



What has not changed...

Dear SAR colleagues,

Many network members, partners, and scholars have sent notes about the recent US presidential election expressing concern about possible changes in US policies and any impacts on SAR scholars and activities. I understand these concerns, and I am always grateful to hear from you, but I would ask us all to remember at this moment of uncertainty that our core mission and essence remain the same:

- SAR is an international organization, not directly aligned with the changes in policy of any particular state. SAR, its members, and partners of course must observe the legal frameworks in place where they are located (e.g. immigration law), but SAR policies and values are reflective of international human rights and higher education principles. *This has not changed.*
- SAR is a nonpartisan organization. Our protection, advocacy, and values-promotion activities are premised on the view that academic freedom and related higher education values are applicable to all higher education communities, and we stand ready to work with state, higher education, and civil society stakeholders everywhere, regardless of partisan affiliations, to promote these values. *This has not changed.*
- **SAR is fully committed to serving the urgent needs of scholars and other members of higher education communities facing violent, coercive, or other threats. *This has not changed.***
- SAR has been experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of scholars seeking assistance, reflecting overall crisis-level attacks on higher education worldwide, as we noted in our recent [Free to Think 2016 report](#). There is an urgent need for SAR's services and for continuing participation and support from network member institutions, partners, and [donors](#). *This has not changed.*

It is too early to know what, if any, changes in US policies or rhetoric may impact our shared work in the future. For now, the US election serves to remind us that, as [I have argued previously](#), the higher education community has a special role and responsibility to play in building and reinforcing democratic discourse and culture. I look forward to redoubling our efforts with all of you — and with new partners and communities — in meeting this responsibility today and in the years ahead.

Thank you for all your support,

Rob Quinn

Executive Director

Events



The Conference of the Birds | November 10-19 | New York

Directed by a SAR scholar, this play is a theatrical Sufi meditation that follows a community of mythical birds through a series of trials and tribulations as they attempt to understand the essence of the soul.



International Education Week | November 14-18 | USA

Seven SAR member universities in the US, from Connecticut to Wisconsin, will host SAR scholars as guest lecturers during their celebrations of [International Education Week](#).



Continuing Threats to Academic Freedom | November 18 | New York

The New School Center for Public Scholarship presents a panel discussion on the state of free inquiry and threats to free expression in universities in China, Syria, Iran, and Turkey.



Responding to the Crisis in Turkey, MESA 2016 | November 28 | Boston

MESA 2016 attendees concerned about the situation in Turkey will have the opportunity to discuss advocacy strategies and assistance for scholars, and to share information on reliable sources and contacts.

SAR Switzerland Meeting | November 28 | Bern



The SAR Switzerland Section will meet at the University of Bern for a discussion of the organisation of SAR Switzerland, recruitment of new members, exchange of best practices, and other activities.

[All Events »](#)

Scholars at Risk



**Scholar of
Political Science
and
Communications
from Yemen**

This scholar has several years of experience publishing academic research and media articles on the political situation in Yemen. He also has university

Scholar of Law from Angola

This scholar specializes in law, education and human rights. He has several years of teaching experience and has published numerous books on human rights and civil liberties in Angola. He also writes extensively in the local media. This scholar faces risk due to his human rights work and the content of his academic writing. (Angola 506)

level teaching experience instructing courses on media and journalism. This scholar reports risk due to the unstable situation in Yemen and due to his research and writing. (Yemen 508)

Scholar of Law from Turkey

This scholar is a professor and researcher who focuses on international constitutional law, democracy and human rights. He has over a decade of research experience and has taught at the university level for several years. He faces risk of arrest, harassment and loss of position after signing a peace petition in Turkey. (Turkey 543)

[All Scholars Seeking Assistance »](#)
