldorf |
University of Freiburg | University of Freiburg |
University of Greifswald | University of Göttingen |
University of Hamburg | University of Hildesheim Foundation |
University of Hohenheim | University of Jena |
University of Kassel | University of Konstanz |
University of Münster | University of Oldenburg |
University of Potsdam | University of Siegen |
University of Tübingen | University of Western Macedonia |
University of Wuppertal | Ghana |
University of Ghana | Greece |
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Panteion University |
Ionian University | University of the Aegean |
Panteion University | University of Crete |
University of Ioannina | University of Ioannina |
University of Thessaly | University of Western Macedonia |
University of Bonn | Hungary |
Central European University | Ireland |
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University of Iceland | Maynooth University |
NUI Galway | Universities Ireland* |
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Trinity College Dublin | University College Dublin |
University of Ulster | University of Wuppertal |
Italy | Mediterranean Universities Union |
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International Telematic University (UNINETTUNO) |
Magna Charta Observatory | Open Society University Network |
Politecnico Di Torino | SAR Italy Section |
Sapienza University of Rome | SAR Italy Section |
European University Institute | International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) |
International Telematic University (UNINETTUNO) | SAR Italy Section |
Magna Charta Observatory | SAR Italy Section |
Politecnico Di Torino | SAR Italy Section |
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Belarusian Human Rights House*
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LCC International University

Luxembourg
University of Luxembourg

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Universidad de Monterrey

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Eindhoven University of Technology
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Hogeschool van Amsterdam

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE)
Leiden University
Maastricht University
Network of Concerned Historians*
Radboud University Nijmegen
Stichting voor Vluchtelingen-Studenter (Foundation for Refugee Students) UAF*

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University of Groningen

Utrecht University

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Wageningen University

New Zealand
New Zealand Tertiary Education Union*
Royal Society of New Zealand*

University of Canterbury

Norway
SAR Norway Section

BI Norwegian Business School
Ch. Michelsen Institute
MF Norwegian School of Theology
Nord University
Norwegian Association of Researchers*
Norwegian School of Sport Sciences
Norwegian Students’ & Academics’ Int’l Assistance Fund (SAIH)*
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Trondheim

Oslo Metropolitan University

Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

University of Agder
University of Bergen
University of Oslo

University of Stavanger

University of Tromsø

University College of Southeast Norway

VID Specialized University

Westerdals - Oslo School of Arts, Communication and Technology
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences

Nigeria
University of Ibadan

Palestine
Hebron University
An-Najah National University

Right to Education
Poland
Jagiellonian University
Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts
Villa Decius Association*

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Fourah Bay College

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Pan-European University
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University of Pretoria

University of the Witwatersrand

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Asociació Catalana d’Universitats Públiques (ACUP)

Compostela Group of Universities

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University of Jaén

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SAR Sweden Section

Dalarna University
Högskolan Kristianstad

Institute for Future Studies
Jönköping University
Karlstads Universitet
Karolinska Institutet
Konstfack University College

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Linköping University

Linnaeus University

Luleå University of Technology

Lund University

Mälardalen University

Malmö University

Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities

Mid Sweden University

Örebro University

Saco, Sveriges Akademikers Centralorganisation

Södertörns University

Stockholm School of Economics

Stockholm University

Umeå University

University of Borås

University of Gävle

University of Gothenburg

University of Skövde

University West

Uppsala University

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet

Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers

Swedish Defence University

Switzerland

SAR Switzerland Section

Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH)

Collegium Helveticum

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST)

ETH Zurich

Franklin University Switzerland

Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts HSLU

Paul Scherrer Institute PSI

Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences

Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Sciences and Technology (Eawag)

Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology Empa

Swiss Federal University for Vocational Education and Training EHB / SFUVET

Swissuniversities

Thurgau University of Teacher Education (PHTG)

Università della Svizzera italiana

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland SUPSI

University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland

University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons

University of Basel

University of Bern

University of Fribourg

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University of Teacher Education BEJUNE

University of Teacher Education of Grisons PHGR

University of Teacher Education Lucerne PH Lucerne

University of Teacher Education in Special Needs HfH

University of Teacher Education, State of Vaud HEP Vauch

University of Teacher Education Zug PH Zug

*Affiliate members

Sustaining Members

SAR sections or partner networks

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*Affiliate members, Sustaining Members, SAR sections or partner networks (5/2022 ver.)
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

PART 1: RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS (REQUIREMENTS)

Membership is open to accredited higher education institutions worldwide. The rights and obligations of membership include the following. There are no other obligations of membership.

- **Commitment to academic freedom**: Members commit to the principle that scholars should be free to work without fear or intimidation, as set forth in the Scholars at Risk network’s founding statement (see other side).
- **Official SAR representative**: Members designate a primary representative to communicate with the SAR office and network, including receiving information about scholars seeking temporary assistance and other network activities.
- **Rights of membership**: Members in good standing are eligible to vote at membership meetings; receive discounts on event admission; and receive preferential consideration for services, internships and other opportunities.

PART 2: ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION (OPTIONAL)

Participation in any specific SAR activity, including hosting scholars, is at the discretion of the institution through its representative. SAR provides opportunities for members to engage at all levels (institutional, administrative, faculty, student and alumni), including:

- **Hosting lectures, panels and other events**, including SAR Speaker Series events, featuring SAR scholars.
- **Advocating on behalf of imprisoned, detained or unjustly prosecuted scholars** through the Scholars in Prison Project or through a faculty-led Student Advocacy Seminar.
- **Promoting academic freedom** through the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and related research.
- **Hosting threatened scholars** as temporary visitors, students, researchers, or professors. Members will have access to courageous and inspiring educators for academic visits and will receive direct assistance in making arrangements and in counseling scholar-visiters about relocation, adjustment, job searching and post-visit transitions.
- **Participating in SAR conferences** on academic freedom, university autonomy and related higher education issues.
- **Student internship and alumni engagement**, through public events and visiting scholar mentorship opportunities.
- **Helping to shape SAR’s priorities** and direction, including by suggesting new activities.

PART 3: JOIN THE NETWORK

1. **YES, [NAME OF INSTITUTION] __________________________ agrees to join Scholars at Risk.**

2. **OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE:**

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SAR Section or Partner Network (if applicable)

Privacy

☐ I agree to my personal data being stored and used to receive SAR-related information and offers, subject to SAR’s Privacy Policy.

3. **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION:**

**Membership Levels** Please select one

☐ Sustaining Membership (US$ 5000):

This membership subscription reflects the costs of SAR services to scholars and institutions. Scholars at Risk Sustaining Members receive the full opportunities of membership and will be recognized in the SAR website, events and communications.

Institutions unable to contribute at the sustaining level may request consideration for a Contributing Membership. This reflects SAR’s commitment to widening the network when financial restrictions may otherwise inhibit participation. To learn more about Contributing Membership and request an appropriate invoice please contact SAR via this online form.

**Payment Method** Please select one.

☐ Check payable to “Scholars at Risk”
☐ Credit card: Visit www.scholarsatrisk.org
☐ Wire transfer: Contact SAR for instructions.
☐ Please send an invoice.
☐ We would like to request a reduction to US$____ or waiver.

4. **SUBMIT FORM & PAYMENT:**

Scholars at Risk Network
411 Lafayette St., 3rd Floor
New York, NY, 10003 USA

Email: scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
Tel: +1-212-998-2179
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.


PRIVACY

At Scholars at Risk (SAR), we understand that privacy is a very important issue. In the course of serving our mission, SAR may receive information which may be considered “personally identifiable,” “personal,” or “sensitive” under relevant laws and regulations, including from websites, forms, emails, correspondence, or personal communication. SAR does not sell, lease, distribute, or otherwise use such information for any purpose other than sharing information about SAR services and activities. By continuing to use SAR’s services or submitting personal information to us, you are agreeing to the terms of SAR’s privacy policy, which explains how SAR handles such information. You may modify or rescind your consent at any time at manage preferences.