

## SCHOLARS AT RISK

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### InSPIREurope: Ambitious EU-Funded Initiative to Support Researchers at Risk



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement no. 857742.

Ten European partner organizations announce an ambitious new initiative to be launched this September to support researchers at risk. The initiative—InSPIREurope—is a ten-partner project funded under the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and coordinated by Scholars at Risk Europe at Maynooth University, Ireland. InSPIREurope will forge a coordinated, cross-sectoral, Europe-wide alliance for researchers at risk.

**InSPIREurope project partners include:** Scholars at Risk Europe, hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland (Project Coordinator) • Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Germany • European University Association • Jagiellonian University, Poland • University of Oslo, Norway • University of Gothenburg, Sweden • PAUSE program, hosted by the Collège de France • Stichting voor Vluchteling-Studenten UAF, Netherlands • Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece • Scholz CTC GmbH, Germany

InSPIREurope begins from the view that excellence in research depends upon open scientific debate, and is driven by a multiplicity of ideas, cultures, people, and perspectives. When researchers are at risk and excluded from participating in the global research circuit, whether due to discrimination, persecution, suffering, or violence, not only are individual lives and careers at risk; the quality, the very future of research is also at stake. With record numbers of researchers at risk reaching out, there is no one country, government, NGO, or enterprise that can meet the scope of the challenge alone; an ambitious and concerted approach is required. Toward this goal, and in recognition of a shared commitment to excellence in research and to the principles of freedom of inquiry and academic freedom that are essential pre-conditions for world-class research, the InSPIREurope project will facilitate transnational cooperation between European and national initiatives and programs in support of researchers at risk. Further information, including project webpages, will be available when the project begins in September.

Scholars of the Month

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals that exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email [apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:apply.scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu).



#### **A Scholar of Electronics and Computer Education from Turkey**

This scholar has nearly two decades of university-level teaching experience in Turkey and the US, where he led courses on wireless sensor networks, cognitive radio networks, and cloud computing, among others. He has also published numerous articles on these topics in international and refereed academic journals. This scholar faces risk of arrest, harassment, and loss of position in Turkey and seeks research opportunities in Canada beginning immediately. (Turkey 859)



#### **A Scholar of Social Science from Indonesia**

This scholar specializes in gender, political representation, and interfaith studies. She is the author of several books and articles, both in Indonesian and English. A dedicated professor as well, this scholar has numerous years of experience teaching religious and conflict studies. She reports facing loss of position, harassment, and censorship, and seeks research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Indonesia 528)

#### **A Scholar of Information and Communication Science from Cameroon**

This scholar's work sits at the intersection of art, science, and communication. He has published several international peer-reviewed articles in his field and is a highly praised professor who has several years of university teaching experience leading courses in visual arts and communications. This scholar reports risk due to situational violence and threats against the education sector. He is seeking research and/or teaching opportunities in a safe location beginning immediately. (Cameroon 553)

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)

## SAR Spotlight on Prof. Mayda Hočevar



In this SAR Spotlight, we spoke with Professor Mayda Hočevar about how current humanitarian and political crises affect the quality of higher education in Venezuela and recent efforts to advocate for academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Latin America.

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## Free Niloufar Bayani from Wrongful Imprisonment in Iran!



Join SAR in calling for the release of Niloufar Bayani, a researcher, conservationist, and scholar who remains wrongfully imprisoned in Iran!

On January 24, 2018, authorities arrested Ms. Bayani and eight of her colleagues who were conducting field research for the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, on charges of “sowing corruption on earth.” Nearly a year later, when the conservationists were indicted in a closed-door trial on January 30, 2019, Ms. Bayani reportedly interrupted and objected that her forced confessions had apparently become the basis for the indictment. She stated that her forced confessions had been made while subjected to mental torture and that she retracted them all after the first round of investigations.

Last week, in a letter to Chief Justice Ebrahim Raisi, the families of the conservationists stated that Iran's judiciary had violated seven laws in its handling of their cases, including torture, reliance on forced false “confessions” in the place of evidence, denial of counsel, and denial of bail.

[Take Action! »](#)

## New Resources



The EU-funded [Academic Refugee](#) project, which includes as partners UNIK Ljubljana, University of Ljubljana, and SAR, has released an e-handbook, [Promoting Core Higher Education Values](#). This free resource gathers testimonies on embedding academic values and refugee integration from many institutions around the world. [Download »](#)



The EU Erasmus+ funded [S.U.C.R.E. Project](#) has published the report, [Institutional Support for Refugee Scholars in Higher Education](#). This free resource provides recommendations for the integration of refugee scholars based on surveys with host institutions, at-risk and refugee scholars being hosted at universities, and academic mentors.

[Download »](#)

## Events



**Universities: Their Freedoms and Responsibilities: The Challenge of the Future | Oct. 16-17 | Hamilton, Canada**

Join us for the Annual Conference of the Magna Charta Observatory. The focus will be on academic freedom and the responsibilities which universities have for helping to achieve the UN sustainable development goals.

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**SAR 2020 Global Congress | Mar. 25-28, 2020 | Washington, D.C. & Baltimore, MD**

Save the date! Scholars at Risk invites you to the SAR Network 2020 Global Congress on March 25-28, 2020, convened in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

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**Connect with Us**



Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. Our international network of institutions and individuals shares a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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