

SCHOLARS AT RISK

NETWORK SWEDEN SECTION

Webinar: Afghan Research Community at Risk – what about Academic Freedom?

Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Afghan people are threatened at all levels of society. Women's rights are withdrawn and violent attacks on journalists, human rights defenders, culture workers and scholars reveal the new government's strive to silence Afghan voices of democracy.

When it comes to education and research, the Taliban government poses a serious threat to the entire Afghan research community. In removing the right to freedom of opinion and expression of researchers, scholars and students, the government deliberately eliminates the cornerstones of academic freedom. Welcome to a discussion on consequences for Academia under Taliban rule, initiatives to offer academic sanctuaries to threatened scholars and possible ways to support Academic Freedom in Afghanistan.

Date: Friday December 10th, 2021

Time: 13.00 – 14.30

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/r/a5E0GMN464>

Program

13.00 – 13.10 Welcome and introductory remarks

Denise Roche, Scholars at Risk Europe

Karolina Catoni, Scholars at Risk Sweden

13.10 – 13.20 Taliban Takeover and Academic Freedom

Nina Hjelmgren, journalist, expert on Afghanistan

13.20 – 13.30 #DoNotTouchMyClothes

Wazhma Sayle, Linnaeus University Alumni, Afghan social media activist

13.30-13.40 Legal Settlement Pathways for Afghan Scholars

Stina Skansing Bergman, Complementary Pathways Expert, UNHCR

13.45 – 14.25 Panel Discussion – How can we support the Afghan Research Community?

Karolina Catoni, Nina Hjelmgren, Stina Skansing Bergman, Wazhma Sayle

14.25 – 14.30 Concluding Remarks

Moderator

Daniel Silander, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Linnaeus University;
Member of SAR Europe Committee for Academic Freedom Advocacy