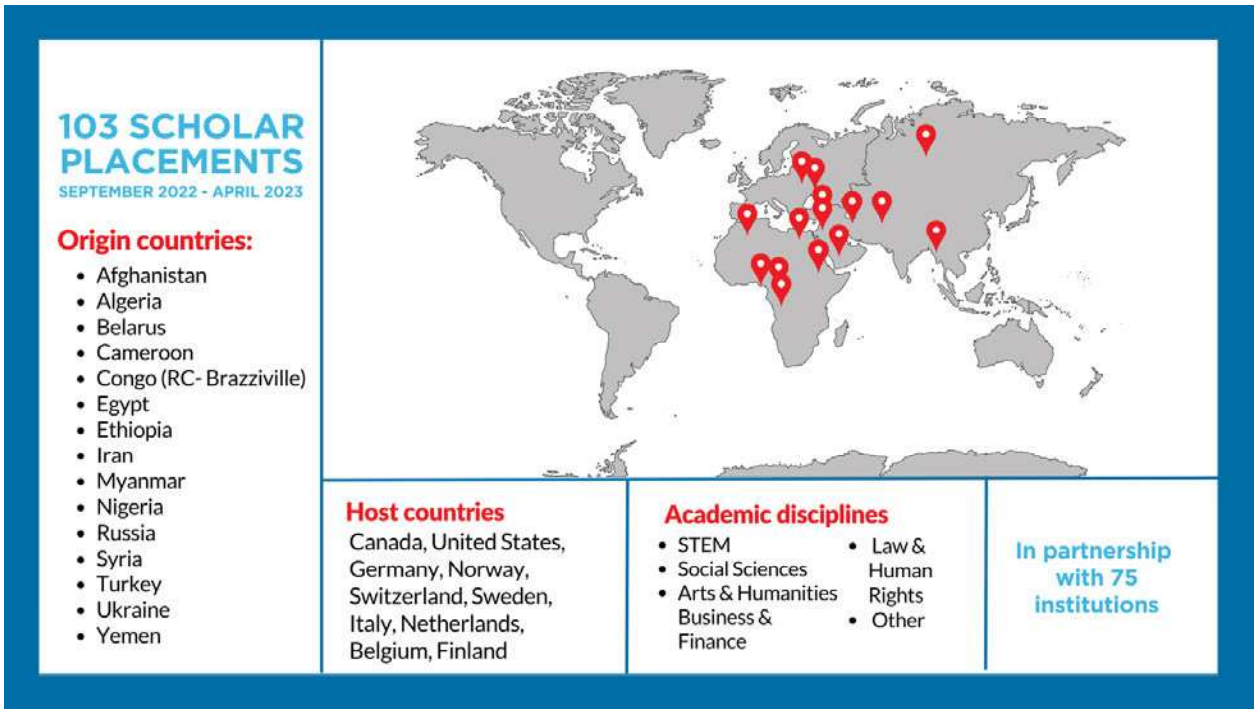
April 2023



We would like to thank all SAR hosts for their impressive dedication to threatened colleagues around the globe. So far this year, the SAR team has partnered with 75 universities and colleges across the network to arrange 103 visiting appointments for scholars, inviting them to safely resume their vital work and create new academic community at their host institution.

If your institution is able to consider inviting a scholar or practitioner to campus, we invite you to review the list of 85 Scholars Seeking Assistance. A number of new candidates have recently joined the list as the SAR team reviews more applications each month. Scholars seeking support include those facing direct threats due to the ongoing unrest in the Tigray region of **Ethiopia**, a protracted civil war in **Yemen**, and conflict unimaginably reaching its 12th year in **Syria**. Under the Taliban's increasing and targeted repression, more than 40 **Afghan** scholars are seeking positions as new requests for assistance reach SAR on a daily basis. Their academic expertise is

as diverse as their home countries. Scholars represent geology, law and human rights, journalism, sociology, agricultural science, Russian literature, economics, and many more. If you'd like to learn more about any of these candidates, or about hosting in general, please reach out to hostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

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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 History and Information Studies

This scholar of history specializing in library science and information studies has over a decade of research and teaching experience in Ukraine. Most recently, she served as a lead researcher and professor of theory and history of library affairs at her home institution, conducting research on countering misinformation and propaganda, as well as historical memory preservation and identity. She reports risk due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and her pro-democracy stance. She is seeking research and/or teaching positions in the United States beginning immediately. (Ukraine-639)

A Scholar of Computer Science

This scholar of computer science and communication technology has six years of postdoctoral teaching and research experience in Yemen, where he has served most recently as a department head and assistant professor of information technology. He has published several articles in refereed international journals with a research focus on high-speed TCP protocols, high-speed network, QoS, scheduling algorithms, admission control, and wireless networks. He reports general, situational risk due the ongoing civil war in Yemen and underscores challenges to continuing his academic career due to his political neutrality. He is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities beginning immediately. (Yemen-591)

A Scholar of Microbiological and Biochemical Pharmacy

This scholar specializes in peptide drug development and cancer immunotherapy. In his dissertation, he studied the anti-tumor activities of immune checkpoint antagonist peptides. He has experience instructing courses in microbiology, virology, immunology, and pathology, among others. Fearing for his life in light of the general violence and direct threats on university spaces in Yemen, this scholar is seeking teaching and/or research opportunities beginning immediately. (Yemen-648)

SEE ALL SCHOLARS >

72 Countries issue historic Joint Statement on Academic Freedom at the UN

On March 29, 72 countries, led by France and South Africa, issued a historic Joint Statement at the United Nations Human Rights Council calling for international cooperation in the protection of academic freedom globally.
SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn remarked on the statement: “As the signatories acknowledged, attacks against academic freedom are on the rise around the world, imperiling social, political, and scientific progress, political participation, and numerous related rights and freedoms.”

More information on attacks on higher education can be found in SAR’s *Free to Think* report series and by visiting the Academic Freedom Index, a tool co-developed by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), the V-Dem Institute, and SAR | Photo: Ambassador of France to the UN, Jérôme Bonnafont, reads the Joint Statement at the UN Human Rights Council | Photo credit: Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Geneva

SAR is hiring! Senior Program Officer, Advocacy

Scholars at Risk (SAR) seeks a strategy-oriented, highly-organized, and thoughtful individual to join SAR’s Advocacy team as a Senior Program Officer to lead and evolve SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project and *Free to Think* report series into more effective advocacy tools. The position requires excellent analytical skills, research, writing, communication, project management, attention to detail, and judgment. It is ideal for a proactive, thoughtful individual who takes initiative, embraces transformative thinking, and enjoys the research process in collaboration with a close team. Deadline for initial application review is **April 30, 2023.** **Read more and apply »**

Call for papers: Exiled scholars in Western Academia

Dr. Alfred Babo, a SAR alum and board member, and Dr. Sayed Hassan Akhlaq, a SAR alum, have launched a call for papers for their forthcoming book, *Exiled Scholars in Western Academia: Refugees or Intellectuals?* This book aims to engage exiled scholars in an intellectual

examination of the nexus of personal and professional experiences in Western universities. Contributors will share their own unique experiences in order to reflect on the changing nature of knowledge production, transfer, and exchange in a world increasingly defined by forced migration. For more information, please review the attached PDF. Interested contributors can submit an abstract of no more than 500 words, **by April 30, 2023**, and a brief bio to the editors (ababo@fairfield.edu and shussaini@coppin.edu).

SAR Italy Report of Activities 2021-2022

SAR Italy's latest report illustrates a dramatic increase in membership engagement across the dynamic national section. From 2019 to 2022, 16 universities hosted 92 scholars from 9 different countries. By the end of 2022, the section had grown from 14 to 36 member institutions engaged in a diverse range of activities including, among many, advocacy for imprisoned scholars, Speaker Series programming, and workshops on academic freedom.

"These two years have seen America's withdrawal from Afghanistan, the war in Ukraine and most recently attacks on students and academics in Iran, not to mention the many threats to academic freedom in different countries. It is perhaps the resonance of some of these events and the need to provide concrete acts of solidarity that has led to the growing interest in Scholars at Risk in Italy and the rise in membership…"

Read SAR Italy's new report of activities from January 2021 to December 2022 to learn more about their activities and stories from scholars.
Read more »

Upcoming SAR Network "drop-in" sessions

Earlier this year, SAR began offering a new opportunity for connection and discussion within the network: Information-sharing drop-in sessions ("drop-ins") for network members. We have had the opportunity to connect with representatives from member institutions in Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Venezuela, and the United States on topics ranging from reflections on hosting, garnering more support for at-risk scholars on campus, funding structures, advocacy initiatives and more.

SAR staff convene the sessions roughly every other week for 30-60 minute sessions. We hope to create an informal, informative, and practical space for network members and partners to ask questions and to share information, experience, good practices, and resources. We look forward to continuing these conversations over the next few months. **Join us for upcoming sessions on April 20th and May 4th.** **Read more and register »**

Latest on 'Free to Think' with host Rob Quinn

In SAR's "Free to Think" podcast, SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn speaks with guests who inspire us with their courage to seek and speak truth — often at great risk — as well as those who work to defend them. Tune in now to our latest episodes, available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and all major platforms. **Listen here »**

Students advocate for imprisoned scholars

From March 29 to 30, students and faculty from Canada and the US – Carleton University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Dayton, the University of Iowa, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and Mansfield University of Pennsylvania – convened in Washington, DC for SAR's annual Student Advocacy Days. The two-day event included presentations by students on case strategies, consultations with NGO partners and country experts, and a keynote address by Peter Biar Ajak, a South Sudanese political activist and former scholar-in-prison.

The students held 19 meetings with offices of Members of Congress to advocate for wrongfully imprisoned scholars Ahmadreza Djalali, Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba, Ilham Tohti, Marfa Rabkova, Niloufar Bayani, and Patrick George Zaki.

SAR thanks the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for hosting the event and our partners at the American Psychological Association, Freedom Initiative, Hostage Aid Worldwide, the National Academies of Sciences's Committee on Human Rights, and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Interested in starting a Student Advocacy Seminar on your campus? Learn more about the program here or contact Seminar Coordinator Adam Braver at adam.braver@nyu.edu for more information. | Photo credit: Chris Ferenzi

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Call for amnesty for imprisoned scholars & students

On March 15, SAR issued a letter to Iranian authorities urging Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to extend amnesty to imprisoned scholars and students following the release of and reduction of sentences for hundreds of prisoners in the country.

Those who remain imprisoned include Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali, Ms. Niloufar Bayani, Mr. Ali Younesi, and Mr. Amirhossein Moradi. Anthropologist Dr. Fariba Adelkhah was among those released, and SAR also urged authorities to respect her freedom of movement. Support Ms. Bayani by signing this letter and Dr. Djalali by signing this letter.

Support SAR's work. Make your gift today!

Support human rights and stand in solidarity with at-risk scholars around the world. Your contribution helps promote the indispensable scholarship of the academic community and allows us to advocate on their behalf, preserving everyone's right to think, question, and share ideas. **Give today »**

Webinar for researchers from Ukraine

As part of the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine scheme, SAR Europe is organising a series of career development opportunities for researchers from Ukraine, commencing on 4th May with a webinar on "Exploring funding opportunities in the EU and beyond: Advice for researchers from Ukraine."

Speakers will address the topic of funding opportunities for researchers from Ukraine beyond the MSCA4Ukraine scheme, and experts will provide advice on how to prepare competitive applications. **See registration details »**

Thanks for sharing! SAR thanks the over 500 respondents who completed our 2023-28 Strategic Planning Survey. We appreciate their time and thoughtful reflections. They are enormously helpful! A **summary report** of the results of the survey can be found on the SAR website, along with appendices of the backup data by stakeholder group. We invite you to review the report and share it with others who may be interested in our work.

As we continue the strategic planning process, we look forward to discussing the results with SAR network members, partners, and friends like you. Toward that end, **we invite you to join us** for one or more of the following webinars:

Session 1: Thursday, 20 April 2023, 16:00 ET / 21:00 GMT / 22:00 CET
Register here »

Session 2: Thursday, 20 April 2023, 22:00 ET | Friday 21 April 7:30 IST / 12:00 AEST
Register here »

Session 3: Friday, 21 April 2023, 10:00 ET / 15:00 GMT / 16:00 CET
Register here »

Feedback from the webinars will inform the drafting of the plan, which will go into effect on 1 September 2023. Thank you again for your ongoing support for the planning process and all of SAR's work.

News and events

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK
protection advocacy learning

SAR Ukraine Fellowships | Rolling Deadline

SAR is still accepting applications from SAR network member institutions in North America looking to host threatened and displaced scholars from Ukraine. The purpose of the funds is to support the Ukrainian research and academic sector, enable continuing collaborations between scholars and institutions in or displaced from Ukraine and the international research community, and anticipate and support rebuilding of the Ukrainian higher education and research sectors as conditions permit.
Read more and apply »

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Residential Fellowships for Displaced Ukrainian Scholars (Purdue University) | Rolling Deadline

Purdue University is offering additional research opportunities for Ukrainian scholars displaced by the Russian invasion. The program will be conducted from August 11, 2023 – July 27, 2024. For more information, please contact Michael A. Brzezinski, Vice President, Global Partnerships and Programs, mbrzezinski@purdue.edu
Read more »

New UNHCR Global Refugee Higher Education Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Global Refugee Higher Education Newsletter, which includes events, updates, programmes, research and highlights taking place in refugee higher education.

Read more »

'They cannot incarcerate my mind': Carleton groups advocate for at-risk scholars | April 10, 2023

"SAR Carleton, part of the international SAR Network, provides an academic haven at the university for displaced, at-risk or fleeing scholars to continue their research, teaching or activism. The university currently hosts four scholars. SAR Carleton also remotely supports five scholars overseas."

Read the feature »

Chicago: 80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference | April 13 - 15, 2023

Scholars at Risk will attend the 80th Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference from April 13-15 in Chicago. Individuals interested in connecting with SAR at the event can visit SAR's booth in the exhibition hall or email Ayodele Abinusawa at ayodele.abinusawa@nyu.edu.

Webinar: Defending the freedoms to learn and teach in the Americas | April 14, 2023

On April 14, join Teachers against the School without Party (PSCEP), a collective formed by Brazilian teachers and researchers who work in different teaching networks and educational segments, for a webinar on “Defending the freedoms to learn and teach in the Americas.”
Register »

Webinar: Academic Freedom in Mexico & the Science Law Project | April 14, 2023

On April 14 at 5:00 p.m. EDT, join the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (HRREC) at the University of Ottawa and the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) for a webinar on “Academic Freedom in Mexico & the Science Law Project.”
Register »

eua EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Inspireurope+ Supporting Researchers at Risk

Expanding Institutional Opportunities for Researchers at Risk: Leadership Roundtable, Gdańsk University of Technology | April 19, 2023

In concert with the 2023 EUA Annual Conference at Gdańsk University of Technology, registrations remain open for the first Inspireurope+ leadership roundtable on expanding institutional opportunities for researchers at risk.
Read more »

ULB UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

Solidarity fund for researchers at risk, The Université libre de Bruxelles | Deadline: April 24, 2023

The solidarity fund provides postdoctoral fellowships enabling threatened academics to continue their work at ULB in a climate of academic freedom.

Read more »

Call for applications: MSCA COFUND Systems and Engineering Doctorate (SEED) programme, LUT University, Finland | Deadline: April 30, 2023

LUT University has opened the call for the MSCA COFUND Systems and Engineering Doctorate (SEED) programme. The programme offers 13 funded doctoral positions, each for a duration of 4 years, in the fields of software engineering, chemical engineering, industrial engineering & management (IEM), computational engineering, applied mathematics and technical physics.
Read more »

Call for nominations: The John Maddox Prize | Deadline: May 1, 2023

The John Maddox Prize for courageously advancing public discourse with sound science recognises individuals who stand up for science and evidence, advancing public discussion around difficult topics despite challenges or hostility.
Read more »

Philosophers at Risk Visiting Scholar | Deadline: May 15, 2023

The Program on Ethics and Public Life at Cornell University invites applications to the Philosophers at Risk Visiting Scholar Fellowship for the academic year of 2023-24. The visiting position is for a duration of 2–4 months, anytime during the academic year at Cornell. The fellowship provides air-travel expenses; a stipend of $7,000–$9,000 (depending on duration of stay); assistance with US visa application; full access to library and other scholarly resources at Cornell; and other, informal, academic assistance as may be needed.
Read more »

Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation's Philipp Schwartz Initiative – Inspireurope+ Stakeholder Forum | May 23-24, 2023

The annual Philipp Schwartz and Inspireurope+ Stakeholder Forum will take place 23-24 May 2023 in Berlin. The programme will include panels and exchanges on institutional, national, European, and global initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars, with plenty of informal networking opportunities for participants.

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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