

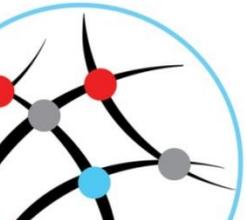
Scholars at Risk Network: Getting Involved



ACUP-SAR Academic Freedom Seminar
Barcelona, February 15, 2018
Sinead O’Gorman
European Director
Scholars at Risk Network

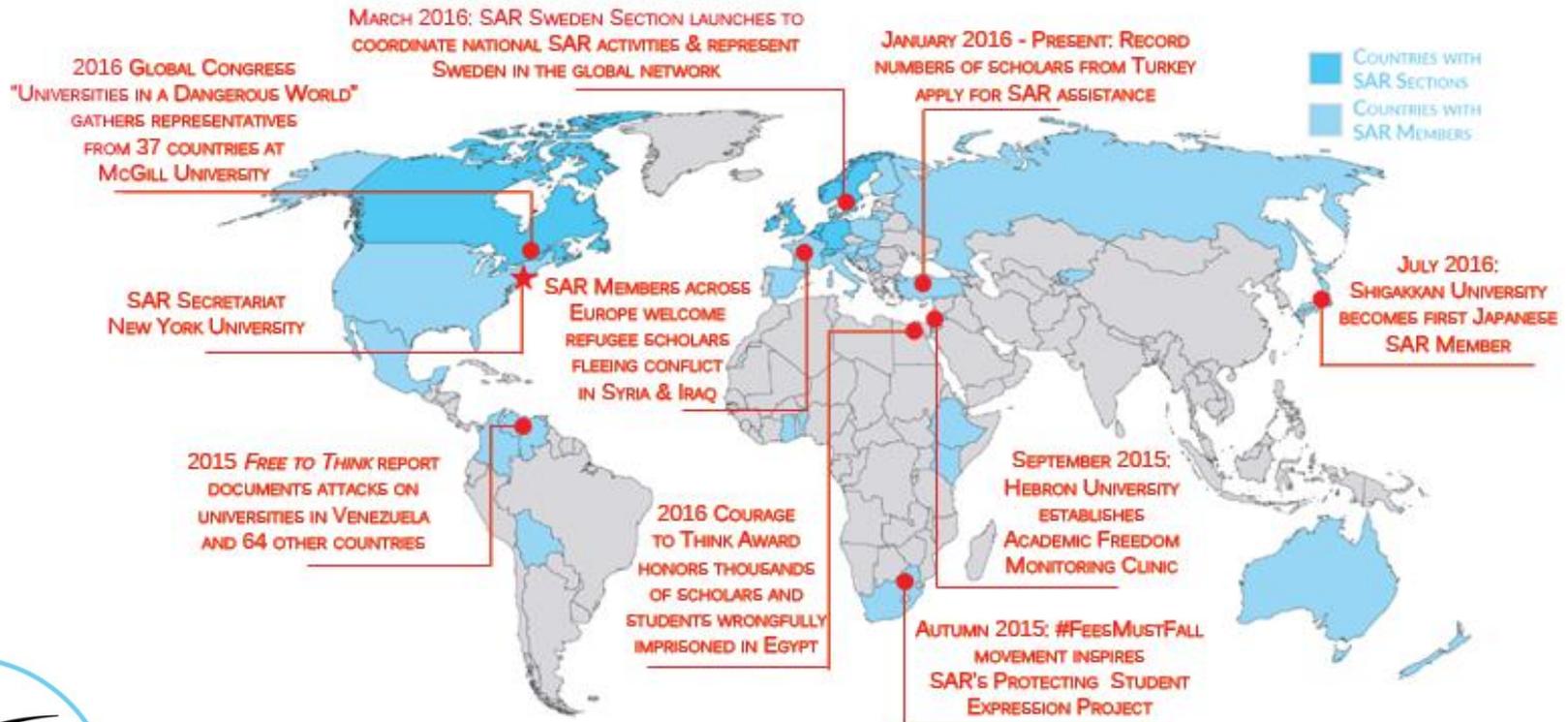
Mission

- Global network
- Protect threatened scholars
- Promote academic freedom



THE NETWORK

Over 500 institutions in 37 countries, including 'sections' in Canada, Ireland, Netherlands & Belgium (with UAF), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (with CARA), Germany, and Finland.



Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

Scholars at Risk National Sections in Europe

National networks of higher education institutions dedicated to supporting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom.

CARA-SAR UK Universities Network with CARA (2006)

SAR-UAF Netherlands & Belgium Network (2009)

SAR-Ireland section with Universities Ireland (2009)

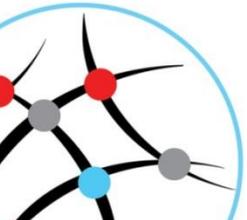
SAR- Norway section (2011)

SAR-Switzerland section (2014)

SAR-Sweden section (2016)

SAR-Germany section with Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2016)

SAR-Finland section with UNIFI Universities Finland (2017)



ACTIVITIES

As SAR members, university leadership, staff, faculty, and students have the opportunity to actively engage in:



Protection

- hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits
- referring scholars to the network for assistance



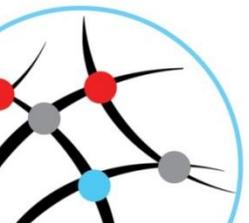
Advocacy

- offering Student Advocacy Seminars to teach real-world advocacy skills
- supporting scholars in prison by writing letters of appeal
- work with the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project



Learning

- attending SAR conferences and workshops
- inviting SAR scholars to share their stories on campus
- joining research groups looking at pressing issues facing international higher education



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo



Univerza v Ljubljani



SCHOLARS AT RISK
N E T W O R K

'Academic Refuge' Project

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership (with associate partners EUA and EAIE)

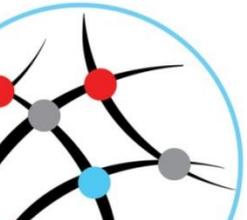
2017: Develop curriculum and implement two-part training on (a) welcoming refugees and threatened academics to campus and (b) promoting higher education values

2018: MOOC: The Global University, Academic Freedom and Higher Education Values

2019: Electronic Handbook on Putting Higher Education Values into Practice

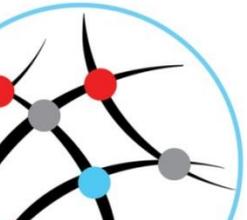
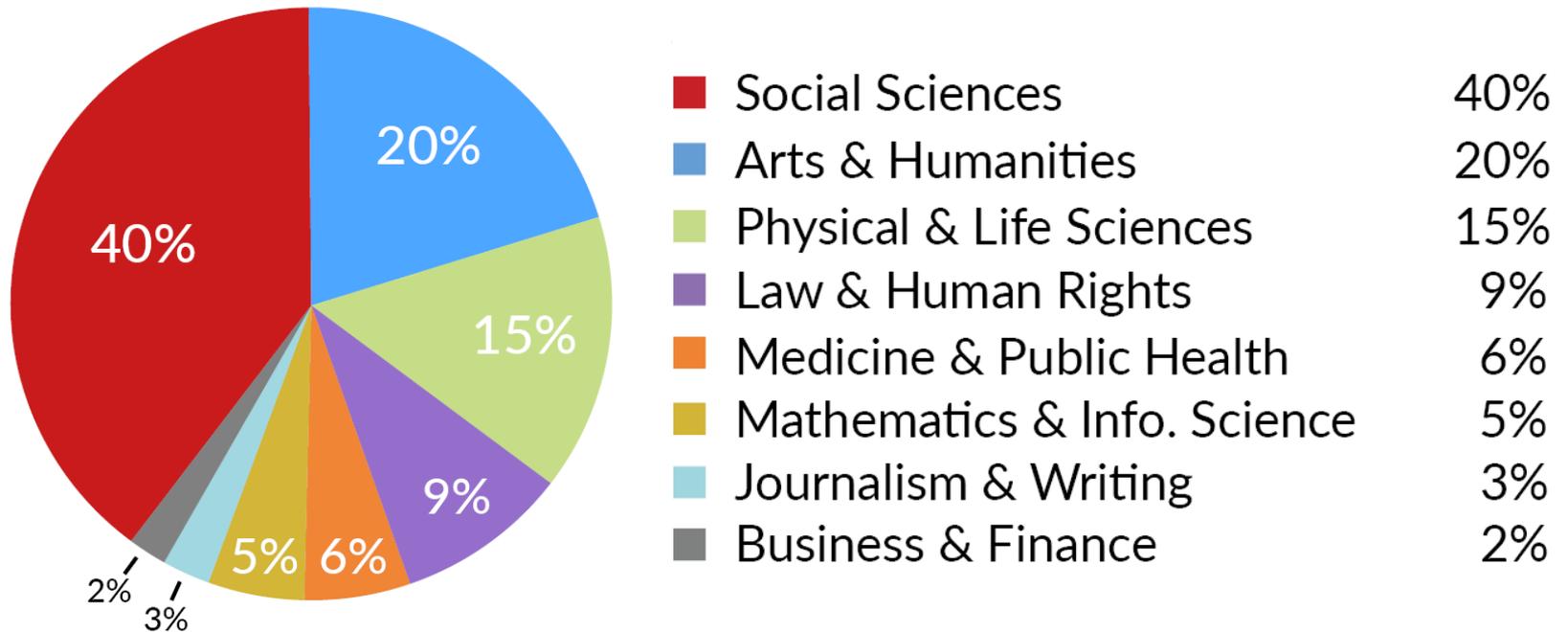
Facts & Figures

- Since founding in 2000, over 4,000 applications for assistance
- In 2017, over 700 applications; 158 placements
- Current rate of 40 to 50 applications per month; 42 scholars on list currently seeking positions
- Top sources of applications: Syria, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Ethiopia
- 80% of placements last year in Europe
- Over 650 applications from Turkey alone since Jan 2016
- SAR Monitoring Project F2T (2017): 257 attacks in 35 countries
- Currently advocating on behalf of 46 scholars in prison



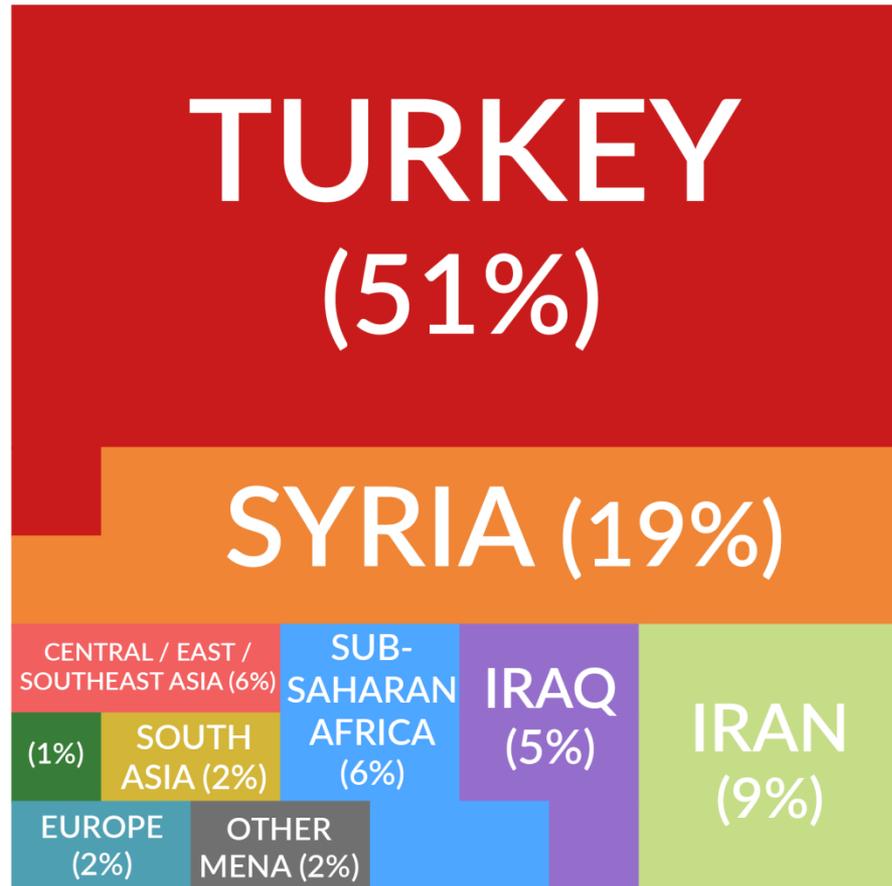
SCHOLAR DISCIPLINES

In 2017, SAR received a record number of applications for assistance – over 700 – and arranged placements for 158 scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.

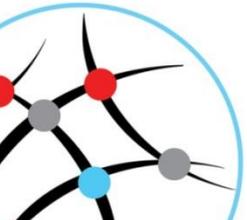


SCHOLAR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

SAR currently provides assistance to threatened scholars from over 25 countries around the world.

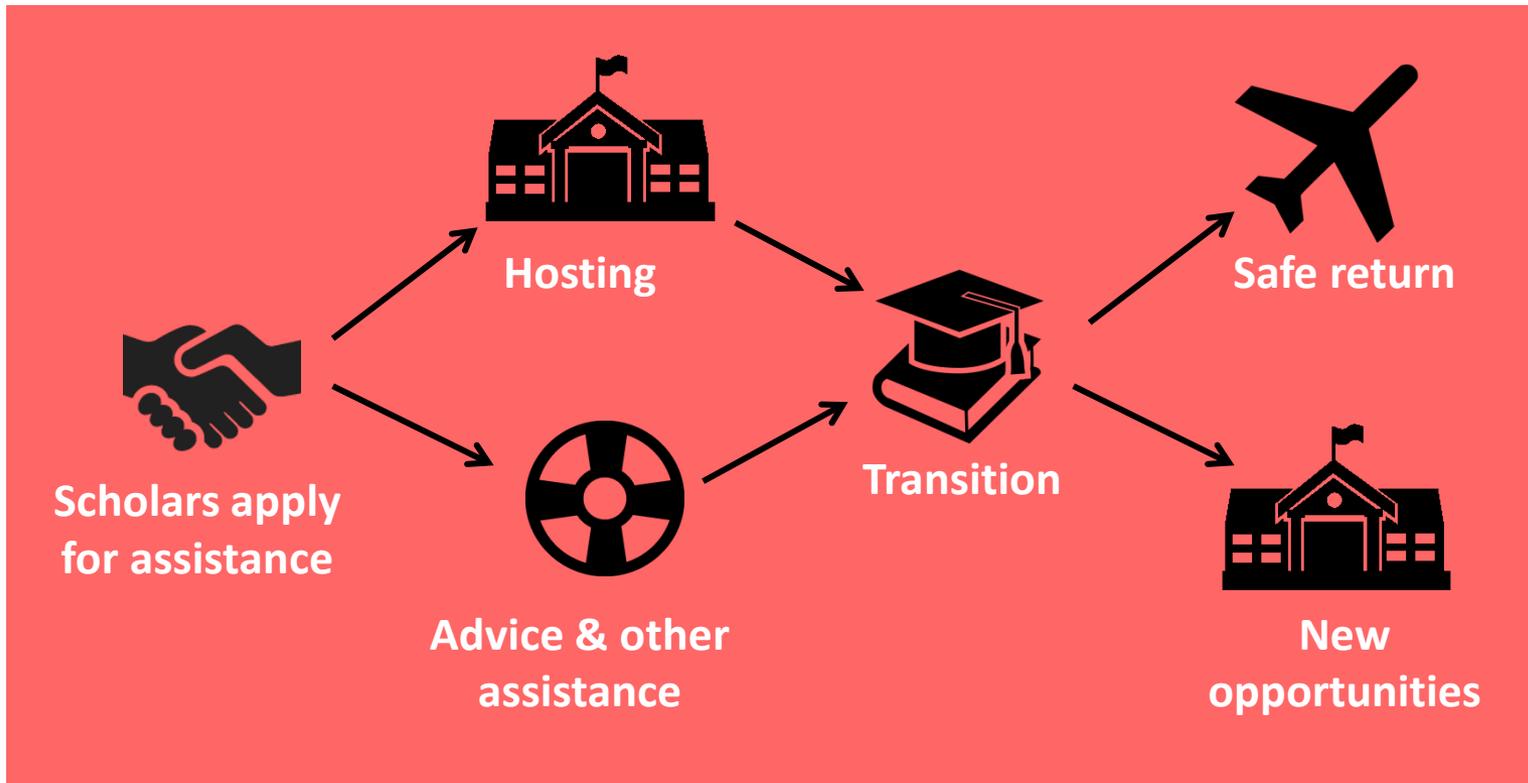


Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas



PROTECTION

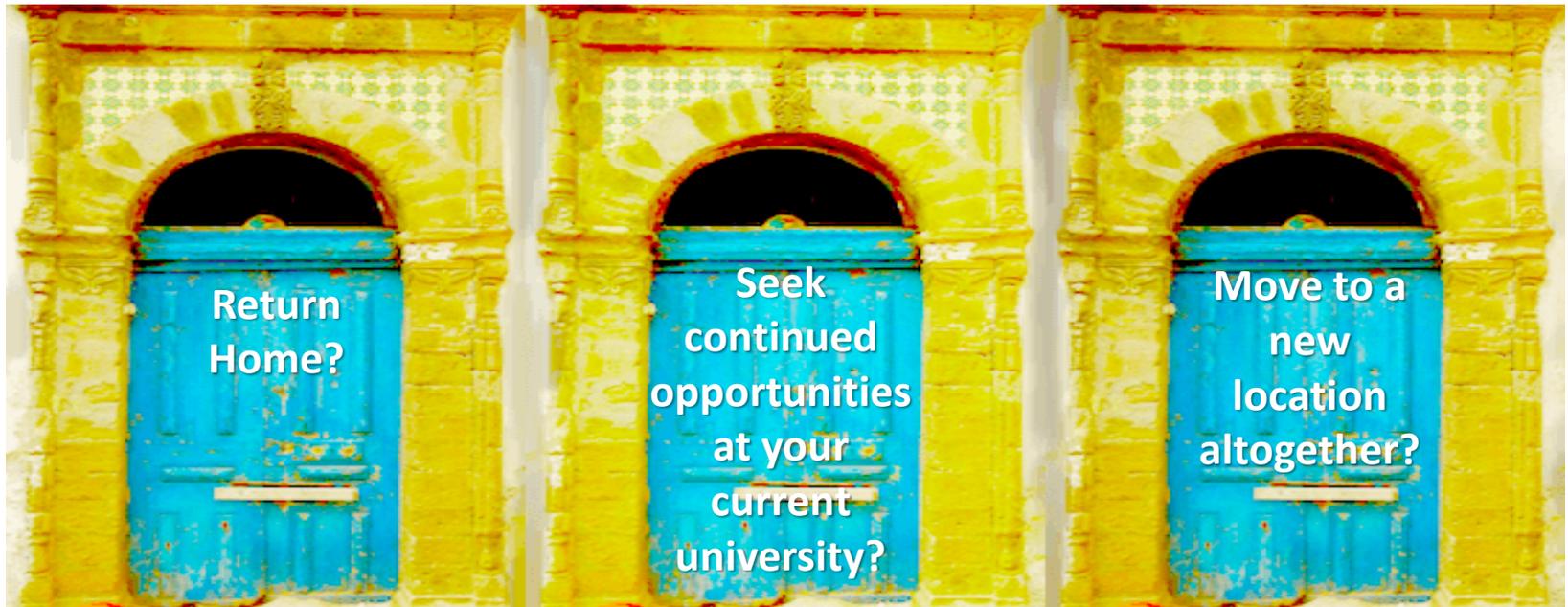
SAR informs the network of scholars facing threats and works with the scholars and host institutions through every step of the process.





PLANNING AHEAD

In general, scholars are faced with 3 post-placement options:



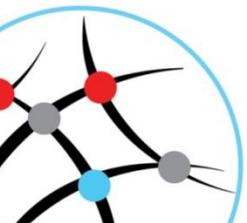


WORKSHOPS FOR SAR SCHOLARS

Sessions on

- Making the Most of an Academic Placement
- Creating and maintaining a network in an academic setting
- Post-placement plans
- Academic job search skills (CV, application process, interviews)

5 trainings to date; 125 scholars



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 **EXAMPLE**

SAR-assisted scholar

Dr. Anna Dolidze

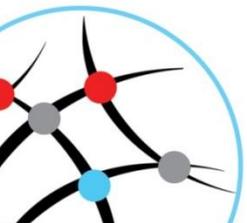
International Law

Home country: Georgia

Risks: Intimidation, surveillance, and arrest in retaliation for her open criticism of policies relating to the operation and independence of the Georgian judiciary

SAR Network positions: NYU Law School, USA and Western University, Canada

Where is she now? In 2015, Dr. Dolidze returned to Georgia to begin an appointment as Deputy Defense Minister. In June 2016, she was appointed the chief legal adviser to the President of Georgia.



 **EXAMPLE**

SAR-assisted scholar

Dr. Kassem AlSayed Mahmoud

Food Science

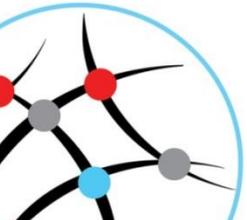


Home country: Syria

Risks: Targeted by the government for defecting from compulsory military service

SAR Network position: Ghent University, Belgium, arranged with the UAF-SAR Netherlands & Belgium Section

Where is he now? Dr. AlSayed is working as a postdoctoral researcher in Belgium and dreaming of returning to his homeland.

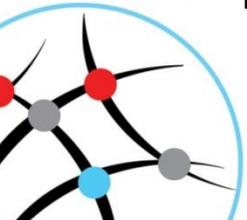




LESSONS LEARNED: HOST INSTITUTIONS

While each situation is unique, successful placements often have the following common elements:

- Security first
- Assign responsibility (academic mentor, administrative mentor...)
- Anticipate needs (visa, language, family, security, health) and map existing resources
- Clear and regular communication
- Listen and respect
- Recognize the scholar's important contributions to host institution
- Continued professional development support (public-speaking, networking, language classes, conferences)
- Flexibility, creative thinking
- Work with scholar on post-placement plans
- Feedback and evaluation

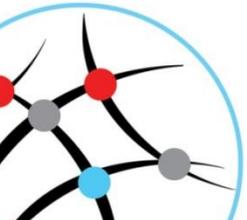




LESSONS LEARNED: SCHOLARS

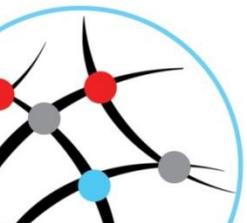
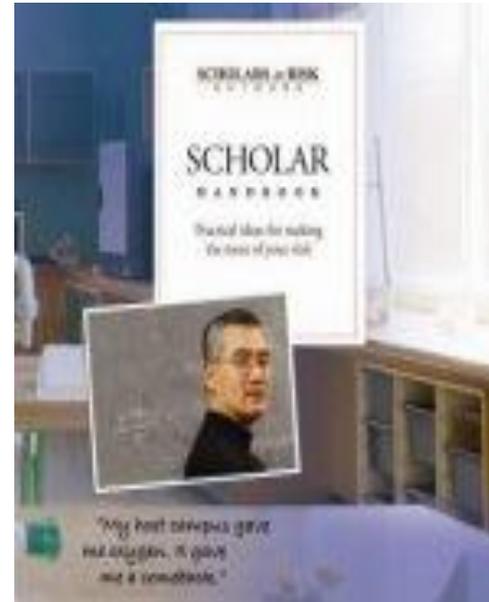
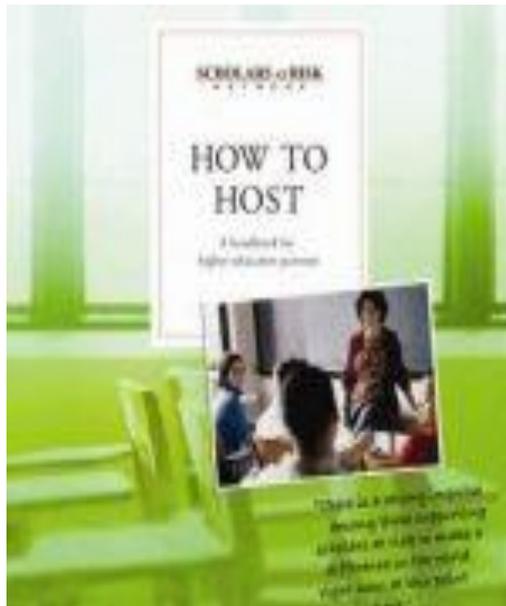
While each scholars situation is unique, placements have been most successful when the following elements are present:

- Consider the first placement as a stepping stone
- Early identification of goals for first placement
- Use all existing resources
- Engage with colleagues
- Invite feedback on their work
- Plan early for next steps
- Feedback and evaluation





FURTHER INFORMATION & ADVICE



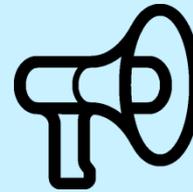
Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

ADVOCACY

SAR's advocacy programs call attention to attacks on higher education communities and the need to promote academic freedom.



Action Alerts & Campaigns



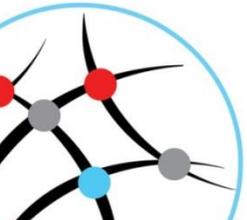
Student Advocacy Seminars



Academic Freedom Monitoring Project



Publications



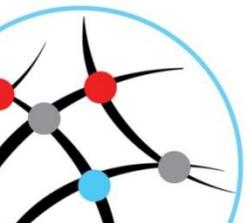


ADVOCACY: Academic Freedom Monitor & *Free to Think* 2017



Key Findings

- Ongoing, violent attacks on higher education communities around the world
- Sweeping actions against higher education communities in Turkey
- Violent repression of organized student expression
- Deteriorating conditions for higher education in Venezuela
- Restrictions on scholarly travel
- Attempts to shut down or censor educational institutions in Central and Eastern Europe.

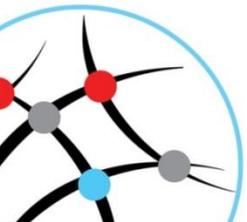


ADVOCACY: Student Seminars & Legal Clinics

- Faculty-led human rights research and advocacy at SAR member institutions
- Campaigns for Scholars-in-Prison cases
- Research for SAR's Monitoring Project
- Reports and submissions for national and international advocacy



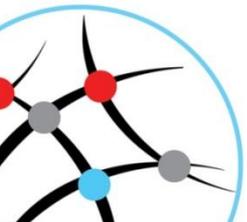
Universal Periodic Review



 **LEARNING**

SAR convenes faculty, students and professionals to join a growing conversation around human rights and university values.

 <p>Speaker Series</p>	 <p>Workshops</p>
 <p>Conferences</p>	 <p>Research Groups</p>

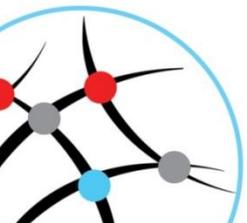




LEARNING: Promoting Higher Ed Values & Protecting Student Expression

SAR convenes faculty, students and professionals to join working groups on critical issues facing higher education, including how institutions promote core higher education values on campus and the protection of organized student expression from violent threats.

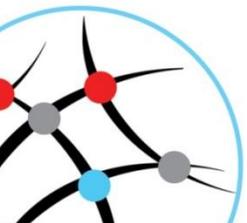
- SAR-coordinated working groups & related workshops
- Values discussion guides & toolkits
- MOOC (2018-19 via Erasmus+ grant)
- Inviting case examples, participation, event co-organizers





CONCRETE NEXT STEPS:

- Subscribe to receive SAR emails
- Consider inviting a speaker to campus or organize a national speakers' tour
- Consider hosting threatened scholars
- Encourage staff, faculty, students to join SAR's academic freedom monitoring project as researchers
- Advocate on behalf of a scholar in prison (e.g. through the student advocacy seminar)
- Contribute real-life case examples to 'Promoting HE Values' project
- Participate in SAR alerts/campaigns
- Contribute to efforts to build a national SAR section
- Send representatives to SAR workshops/trainings and 2018 Global Congress





2018 Global Congress

April 23-26, 2018 | Berlin, Germany

SAR's biennial global network congress convenes faculty, students, and professionals in higher education and human rights in a conversation around higher education security and values.

REGISTER TODAY:

www.scholarsatrisk.org

APRIL 23-26
SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK
2018 GLOBAL CONGRESS
Freie Universität Berlin | Berlin, Germany

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

Join higher education leaders, scholars, students, and advocates in the center of Europe to address historic challenges to higher education and to liberal democratic society alike.

Through a series of keynotes, panels, and workshops, we will explore the role – indeed, the responsibility – of the community to defend democratic values.

FOR
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

For more information
visit scholarsatrisk.org

CO-ORGANIZERS | SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK | Freie Universität Berlin | Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung/Foundation

SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

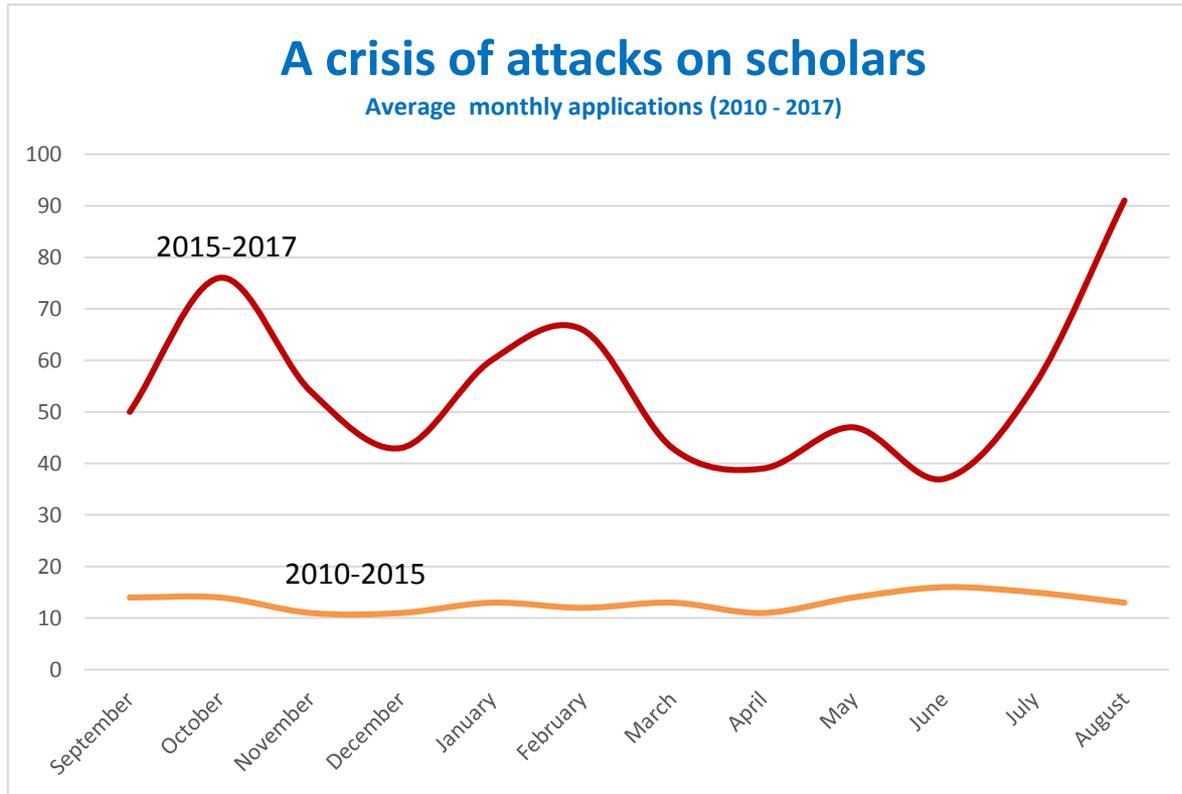


get connected:

-  www.scholarsatrisk.org
-  scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
-  facebook.com/scholarsatrisk
-  twitter.com/scholarsatrisk

RESPONDING TO CRISES

Today, more people than ever are risking their lives to flee oppression and conflict, among them a record number of scholars and students.



Top 5 origins (2016-17)

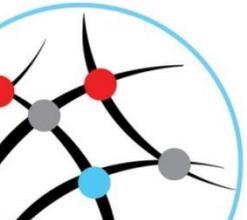
Turkey • Syria • Iraq •
Iran • Ethiopia

Top 5 risks (2016-17)

Arrest/imprisonment
Insecurity/conflict
Wrongful dismissal
Harassment/threats
Killing/disappearance

Top 5 hosts (2016-17)

Germany • United States
• The Netherlands •
Norway • Belgium



National Sections: The Benefits

1. Pooling resources (financial and human) to protect more scholars and improve the quality of assistance to scholars
2. Sharing between institutions and deepening of expertise on hosting, advocacy and values-promotion
3. Access to support networks: support (e.g. for follow-up placements, networking) from other universities within national sections, support between sections, support from global network
4. Stronger voice to influence policy (immigration/higher ed/human rights/foreign policy) at national or intl level

