

GET INVOLVED!

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FREEDOM DAY

A higher education celebration of World Teachers Day, Oct. 5



SCHOLARS AT RISK
N E T W O R K

Scholars at Risk (SAR) together with higher education partners worldwide invite institutions to join in celebrating International Academic Freedom Day, a day recognizing the essential core of university life—academic freedom—and remembering scholars and students whose freedoms of inquiry, expression and association are at risk today. Scholars at Risk celebrates International Academic Freedom Day in solidarity with, and on the occasion of, World Teachers’ Day, 5 October. Since 1994 when it was created by UNESCO, World Teachers’ Day celebrates and aims to mobilize support for educators at all levels and to ensure quality education for future generations. At the higher education level, Scholars at Risk and partners worldwide use this day to call increased attention to the importance of core university values—including academic freedom, institutional autonomy, access, accountability, social responsibility and respect for human rights—not only for the education sector, but for all members of society. A day celebrating these values encourages greater public understanding and public responsibility for defending the educational space at all levels.

CELEBRATE ‘INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FREEDOM DAY’ BY HOSTING YOUR OWN ‘COURAGE TO THINK’ DIALOGUE OR OTHER EVENT ON YOUR CAMPUS.

SAR invites network institutions to celebrate academic freedom and university values on campus by pledging to host a “Courage to Think” dialogue or other event during the year ahead. A one-on-one dialogue with a local leader or faculty member, or a visiting SAR scholar or other guest, is an easy, effective way to open a discussion about the importance of defending the space for thinking, creativity and expression in society. What challenges did the subject experience in advancing ideas? What kind of resistance did he or she have to overcome? What can others learn from that experience? These simple dialogues can help participants appreciate the opportunities we enjoy as members of higher education communities and inspire people to defend those opportunities for others.

REMEMBER TO SHARE! Let Scholars at Risk know you are planning an event. Record it on video and send it to us. We will put it on our website along with other “Courage to Think” dialogues from across the network.

ORGANIZING A DIALOGUE: STEP-BY-STEP

- Identify an audience—a class, department, student club, academic center or institute, or other—that would provide a forum in which to hold the dialogue.
- Identify an interviewee. Suggestions include: a faculty member working on an issue that at one time seemed risky or unlikely to produce results; a community member whose life experience or studies has exposed him or her to violations of human rights or academic freedom issues, either locally or in another country; a writer or journalist whose articles or books have triggered a backlash; a SAR scholar at the institution or available through the SAR Speaker Series; or anyone who has shown dedication to advancing ideas against unwarranted resistance.
- Select an interviewer, for example area experts, media, student leaders or local SAR committee members.
- Publicize the event and make arrangements to record it (even a basic recording is better than nothing).
- Share the video and any advertisements and post-event media with SAR for sharing with the network.

QUESTIONS? SAR welcomes inquiries from campuses interested in hosting a “Courage to Think” dialogue or other International Academic Freedom Day event, and can provide advice on the planning process including a copy of the SAR Speaker Series Handbook. Contact SAR at +1 212-998-2179 or scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.