

# Scholars at Risk Network: Activities & Opportunities

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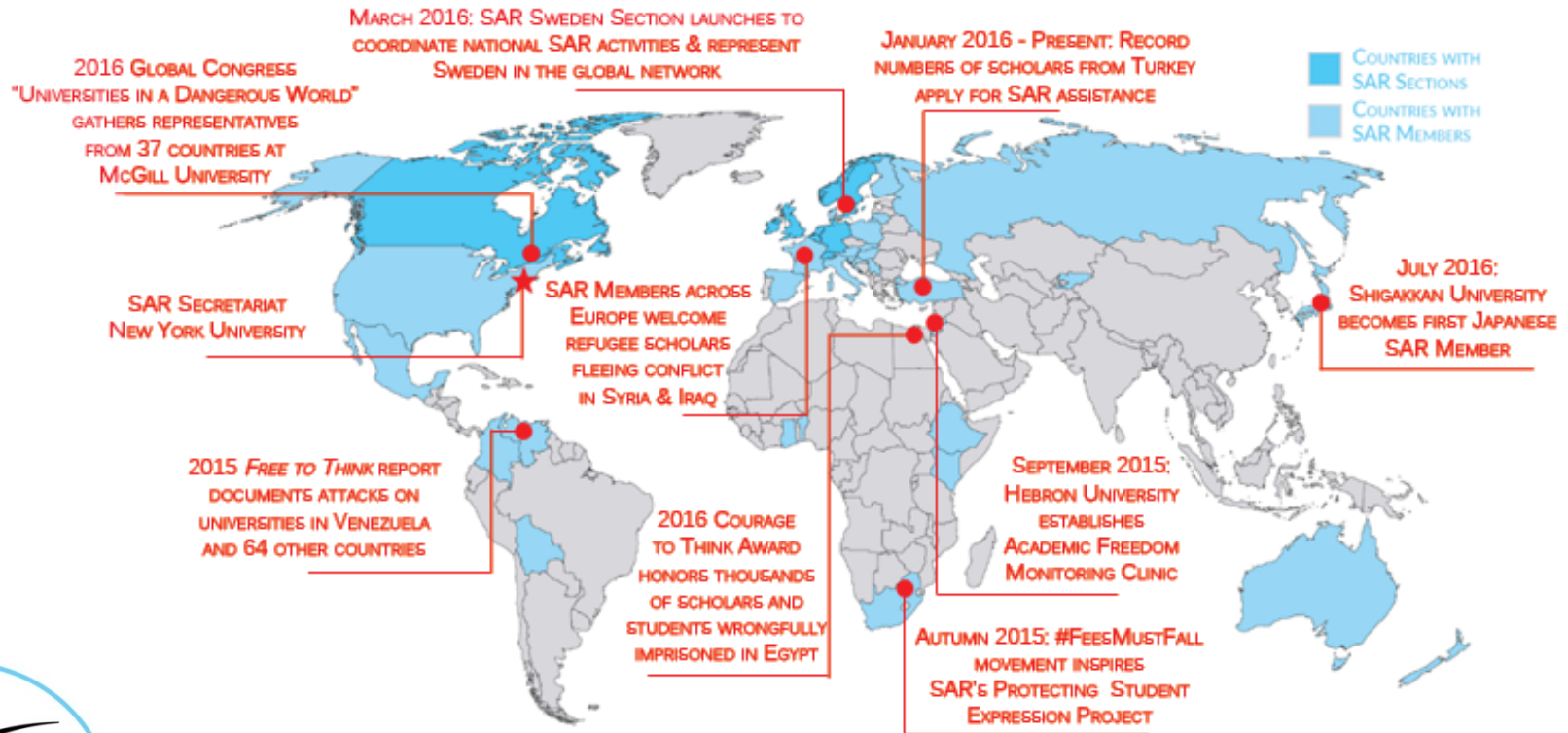


ARES Study Seminar  
Brussels  
May 12, 2017



# THE NETWORK

Over 460 institutions in 35 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

## **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



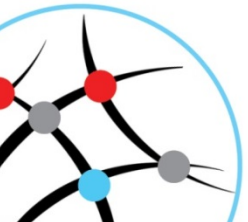
### **Advocacy**

- 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



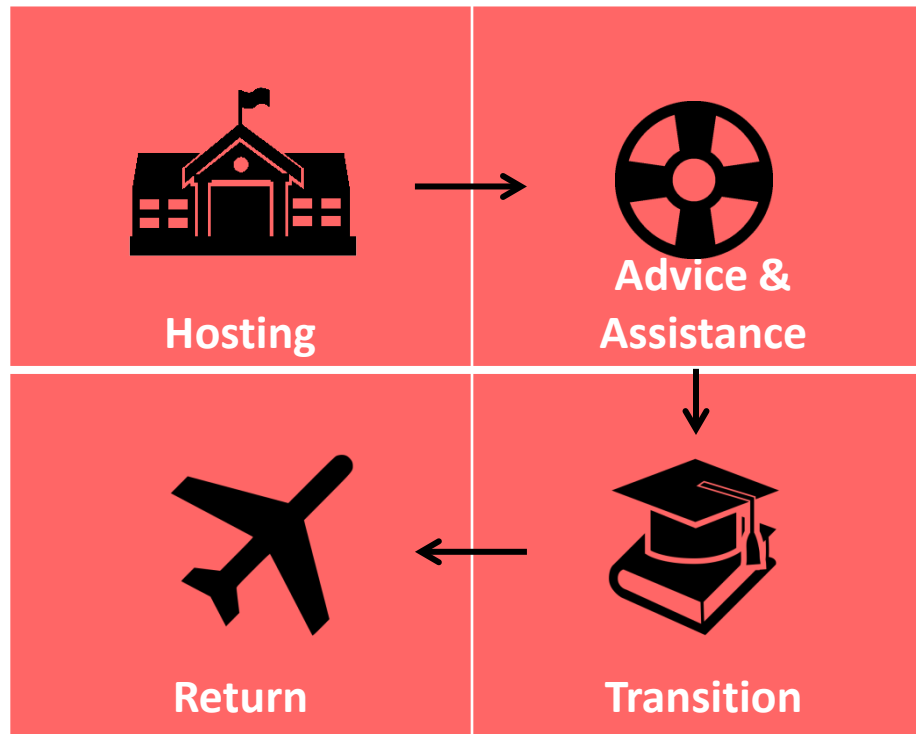
### **Learning**

- 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



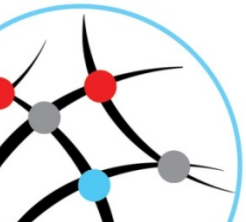
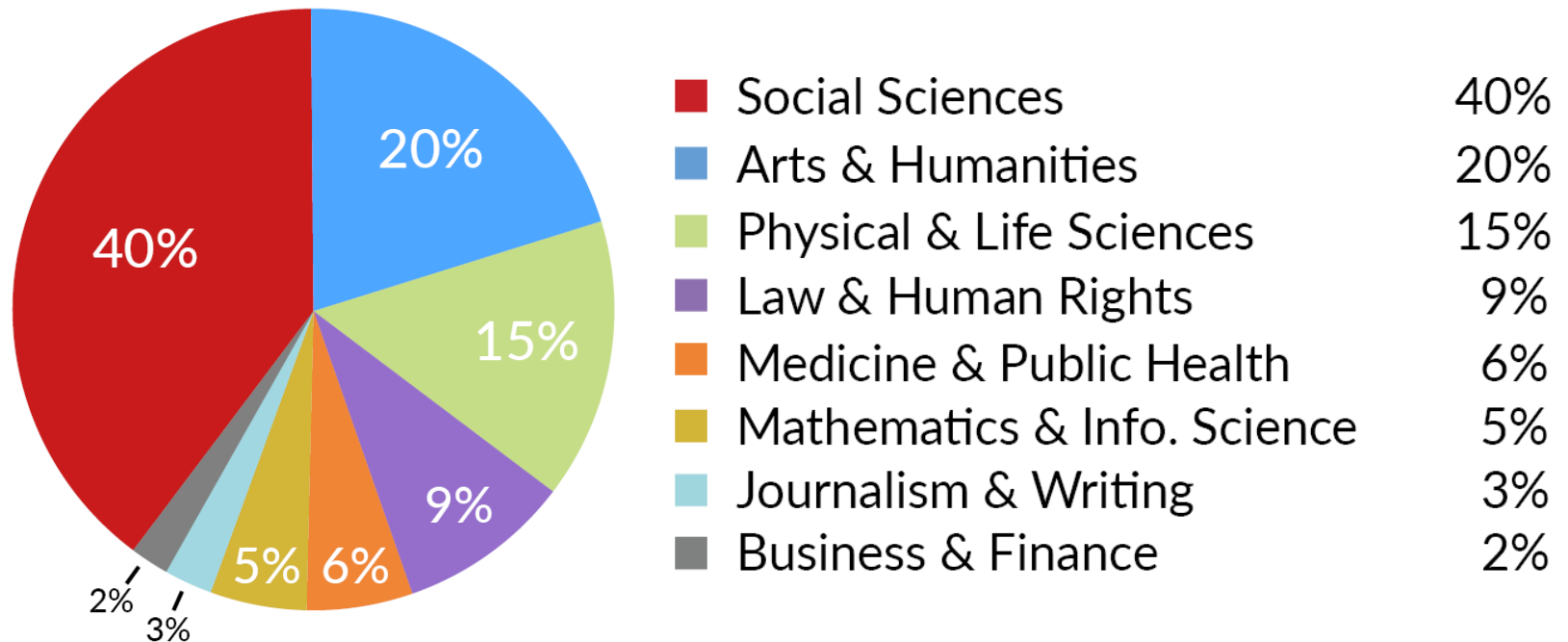
## PROTECTION

SAR nominates candidates for temporary placements at institutions across the global network.



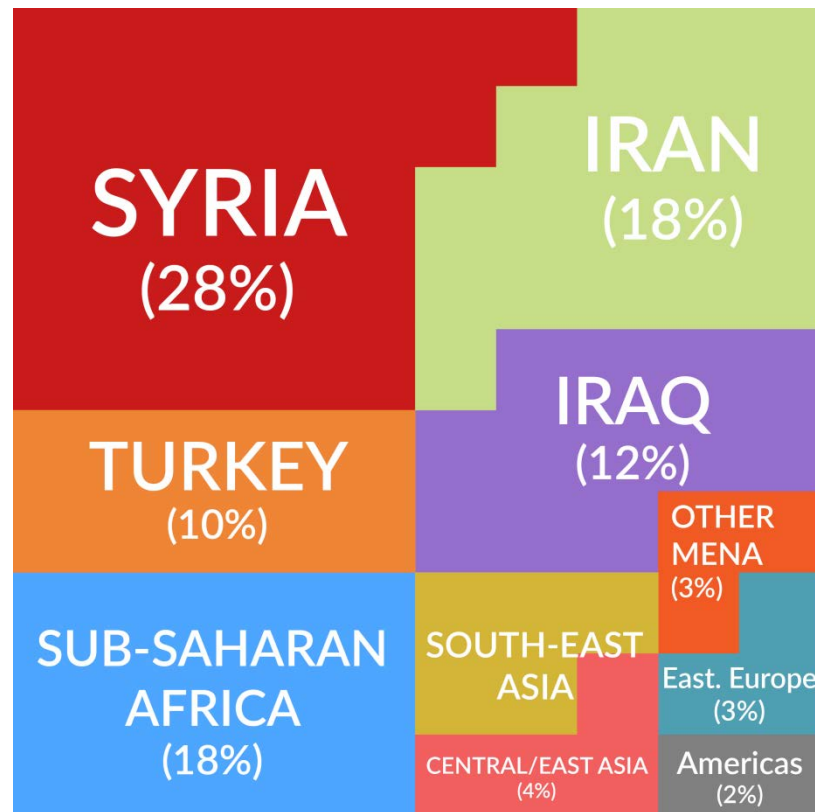
## SCHOLAR DISCIPLINES

In 2016, SAR received a record number of applications for assistance – 560 – and arranged placements for 108 scholars from a wide variety of disciplines.



## **SCHOLAR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN**

SAR currently provides assistance to scholars from over 25 countries.



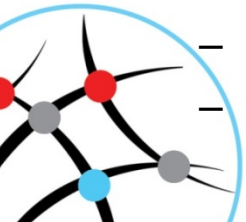
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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR HOSTING

- Internal sources of support
  - Central administration
  - School/division/departmental/faculty support
  - Centres & institutes
- External sources of support
  - National/government fellowships e.g. PSI Germany (AvH Foundation), PAUSE (College de France)
  - Local authorities e.g. Baden-Württemberg Fund for Persecuted Scholars
  - UAF matching funds
  - SAR Emergency Funds: modest funds gen. to cover emergency relocation costs
  - IIE Scholar Rescue Fund Fellowships
  - Academic Associations/Research Councils/Rectors Conferences
  - Human Rights organizations e.g. Frontline, Hivos
  - European Commission (EIDHR emergency grants), Embassies
  - Private foundations
  - Partnering with another institution (co-hosting)

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 **EXAMPLE**

SAR-assisted scholar

**Dr. Anna Dolidze**

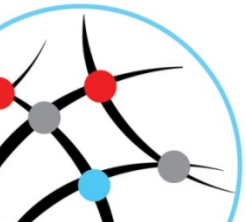
International Law

**Home country:** Georgia

**Risks:** Intimidation, surveillance, and arrest in retaliation for her open criticism of policies relating to the operation and independence of the Georgian judiciary

**SAR Network positions:** NYU Law School, USA and Western University, Canada

**Where is she now?** In 2015, Dr. Dolidze returned to Georgia to begin an appointment as Deputy Defense Minister. In June 2016, she was appointed the chief legal adviser to the President of Georgia.





 **EXAMPLE**

SAR-assisted scholar

## Dr. Kassem AlSayed Mahmoud

Food Science

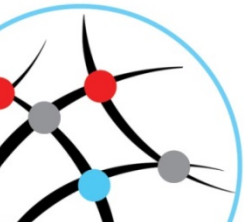


**Home country:** Syria

**Risks:** Targeted by the government for defecting from compulsory military service

**SAR Network position:** Ghent University, Belgium, arranged with the UAF-SAR Netherlands & Belgium Section

**Where is he now?** Dr. AlSayed is working as a postdoctoral researcher in Belgium and dreaming of returning to his homeland.



 **CURRENTLY SEEKING HOSTS**



**Scholar of Political Science from Azerbaijan**

This political scientist has teaching experience teaching in Azerbaijan and Germany, and research experience throughout Europe. This scholar reports risk of arrest and harassment due to the content of his work in Azerbaijan.



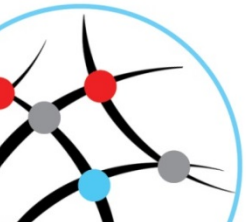
**Scholar of Agriculture and Molecular Biology from Syria**

This junior researcher in plant molecular biology has published articles on wheat and grain genetics. This scholar reports facing threats to his life and risk of arrest due to the ongoing conflict in Syria and his failure to accept compulsory military service.



**Scholar of Physics from Egypt**

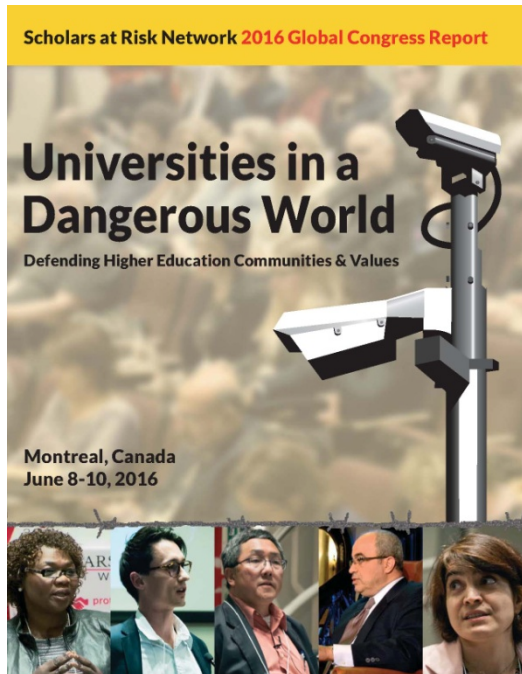
This physicist specializes in high energy and quantum physics, with several dozen academic articles published and papers given at conferences in the US and Europe. This scholar reports facing threats to his life due to the content of his academic work.



# **SAVE THE DATE: SAR Global Congress**

SAR's biennial global network congress convenes faculty, students and professionals in a conversation around higher education security and values

**Montreal 2016**  
Congress report



**Berlin 2018**

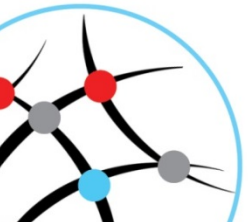
Save the date: April 23-26, 2018









## NEXT STEPS:

- Invitation to **each ARES member institution** to join SAR network
  - Consider inviting a speaker to campus or organize a speakers' tour
  - Consider advocating on behalf of a scholar in prison
  - Consider hosting a threatened or refugee scholar
  - Encourage staff, faculty, students to join SAR working groups/projects
  - Send representatives to SAR workshops and 2018 Global Congress





**get connected:**

-  [www.scholarsatrisk.org](http://www.scholarsatrisk.org)
-  [scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu](mailto:scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu)
-  [facebook.com/scholarsatrisk](https://facebook.com/scholarsatrisk)
-  [twitter.com/scholarsatrisk](https://twitter.com/scholarsatrisk)

freedom to think, question, and share ideas