

Area of Activity III: Service to the Scientific Community

Rationale

Scientific associations are dedicated to service, both to their members and to the public. Promoting the realization of human rights provides scientific associations an opportunity to meet their responsibilities to both. Indeed, many scientific associations have recognized this and have incorporated human rights into their work. They also have valuable experience to share in setting up and sustaining human rights programs. By developing human rights-related activities and services specifically for the scientific community, and by leveraging the experience of its members, the Coalition can build the commitment and capacity of scientific associations to engage meaningfully in human rights advocacy, develop effective responses to human rights challenges, and contribute their unique skills and knowledge to the larger community dedicated to the realization of human rights.

Objectives

- Increased awareness and appreciation within the scientific community of human rights issues and alternatives for addressing them;
- Greater capacity of scientific associations to address human rights issues through a variety of means, including the application of their discipline's tools and techniques;
- Greater and more varied forms of engagement by scientific associations in human rights activities.

Content

- Provide guidance to members of scientific associations who want to establish human rights committees, sections, working groups, etc.;
- Organize general and discipline-specific human rights training sessions for interested scientific associations and their leadership (e.g., in-coming human rights committee chairs);
- Encourage and assist scientific associations to incorporate human rights themes into annual meetings in the form of human rights workshops, trainings, lectures, and other appropriate vehicles;
- Conduct outreach activities to scientific and professional associations not already engaged in human rights, increasing their understanding of human rights and its interface with science and technology;
- Identify both general and discipline-specific options for introducing human rights into academic curricula, subfields, and/or clinics; and
- Compile and disseminate both general and discipline-specific human rights education and training resources.

Support

- Financial: from moderate (office-printed training materials, meeting costs) to costly (professionally-designed materials, outreach travel and associated costs)
- Human: authors, editors, interns for research, trainers
- Material: research and instructional materials