

SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning

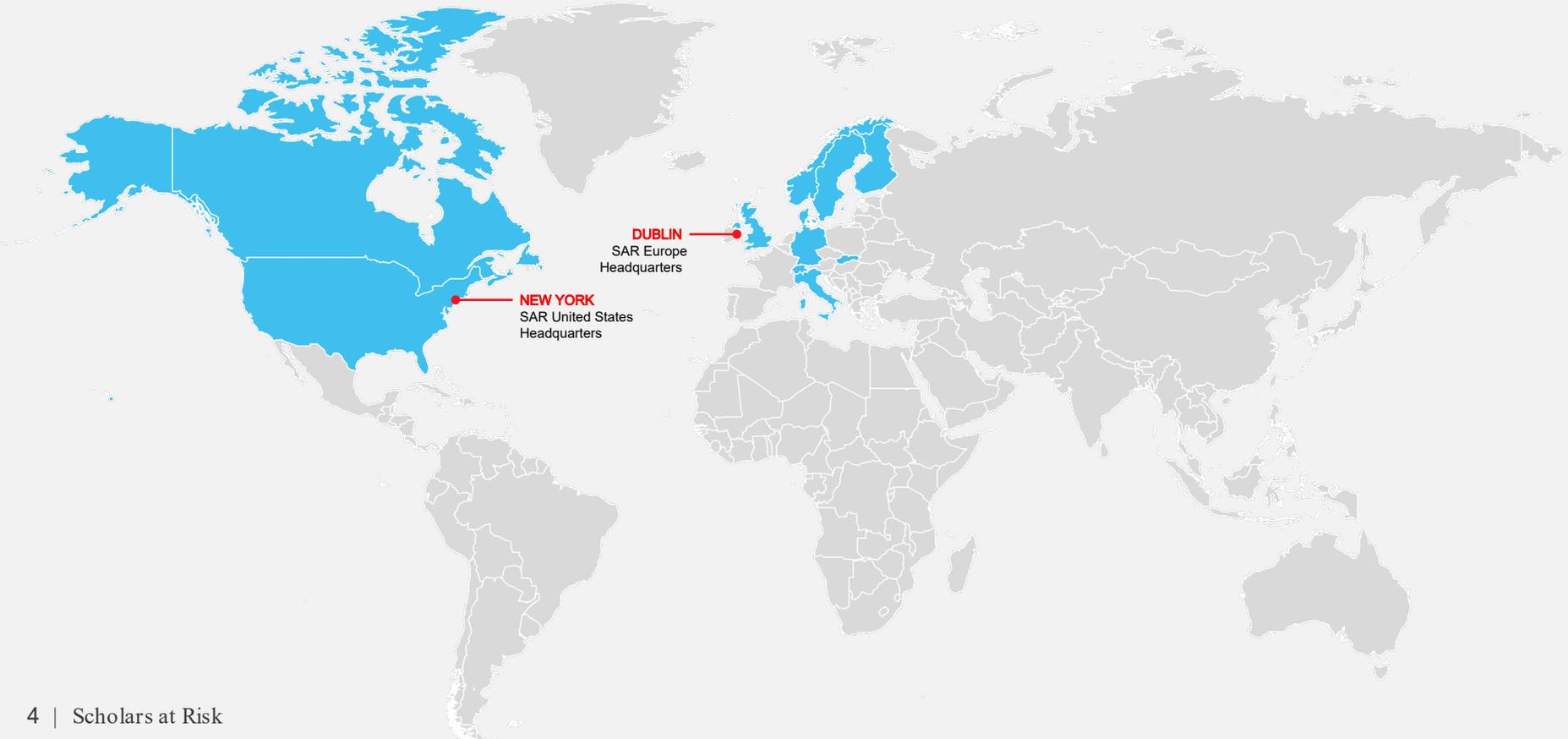
Introducing the Network

Agenda

SCHOLARS AT RISK (SAR) is an international network of higher education institutions and associations whose mission is to protect threatened scholars and promote academic freedom.

SAR is represented by more than 550 institutions in 42 countries.

SAR Sections currently exist in 13 countries.



SAR Europe

- Is hosted at Maynooth University in Ireland, and reflects a mutual commitment to the principle of academic freedom
- Coordinates the activities of over 300 member universities in Europe including national SAR sections in 11 European countries and the 10-partner H2020 project [Inspireurope](#)
- Aims to strengthen a collective voice across institutions in order to contribute to informed policymaking



SAR's work encompasses three key areas



PROTECTION



ADVOCACY



LEARNING



Protection

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SAR protects scholars suffering grave threats to their lives, liberty, and well-being by arranging temporary research and teaching positions, and by providing advisory and referral services.

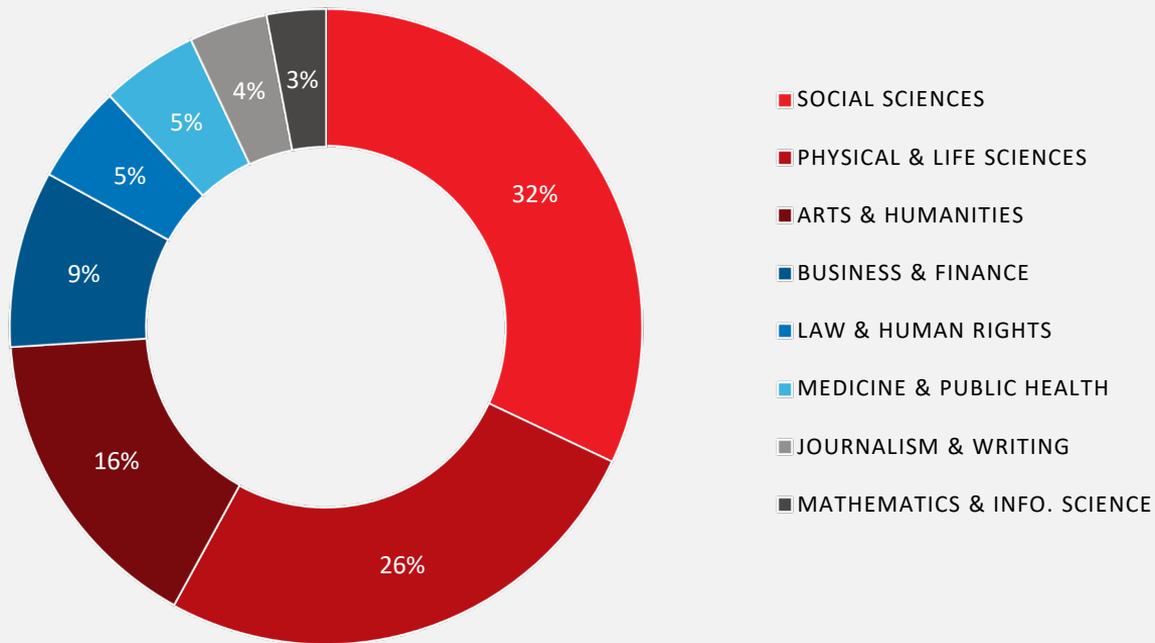
300+

threatened scholars worldwide are provided with sanctuary and assistance through SAR every year.

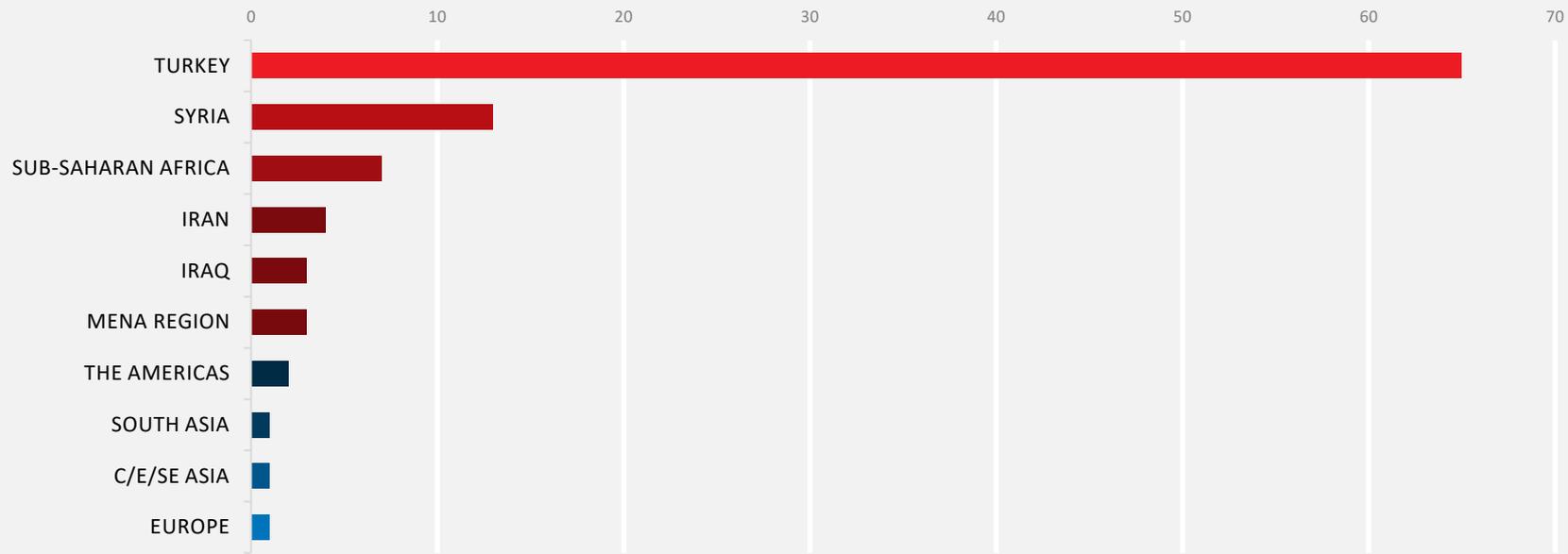
SAR's Protection work includes:

- **Scholar applications and referrals:** SAR evaluates each scholar's situation, helping them to navigate resources to support them personally and academically
- **Visiting academic appointments:** SAR works with network institutions to arrange short- to medium-term academic visits (6 months to 2 years) at universities, colleges, think tanks
- **Transition assistance:** SAR advises and assists scholars in their relocation and adjustment, acquisition of new academic/professional skills, and networking. In the most urgent situations, SAR may be able to offer direct financial support
- **Growing a network of support:** SAR advises universities, associations, and governments on establishing new protection programs and projects

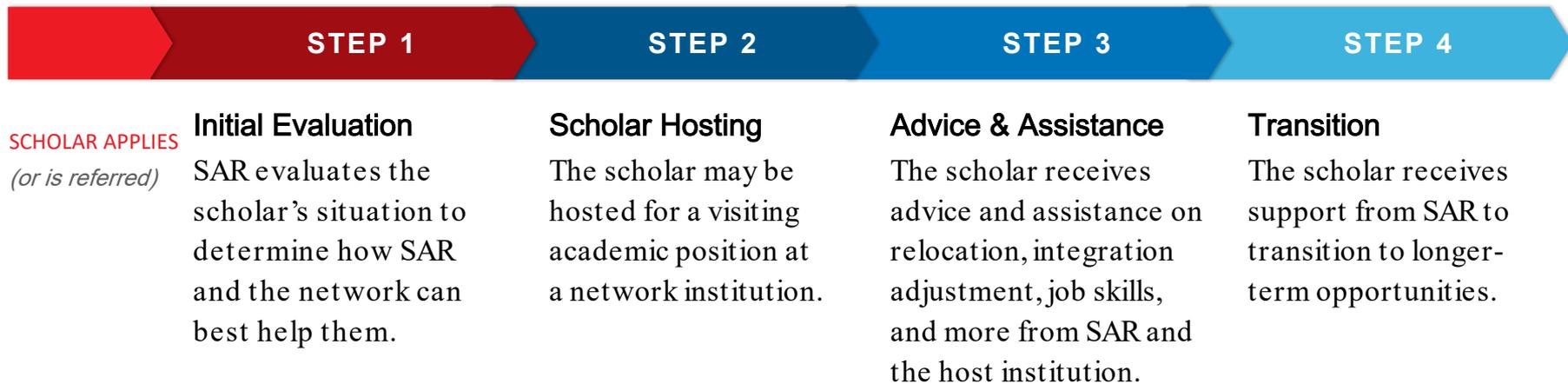
In the 2019–2020 academic year, SAR received almost 500 applications for assistance and arranged placements for 143 scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.



Of those scholars, the majority requiring assistance came from Turkey, Syria, Yemen, Iran, or Brazil.



How SAR Helps Individual Scholars



Identifying Scholars to Host

SAR maintains clear and regular communication with universities interest in hosting. We reach out to the network to find a good academic fit for scholars urgently seeking temporary placements.

We Recommend

- Contacting SAR staff to discuss next steps and fit once there is interest in hosting on campus
- Building a **committee** of interested university contacts available to participate in hosting discussions
- Starting these conversations with SAR **~6 months** before ideal start date

To ensure a strong academic match, some aspects to consider include

- Purpose of hosting an atrisk researcher
- Geography/diversity of candidates
- Discipline/field
- Risk
- Academic training/experience
- Publications
- Language
- Family
- Academic mentors on campus



Advocacy

SAR has established several initiatives to identify, document, and take action in response to attacks on scholars, students and their higher education communities.

341

attacks against higher education communities were documented in SAR's *Free to Think 2020*

SAR's Advocacy work includes:

- **Monitoring attacks** on academic freedom
- **Advocating for** imprisoned scholars
- **Advising university students** in advocacy efforts through seminars and legal clinics
- **Demanding accountability** and action through supranational, international, regional, and inter-state systems



Academic Freedom Monitoring Project

SAR secretariat staff and volunteer researchers around the world identify, document, and report on attacks on higher education.

THE GOAL

- Raising awareness
- Generating data-driven advocacy
- Increasing protection for scholars, students, and academic communities
- Promoting respect for academic freedom and higher education quality

The logo for the Academic Freedom Monitoring Project is a red square with a white border. Inside the square, the words "Academic Freedom Monitoring Project" are written in a white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically and centered. The background of the square features a subtle pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent red circles of varying sizes, creating a ripple effect.

Academic
Freedom
Monitoring
Project

Free to Think Report

SAR’s annual report analyzes thematic and regional trends and ongoing issues. In the period between September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020, *Free to Think 2020* chronicled 341 reported attacks against higher education communities.

WHAT IT INCLUDES:

- Violent attacks on higher education communities
- Wrongful imprisonments and prosecutions of scholars
- Pressures on student expression
- Legislative and administrative threats
- COVID-related issues

Appendix I: Table of Incidents

The below table includes 341 attacks arising from 259 verified incidents in 41 countries, as reported by Scholars at Risk’s Academic Freedom Monitoring Project from September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020. Note that the total number of attacks exceeds the total number of incidents reported because one incident may involve more than one type of conduct. Figures cited only include independently verified incidents. Over this reporting period, the project evaluated more than 415 reported attacks in 53 countries. Incidents are listed below in reverse chronological order and are described by the location where the incident took place, the institution(s) implicated in the incident, and the type(s) of attack associated with the incident. For more detailed information on the below incidents, including links to sources cited in incident reports, please visit the Monitoring Project website at <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/monitoringproject>.

AFMI	Date	Location	Institution(s)						
1227	08/30/20	Russia	Higher School of Economics	X			X	X	
1226	08/28/20	Belarus	Belarusian State University		X	X	X		
1225	08/28/20	Haiti	University of Haiti	X					
1224	08/24/20	Thailand	Ramkhamhaeng University		X	X			
1223	08/14/20	Rwanda	University of Rwanda				X		
1222	08/14/20	Thailand	Thammasat University		X	X			
1221	08/12/20	Belarus	George Washington University	X	X	X			
1220	08/07/20	Thailand	Ramkhamhaeng University		X	X			
1219	07/28/20	Hong Kong	University of Hong Kong				X		
1218	07/28/20	India	Delhi University		X	X			
1217	07/27/20	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Baptist University				X		
1216	07/17/20	India	Roorkee Institute of Technology	X					
1215	07/16/20	Palestine (OPT)	Al Quds University		X	X			
1214	07/14/20	Indonesia	National University			X	X		
1213	07/13/20	Uganda	Makerere University		X				
1212	07/12/20	China	Tsinghua University				X		
1211	07/09/20	Palestine (OPT)	Birzeit University		X				
1210	07/09/20	Serbia	University of Belgrade		X				
1209	07/06/20	China	Tsinghua University		X				
1208	07/06/20	Iraq	Unaffiliated	X					
1207	07/01/20	Turkey	Uludağ University				X	X	
1206	06/30/20	Turkey	Istanbul Sehir University						X
1205	06/29/20	Mexico	University of Valladolid de Xalapa	X					
1204	06/25/20	Iran	University of Mohaghegh Ardabili				X		
1203	06/24/20	Iran	Unaffiliated		X	X	X		
1202	06/24/20	Pakistan	Various Institutions	X	X				
1201	06/23/20	United Kingdom	University of Cambridge	X					
1200	06/22/20	India	Delhi University		X				
1199	06/22/20	Zimbabwe	Chinhoyi University of Technology		X	X			

Killings, Violence, Disappearances Imprisonment Prosecution Loss of Position Travel Restrictions Other

Free to Think 2020

SAR's *Free to Think 2020* reports the following:

- 124 incidents of violent attacks on higher education communities in 42 countries
- 96 incidents of wrongful imprisonment and 52 incidents of wrongful prosecution
- Current challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Using the crisis to crackdown on activists
 - Attacks on COVID-related research & expression
 - Suspended asylum procedures in many countries
 - Limited resources to respond to increasing needs for support



Scholars in Prison Project

This project coordinates advocacy activities on behalf of scholars and students facing prosecution or imprisonment.

THE GOAL

- Robust case intake process
- Range of advocacy in coordination with family, legal counsel, and partner organizations
- Leverage Student Advocacy Seminars and Legal Clinics to play a crucial role in advocacy for the Scholars in Prison Project



Mr. Zaki is a postgraduate student at the University of Bologna, detained in Egypt since February 2020 in apparent retaliation for his peaceful human rights research.

#Free2Think #FreePatrick



Uyghur studies scholar Rahile Dawut is among many Uyghur scholars and students suspected of being in Chinese state custody.

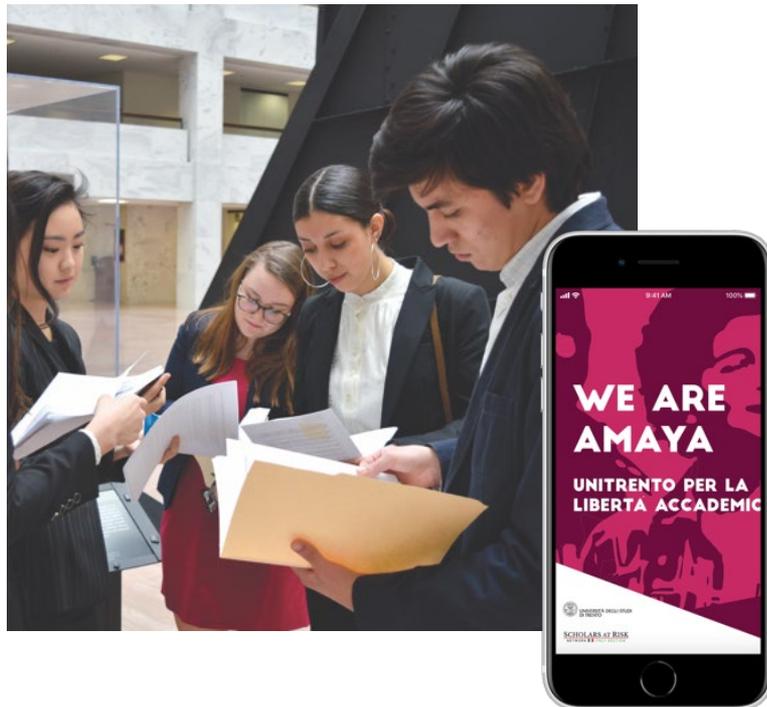
#Free2Think #FreeRahileDawut

Student Advocacy Seminars

These seminars encompass faculty-led human rights research and advocacy at SAR member institutions.

THE GOAL

- Conduct research and advocacy for Scholars in Prison cases
- Collaboration across seminars, with partner organizations, and families
- Seminars as for-credit courses or hybrid models
- Organizing campaigns through social media, campus organizing, media and press, local and national governments, and the United Nations



Academic Freedom Legal Clinics

These seminars encompass faculty-led human rights research and legal analysis at SAR member institutions.

THE GOAL

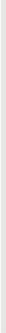
- Monitoring and reporting to SAR on attacks on higher education locally, or in countries of interest
- Legal analysis at local, regional or international level
- Development of advocacy in response to particular attacks
- Clinics are generally led by one faculty member, with 5-10 participants (typically, but not exclusively), at the graduate level





Learning

SAR convenes faculty, students and higher education community members to discuss global and regional academic freedom climates and to develop solutions that strengthen the university space.

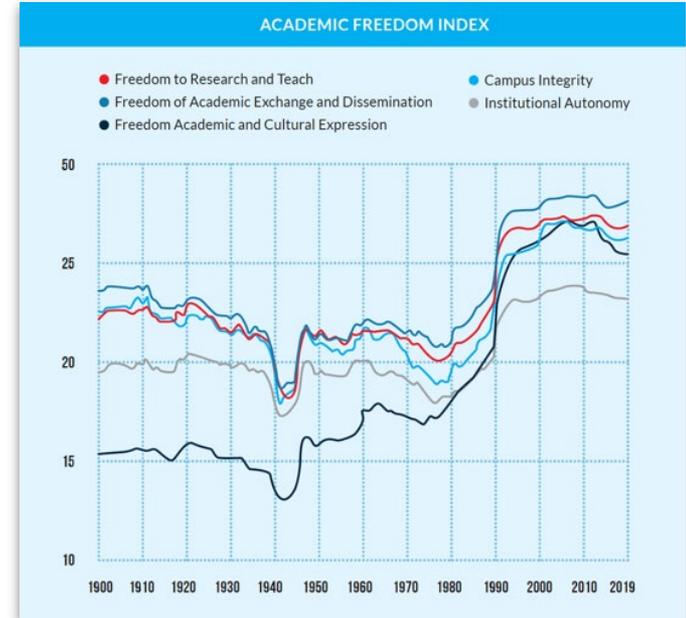


4865

total learners to date for MOOC online course

SAR's Learning work includes:

- **Hosting virtual conferences** and workshops
- **Offering a MOOC** and other open-source learning opportunities on pressing academic freedom concerns
- **Collaborating with global partners** on the annual Academic Freedom Index
- **Conducting surveys and issuing reports** on national, regional, and international academic freedom issues
- **Coordinating speaker series** of SAR scholars across network institutions
- **Opening global conversations** through podcasts and other accessible platforms

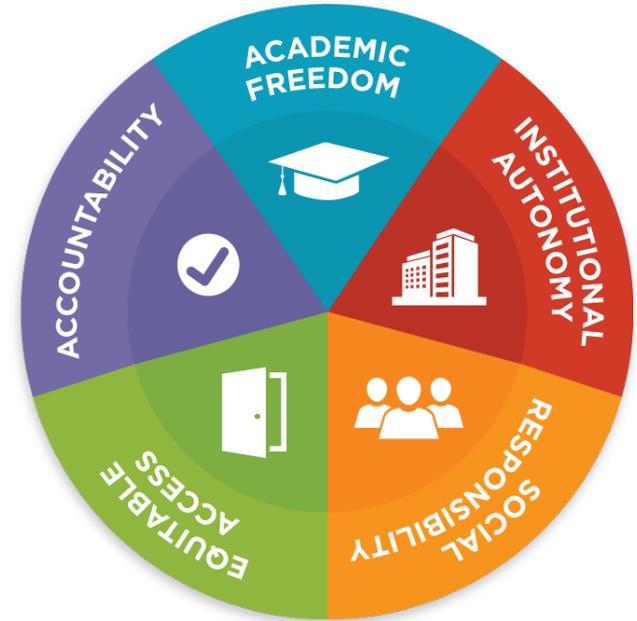


Promoting Core Higher Education Values

A proactive framework that recognizes the interconnectedness of core higher education values that maintain a healthy space to think, question, and share ideas.

THE GOAL

- Build understanding and respect for higher education values and their contributions to society
- Avoid “pitfalls” of neglect and oversimplification
- Provide a framework for dialogue and analyzing values-related incidents
- Develop expanded menu of pro-values responses to incidents



Scholar Speaker Series

The Vivian G. Prins Speaker Series offers an opportunity for SAR network institutions to invite to campus one or more scholars, each with a powerful and unique story to share.

THE GOAL

- Educate campus communities and the public about threats to academic freedom and attacks on scholars
- Provide an opportunity for organizations to invite at-risk scholars for short visits to share their powerful stories in a personal, meaningful way



Thank you.

VISIT

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CONNECT

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