 Contents

Executive Director’s Message 1
SAR’s Global Network 2
Supporting At-Risk Scholars 4
Responding to Global Crises 5
Scholars Hosted 7
Growing Our Global Network 8
Supporting Regional Advocates 9
Strengthening the US Section 11
Guiding the Next Generation 12
Freedom for Imprisoned Scholars 14
Coordinating Advocacy Across Europe 15
Connecting Academic Freedom Scholars 16
Donors 17
Financials 19
People 20
Give Today BACK

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

LOOKING FORWARD

This year marked a significant turning point for Scholars at Risk. As we reached the end of our five-year strategic plan, we had the opportunity to come together and reflect on the incredible progress we have made as an organization.

In the past five years, SAR has spurred the growth of an ever-expanding constellation of partner programs, sections, coalitions, working groups, and individuals. Together, we have assisted thousands of at-risk scholars from all parts of the world and all disciplines. We have pioneered casework, advocacy, and research activities, and pushed the conversation around academic freedom onto the international policy agenda. We continue to help hundreds more each year, even as we document attacks on universities, campaign for scholars and students in prison, and lead efforts to increase protection, build visibility, and train future generations to take up this work.

Just this year, we made great strides toward our goals. We arranged 320 positions for threatened colleagues. Faculty and student advocates helped win the release of Patrick Zaki in Egypt, while ensuring that those still detained are not forgotten. We have expanded our work to begin building coalitions in every world region to protect and promote academic freedom, even as we have redoubled our efforts here in the US.

Throughout, we supported colleagues attacked by governments and non-state actors around the world, including Yemen, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Cameroon, and beyond, even as we continued to work with those impacted by the ongoing crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

As we take a moment to reflect on how far we have come, we are determined to move forward by doing even more to increase protection, build solidarity, and deliver impact. It will not be easy, but the path to a better future never is. We recommit ourselves to this cause and to each other. We stand with threatened colleagues, and will do everything we can to assist as many as we can. And we will reach these new heights with the help of our incredible community of network members, partners, and donors.

It is with the deepest gratitude to this ever-growing community that I share with you this summary of our collective accomplishments over this past year. We could not do this without you, and I look forward to doing even more together in the years ahead.

In solidarity and with deep gratitude,

Rob Quinn
Scholars at Risk is leading a global movement to protect academic freedom and to support those who face attacks for sharing ideas and asking questions. Our international membership network offers direct assistance to threatened scholars, advocates against attacks on higher education communities, and promotes academic freedom.
Supporting At-Risk Scholars

SAR works with hundreds of scholars each year, offering comprehensive support to ensure their important work continues. SAR begins by vetting each of the over 1,500 applicants we receive each year. While many of these will not qualify for SAR’s placement services, perhaps because of an inability to travel or lack of academic qualification, SAR provides advice, referrals and information services to as many as possible.

Once SAR has determined we can support an applicant, we work with the scholar to find a host. SAR leverages our network of 664 members to find placement opportunities. SAR helps scholars compile their transcripts and CV, coordinates with prospective hosts, and may even assist scholars and their families with travel arrangements and temporary accommodations.

Once a scholar has arrived at a placement, SAR continues to offer advice during an often-disorienting transitional period. SAR works with hosts to ensure they have the resources and infrastructure to meet the needs of hosted scholars, and SAR stays in contact with scholars as they get their feet back under them.

Anonymous

M. was a medical doctor with over a decade of experience working for the Ministry of Health in Myanmar when a military coup unfolded in 2021. Like many of his colleagues, M. felt compelled to protest the military junta and offered much-needed medical care to those standing up for democracy.

M.’s actions placed him under the scrutiny of the new military regime, who searched his home, had him dismissed from his job, and put a warrant out for his arrest. Fearing capture, he went into hiding for nine months.

After hearing about SAR’s work, M. reached out for help. SAR worked with M. to secure a position in Oslo and helped M. during a perilous journey to safety as he fled through Thailand. After four long months of uncertainty in Thailand, M. was finally able to travel to his new position.

Now safely in Norway, M. is continuing his medical research as well as teaching and advising master’s students.

Zahra Hakimi

In Afghanistan, Zahra Hakimi was an educator, faculty member, midwife, family planning trainer, and women’s reproductive healthcare provider. She often worked in secret and at personal risk to provide treatment to survivors of sexual assault.

Within a week of taking control of her city, the Taliban raided Hakimi’s home. They condemned her work as “anti-Islam.” They threatened her and her husband and demanded her teenage daughter for a forced marriage. Hakimi had no choice. She had to flee.

Hakimi tried several times to escape Afghanistan, first through Iran, then the United States, ultimately reaching safety in Canada. SAR helped Hakimi navigate the difficult journey every step of the way. SAR secured a position for Hakimi, who is now a visiting researcher at the Centre for Research on Health and Nursing at the University of Ottawa, where she is teaching and continuing her research.

Since December 2022, the Taliban has banned higher education for women in Afghanistan. Now in Canada, however, Hakimi’s daughter hopes to become a dentist. “Every day that my children can go to school,” Hakimi says, “my heart is full of joy.”

Responding to Global Crises

Afghanistan Response

Within days after the fall of Kabul in 2021, SAR received a rush of urgent requests for help. With the crucial help of our network, partners, and donors, SAR added staff to process the new surge of applications, we revised and streamlined vetting processes, we built new communication networks, and we learned to navigate maddening visa and logistical challenges in a dozen countries.

It was not easy, and it took longer than any of us wanted, but we succeeded in putting in place systems that have been increasingly effective in delivering meaningful help to Afghan colleagues. To date, we have arranged placements for 74 Afghan scholar and practitioners, including 30 placements that are for at least two years, providing essential stability as they adjust to their new settings. So far, 52 candidates have arrived safely at their host campuses, along with 130 spouses, children, and other family members.

These placements represent over $5 million of direct support leveraged for the candidates. In July, SAR hosted a workshop for Afghans, bringing together Afghan scholars and practitioners, SAR staff, and partners to provide career planning, guidance, and community building.

3.7K TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED
320 TOTAL POSITIONS ARRANGED
74 SCHOLARS & PRACTITIONERS PLACED
$5M+ LEVERAGED FOR AFGHANS
Ukraine

Response

The Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 sent shockwaves around the world, especially Europe's higher education communities. SAR Europe, launched in 2018 to support the activities of SAR sections and partner networks across Europe, has been working tirelessly to coordinate a response. This year, SAR Europe led a consortium of partners in successfully launching a new dedicated EU-funded fellowship scheme—MSCA4Ukraine—to provide essential support to displaced researchers from Ukraine.

SAR Europe's efforts have been essential in coordinating this response. Working alongside our partner organizations and the 13 SAR sections in Europe, SAR Europe strengthens our collective voice, and contributes to informed policymaking for the greater protection of scholars and increased respect for academic freedom worldwide.

Kateryna Latysch

For eight years, Kateryna has taught forensics and cybercrime investigation at a university in Kharkiv, close to the Russian border. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Kateryna and her family were directly in harm's way. She quickly fled her home with her one-year-old child, driving for days through bombed towns and over destroyed roads. Kateryna and her child eventually arrived in Lithuania without any money or prospects of employment.

Kateryna was able to connect with Vilnius University, who brought her on temporarily as a researcher at its Center for Ukrainian Law. While Kateryna was just starting to get her feet under her, SAR worked with Vilnius University through the EU-funded MSCA4Ukraine scheme to extend her placement and continue her important research. Now safely working in Lithuania, Kateryna is hopeful that her research can help rebuild a stronger Ukraine, despite the current struggles.

Scholars Hosted

Positions arranged by SAR's core protection program, not including SAR Europe.

Arts & Humanities (27)
- African Political Sociology (Cameroon)
- Architecture (Iran)
- Arts (Ukraine)
- Documentary Filmmaking and Human Rights (Congo Brazzaville)
- Education (Turkey)
- Education and Human Rights (Pakistan)
- Folk Art, Culture (Ukraine)
- History (Turkey)
- Languaged and Linguistics (Syria)
- Linguistics (China)
- Linguistics (Ukraine)
- Literature (Afghanistan)
- Literature (Syria)
- Musician, activist (Nigeria)
- Musician, activist (Nigeria)
- Ottoman and Middle Eastern History (Turkey)
- Painting (Afghanistan)
- Persian Literature (Iran)
- Philosophy (Belarus)
- Philosophy (Ukraine)
- Philosophy (Turkey)
- Soviet Architecture
- Museology (Russia)
- Soviet Architecture
- Museology (Russia)
- Theater and Cinema
- Critical (Afghanistan)
- Theatre Studies (Iran)
- Translations Studies and Philosophy (Ukraine)
- Writer, playwright, filmmaker (Uganda)

Business & Finance (5)
- Business Administration (Afghanistan)
- Business Administration (Afghanistan)
- Gender Equality and Finance (Afghanistan)
- Public Administration (Turkey)
- Strategic Management (Afghanistan)

Journalism & Writing (4)
- Investigative Journalism (China)
- Journalism (Afghanistan)
- Journalism & Communication (Afghanistan)
- Journalism, Public Administration (Afghanistan)

Law & Human Rights (16)
- Anti-corruption Studies (Ukraine)
- Constitutional Rights (Ukraine)
- Human Rights Law (Ethiopia)
- International Law (Ethiopia)
- International Law (Ethiopia)
- International Law (Guatemala)
- International Law & Poetry (Afghanistan)
- Law (Afghanistan)
- Law (Turkey)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Private Law (Afghanistan)
- Private Law (Afghanistan)
- Public Law (Afghanistan)
- Public Law (Turkey)
- Public Law (Turkey)
- Sustainable International Development Law (Afghanistan)

Mathematics & Information Sciences (13)
- Algorithms and Data Structures (Russia)
- Architecture & Civil Engineering (Afghanistan)
- Computer Science (Afghanistan)
- Computer Science (Afghanistan)
- Computer Science (Afghanistan)
- Computer Science (Russia)
- Computer Science (Turkey)
- Mathematics (Myanmar)
- Mathematics (Turkey)
- Mathematics Education (Turkey)
- Mathematics Education (Turkey)
- Software Engineering (Ukraine)

Medicine & Public Health (14)
- Anesthesiology and Reanimation (Turkey)
- Chemistry (Myanmar)
- Epidemiology (Afghanistan)
- Epidemiology (Afghanistan)
- Food and Nutrition (Afghanistan)
- Health (Myanmar)
- Medical Physiology & Midwifery (Turkey)
- Medicine, Microbiology, Cardiovascular Diseases (Afghanistan)
- Medicine: Histology & Embryology (Turkey)
- Nursing and Midwifery (Ethiopia)
- Psychiatry (Turkey)
- Public Health (Afghanistan)
- Reproductive Biology (Afghanistan)

Physical & Life Sciences (54)
- Agricultural Engineering (Afghanistan)
- Agricultural Engineering (Syria)
- Agriculture (Ukraine)
- Agriculture and Plant Science (Syria)
- Agronomy (Afghanistan)
- Analytical Chemistry (Turkey)
- Animal Sciences (Ethiopia)
- Biochemistry (Afghanistan)
- Biochemistry (Russia)
- Biology (Myanmar)
- Botany (Myanmar)
- Chemistry (Afghanistan)
- Chemistry (Syria)
- Chemistry (Syria)
- Chemistry (Turkey)
- Chemistry (Ukraine)
- Computer science (Myanmar)
- Data Mining (Turkey)
- Electrical Engineering (Algeria)
- Engineering (Ethiopia)
- Engineering (Yemen)
- Engineering of Agricultural Economics (Afghanistan)
- Environmental Science (Afghanistan)
- Geography (Yemen)
- Geology (Afghanistan)
- Geology (Afghanistan)
- Geology (Myanmar)
- Groundwater Management (Afghanistan)
- Industrial Engineering (Turkey)
- Materials Engineering (Turkey)
- Mechanical Engineering (Ethiopia)
- Microbiology (Iran)
- Microbiology (Yemen)
- Molecular Medicine (Iran)
- Natural Resources Assessment and Management (Tanzania)
- Nuclear Physics (Belarus)
- Organic Chemistry (Turkey)
- Organic Chemistry (Turkey)
- Physics (Afghanistan)
- Physics (Afghanistan)
- Physics (Turkey)
- Physics (Turkey)
- Physics (Turkey)
- Physics (Ukraine)
- Physics (Ukraine)
- Plant Sciences and Botany (Afghanistan)
- Theoretical Physics (Afghanistan)

Theoretical Physics (Ukraine)
- Toxicology (Afghanistan)
- Veterinary Science (Myanmar)
- Water & Environmental Research (Afghanistan)
- Water & Environmental Research (Afghanistan)
- Water & Environmental Research (Afghanistan)
- Water & Environmental Research (Afghanistan)
- Water Engineering (Afghanistan)

Social Sciences (56)
- Agricultural Economics (Syria)
- Anthropology, Migration Studies (Syria)
- Communication Sciences (Turkey)
- Criminal Justice (Turkey)
- Criminal Justice (Afghanistan)
- Curriculum and Instruction Education (Afghanistan)
- Economics (Afghanistan)
- Economics (Afghanistan)
- Economics (Afghanistan)
- Economics (Afghanistan)
- Economics (Afghanistan)
- Economic (Ethiopia)
- Economics (Ethiopia)
- Economics (Ethiopia)
- Economics (Russia)
- Economics (Turkmenistan)
- Economics (Ukraine)
- Education (Afghanistan)
- Education Programs and Teaching (Turkey)
- Educational Policy and Leadership (Ethiopia)
- Educational Policy and Leadership (Ethiopia)
- Food studies (Ukraine)
- Gender Studies (Iran)
- Geography Education (Turkey)
- Geography Education (Turkey)
- History (Russia)
- History (Ukraine)
- History (Ukraine)
- History, Political Science (Ukraine)
- History, International Relations / Chinese Studies (Belarus)
- History/Sociology (Egypt)
- Human Geography (Turkey)
- Human Rights (Egypt)
- Human Rights (Turkey)
- International Relations (Ukraine)
- Linguistics (Afghanistan)
- Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (Belgium)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science (Afghanistan)
- Political Science and Public Administration (Turkey)
- Political Sciences (Turkey)
- Conflict Analysis (Afghanistan)
- Psychology (Afghanistan)
- Psychology (Turkey)
- Public Administration (Turkey)
- Public and Development Management (Ethiopia)
- Radio, Television and Film (Turkey)
- Radio, Television and Cinema (Turkey)
- Social Sciences (Belarus)
- Social Sciences (Belarus)
- Social Sciences (Belarus)
- Sociology (Afghanistan)
- Sociology (Belarus)
- Sociology (Turkey)
- Sociology (Turkey)
- Sociology (Ukraine)

EUROPEAN HOST COUNTRIES

124 MSCA4UKRAINE FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

21 EUROPAN HOST COUNTRIES

SCHOLAR STORY
Members Make a Difference

Network members are key to SAR’s success. SAR is an international network of 664 higher education institutions and associations and thousands of individuals in 43 countries, all working towards the goal of protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom.

Network members are increasingly organized into nationally or regionally focused SAR sections. To date, SAR has 17 sections—from SAR Canada to SAR Switzerland to SAR Australia—each focusing on coordinating activities and leveraging local support for at-risk scholars. Alongside SAR sections, we also partner with 14 leading higher education networks, like the European University Association, together building an ever-expanding community to defend scholars.

This year saw new members joining the network from around the world, including from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palestine, Zimbabwe, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Poland. A larger network means new opportunities for at-risk scholars, new partners for our advocacy work, and new supporters in our fight for academic freedom.

SAR Italy and the Growth of SAR Sections

Although SAR Italy is one of the newer sections, the past few years have seen their efforts grow exponentially. The section has grown from 14 founding members in 2019 to 36 members today, with outreach to other institutions continuing.

With this growth, SAR Italy is offering more hosting opportunities. In the wake of the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, SAR Italy captured the increased interest among Italian institutions to lend a hand. This past year, 92 temporary positions were created at 16 universities throughout the country. This incredible expansion of activities is allowing more scholars and practitioners to carry on their important work.

SAR Italy members are also taking part in advocacy work alongside other national sections and SAR Europe. Claudia Padovani, a SAR Italy representative, sits on the European Coordinating Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy, convened by SAR Europe. The Committee works towards greater integration of academic freedom within Europe’s higher education, research, and human rights systems, and encourages European states to take tangible action to promote and protect academic freedom nationally, regionally, and globally. SAR Italy has also joined in SAR advocacy campaigns and has written and submitted several petitions concerning attacks on scholars in Turkey, Belarus, and Ukraine.

Supporting Regional Advocates

Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas

Our efforts to protect at-risk scholars are grounded in the view that people all over the world already value free inquiry and expression—our goal is to connect and support those working to protect these values. In more than two decades of work, we have seen steady growth in participation in SAR related activities in North America and Europe, including hosting, research, teaching, monitoring, publications, workshops, conferences, and advocacy aimed at addressing the root causes of attacks on intellectual freedom. While SAR’s work has always been global in scope, we know that to be the most effective advocates, we need to build a network that is more inclusive and representative. Now, SAR is spearheading a new approach to build a truly global conversation.

Founded in 2021 in partnership with SAR members University of Monterrey and University of Ottawa, the Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) was created to increase awareness and advocacy in defense of academic freedom across the Americas. This year, CAFA hosted its first conference to discuss the state of academic freedom in the Americas. The conference featured panels and discussions on concerns in the region, notably in Brazil, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela. Other discussions included the effects of gender violence on higher education communities, and the impact of censorship and legislative interference on the higher education sector. CAFA’s successful organizing serves as a model for future SAR efforts in other regions.

Growing Our Global Network

![Top right: Emilio Álvarez Icaza speaking at a panel during the CAFA conference on academic freedom.](image)

![Above: Some of the attendees of the CAFA conference on academic freedom.](image)
The individual and collective mission of higher education depends on all of us. We remain vigilant for opportunities to support our international community of scholars and students in the midst of overwhelming violence.

ANNE McCALL, Chair of the Steering Committee, SAR US Section

Academic Freedom in the US
Threats to academic freedom in the US are growing. Over the past decade higher education campuses have become increasingly contentious spaces, mirroring the polarization of US society. External actors across the spectrum have targeted US institutions, leaders, faculty and students for espousing views contrary to their own. Stigmatizing, shaming, shouting-down, demands for resignation or firing, doxing and online intimidation, physical threats, legislative intrusions, and coercive budget actions have been deployed to gain dominance for a particular viewpoint. Vulnerability, grievance, hypersensitivity, and self-censorship have spread, shrinking the space for constructive, evidence-based discourse—space that is essential to democratic debate and top-quality research and teaching.

SAR US General Assembly
SAR is fighting back against these threats to academic freedom. In December, SAR held the first ever General Assembly of the SAR US Section, hosted at SAR member Xavier University. It brought together leaders and advocates from SAR member universities and educational associations across the nation. During the sessions, representatives raised awareness of attacks to scholars, students, and the higher education community and set the section’s protection and advocacy agenda for the coming years.

At such a critical juncture, this in-person assembly provided a forum for the higher education community to discuss opportunities to work together, share experiences, and develop best practices to protect scholars, promote academic freedom, and defend everyone’s freedom to think, question, and share ideas. This special assembly marked a turning point for the US section.

“In every conflict and in every country where education is under attack, from Ethiopia to Syria to Yemen, we have a moral responsibility to speak out and, whenever possible, to give scholars and students a chance to continue their studies in safer environments.”

AMBITASSADOR LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD
Virtually addressing the 2022 SAR US General Assembly

Following a decade of growing membership across the global network, the US Section has recommitted itself to leading the fight for at-risk scholars and academic freedom. In the past two years, SAR members and partners across the US have responded generously to the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine, while continuing to host scholars from around the world.
Guiding the Next Generation

**Student Advocacy Seminars**
Advocacy is most successful when we work together toward a shared goal, when we are creative, and when we are open to learning from each other. For more than a decade, SAR’s advocacy work has been grounded in collaboration— with our faculty and student volunteers, with our partner organizations, and with the broader human rights and higher education communities.

This year, student and faculty participants in SAR’s Student Advocacy Seminars embraced joint activities in support of wrongfully imprisoned scholars and students. Throughout the year, students participating in Student Advocacy Seminars play an increasingly important role in SAR’s advocacy work. Seminar students develop research and leadership skills while advocating on behalf of scholars and students identified by SAR’s Scholars in Prison Project. Over the last eight years, students at more than 40 institutions helped SAR campaign for 20 imprisoned scholars and students. This year alone, over 300 students participated in seminars, running social media campaigns, holding public events, and organizing meetings with public officials to demand global action.

**Student Advocacy Days**
SAR’s Student Advocacy Days are part of our larger advocacy efforts—both on and off campus. Each year, SAR coordinates our Student Advocacy Days, which brings together students and faculty participating in Student Advocacy Seminars to Washington, DC. This year, over 40 students from the United States and Canada joined SAR for the event. While in DC, SAR connected students from different universities to increase their impact in meetings on Capitol Hill. They shared tips and feedback with each other over lunch in a Senate cafeteria, and they conducted a joint social media campaign to help broadcast their efforts.

The students held 19 meetings with offices of Congressional representatives to discuss concern for wrongfully detained scholars and students from Belarus, China, and Egypt. In the weeks following these meetings, students exchanged emails with representatives and their offices highlighting ways in which Congressional representatives can support wrongfully imprisoned scholars, including through the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission’s Defending Freedoms Project.

In December 2023, SAR plans to host the first-ever European Student Advocacy Days at the University of Trento. Through our continued efforts, SAR is training the next generation of academic freedom advocates. 

“History shows us that change is inevitable. Scholars play an important role in this—a society that cannot question itself is a society that isn’t going anywhere.”

—PETER BIAR AJAK, Keynote speaker and former imprisoned scholar

Students participating in SAR’s Annual Student Advocacy Days in Washington, DC. During the two-day event, students attended trainings hosted by SAR partners, met with offices of Congressional representatives, and honed their advocacy skills.
Freedom for Imprisoned Scholars

Patrick Zaki’s Story
After five months of studying at the University of Bologna, Patrick Zaki decided to take a trip back home to Egypt to see family. Patrick was pursuing a master’s degree in Women and Gender Studies in Italy, inspired by his previous work conducting research and advocacy on gender issues and human rights for an Egyptian human rights organization based in Cairo.

But, when Patrick arrived at the Cairo airport, he was questioned and detained by agents. For Patrick, that day, February 7, 2020, would be the last time he was a free man. Over the next almost two years, Patrick was reportedly beaten, stripped, and electrocuted by authorities and suffered from verbal abuse and threats of sexual assault.

Patrick was charged with “joining a terrorist organization” and spreading false information, a charge linked to an article he wrote in 2019 where he reflected on his experiences as a Coptic Christian in Egypt. Patrick was charged with “joining a terrorist organization” and spreading false information, a charge linked to an article he wrote in 2019 where he reflected on his experiences as a Coptic Christian in Egypt.

Our advocacy efforts were not in vain. In December 2021, Patrick was released from detention while awaiting trial, but still faced the threat of a guilty verdict and a long prison sentence. This year, after continued advocacy from SAR and our partners, Patrick won a pardon from the Egyptian President. He has since returned to Italy and can continue his studies and continue to advocate for those who have come under threat in Egypt, just like him.

“I can’t wait to see and continue to be inspired by the work Patrick does for human rights and his community. Advocating on his behalf was an honor, privilege, and eye-opening experience that I will carry with me forever.”

EMMA HARTLEY, SAR Student Advocacy Seminar participant

Coordinating Advocacy Across Europe

SAR Europe’s Impact
SAR Europe successfully coordinates between at-risk scholars and the many individuals and institutions who have dedicated themselves to building support and solidarity for all who come under threat for sharing ideas and asking questions. In recognition of the shared commitment to excellence in research and to the principle that academic freedom for all is essential for world-class scholarship, SAR Europe and its partners offers guidance to higher education communities and government bodies at the state and European level to protect at-risk scholars. The skills, knowledge, and experiences of these scholars offer untold potential for their particular fields of study and for the host institutions where they continue their important work.

Inspireurope+
In May, SAR Europe took part in the annual Philipp Schwartz Initiative & Inspireurope+ forum in Berlin. Over 350 attendees—including at-risk scholars from around the world, national government officials, and representatives from NGOs, SAR sections, and higher education institutions across Europe—came together for a riveting two-day event. The forum featured workshops for scholars, panels on initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars, and informal networking opportunities. The event was an important site for collaboration among participants, many of whom serve on SAR Europe-related committees and advisory boards. Through Inspireurope+ and partner organizations, SAR Europe coordinates and strengthens support for academic freedom.

SAR Europe’s Impact
SAR Europe successfully coordinates between at-risk scholars and the many individuals and institutions who have dedicated themselves to building support and solidarity for all who come under threat for sharing ideas and asking questions. In recognition of the shared commitment to excellence in research and to the principle that academic freedom for all is essential for world-class scholarship, SAR Europe and its partners offers guidance to higher education communities and government bodies at the state and European level to protect at-risk scholars. The skills, knowledge, and experiences of these scholars offer untold potential for their particular fields of study and for the host institutions where they continue their important work.

Inspireurope+
In May, SAR Europe took part in the annual Philipp Schwartz Initiative & Inspireurope+ forum in Berlin. Over 350 attendees—including at-risk scholars from around the world, national government officials, and representatives from NGOs, SAR sections, and higher education institutions across Europe—came together for a riveting two-day event. The forum featured workshops for scholars, panels on initiatives to promote academic freedom and support scholars, and informal networking opportunities. The event was an important site for collaboration among participants, many of whom serve on SAR Europe-related committees and advisory boards. Through Inspireurope+ and partner organizations, SAR Europe coordinates and strengthens support for academic freedom.

“Amidst great uncertainty and concern there is also cause for hope. The community of academic freedom defenders —this global movement that we are all part of—has never been stronger.”

SINEAD O’GORMAN,
Director of SAR Europe

Arash Nimet was one of several scholars invited to join the forum. Since September 2022, Arash has been in a placement at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden, where he has continued his research on the public perception of the COVID-19 vaccine. Before arriving in Sweden, Arash and his family spent almost a year attempting to flee their home in Afghanistan. SAR worked to secure a placement for Arash, allowing him, his wife, and their three children to travel to safety. At the forum this year, Arash was able to connect with other Afghan scholars and participate in workshops on how to find research funding.

Sinead O’Gorman, Director of SAR Europe, addressing the annual Philipp Schwartz Initiative & Inspireurope+ Forum in Berlin.
Connecting Academic Freedom Scholars

Mellon/SAR Fellowships
Despite the importance of academic freedom, very few scholars work on it as a regular part of their professional research or teaching. To address that crucial gap, SAR partnered with the Mellon Foundation to support early career scholars in developing publishable work, especially comparative work involving often neglected perspectives, as a means of cultivating a long-term community of like-minded researchers.

This year, we announced a cohort of six Mellon/SAR fellows from Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Germany, Ghana, South Africa, and Sri Lanka. They are researching issues of academic freedom, free expression, state repression, and democratic backsliding in several countries throughout Africa and South East Asia.

“Through this project, I intend to contribute to scholarship, policy and practice on academic freedom in Sri Lanka and beyond, and to the discourse on academic freedom in the South Asian region and more broadly in the global south.”

DINESHA SAMARARATNE
Mellon/SAR Fellow

Dinesha Samararatne
Dinesha Samararatne is one of the 2022–2023 Mellon/SAR Fellows. She is a law academic with a focus on public law at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She studies public law issues in Sri Lanka with a particular interest in the intersection of women’s political participation and constitutional law. Beyond the Sri Lankan jurisdiction, Dinesha has an interest in public law in South Asia and in the study of the concept of the global south. Dinesha has published extensively in leading journals in her field.

With the support of the Mellon/SAR fellowship, Dinesha created a course specifically aimed at academics and those working in higher education in Sri Lanka. The course provides insights into the current scope of academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Sri Lanka. Dinesha hopes to build on this course by undertaking a full analysis on the current conditions of academic freedom—both in Sri Lanka and South Asia more generally—and comparing doctrinal claims to the reality faced by scholars, researchers, and other members of the higher education community.

Donors
SAR is grateful for the generosity of our supporters with special thanks to the Office of the Provost of New York University for hosting our network headquarters and the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe. We give thanks to the many colleagues and partners around the world who have gone out of their way to help at-risk individuals, especially those who have helped arrange visits, host events, mentor scholars, or have otherwise provided assistance or advice.

LEADERS
- $25,000+
  - Charles Koch Foundation
  - Freedom House
  - The Henry Luce Foundation
  - John Wiley & Sons, Inc
  - National Endowment for Democracy
  - Open Society Foundations
  - The Winston Foundation

CHAMPIONS
- $10,000+
  - Joel Lebowitz
  - Matthew Nimetz
  - Stensbygaard Foundation
  - Rosalie J. Wolf

DEFENDERS
- $5,000+
  - Lisa Anderson
  - Nancy Gallagher
  - Hanna H. Gray
  - Robert and Barbara Quinn Family Foundation

ADVOCATES
- $1,000+
  - Anonymous
  - Jonathan Cole
  - Irving Epstein
  - Joel Forman
  - Alison T. Gray
  - Beth Greenwood
  - Christine M. Guth
  - Michael Hirschhorn
  - Jenny Holzer
  - Robert Jones
  - Thomas Keenan
  - Lance Liebman

BENEFactors
- Up to $499
  - Celal Akdeniz
  - Tahir Albakaa
  - Susan Albertine
  - Mehmet Ari
  - Anzhelika Artyukh
  - Tim Athan
  - Alfred Babo
  - Lotte Bailyn
  - Dyllan Becker
  - Svetlana Bekman

Donors
- Lance Liebman
- Thomas Keenan
- Robert Jones
- Jenny Holzer
- Michael Hirschhorn
- Christine M. Guth
- Beth Greenwood
- Robert Quinn
- John A. Douglas
- Daniel Dreznner
- Alexander Dukalskis
- Joel Forman
- Irving Epstein
- Alan Arab
- Jacky Fox
- Miriam Friedman
- Sven Erik Frykholm
- Aaron Gerow
- Alvia Golden
- Robert Gosende
- Jacques Grele
- Malachi Haoohen
- Benjamin Hale
- Henry Heaphy
- Charles Henry
- Emily Hill
- Carla Houben
- David Inouye
- Michele Irwin
- Rika Ito
- Jean-Marie Kamatali
- Gábor Kecskés
- Di Kelly
- Karen-Lise S. Knudsen
- Robert and Barbara Quinn
- Hanna H. Gray
- Nancy Gallagher
- Lisa Anderson
- Robert Quinn
- Hugh R. Muller
- Robert Quinn
- Jorge A. Sánchez Cordero
- Max Snodderly
- Catharine R. Stimpson
- Mike Sweeney and Robin Jacobowitz
- The UK Online Giving Foundation

SUPPORTERS
- $500+
  - Anonymous
  - Ali Arab
  - Alan and Susan Becker
  - Jay M. Bernstein
  - Fred Block
  - Jonathan Cooper Smith
  - Martha Loerke
  - Brent Smith
  - Christina Witsberger

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
- $499
  - Karen-Lise S. Knudsen
  - Di Kelly
  - Gábor Kecskés
  - Rika Ito
  - Jean-Marie Kamatali

SCHOLAR STORY
Dinesha Samararatne

With the support of the Mellon/SAR fellowship, Dinesha created a course specifically aimed at academics and those working in higher education in Sri Lanka. The course provides insights into the current scope of academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Sri Lanka. Dinesha hopes to build on this course by undertaking a full analysis on the current conditions of academic freedom—both in Sri Lanka and South Asia more generally—and comparing doctrinal claims to the reality faced by scholars, researchers, and other members of the higher education community.
Key Stats From This Year

300+ STUDENT ADVOCATES TRAINED
320 SCHOLARS HOSTED
$9M PASS-THROUGH FUNDS FOR SCHOLARS
409 ATTACKS DOCUMENTED
3.7K SERVICES FOR SCHOLARS
$9.2M OTHER FUNDS LEVERAGED FOR SCHOLARS

Financials

SAR Inc. FY23 Summary

Total revenue ........................................... $4,550,979
Total expenses ........................................ $3,468,473
Protection ............................................... $2,474,743
Advocacy ............................................... $761,121
Research & Learning ................................ $66,030
Development & Admin ......................... $166,579
Leveraged for at-risk scholars ............... $9,176,775
(Return on protection costs)

SAR Europe FY23 Summary

Total revenue ......................................... $10,680,606
Total expenses ...................................... $10,026,216
Total pass-through funding for scholars ... $8,307,162
Total pass-through funding for partners ... $1,411,251

SAR, Inc. Sources of Support

Individuals 5%
Members 25%
Grants 70%

Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. SAR Europe is the European office of the SAR network and an unincorporated program hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland.
People

Board
Lisa Anderson, Chair
Naila Al Atrash
Alfred Babo
Jonathan R. Cole
Joy Connolly
Jorge A. Sánchez Cordero
Irving Epstein
Adam Falk
Jonathan F. Fanton
Timothy Gladden
Charles Harkless
Thomas Keenan
Jan Krukowski
Michael Kunichika
Jonathan Levitsky
Lance Liebman
Gilbert W. Merkx
Daniel Naujoks
Matthew Nimetz
Katherine Precht
Isabel Roche
Catharine R. Stimpson
Diana Wagner
Rosalie J. Wolf

Ambassadors
Council
Lloyd Axworthy, Chair
Kwame Anthony Appiah
Louise Arbour
Ian Buruma
Robbert Dijkgraaf
Ariel Dorfman
Shirin Ebadi
Azar Nafisi
Koen Verlaeckt
Karen-Lise Knudsen

Staff
SAR Secretariat
Robert Quinn, Executive Director
Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director
Ayodele Abinusawa
Phoebe Alpern
Miriam Alphonsus
Rose Anderson
Alexandra Bell
Leona Binz
Chelsea Blackburn
Clarissia Bourdeau
Madochée Bozier
Christopher Conlan
Brian Evans
Fiona Hull
Amy Kapit
Juliet Kelso
Jessica Levine
Starr Miller
Emily Moore
Daniel Munier
Sanan Panossian
Prachi Patel
Joyce Pisarelo
Clare Robinson
Sarina Rosenthal
Rachel Rostad
Leah Shapiro
Dominik Kalweit
Denise Roche

To view the online version of this report, scan the QR code, or visit: www.scholarsatrisk.org/annual-report-2023/

“Thanks to the support of Scholars at Risk and their staff, I remain inspired and full of ideas to continue my work, despite the on-going war in my country.”

KATERYNA LATYSH
SAR-Assisted Scholar from Ukraine
SCHOLARS AT RISK depends on the generous financial support of friends inside and outside higher education communities to sustain our work. Gifts of any size are appreciated, including gifts in honor or memory of others, matching gifts, and legacies.

To give, scan the QR code or visit: www.scholarsatrisk.org/give2023