

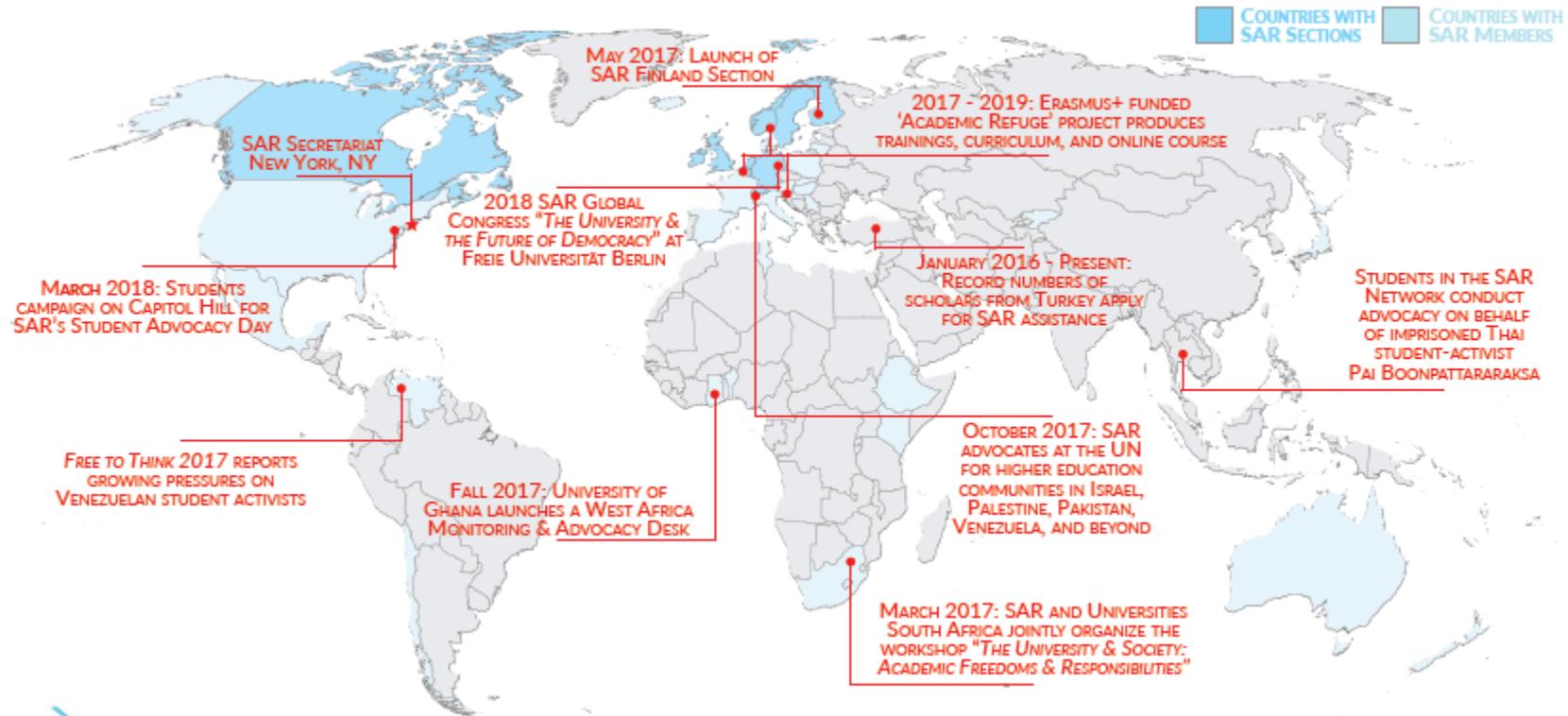


Scholars at Risk Network: Building a Greece Section

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
October 4, 2018
Sinead O’Gorman
European Director
Scholars at Risk Network

THE SAR NETWORK

Over 500 institutions in 39 countries, including 'sections' in Canada, Ireland, Netherlands & Belgium (with UAF), Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom (with CARA), Germany, and Finland.



Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

Scholars at Risk National Sections in Europe

National networks of higher education institutions dedicated to supporting threatened scholars and promoting academic freedom.

CARA-SAR UK Universities Network with CARA (2006)

SAR-UAF Netherlands & Belgium Network (2009)

SAR-Ireland section with Universities Ireland (2009)

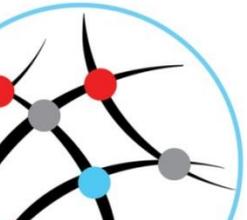
SAR- Norway section (2011)

SAR-Switzerland section (2014)

SAR-Sweden section (2016)

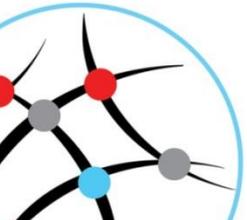
SAR-Germany section with Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2016)

SAR-Finland section with UNIFI Universities Finland (2017)



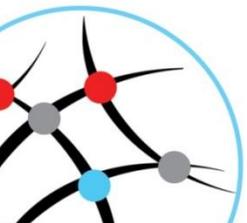
National Sections: Model structures

1. **National secretariat** e.g. SAR Germany (w/Humboldt Foundation), SAR Finland (w/Universities Finland (UNIFI))
2. **Steering committee & Chair** e.g. SAR Norway. U of Agder is current chair, 5 to 7 reps elected to serve on steering committee for 2 years
3. **Partner NGO:** e.g. UK (Cara), Netherlands (UAF) where both organizations have a long history supporting refugee and at-risk populations



National Sections: The Benefits

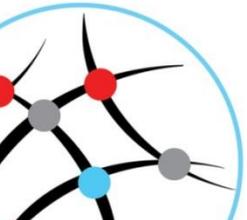
1. **Pooling resources** (financial and human) to protect more scholars and improve the quality of assistance to scholars
2. Sharing between institutions and **deepening of expertise** on hosting, advocacy and values-promotion
3. Access to **support networks**: e.g. support for follow-up placements, networking with other universities within national sections, support/mentoring from other SAR sections, support from global network
4. **Stronger voice** to influence policy (immigration/higher ed/human rights/foreign policy) at national or intl level





PROPOSED NEXT STEPS TOWARDS SAR GREECE

1. Small number of **key institutions** in Greece join SAR and get involved in activities to protect scholars/promote academic freedom
2. **Awareness-raising events**, e.g. SAR Speaker Series or workshops
3. SAR & Greek universities agree on a structure for SAR Greece and terms of reference
4. **Official launch** of SAR Greece
5. SAR Greece nominates **rep to SAR's International Advisory Committee (IAC)**
6. **Ongoing communication** & coordination w/SAR office & national secretariat/steering committee.



ACTIVITIES

As SAR members, university leadership, staff, faculty, and students have the opportunity to actively engage in:



Protection

- hosting threatened scholars for temporary academic visits
- referring scholars to the network for assistance



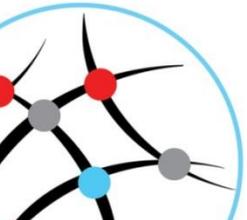
Advocacy

- offering Student Advocacy Seminars to teach real-world advocacy skills
- supporting scholars in prison by writing letters of appeal
- work with the SAR Academic Freedom Monitoring Project



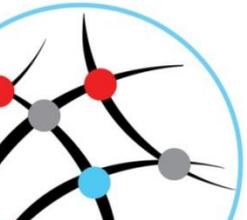
Learning

- attending SAR conferences and workshops
- inviting SAR scholars to share their stories on campus
- joining research groups looking at pressing issues facing international higher education



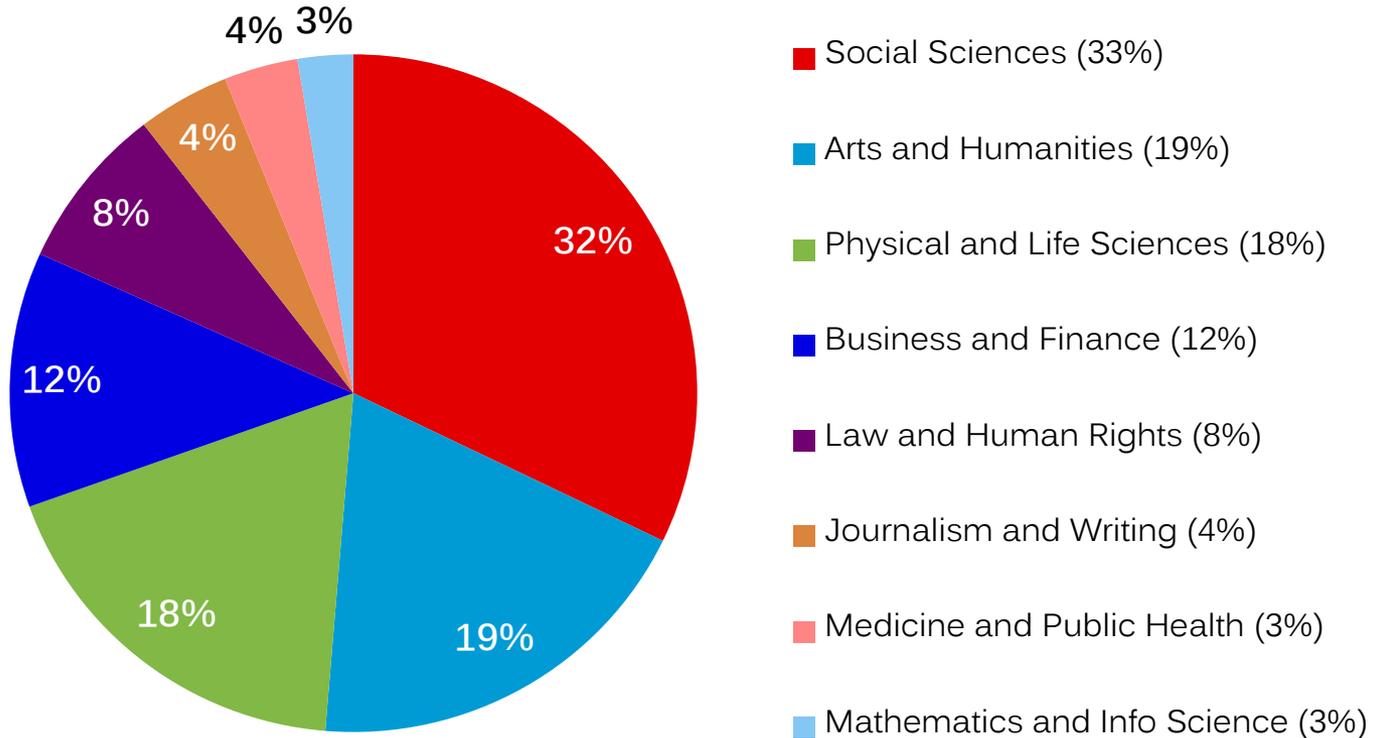
Facts & Figures

- Since founding in 2000, over 4,000 applications for assistance
- From September 2017 to end August 2018, over 500 applications; 124 placements
- Current rate of 40 to 50 applications per month; 26 scholars on list currently seeking positions
- Top sources of applications: Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen
- Over 850 applications from Turkey alone since Jan 2016
- SAR Monitoring Project F2T (2018): 294 attacks in 47 countries
- Scholars in Prison: SAR is tracking and conducting advocacy on behalf of 49 scholars and students imprisoned or otherwise threatened around the world.

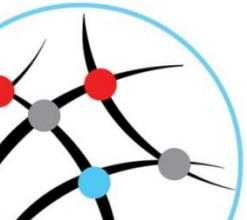


SCHOLAR DISCIPLINES

From September 2017 to the end of August 2018, SAR received over 500 applications for assistance and arranged 124 placements for scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.

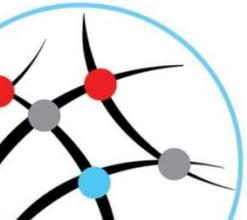
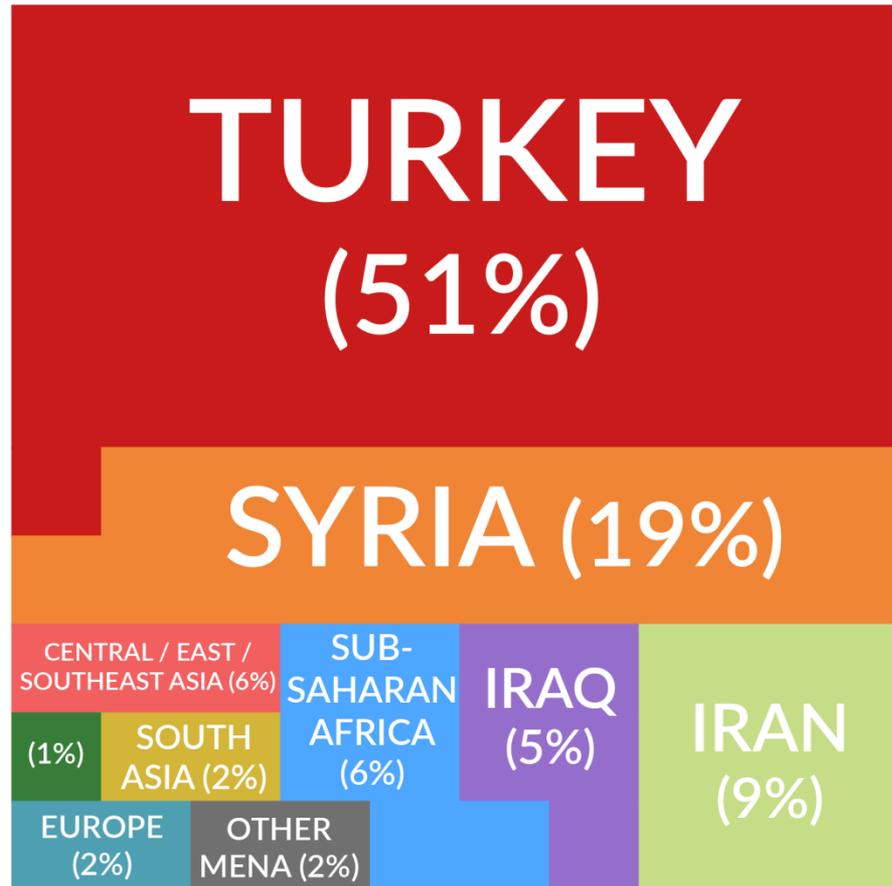


Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas



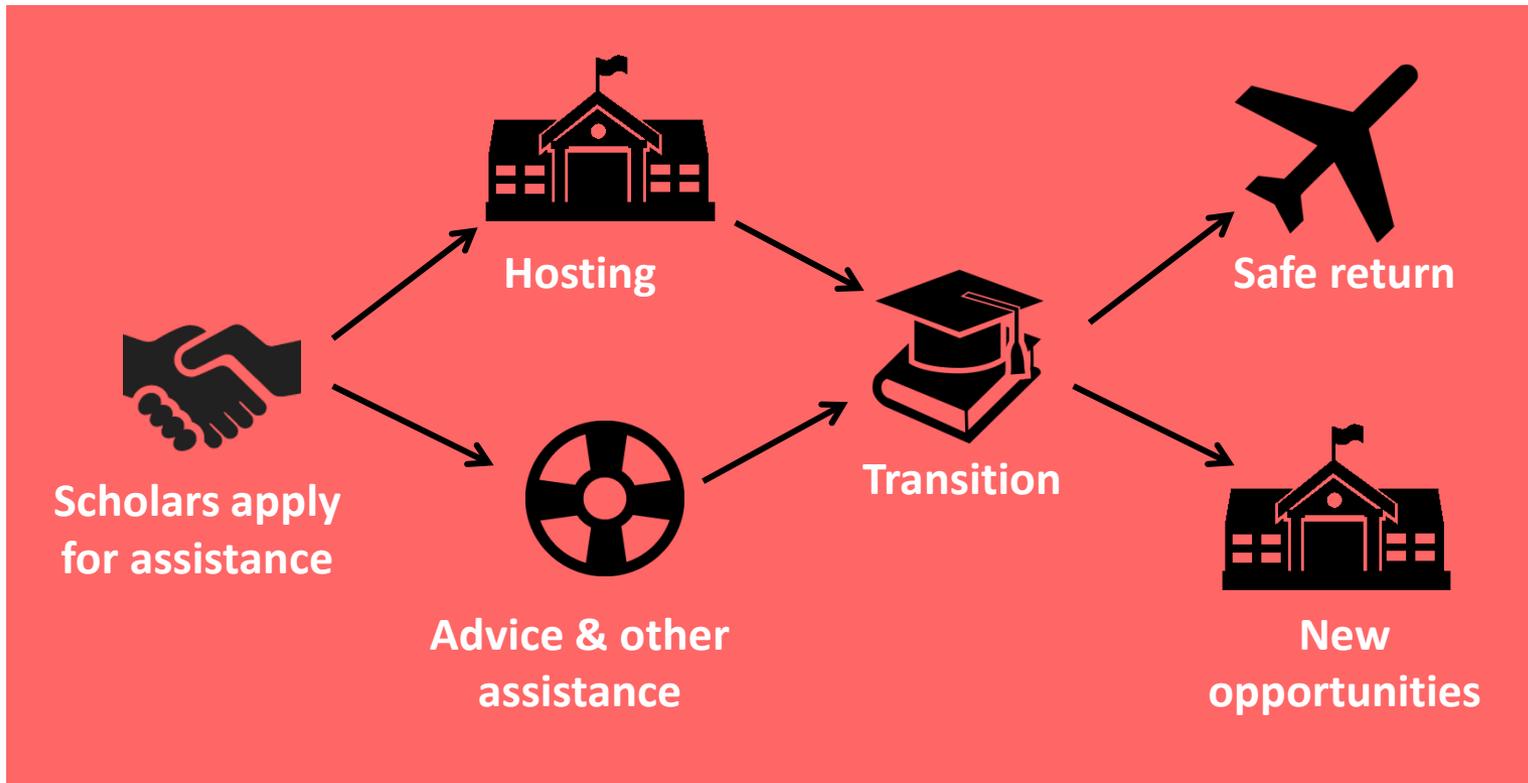
SCHOLAR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

SAR currently provides assistance to threatened scholars from over 25 countries around the world.



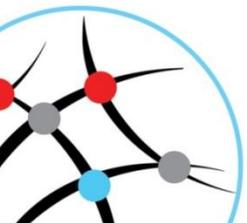
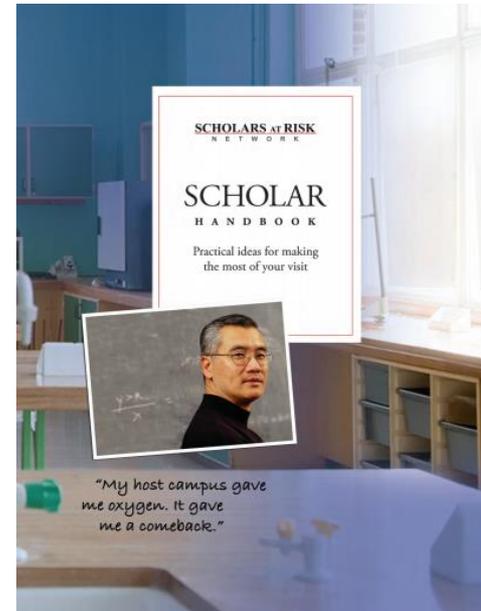
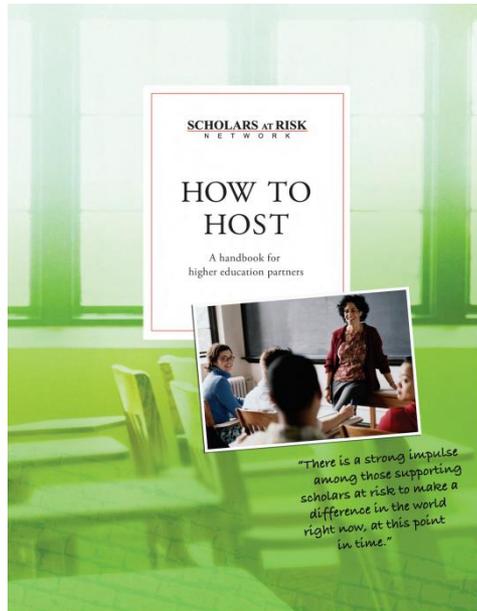
PROTECTION

SAR informs the network of scholars facing threats and works with the scholars and host institutions through every step of the process.





INFORMATION & ADVICE



Scholars at Risk is a global movement to protect everyone's freedom to think, question, and share ideas

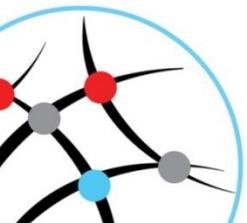


ADVOCACY: Academic Freedom Monitoring Project & *Free to Think 2018*



Key Findings

- Ongoing, violent attacks on higher education communities around the world
- Targeted attacks on scholars and students in Iran
- Mass detention of Uyghur scholars and students in China
- Violent repression of organized student expression
- Sweeping actions against higher education communities in Turkey
- Restrictions on scholarly travel
- Shrinking campus space for free, open inquiry in the United States
- Threats to institutional autonomy in Central and Eastern Europe



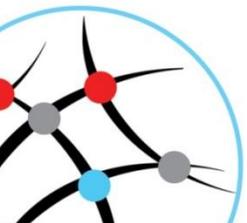


ADVOCACY: Student Seminars & Legal Clinics

- Faculty-led human rights research and advocacy at SAR member institutions
- Campaigns for Scholars-in-Prison cases
- Research for SAR's Academic Freedom Monitoring Project
- Reports and submissions for national and international advocacy



Universal Periodic Review

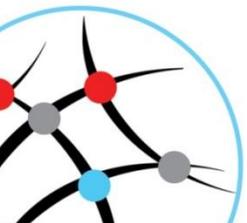
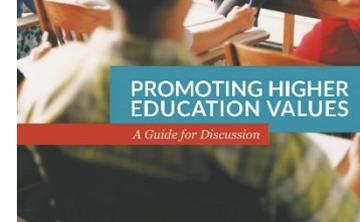




LEARNING: Promoting Higher Ed Values & Protecting Student Expression

SAR convenes faculty, students and professionals to join working groups on critical issues facing higher education, including how institutions promote core higher education values on campus and the protection of organized student expression from violent threats.

- SAR-coordinated working groups & related workshops
- Values discussion guides & toolkits
- MOOC (2018-19 via Erasmus+ grant)
- Inviting case examples, participation, event co-organizers



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo



Univerza v Ljubljani



SCHOLARS AT RISK
N E T W O R K

'Academic Refuge' Project

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership (with associate partners EUA and EAIE)

2017: Develop curriculum and implement two-part training on (a) welcoming refugees and threatened academics to campus and (b) promoting higher education values

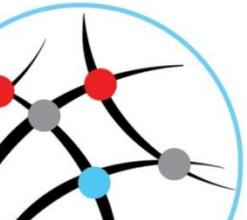
2018: MOOC: The Global University, Academic Freedom and Higher Education Values

2019: Electronic Handbook on Putting Higher Education Values into Practice



GETTING INVOLVED: CONCRETE NEXT STEPS

- Subscribe to receive SAR emails
- Join the SAR network
- Invite a speaker through the SAR Speaker Series
- Consider hosting threatened scholars
- Participate in SAR's academic freedom monitoring project as a researcher
- Advocate on behalf of a scholar in prison (e.g. through the student advocacy seminar)
- Participate in SAR alerts/campaigns
- Send representatives to SAR workshops/trainings and 2020 Global Congress
- Join efforts to build a SAR Greece section



SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK



get connected:

-  www.scholarsatrisk.org
-  scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
-  facebook.com/scholarsatrisk
-  twitter.com/scholarsatrisk