The Network

Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of institutions and individuals whose mission is to protect scholars and promote academic freedom.

The Scholars

Dr. Dolidze fled Georgia in 2006 after experiencing intimidation, surveillance, and arrest in retaliation for her public criticism of Georgian judiciary policies. SAR helped her secure a position at NYU Law School and Western University, Canada, where she later became a tenured professor. While abroad, Dr. Dolidze continued to advocate for justice and human rights in Georgia. In May 2013, she was able to return home safely to begin her new appointment as Deputy Defense Minister.

Dr. Ahmad is a scholar of archaeology who was barred from employment in Syria after receiving his PhD abroad and faced further threats for his work protecting Syrian archaeology amidst the ongoing crisis. Through SAR and the Philipp Schwartz Initiative in Germany, Dr. Ahmad was offered a 2-year fellowship at Heidelberg University. Dr. Ahmad has been able to safely continue his work on classic Syrian archaeology and has participated in several events and trainings to share his expertise on Syria and contribute to local efforts to better support threatened scholars in Europe.

The Opportunities

Membership

Member organizations make a commitment to academic freedom, designate a SAR representative, and contribute an annual membership subscription.

Learn more at: www.scholarsatrisk.org/join

Protection

• Hosting threatened scholars for temporary teaching, research, or study visits
• Referring scholars to the network for assessment, referrals, or transition assistance

Advocacy

• Engaging students in Student Advocacy Seminars & Legal Clinics to conduct real-world research and advocacy
• Supporting imprisoned scholars & students through global campaigns
• Conducting research for SAR’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project

Learning

• Attending conferences, workshops, and trainings
• Inviting SAR scholars to campus to share their stories
• Joining research groups on pressing issues facing the global higher education community
• Co-organizing workshops and online courses on Promoting Higher Education Values

Risks Frequently Reported by Scholars*

• Threat of arrest or violence
• General situational risk
• Loss of position
• Harassment & intimidation
• Prosecution
• Other

*Note that scholars often report experiencing multiple risks.

Scholar Disciplines

- Social Sciences 32%
- Physical & Life Sciences 24%
- Arts & Humanities 17%
- Business & Finance 10%
- Law & Human Rights 5%
- Journalism & Writing 5%
- Medicine & Public Health 4%
- Mathematics & Info. Science 3%

Scholar Countries of Origin

- Turkey 52%
- Syria 20%

Countries with SAR Sections

Countries with SAR Members

SAR provides sanctuary and assistance to more than 300 threatened scholars worldwide each year.
Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone’s freedom to think, question, and share ideas.

Protection

Hosting
SAR informs the network of scholars facing threats. As they are able, members welcome scholars for visits (usually for a year). These scholars enrich their host communities through teaching, research, mentoring, and study.

Advice & Assistance
SAR assists scholars facing immediate danger in their home countries and provides advice and referrals to refugee scholars.

Transition
Some scholars hosted by members face long-term risks. SAR works with these scholars to plan their next steps, including future placements and referrals for additional professional or legal support.

Return
SAR scholars hope to return safely to their home countries. Those whose risks have subsided frequently do so, and they retain a lifelong connection to their host institution.

Advocacy

Scholars in Prison Project Campaigns
SAR raises awareness of and garners support for scholars and students in prison or facing other threats.

Student Advocacy
Guided by faculty, students conduct advocacy related to imprisoned scholars & attacks on higher education.

Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
Researchers work with SAR to document and analyze attacks on higher education, including physical violence, imprisonment, prosecution, and restrictions on travel.

Publications
SAR reports and publications, such as *Free to Think*, encourage international dialogue on higher education values and related issues.

Learning

Speaker Series
Members invite SAR scholars to campus to share their academic work and stories of courage and perseverance.

Conferences
At SAR’s biennial Global Congress, members come together and share best practices for protecting scholars and promoting academic freedom.

Workshops
SAR members co-organize and attend workshops for faculty, researchers, staff, and students on promoting core higher education values.

Working Groups
SAR coordinates working groups on academic freedom-related research and other issues facing the global higher education community.

Donate
Your participation is vital to our work around the world. Consider supporting SAR by making a monthly contribution. For more information about giving, contact Starr Miller, Development Officer, at starr.miller@nyu.edu.