

For Immediate Release
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AAAS Science and Human Rights Program Recruits "On-call" Scientists and Engineers

Behavioral, life, physical and social scientists, as well as engineers, technicians, medical professionals and public health practitioners are being recruited to provide *pro bono* assistance to human rights organizations, through a new "On-call" Scientists program.

The program, launched by the Science and Human Rights Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), is being developed to help match human rights organizations with volunteer scientists and engineers. Through the new service, human rights organizations will gain access to vital technical assistance to enhance their work, and scientists will have opportunities to contribute to and gain a better understanding of human rights, explained Mona Younis, director of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program.

"Recognizing just how valuable decades of *pro bono* lawyering have been to human rights organizations, we decided to see how much *pro bono* science can do to advance the efforts of human rights groups," Younis said. "At AAAS, we are constantly considering projects that meet the needs of the human rights community, while advancing the AAAS mission. 'On-call' Scientists does this and more."

Scientists and engineers can volunteer, and human rights organizations can request assistance online at <http://shr.aaas.org/oncallscientists>. For more information, scientists also can call 202-326-6600, or email oncall@aaas.org.

Examples of how scientists and engineers could contribute to human rights work might include:

- Statisticians advising on good survey research methods to measure mass displacement
- Climatologists reviewing a report on a human rights-based analysis of the impact of climate change

- Forensic scientists offering guidance on the exhumation of graves
- Sociologists developing indicators to measure project objectives
- Engineers providing training for work on the right to housing
- Geographers mapping incidents of discrimination
- Public health professionals crafting appropriate health care policies to meet the right to health
- Economists providing analysis of government expenditures on education for work on the right to education
- Geneticists providing guidance in identifying victims of atrocities
- Hydrologists providing training in water testing for work on the human right to water
- Scientists of all disciplines can answer questions related to scientific method as well as data analyses and interpretation

The AAAS Science and Human Rights Program, dating to the late 1970s, works with scientists to advance science and serve society through human rights. The program carries out its mission by engaging individual scientists and scientific associations in human rights efforts; applying scientific tools and technologies to enhance human rights work; bringing human rights standards to the conduct of science; and promoting the human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

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