A note from SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn —

With year-end approaching, I want to acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved in the SAR network. Thanks to you, last year we helped to arrange more positions for scholars than any other year in our history – 320 by the SAR staff directly and 880+ by network members. These and other highlights can be found in our 2022-23 Annual Report.

I also want to acknowledge that many in our network are hurting. The ongoing crises in Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen and elsewhere, and especially the violence of Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7th and of Israel’s bombardment of Gaza in response, have strained our energies, compassion, and resources, and precipitated a disturbing breakdown in civil discourse on many campuses.

We are hurting, but now is not the time to shrink. Rather, we must draw on our 20+ years of experience responding to crises, and must continue to help as many at-risk scholars as we can. We must continue to document attacks in our regular media review and monitoring, and in our annual Free to Think reports. We must continue to push back against violence and threats directed at members of our campus communities, whether in-person or online (including threats of death and sexual violence), against intimidation and harassment (including “doxing” and “trolling”), against vilification on grounds of belief, race, gender, identity, or political or social group, and against executive, legislative, and even institutional actions that threaten academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

Toward this end, we share below our “Promoting Higher Education Values” discussion guide. First issued in 2017-18, the guide offers frameworks and tools for responding constructively to values-related incidents. We hope it might be helpful to you and your campus in navigating this moment, and in building cultures and practices which strengthen your institution for the long term.

We also invite you to join us for SAR’s 2024 Global Congress, which will be held from June 25-27, 2024 in Vilnius, Lithuania, in partnership with the European Humanities University. The
first in-person Congress since the pandemic, it will provide an opportunity to explore these challenges and to develop new responses together. Registration is now open – I hope to see you there.

Thanks for all your efforts and continued support.

— Rob Quinn, SAR Executive Director

SAR 2024 Global Congress – Register Now!

$SCHOLARS AT RISK 2024 GLOBAL CONGRESS$

$Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students in exile$

$June 25-27, 2024 | Vilnius, Lithuania$

In partnership with the European Humanities University

We are pleased to announce to the SAR Network that we will host a 2024 Global Congress from June 25-27, 2024 in partnership with the European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius, Lithuania. The theme, "Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students in exile," seeks to explore and capture the experience of current and prior generations of academic communities forced into exile by political unrest, repression, disaster and conflict.

The Global Congress is SAR's largest convening and held generally every 2-3 years. The event brings together network members and partners to learn, share experiences, build solidarity, and inform SAR's activities and agenda for the coming years.

We hope you join us! See a preliminary program and register on the SAR website.

Register today
SAR’s 2023 Annual Report is now live! Despite the growing threats to scholars worldwide, SAR reached new heights this year - all thanks to supporters like you. Explore this year's report, and stand with us as we defend everyone’s freedom to think, question, and share ideas. Together, we can make a difference.

Read the report

As a network dedicated to the protection and promotion of academic freedom, it has been disturbing for SAR to witness the breakdown in civil discourse on many campuses in recent weeks. Though precipitated by the violence of Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7th and of Israel’s bombardment of Gaza in response, the current tensions come after years of troubling incidents, including violence, threats, open expressions of bigotry, and executive and legislative actions that undermine institutional autonomy and academic freedom.
In these incidents on US campuses, we see troubling reflections of the extreme attacks that SAR has been responding to for nearly 25 years. We feel compelled therefore to share lessons from that experience. We hope these might be helpful to you and your campus in navigating this moment, and in building cultures and practices which strengthen your institution for the long term. Read the guide & register for the webinar »

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.

**Scholar of Persian Literature, Semiotics, and Narratology | Afghanistan-953**

**Expertise:** 10+ years of university experience teaching Persian language, Persian literature, history, and culture courses. Current research focuses on violence against women in Persian literary narratives and women’s poetry in Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

**Reported risk:** Risk of harassment and violence due to journalistic work criticizing the Taliban.

**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research position in the US, beginning summer or fall 2024.

**Scholar of International Law and Poetry | Afghanistan-1088**

**Expertise:** A public intellectual with 20+ years of experience as an academic, university administrator, legal professional, poet, and manager of a literature house in Afghanistan.

**Reported risk:** Risk of targeting for his public critique of the Taliban and his identity as a member of an ethnic and religious minority group in Afghanistan.

**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research position in Europe, beginning as soon as possible.

**Scholar of Biology; Wildlife Conservation and Ecology | Ethiopia-771**

**Expertise:** 15+ years of experience specializing in biodiversity, conservation, wildlife research, crop protection, and mammalian biology.

**Reported risk:** Risk of home search, intimidation tactics, and heightened discrimination due to the ongoing violence in the Tigray region and persecution of ethnic Tigrayans.

**Seeking:** Teaching and/or research position anywhere in the network, beginning as soon as possible.

SEE ALL SCHOLARS >

SAR Wallonia-Brussels Section launches in Belgium
SAR Wallonia-Brussels, the 17th and newest regional Section of the global SAR network, held a launch event on November 21 in Brussels, Belgium.

SAR Sections are groups of higher education institutions and associations that are nationally or regionally focused and organized specifically to coordinate participation in SAR activities.

Founding members of SAR Wallonia-Brussels are the Academy for Research and Higher Education, the Rectors' Conference, French Community of Belgium, Université libre de Bruxelles, Université catholique de Louvain, and Université de Liège.

Representatives from these institutions were joined by scholars, human rights advocates, and SAR staff to hear from distinguished panelists and sign the Section’s founding statement.

"Much has to be done to help more researchers at risk that are confronted with persecutions because of their research, publications and ideas” as well as "the universities... who face complex challenges when supporting those scholars." said Anne Weyembergh, Vice-Rector for External Relations and Cooperation at Université libre de Bruxelles.

The SAR Wallonia-Brussels Section website can be found here.

Support SAR today

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

SELECT OPPORTUNITIES & RESOURCES

See a full list of scholar resources
Special journal edition on academic freedom in the Americas | November 2023
The Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) announced the release of a special edition on Academic Freedom in the Americas in the Revista Internacional de Derecho y Ciencias Sociales (International Journal of Law and Social Sciences) from the University of Monterrey, published in collaboration with Tirant Lo Blanch. The special edition includes papers that were presented at CAFA’s inaugural conference in 2022 in English, Spanish, and Portuguese Read more » Download PDF »

Webinar series by The Opportunity Network for At-Risk Writers, Artists, Rights Defenders, and Scholars (ONWARDS) | Multiple dates Oct - Dec, 2023
ONWARDS supports displaced writers, artists, journalists, cultural workers, human rights defenders, and scholars living in the United States. See their upcoming series of workshops; topics include US visas and work permits, the US healthcare and health insurance system, and finding and applying for academic jobs/non-academic jobs. Read more »

Simons Collaboration on the Global Brain Transition to Independence Award, USA | | Deadline: January 10, 2024
The program engages talented early-career scientists from diverse and/or historically underrepresented backgrounds to pursue research in systems and computational neuroscience and facilitates their transition into independent faculty positions at research institutions within or outside the U.S Read more »

SELECT SAR & PARTNER EVENTS
See a full list of SAR events

WATCH: Norwegian launch of Free to Think 2023 | November 14, 2023
The Norwegian launch of Free to Think 2023, organized by SAR Norway, SAIH, and the University of Oslo is available to watch online! The event features a panel discussion with academics from Norway, Afghanistan and Iran, and highlights the work of the SAR Student Advocacy Seminar at the University of Oslo. Learn more »

European Student Advocacy Days at the University of Trento | Dec 14-15, 2023
Scholars at Risk, in collaboration with the University of Trento, the University of Padova, and SAR Italy, and co-funded by the European Union, invites students and faculty to join us December 14-15 at the University of Trento for European Student Advocacy Days 2023. The event will feature student presentations and
workshops with civil society partners. Learn more » Start a seminar »

SAR 2024 Global Congress | June 25, 2024
SAR invites you to register for the 2024 Global Congress to be held June 25-27, 2024, in partnership with the European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius, Lithuania. Global Congresses are SAR’s largest network events, and bring together leading scholars, advocates, students and professionals to rethink issues of academic freedom and related values, to learn from each other, and to help shape SAR’s agenda for the coming years.

Register today »

SELECT MEDIA

“Fighting for Ethiopia at Endicott,” Endicott College, 11/24/2023
Semahagn Abebe describes facing risk at the Ethiopian Civil Service University after speaking to his students about the unlawful imprisonment, torture, and widespread corruption that he was witnessing. Now at Endicott College in Massachusetts, US, Abebe continues to advocate for Ethiopian human rights. Read more »

“The Committee for at-risk scholars and artists launched” The Ohio State University, 11/29/2023
The Ohio State University has joined a coalition of colleges and universities offering their help in protecting scholars displaced by turmoil in their home countries. The Committee for At-Risk Scholars and Artists (CASA) was formed at Ohio State in January 2023 in association with Scholars At Risk. Read more »

Do you know someone who may want to read this newsletter? Please forward it to them! Stay connected with SAR by subscribing to our newsletters here.

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.