

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Launch

14-16 January 2009
Washington, DC

Wednesday, January 14

5:00 pm **Registration**

6:00 **Opening Plenary** *Auditorium*

Welcome: Alan Leshner, AAAS Chief Executive Officer

Speakers:

Mercedes Doretti, co-founder of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, and 2007 MacArthur "Genius Award" recipient

Sidney Verba, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor Emeritus and Research Professor of Government at Harvard University, and current Chair of the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies

Mary Robinson, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and former President of Ireland

7:30 - 9:00 **Reception** *2nd Floor Reception*

Thursday, January 15

8:00 am **Breakfast**

8:45 **A Personal Perspective on Science and Human Rights** *Auditorium*

Peter Agre, Johns Hopkins University and AAAS President-elect

Introducing the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition

Mona Younis, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

What are its origins?
What will it accomplish?
How will it do this?
Who can join?
How will it be organized and operate?

Scientific Associations and Human Rights

Douglas Richardson, Association of American Geographers

How might scientific associations contribute to and benefit from the Coalition?
Why should scientific associations join the Coalition?

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Sessions (concurrent)**

These sessions will demonstrate the varied contributions that science and scientists can make to human rights, and highlight the scientific needs of human rights organizations.

Science-based Solutions to Human Rights Challenges: Examples from the field *Abelson*

This session will highlight the value of science and scientific expertise for human rights work by featuring scientists who have worked on human rights projects that yielded important outcomes and lessons.

Panelists: **Jana Asher**, Washington Statistical Society
Chris Beyrer, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Lars Bromley, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program
Yvonne Milewski, Office of the Medical Examiner, Suffolk County, New York

Facilitator: **Mark Frankel**, AAAS Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program

Scientific Associations Engaged in Human Rights: Learning from their experience *Haskins*

This session will feature the human rights work of three scientific associations, the different roles and contributions they each make, and their experience in setting up and sustaining human rights programs.

Panelists: **Rachel Franklin**, Association of American Geographers
Bradley Miller, American Chemical Society
Gary Shapiro, American Statistical Association

Facilitator: **Clinton Anderson**, American Psychological Association

Hearing from the Human Rights Community: How science and scientists can contribute *Revelle*

This session will present an opportunity to hear directly from members of the human rights community about how scientists and scientific tools, techniques, and technologies can contribute to human rights work.

Panelists: **Cathy Albisa**, National Economic and Social Rights Initiative
John Bradshaw, Physicians for Human Rights
Theresa Harris, World Organization for Human Rights USA
Matthew Smith, EarthRights International

Facilitator: **Sage Russell**, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships Program

11:45 **Lunch** *2nd Floor Reception*

1:00 **Areas of Activity (concurrent)**

These sessions will provide meeting participants the opportunity to identify the working group to which they wish to contribute and to provide input into the groups' plan of action for 2009-2011.

Service to the Human Rights Community *Revelle*

This working group is devoted to bridging the scientific and human rights communities with the aim of encouraging and facilitating the greater engagement of scientists in efforts to advance human rights.

Co-chairs: **Susan Hinkins**, American Statistical Association
Hormuzd Katki, Washington Statistical Society

Science Ethics and Human Rights *Abelson*

This working group is devoted to fostering appreciation among scientists and scientific associations of the relevance of human rights to ethical standards, the conduct of science, and human research protections.

Co-chairs: **Rob Albro**, American Anthropological Association
Paula Skedsvold, Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences

Welfare of Scientists *Haskins*

This working group is devoted to the protection and defense of scientists under threat and will work to increase the effectiveness of scientific organizations in defending the human rights of scientists.

Co-chairs: **Michele Irwin**, American Physical Society
Brad Miller, American Chemical Society
Sinead O’Gorman, Scholars at Risk Network

2:00 **Break**

2:15 **Areas of Activity (concurrent)**

Service to the Scientific Community *Revelle*

This working group is devoted to building the commitment and capacity of scientific associations to contribute meaningfully to human rights issues and activities, including through the application of their discipline’s tools and techniques.

Co-chairs: **Clinton Anderson**, American Psychological Association
Jessica Wyndham, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

Education and Information Resources *Abelson*

This working group is devoted to producing a variety of accessible information materials for the promotion and support of collaboration between scientists and human rights practitioners.

Co-chairs: **John C. King**, International Studies Association
Julie Mertus, International Studies Association

Welfare of Scientists (repeated) *Haskins*

This working group is devoted to the protection and defense of scientists under threat and will work to increase the effectiveness of scientific organizations in defending the human rights of scientists.

Co-chairs: **Michele Irwin**, American Physical Society
Brad Miller, American Chemical Society
Sinead O’Gorman, Scholars at Risk Network

3:15 **Break**

3:30 **Workshops (concurrent)**

These workshops will equip scientific associations with information and tools needed to enable robust engagement in human rights.

Article 15: The Human Right to the Benefits of Scientific Progress *Abelson*

This workshop will provide participants with a basic understanding of the significance of this human right, and provide tools for incorporating the right into the activities of the scientific associations.

Trainer: **Jessica Wyndham**, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

Human Rights and the Conduct of Science *Haskins*

This workshop will increase participants' knowledge of international human rights and their implications for the conduct of science. Participants will acquire tools to enable them to apply human rights to their disciplines.

Trainer: **Julie Mertus**, International Studies Association

Best-practices in Defending the Human Rights of Scientists *Revelle*

This workshop will prepare scientific associations to respond to alleged violations of the human rights of scientists. Participants will be trained in best-practices in the defense of scientists’ human rights.

Trainers: **Robert Quinn**, Scholars at Risk Network
Sinead O’Gorman, Scholars at Risk Network

5:00 - **Reception** *2nd Floor Reception*
7:00

Friday, January 16

8:45 am Area of Activity Working Groups - meetings over breakfast

Welfare of Scientists *Abelson*
Science Ethics and Human Rights *Revelle*
Service to the Scientific Community *Haskins*
Service to the Human Rights Community *Room 207*
Education and Information Resources *Revelle*

10:15 Break

10:30 **Where do we go from here?** *Auditorium* **Susan Hinkins**, American Statistical Association **Brad Miller**, American Chemical Society

Areas of Activity – report back
Highlights of Draft Plan of Action (2009-2011)
Q+A for potential members
Schedule of meetings

12:15 **Closing Remarks** *Auditorium* **Douglas Richardson**, Association of American Geographers **Mona Younis**, AAAS Science and Human Rights Program

12:30 **Meeting Adjourns**