

Higher Education and Human Rights

Agenda
July 12-13, 2018
AAAS Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Universities and colleges are institutions with significant influence and power in their communities, nationally and worldwide, and thus play a vital role in ensuring respect for and promotion of human rights. Fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution," in which he highlighted land grant colleges as a tool of systemic discrimination, we ask: What can colleges and universities do to advance human rights? What should they do? What *must* they do?

Speakers will address issues many academic institutions are now tackling: protecting scientific and academic freedom on globally connected campuses; supporting the diaspora of scientists, engineers, and health professionals displaced by conflict; prioritizing community involvement in scientific research that addresses local human rights concerns; providing equal and inclusive access to STEM education and careers; ensuring that academic governance structures protect human rights on campus; and understanding, acknowledging, and addressing universities' legacies of slavery and oppression. We will examine these issues through the human rights principles of access, participation, informed consent, and justice.



DRAFT AGENDA – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday, July 12

8:30 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks** (*Auditorium*)

Jessica Wyndham, Director, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

Maureen Kearney, Director, AAAS Center of Science, Policy, and Society Programs

9:00 a.m. **Keynote Address** (*Auditorium*)

Shirley Malcom, Director, AAAS Education and Human Resources Programs: *SEACChange and the Culture of STEM*

Protecting Human Rights Internationally (*Auditorium*)

9:45 a.m. **Jeffrey Toney**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kean University: *Wenzhou Kean University, A Unique Sino-US collaboration Fostering Academic Excellence in China and Preparing Global Citizens*

10:15 a.m. **Mustafa Bahrán**, Visiting Fellow, Carleton University: *Responsibilities of Universities to Protect Scientists From, and Respond to Attacks On, Higher Education*

10:45 a.m. Break (*Second Floor Lobby*)

Promoting Human Rights in Our Communities (*Auditorium*)

11:15 a.m. **Jonathan Lazar**, Professor of Computer and Information Sciences, Towson University: *Equal access to digital technology and content on campus: a human right for faculty, staff, and students with disabilities*

11:45 a.m. **Bethany Letiecq**, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science Program, George Mason University: *Community-Based Research in Partnership with Latina Immigrant Mothers Rearing Children under Threat of Deportation and Family Separation: Time for Scholar Activism*

12:15 p.m. **Lunch** (*Second Floor Lobby*)

Concurrent Workshops (*please bring your lunch!*)

1. Introduction to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (*Revelle*)

This session is for new and potential members of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. Participants will learn about the goals and activities of the Coalition and the international human rights framework that guides its work, giving special attention to the connections of human rights to science and technology. Bring your lunch and your questions!

Facilitator: Jessica Wyndham, Program Director, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program

DRAFT AGENDA – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2. Organizing for Science and Human Rights on Your Campus: The Coalition's Campus Event Toolkit and Handbook for New Student Groups (*Abelson-Haskins*)

The Coalition's project teams have produced several resources for students including a Campus Event Toolkit with guidelines for organizing events and videos to prompt conversations around science and human rights, and a handbook for students who want to start a science and human rights group or club on their campus. In this workshop, participants will learn about these resources, how to access them, and how they have been used. Participants will then share ideas and identify new opportunities to use these resources at their own colleges and universities.

Facilitators: Theresa Harris, Project Director, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program
William Lenart, Case Western Reserve University Science and Human Rights Coalition

Respecting Human Rights on Campus (*Auditorium*)

- 1:30 p.m. **Karen Horting**, Executive Director and CEO, Society of Women Engineers: *Title IX at 46 – Then and Now*
- 2:00 p.m. **Arelis Palacios**, Associate Director for Undocumented Student Services, Center for Multicultural Equity & Access Director of Group Initiatives, Division of Student Affairs, Georgetown University: *Promoting Educational Attainment for Undocumented Students from K-16 and Beyond*
- 2:30 p.m. **Alexis McKenney**, Student Organizer, Howard University: *Student Activism for Human Rights at HBCUs*
- 3:00 p.m. **Break** (*Second Floor Lobby*)

Acknowledging and Addressing History (*Auditorium*)

- 3:30 p.m. [TBA]
- 4:15 p.m. **Marcia Chatelain**, Associate Professor of History and African American Studies, Georgetown University: *Universities and Slavery: Interdisciplinary Challenges and Interdisciplinary Solutions*
- 5:00 p.m. **Closing remarks** (*Auditorium*)
Chelsea A. Blackburn Cohen, Research Scientist/Senior Program Officer, Scholars at Risk
- 5:15 p.m. **Reception** (*Second Floor Lobby*)

DRAFT AGENDA – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Friday, July 13 – Coalition Business Meetings

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Executive Directors' Circle** (*invitation only*) (12th Floor Boardroom)

If you are a member of the Executive Directors' Circle, please see the security desk upon your arrival to pick up a security badge. A badge is necessary to access the 12th floor.

Chair: **Andrew Black**, Chief of Staff and Chief External Affairs Officer, AAAS

9:00 a.m. **Student Meeting** (*Revelle*)

All students are invited to this meeting to learn more about the Coalition resources available to them, opportunities for students to get involved in current Coalition projects, and new initiatives for increasing student engagement.

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Project Team Meetings** (*concurrent*)

In keeping with the Coalition's commitment to action and measurable outcomes, Coalition members and affiliates contribute to projects that connect networks, build capacity, engage individuals, and promote awareness. The working meetings provide an opportunity for members to define new projects and move forward with existing initiatives. Prospective members are invited to join these meetings and explore ways they can get involved in the Coalition's activities. Please refer to the materials in your meeting folder for descriptions of the current projects. Room assignments will be posted in the second floor lobby.

11:45 a.m. **Plenary Discussion: Reports from Breakout Groups** (*Abelson-Haskins*)

12:30 p.m. **Council Lunch** (*Council Members and Student Delegates only*) (*Abelson-Haskins*)

1:00 p.m. **Council Meeting** (*Council Members only*) (*Revelle*)

5:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjourns**