



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Cover images: (Clockwise from top right) Students at SAR's Student Advocacy Days in Washington DC; Ukrainian Scholars at SAR's 2024 Global Congress; Homaira Fayeze serving on a panel of Afghan scholars at the 2024 Global Congress; Vilnius, the site of the 2024 Global Congress; Sarah Willcox, Deputy Director of SAR, providing remarks at the Congress' opening plenary session



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

### INSPIRED.

That is how I felt earlier this year as I walked into the Courage to Think dinner at SAR's 2024 Global Congress. Arriving late after a missed flight, I tried to slip through the room to my table, but was delayed on route by handshakes and embraces from friends and partners from Ghana, Brazil, Canada, Afghanistan, and beyond. The first in-person Congress in six years, the room was brimming with the energy, friendship, and solidarity that have been the hallmark of SAR's work for over two decades. Surrounded by the passion of the network, I was inspired by all that we have achieved together, and by the deep commitment to do even more.

The Congress was a high point in a year of many high points. Most important, we continued to arrange positions for at-risk scholars—at least 164 positions this year, representing almost \$7 million in support leveraged from hosts and partners. Our network has grown to 665 members in 49 countries. We documented 379 attacks on higher education communities and made important gains in our advocacy for increased recognition and protection for the right to academic freedom.

New this year, we welcomed a new Director of SAR Europe, Frank Geary. We expanded our efforts to help launch academic freedom coalitions in every world region, with advances in the Americas, Africa, and Southeast Asia. We expanded our fellowships for researchers working to advance academic freedom scholarship and practice and secured new support to strengthen and grow the SAR US Section.

With all that we have achieved together, we are determined to do more. Great challenges lay ahead. Universities, scholars, and students continue to suffer violence and threats, from conflicts, disasters, and interference from state and nonstate actors. Within the university sector itself, tensions around academic freedom and free expression grew this year. SAR can help. With our unique casework-focused experience and global perspective, we can help open spaces for dialogue and understanding. We can lead the way—to greater protection for scholars, to greater respect for academic freedom, and to a world where everyone can think and ask questions, freely and safely.

It is with the deepest gratitude that I share with you this summary of our work over this past year. It is because of you —your support, your dedication, your determination—that SAR can continue to work for change. We are making a difference and could not do this without you.

I look forward to doing even more together in the years ahead.

ROB QUINN

# SAR's Global Network

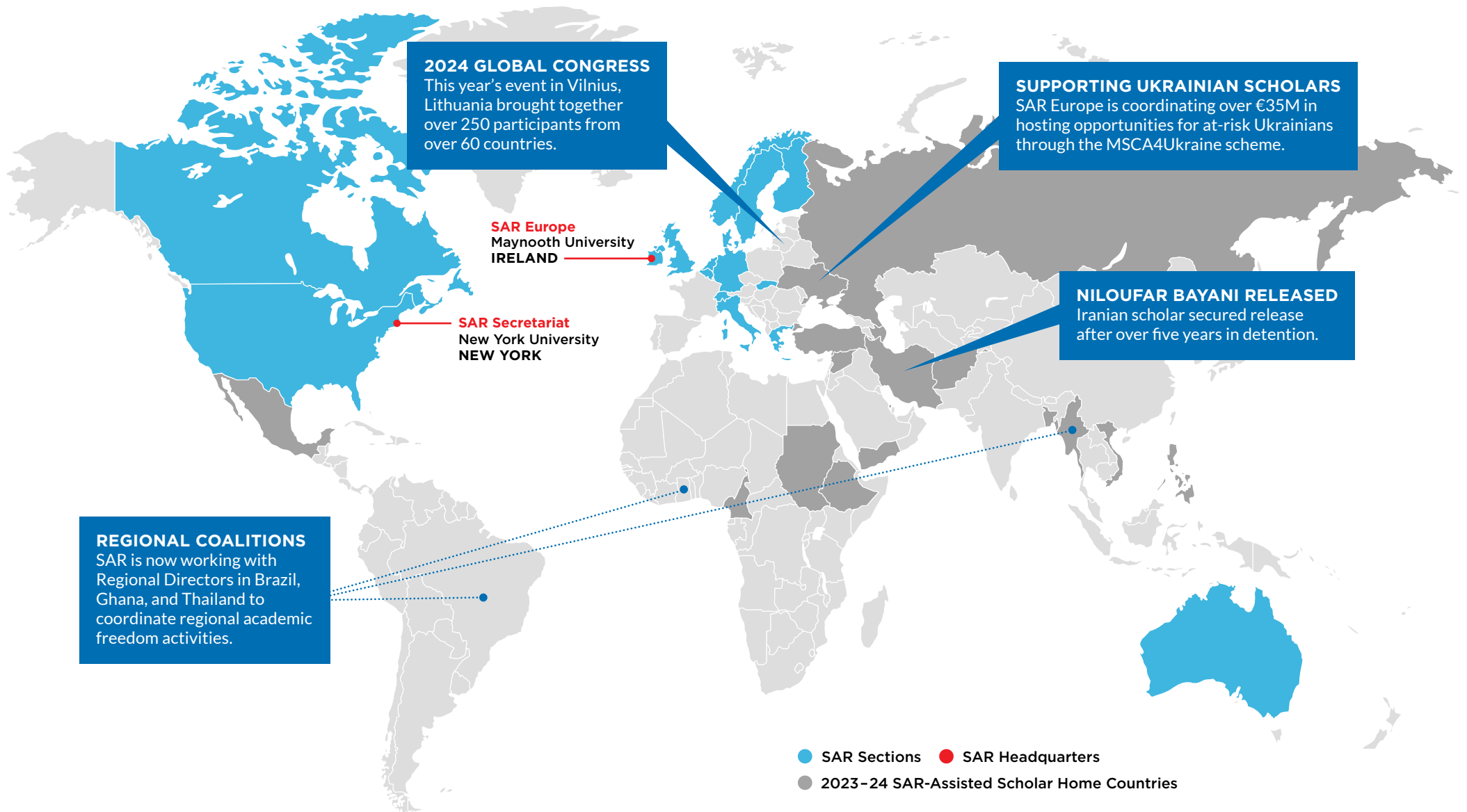
Scholars at Risk is leading a global movement to protect academic freedom and to support those who face attacks for sharing ideas and asking questions. Our international membership network offers direct assistance to threatened scholars, advocates against attacks on higher education communities, and promotes academic freedom.

665  
NETWORK  
MEMBERS

14  
PARTNER  
NETWORKS

17  
SAR  
SECTIONS

49  
COUNTRIES  
WITH MEMBERS



# Supporting At-Risk Scholars

SAR works with hundreds of scholars each year, offering comprehensive support to ensure they can continue their important work. SAR begins by vetting each of the over 580 applicants we receive each year. While many of these will not qualify for SAR's placement services, perhaps because of an inability to travel or lack of academic qualification, SAR provides advice, referrals and information services to as many as possible.

Once SAR has determined we can support an applicant, we work with the scholar to find a host. SAR leverages our network of 665 members to find placement opportunities. SAR helps scholars compile their transcripts

and CV, coordinates with prospective hosts, and may even assist scholars and their families with travel arrangements and temporary accommodations.

Once a scholar has arrived at a placement, SAR continues to offer advice during an often-disorienting transitional period. SAR works with hosts to ensure they have the resources and infrastructure to meet the needs of hosted scholars, and SAR stays in contact with scholars as they get their feet back under them.

**164**  
SCHOLARS  
HOSTED

**\$7M**  
LEVERAGED FOR  
SCHOLARS

## SCHOLAR STORY

### Mihreteab Tsighe Taye



Before Mihreteab left Ethiopia, he was actively involved in teaching and research. His work focused

on the legal system in Africa with an interest in legal reforms in the region. Through his teaching, he contributed to the wider discussion on important legal issues affecting the area. As a Tigrayan scholar studying human rights, Mihreteab faced serious risks due to the Ethiopian government's crackdown on ethnic minorities. Mihreteab was subject to increased surveillance and threats because of his work as conditions for

Tigrayan scholars deteriorated across the country. After months of harassment, Mihreteab was forced to flee.

SAR helped Mihreteab find safety. The journey out of Ethiopia was filled with challenges—bureaucratic obstacles, long delays, and the creeping uncertainty of what would happen next. Despite these difficulties, SAR secured a placement for Mihreteab at the University of Buffalo where he continues his important work. Although it was a long and difficult journey, SAR worked with Mihreteab throughout, even providing the crucial support needed for him to settle into his new academic environment.

## SCHOLARS HOSTED

*Positions arranged by SAR's core protection program, not including SAR Europe.*

### Arts & Humanities (19)

African Political Sociology (Cameroon)  
American and European Literature (Ukraine)  
Communications (Bangladesh)  
Creative Writing (Philippines)  
International Relations (Ethiopia)  
Iranian Studies (Iran)  
Islamic Studies (Afghanistan)  
Linguistics (Sudan)  
Linguistics (Yemen)  
Literary Studies (Russia)  
Literary Theory (Ukraine)  
Literature (Afghanistan)  
Media and Communications (Ethiopia)  
Media and Communications (Ethiopia)  
Persian Literature (Afghanistan)  
Persian Literature (Afghanistan)  
Social Science (Afghanistan)  
Translations Studies (Ukraine)  
Urban Planning (Iran)

### Business & Finance (5)

Business Administration (Afghanistan)  
Economics (Turkey)  
Economics (Ukraine)  
Management (Turkey)  
Public Administration (Turkey)

### Journalism (3)

Journalism (Afghanistan)  
Journalism and Communications (Afghanistan)  
Journalism and Public Administration (Afghanistan)

### Law & Human Rights (10)

Civil Procedure (Russia)  
Criminal Law (Afghanistan)  
Family International Law (Russia)  
International Law (Ethiopia)  
International Law and Poetry (Afghanistan)  
Law (Afghanistan)  
Law (Mexico)  
Political Science (Afghanistan)  
Political Science (Vietnam)  
Private Law (Afghanistan)

### Mathematics & Information Sciences (19)

Agriculture and Environmental Engineering (Afghanistan)  
Algorithms and Data Structures (Russia)  
Architecture and Civil Engineering (Afghanistan)  
Circular Statistics (Palestine/ Occupied Territories)  
Computer Science (Afghanistan)

Computer Science (Afghanistan)  
Computer Science (Afghanistan)  
Computer Science (Afghanistan)  
Computer Science (Russia)  
Computer Science (Yemen)  
Computer Science and Education (Ukraine)  
Electrical Engineering (Yemen)  
Mathematics and Statistics (Ethiopia)  
Mathematics (Turkey)  
Mathematics (Yemen)  
Probability and Statistics (Ukraine)  
Probability and Statistics (Ukraine)  
Probability Theory (Ukraine)

### Medicine & Public Health (13)

Biotechnology (Iran)  
Epidemiology (Palestine/occupied Territories)  
Health (Myanmar)  
Health (Myanmar)  
Hematology & Thalassemia (Palestine/occupied Territories)  
Medical Entomology (Sudan)  
Medical Entomology (Sudan)  
Microbiology and Cardiovascular Diseases (Afghanistan)  
Nutrition Sciences (Iran)  
Pharmaceutical Sciences (Ethiopia)  
Pharmaceutical Sciences (Afghanistan)  
Reproductive Biology (Afghanistan)  
Toxicology (Turkey)

### Physical & Life Sciences (36)

Agriculture (Ethiopia)  
Agriculture and Plant Science (Syria)  
Applied Physics (Iran)  
Architecture, Engineering (Turkey)  
Astrophysics (Iran)  
Biochemistry (Afghanistan)  
Biochemistry (Russia)  
Biotechnology (Sudan)  
Chemistry (Afghanistan)  
Chemistry (Iran)  
Chemistry (Yemen)  
Civil and Environmental Engineering (Afghanistan)  
Engineering (Yemen)  
Engineering of Agricultural Economics (Afghanistan)  
Environmental Informatics (Iran)  
Genetics and Bioinformatics (Syria)  
Groundwater Management (Afghanistan)  
Landscape Studies (Afghanistan)  
Mechanical Engineering (Ethiopia)  
Medicine (Turkey)  
Microbiology (Yemen)  
Microbiology (Yemen)  
Molecular Medicine (Iran)  
Physics & Astrophysics (Iran)  
Physics (Afghanistan)  
Physics (Iran)  
Physics (Sudan)  
Physics (Turkey)  
Physics (Turkey)  
Physics (Ukraine)

Physics (Ukraine)  
Plant Sciences and Botany (Afghanistan)  
Theoretical Physics (Afghanistan)  
Theoretical Physics (Afghanistan)  
Theoretical Physics (Ukraine)  
Theoretical Physics (Ukraine)

### Social Sciences (44)

Anthropology (Sudan)  
Anthropology (Sudan)  
Anthropology, Migration Studies (Turkey)  
Archaeology (Sudan)  
Archaeology (Sudan)  
Communication Studies (Ethiopia)  
Development policy (Afghanistan)  
Development Studies (Sudan)  
Disaster Risk Management (Ethiopia)  
Economics (Afghanistan)  
Economics (Azerbaijan)  
Economics (Ethiopia)  
Economics (Ethiopia)  
Economics (Ethiopia)  
Economics (Russia)  
Education (Afghanistan)  
Education (Ethiopia)  
Education and IT (Palestine/occupied Territories)  
Food Studies (Ukraine)  
Gender studies (Iran)  
History (Ukraine)  
Linguistics and Communications (Ukraine)  
Peacebuilding and Reconciliation (Bahrain)  
Pedagogical Sciences (Ukraine)  
Political Science (Afghanistan)  
Political Science (Iran)  
Political Science (Iran)  
Political Science and Conflict Analysis (Afghanistan)  
Political Science and Conflict Analysis (Afghanistan)  
Political Science and Public Administration (Turkey)  
Psychology (Afghanistan)  
Psychology (Turkey)  
Public administration (Turkey)  
Public and Development Management (Ethiopia)  
Public Policy (Pakistan)  
Radio, Television, and Cinema (Turkey)  
Radio, Television, and Cinema (Turkey)  
Social Psychology (Iran)  
Sociology (Iran)  
Sociology (Turkey)  
Sociology (Turkey)  
Sociology (Turkey)  
Sociology and Social Anthropology (Sudan)  
Ukrainian Studies (Ukraine)  
Women's and Gender Studies (Afghanistan)

# Guiding the Next Generation

## SAR's Student Advocacy Seminars

Advocacy is crucial to SAR's mission of supporting scholars and protecting academic freedom. Working with academic institutions, governments, volunteers, and partners around the world, SAR raises awareness and advocates for at-risk scholars, students, and higher education institutions.

Through our Student Advocacy Seminars, SAR blends hands-on, real-world experience with classroom learning. Students learn about academic freedom and international human rights standards while developing transferable advocacy

skills and becoming advocates for wrongfully detained scholars.

Throughout the year, students participating in Student Advocacy Seminars play an important role in SAR's advocacy work. This year alone, over 500 students participated in 21 seminars, running social media campaigns, holding public events, and organizing meetings with public officials to demand global action on behalf of academic freedom and wrongfully detained scholars from China, Bahrain, and Iran.



## US Student Advocacy Days

This spring, over 50 students, faculty, and civil society representatives gathered in Washington, DC for SAR's annual US Student Advocacy Days, hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Over the course of two days, students presented their advocacy campaigns, collaborated to develop advocacy strategies, and heard from government officials and civil society representatives. Students took action on Capitol Hill and held over 20 meetings with the offices of Members of Congress to advocate for imprisoned scholars. Through these continued efforts, SAR is training the next generation of academic freedom advocates.



## EU Student Advocacy Days

In an effort to grow the impact of our advocacy work, this year SAR convened the first-ever in-person European Student Advocacy Days. In collaboration with the University of Trento, the University of Padova, and SAR Italy, SAR brought together over 200 students, faculty, SAR-assisted scholars, and civil society representatives for a two-day event, including a conference and workshop for students and faculty. The gathering gave students the opportunity to share information, create connections, and develop advocacy skills, all while advocating for imprisoned scholars and students.



# Inspiring a Global Movement

## The 2024 Global Congress

Scholars at Risk was pleased to hold the 2024 SAR Global Congress from June 25–27, 2024 in partnership with the European Humanities University (EHU) in Vilnius, Lithuania. Global Congresses are SAR's largest network events, and bring together leading scholars, advocates, students and professionals to discuss issues of academic freedom and related values, to learn from each other, and to help shape SAR's agenda for the coming years.

The 2024 Global Congress theme, "Sustainable knowledge: Lessons from universities, scholars and students in exile," sought to explore and capture the experience of current and prior generations of academic communities forced into exile by political unrest, repression, disaster and conflict.

In all, 250 participants from 60 countries took part in four days of in-person workshops, keynotes, and panel discussions, with even more participating online from around the world.

The Congress featured lectures from distinguished academics who called on the higher education community to warmly welcome at-risk scholars into their institutions, and to protect universities as spaces for critical thought and the open exchange of ideas. Plenaries and parallel sessions highlighted challenges for scholars and students in Afghanistan, Ukraine, Gaza, and the United States. Workshops and panels featured forward-looking strategies for responding to attacks on higher education communities and presented model programs for supporting at-risk scholars and students.

## Courage to Think Award

One of the high points of the Congress was the Courage to Think dinner. The evening was a celebration not only of SAR's work, but the incredible efforts of scholars, students, and activists everywhere whose work is under threat. Oleksandra Matviichuk, Head of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Centre for Civil Liberties in Ukraine offered virtual remarks. Dr. Ian Bickford, President of the American University of Afghanistan, gave a stirring keynote about the importance of liberal arts education and AUAF's continuing efforts to support Afghan scholars and students, especially female students inside Afghanistan.

The evening culminated in the presentation of SAR's 2024 Courage to Think Award collectively to "the scholars of Ukraine" for their "courage, resilience,

and unwavering commitment to their teaching, research, students, and higher education institutions, despite the existential threat posed by war." The award was presented by SAR Board members Dr. Lisa Anderson and Dr. Jonathan Fanton to Dr. Kateryna Horiunova of Mariupol State University (MSU), representing all of the scholars of Ukraine, inside and outside of the country, who are working to maintain Ukraine's higher education teaching and research sector.

**Above:** Dr. Ian Bickford's keynote address  
**Below:** The Courage to Think Award winners with Dr. Lisa Anderson and Dr. Jonathan Fanton



# Expanding Advocacy in Europe

## SAR Europe's Growing Impact

SAR Europe, hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland, serves as the European office of the global Scholars at Risk Network. SAR Europe successfully coordinates between at-risk scholars and the many individuals and institutions who have dedicated themselves to building support and solidarity for all who come under threat for sharing ideas and asking questions. To further this shared commitment to excellence in research and to the principles of academic freedom, SAR Europe and its partners offer guidance to higher education communities and government bodies at the state and European level to protect at-risk scholars. The skills,

knowledge, and experiences of these scholars offer untold potential for their particular fields of study and for the host institutions where they continue their important work.

**“SAR Europe forges a coordinated, cross-sectoral, Europe-wide alliance for supporting scholars and academic freedom.”**



**FRANK GEARY**  
Director, SAR Europe

## SCHOLAR STORY

### Tetiana Hrachak



Tetiana is a historian with over 20 years of experience in academia. Throughout her

career, she has conducted research, taught and mentored students, developed educational programs for Ukrainian institutions, organized conferences, and regularly published her work.

At the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Tetiana, like many of her colleagues, was frightened for her safety. As a historian whose work focused on the intersection of politics, culture, and memory, she was publicly pro-Ukrainian

and had a commitment to the integration of Ukraine into the broader European and Atlantic worlds. Even at the start of the conflict, Tetiana was keenly aware of the dangers she would face under Russian occupation. For her safety, and to continue her important work, Tetiana made the difficult choice to leave Ukraine.

SAR worked with Tetiana to secure a position for her at Syracuse University. Now at her host institution, Tetiana is teaching courses about Ukrainian history and the politics of memory. She continues to be an outspoken advocate for Ukraine, publishing articles, speaking at conferences, and hosting roundtable discussions on Ukraine.

## MSCA4Ukraine

SAR Europe is committed to supporting scholars, researchers, and students impacted by the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. MSCA4Ukraine is an EU-funded fellowship scheme established to support displaced researchers from Ukraine. Since October 2022, SAR Europe has worked with partners across the continent to implement the program and offer essential support to those in need. Last year, SAR Europe successfully provided fellowship support to 124 researchers from Ukraine to continue their research in 21 host countries. This year, SAR Europe secured continued funding for the MSCA4Ukraine scheme, allowing SAR and partners to provide fellowship support to an additional 50 Ukrainians.

**124**

**UKRAINIAN  
RESEARCHERS  
SUPPORTED**

**€10M**

**SECURED FOR  
UKRAINIAN  
RESEARCHERS**

Through MSCA4Ukraine and other efforts, SAR Europe is working to protect the future of Ukraine's higher education communities.

## Inspireurope+

Through the Inspireurope+ program, SAR Europe coordinates and strengthens support in Europe for researchers at risk. Together with researchers at risk, Inspireurope+ partners work to design and implement a series of career development webinars and interactive training opportunities. Through guidance, training and consultations with over 300 researchers at risk, Inspireurope+ helps to build up the skills and knowledge needed to facilitate access to European, national and institutional funding and support. In addition to these activities, SAR Europe has built capacity and preparedness at universities to improve protections for researchers and academic freedom.



SAR staff and partners at the 2024 Philipp Schwartz Initiative and Inspireurope+ Stakeholder Forum in Berlin ©Humboldt-Stiftung/David Ausserhofer

## Growing Regional Efforts

### Supporting Coalition Building

While SAR's work has always been global, to have maximum impact we need to strengthen academic freedom advocacy worldwide. That's why SAR is working to build and support academic freedom coalitions in every region, beginning with the Americas, Africa, and Southeast Asia. These regional coalitions will coordinate academic freedom activities, build local community and solidarity around a common cause, and link up with other regional coalitions and networks in ways that bolster a stronger, more global movement to protect and promote academic freedom.

### CAFA

The Coalition for Academic Freedom in the Americas (CAFA) was the first regional coalition to launch and has already made great strides. After successfully hosting its first conference to discuss the state of academic freedom in the Americas last year, CAFA has continued to build institutional support through conferences, roundtables, and advocacy throughout the region, especially in Venezuela, Peru, and Canada. Camilla Croso is the new director of CAFA, which held its second annual conference in Washington DC in November 2024.

### New Coalitions

In addition to CAFA, SAR has been supporting efforts to launch the Africa Coalition for Academic Freedom (ACAF), led by Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua, Associate Professor at the School of Law at the University of Ghana, Legon, and the Southeast Asia Coalition for Academic Freedom (SEACAF), led by Dr. Bencharat Sae Chua, a lecturer at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, Thailand. Like CAFA, these coalitions will be essential in convening and coordinating efforts within their region and helping to expand the horizons of academic freedom advocacy worldwide.

“The ethos of rights and democracy—which manifests in scientific freedom and academic freedom—helps to create conditions congenial for the production, dissemination and application of knowledge to solve societal problems and improve well-being.”



**KWADWO APPIAGYEI-ATUA**  
Regional Director, ACAF



Members of CAFA, ACAF, and SEACAF convening at our 2024 Global Congress

## SCHOLAR STORY

### Maha Aldawi



Maha was a professor at the University of Khartoum in the capital of Sudan for more than a decade. She was serving as the head of the Department of Linguistics, teaching students, and engaging in research projects with staff from international institutions.

The outbreak of war in Sudan in April 2023 was sudden and violent. Maha and her mother were in grave danger and were forced to flee Khartoum. They undertook a perilous 800-mile journey through the war-torn country

to Port Sudan, where they were evacuated by plane to the United Arab Emirates. Shortly after fleeing, Maha was told that her apartment had been taken by a local militia, and that all her belongings had been stolen. Now a refugee with no home to return to, Maha had few options left.

SAR worked with Maha to secure her a position at the University of California, San Diego. Although she lost much of her research material and data because of the war, Maha has continued her work and has even managed to write two research papers on endangered languages in Sudan.

## Released! Justice for Imprisoned Scholars

Through our Scholars in Prison project, SAR conducts advocacy on behalf of scholars and students who are wrongfully imprisoned in connection to their academic or expressive activities. SAR is currently monitoring over 50 cases of imprisoned scholars, drafting letters of concern, organizing advocacy campaigns, and raising awareness with the public and government officials. This year, we celebrated the release of two wrongfully imprisoned scholars.



### Dr. Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba

Dr. Saibaba was a professor of literature at Delhi University who engaged in activism on behalf of vulnerable populations in India. He was arrested in 2014 and spent most of the last decade in prison on charges that lacked credible evidence.

SAR spearheaded efforts to secure his release, working with our Student Advocacy Seminars and partners and raising his case with government officials. After years of advocacy, Dr. Saibaba was acquitted in March 2024 and released from jail after almost 10 years in custody. Sadly, Dr. Saibaba suffered medical issues which were exacerbated by his imprisonment. He sought medical care following his release. However, years of harsh conditions had taken their toll. Dr. Saibaba passed away in October 2024 from complications following a surgical procedure. His struggle for freedom and his determination will inspire SAR as we continue fighting for wrongfully imprisoned scholars and students in the years to come.



### Niloufar Bayani

Niloufar Bayani is an Iranian wildlife conservation biology researcher and activist. In 2018, while she and her colleagues were conducting field research on Asiatic cheetahs, she was arrested by the Iranian authorities. The next year, she was sentenced to 10 years in prison on espionage charges.

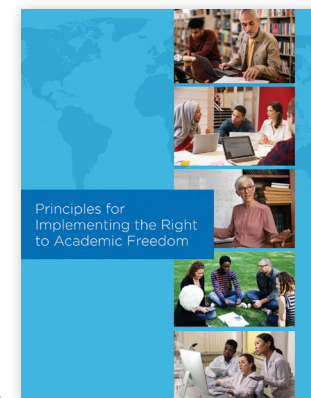
SAR has been advocating on Ms. Bayani's behalf ever since. In 2023, SAR published a manuscript Ms. Bayani had completed while she was held in Evin Prison. In the piece, Ms. Bayani surveys fellow prisoners on climate issues and explores potential reforms. SAR also issued letters to Iranian authorities and worked with partner organizations to advocate for Ms. Bayani's release. In April 2024, Ms. Bayani was released from custody after more than 5 years. SAR is relieved Ms. Bayani is now free and once again able to continue her scholarship.

## Advancing the Right to Academic Freedom

This year saw important advances in SAR's efforts to promote greater recognition and implementation of the right to academic freedom. Following earlier work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, this year the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education issued a report on the right to academic freedom to the UN Human Rights Council. The report cited at length and incorporated as an annex the "Principles for Implementing the Right to Academic Freedom," developed by an international working group coordinated by SAR to encourage strengthening of monitoring and protection mechanisms for academic freedom across all levels and mechanisms of the United Nations, including among UN offices and systems, as well as among

UN Member States. In presenting her report during the interactive dialogue session, the SR spoke about the importance of the Principles and called for their endorsement and implementation by states and others. This is an important milestone in strengthening protections for scholars and academic freedom.

The *Principles* offer guidance to states and the education sector on implementing the right of academic freedom



## SCHOLAR STORY

### Anonymous

MB was a professor and a journalist in Kabul. Through his work he spoke out against the patriarchal and repressive norms of life in Afghan society. He received his fair share of threats for his work, but thought such confrontations were just part of the cause he was fighting for: a more open society. But, after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the threats escalated, and MB truly feared for his life.

MB had only hours to decide if he and his young family should stay or go. Alongside his wife and two children, MB made the difficult choice to flee Afghanistan. What followed was a

harrowing eight-month journey, through safehouses in northern Afghanistan, a last-minute flight to Qatar, and a weeks-long struggle to secure the right paperwork.

SAR worked with MB every step of the way to ensure that he and his family could find safety. We coordinated a position for MB in the US, where he is undertaking advocacy work in supporting other refugee scholars.

"SAR is the organization that I could rely on, hoping to make a new career, which made it easy for me to take care of my family."

## Promoting Academic Freedom Scholarship

Although academic freedom is essential to academics and free societies everywhere, few scholars make academic freedom a focus of their regular research or teaching agendas. SAR is partnering with the Mellon Foundation and other supporters to close this gap by providing research fellowships to early-career scholars developing publishable work on academic freedom.

This year, SAR received nearly 300 applications for the 2024–25 fellowship, 50% more than the prior year, demonstrating growing demand for more research on academic freedom. We announced a cohort of five fellows from the Philippines, the US, Canada, Turkey, and South Africa, researching

issues of academic freedom in relation to free expression, state repression, and democratic backsliding.

One fellow, Sol Iglesias, has shared that participation in this program is valuable for creating solidarity among academics. “Solidarity is difficult when we don’t know what’s happening,” she said, referring to violations of academic freedom that go unreported. As her project uncovers cases of academic freedom violations, she and her university release statements of solidarity. SAR was pleased to have Sol and several other Mellon/SAR research fellows attend SAR’s 2024 Global Congress, further fostering ties and collaboration among academic freedom-focused professionals worldwide.

### SCHOLAR STORY

#### Asmaa Abusamra

In Gaza, Asmaa led initiatives in higher education management and educational policy research. She worked within her university, her community, and with international organizations to support educational accessibility, to engage her community in the educational process, and to build resilience for the educational sector. But, in the past year, Israel’s continued military action in Gaza left Asmaa in grave danger.

Asmaa and her family faced severe security threats—their home was destroyed, they endured continuous displacement, severe shortages of basic resources, and the devastating loss of loved ones. To stay alive Asmaa needed to flee.

Asmaa worked with SAR to find a safe place to continue her work. Reaching her host institution presented significant challenges, from complex logistical planning to the heavy psychological toll of leaving family behind in such dangerous conditions. Now at the University of Oslo, Asmaa continues her research on organizational change and educational reform in conflict zones. She is working with organizations actively sustaining education in Gaza and is building connections with other displaced Palestinian academics.

## Donors

SAR is grateful for the generosity of our supporters, with a special thanks to the Office of the Provost of New York University for hosting our secretariat and to the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe. Below, we acknowledge and give thanks to those who have supported Scholars at Risk with a contribution this year.

### LEADERS \$25,000 +

Gerda Henkel Foundation  
The Mellon Foundation  
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)  
The Winston Foundation

### CHAMPIONS \$10,000 +

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Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Demoret Stiftung  
Fritt Ord Foundation  
Charles Harkless  
Joel Lebowitz  
Jonathan E. Levitsky  
Matthew Nimetz  
Diana Wagner

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Anonymous  
Joy Connolly  
Adam F. Falk  
Nancy Gallagher  
Hanna H. Gray  
Robert and Barbara Quinn Family Foundation  
Rosalie J. Wolf

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Masumi Matsumoto  
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John Robinson  
Isabel Roche  
Brent Smith  
Swedish Diplomatic Union Association (UPF)  
Alison von Klemperer

### BENEFACTORS Up to \$499

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Tomoko Ako  
Susan Albertine  
Esther Allen

Tim Athan  
Lynne Azarchi  
Alfred Babo  
Patricia Bartley  
Dyllan Becker  
Svetlana Bekman  
Anke Biendarra  
Doris Bittar  
The Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Paul Broady  
David Bruning  
Egor Burtsev  
Maria Sachiko Cecire  
Saco Claudia Kours  
Michael David-Fox  
Erin Dillard  
Ariel Dorfman  
Daniel Drezner  
Susan Einbinder  
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Samantha Figenshaw  
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Charles Givens  
Alvia Golden  
Sarah Goodman  
Jacques Grele  
Stacy Grossman  
Malachi Hacohen  
Benjamin Hale  
Jorunn Aas Handeland  
Henry Heaphy  
Charles Henry  
Spencer Henson  
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 Kathleen Lynch  
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 Anne McCall  
 Barbara McElroy  
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Margaret Snowden  
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 Gregory Starrett  
 Craig Stephan  
 Benedikt Steppeler  
 Gerard Stratelak  
 Winifred Tan  
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 Brian Turner  
 The UK Online  
 Giving Foundation  
 Bonnie Urciuoli  
 Norah Vollmer  
 Sandra von Sydow  
 James Wasserstrom  
 Sarah Willcox  
 Jerrold Zar

List from Sept. 2023–Sept. 2024

## Key Stats From This Year

**500**  
 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED  
 IN SEMINARS

**164**  
 SCHOLARS  
 HOSTED

**\$6.9M**  
 LEVERAGED  
 FOR SCHOLARS

**250**  
 PARTICIPANTS  
 IN GLOBAL CONGRESS

**397**  
 ATTACKS  
 RECORDED

**€35M**  
 SECURED FOR  
 UKRAINIAN RESEARCHERS

## Financials

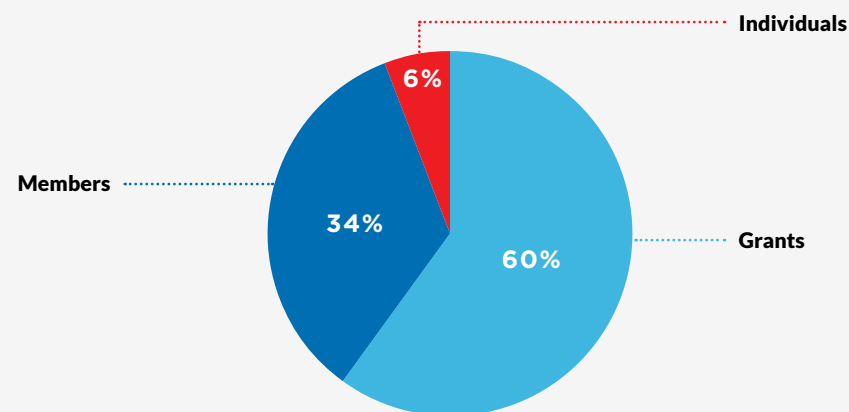
### SAR Inc. FY24 Summary

<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$2,833,682</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$3,834,243</b>
Protection	\$2,346,279
Advocacy	\$1,233,919
Research & Learning	\$89,598
Development & Admin	\$174,447
<b>Leveraged for at-risk scholars</b>	<b>\$6,981,789</b>
<i>(Return on protection costs)</i>	

### SAR Europe FY24 Summary

<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$3,430,462</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$3,008,825</b>
<b>Total pass-through funding for scholars</b>	<b>\$2,480,055</b>

### SAR, Inc. Sources of Support



Scholars at Risk is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. SAR Europe is the European office of the SAR network and an unincorporated program hosted at Maynooth University, Ireland.

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Gianna Hegarty  
Dominik Kalweit  
Denise Roche

*List from Sept. 2023–Oct. 2024*

“SAR helped at the most dramatic moment of my life, when my entire career and all the previous achievements seemed to be crossed out by the war.”

**TETIANA HRANCHAK**  
**SAR-Assisted Scholar, Ukraine**



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## SCHOLARS AT RISK NETWORK

 protection  advocacy  learning

### **Scholars at Risk**

411 Lafayette Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10003, USA  
[www.scholarsatrisk.org](http://www.scholarsatrisk.org)  
[scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu)  
+1 212-998-4427

### **SAR Europe**

c/o MUSSI Maynooth University  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland  
[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sar-europe)  
[sareurope@mu.ie](mailto:sareurope@mu.ie)  
+353 1 7086177