

# Free to Think 2020

Responding to Attacks on Higher Education

Virtual Conference | Nov. 19–20

SCHOLARS AT RISK  
NETWORK

protection advocacy learning

20 YEARS

# Welcome

Welcome to the Scholars at Risk (SAR) virtual conference “Free to Think 2020: Responding to Attacks on Higher Education” on Thursday, November 19 and Friday, November 20.

This conference marks SAR’s 20th and the release of our annual monitoring report, [Free to Think 2020](#). The event will also feature the presentation of SAR’s **2020 Courage to Think Award**, which may be given to an individual or group, including those who have experienced threats personally, those who have worked to assist them, or those who work to promote a wider understanding of, and respect for, academic freedom and related values.

The virtual conference will begin on November 19th. SAR is an international network of over 500 universities in 30 countries, so the conference will be organized around three regional schedules, serving three world regions:

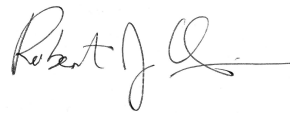
Asia/Pacific  
Americas  
Europe/Africa/MENA

Each schedule will include some live sessions, plus replays of sessions offered live in other regions. All sessions will be recorded and replayed for those in the other regions, with closed captions in English. The virtual conference is free but pre-registration is required.

“Within the COVID-19 crisis we see increased threats to scholars, students, and universities—even to truth itself,” says SAR’s Executive Director, Robert Quinn. “We see scholars threatened for sharing evidence-based research that contradicts official sources. We see growing pressures on scholars documenting gaps in response efforts. And we see authorities use the pandemic to hide crackdowns on free inquiry and expression generally. COVID-19 shows us the imperative of responding forcefully to these threats—our lives literally depend on it.”



**Catharine R. Stimpson**  
Board Chair, Scholars at Risk Network



**Robert Quinn**  
Executive Director, Scholars at Risk Network

Register by clicking [here](#).

# Speakers

## SESSION

### Academic Freedom Issues in China & Hong Kong

- **Fu Hualing**, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong
- **Sheena Chestnut Greitens**, Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, UT Austin

Call to Action

### Academic Freedom & India's Clampdown on Dissent

- **Nandini Sundar**, Professor of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University
- **Apporvanand**, Professor of Hindi, Delhi University

Call to Action

### Yemen's Universities Under Attack

- **Abdulghani Muthanna**, Assoc. Prof., Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU)
- **Noria Al-hossini**, Mwatana for Human Rights

Call to Action

### Turkey's Academic Community in Paralysis

- **Lülüfer Körükmez**, Turkish Human Rights Foundation
- **Nil Mutluer**, Humboldt University

Call to Action

### Academic Freedom Tensions in Europe: Issues & Opportunities

- **Sejal Parmar**, Lecturer & Fellow, Centre for Freedom of the Media, University of Sheffield
- **Martina Darmanin**, Human Rights & Solidarity Coordinator, European Students' Union (ESU)
- **Sinead O'Gorman**, SAR Europe Director

Call to Action: **Denise Roche**, Advocacy Officer, SAR Europe

### Launch of the **Free to Think 2020 report**, marking SAR's 20th anniversary, including presentation of the **SAR 2020 Courage to Think Award**

- **Robert Quinn**, SAR Executive Director
- **Catharine Stimpson**, SAR Board Chair
- **Clare Robinson**, SAR Advocacy Director
- Presentation of the **2020 SAR Courage to Think Award**

Call to Action

## Asia/Pacific

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19			
India (UTC +5:30)	China/ Hong Kong (UTC+8)	Australia (UTC+10)	SESSION
8:30 am	11:00 am	1:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Academic Freedom Issues in China & Hong Kong
9:20 am	11:50 am	1:50 pm	Call to Action
9:30 am	12:00 pm	2:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Academic Freedom & India's Clampdown on Dissent
10:20 am	12:50 pm	2:50 pm	Call to Action
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20			
9:00 am	11:30 am	1:30 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom Tensions in Europe: Issues & Opportunities
9:50 am	12:20 pm	2:20 pm	Call to Action
10:00 am	12:30 pm	2:30 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Free to Think 2020, marking SAR's 20th anniversary, including presentation of the SAR 2020 Courage to Think Award
10:50 am	2:20 pm	3:20 pm	Call to Action
11:00 am	1:30 pm	3:30 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Yemen's Universities Under Siege
11:50 am	2:20 pm	4:20 pm	Call to Action
12:00 pm	2:30 pm	4:30 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Turkey's Academic Community in Paralysis
12:50 pm	3:20 pm	5:20 pm	Call to Action

Register by clicking [here](#). The program schedules for the Americas and Europe/MENA/Africa follow on the next two pages.

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

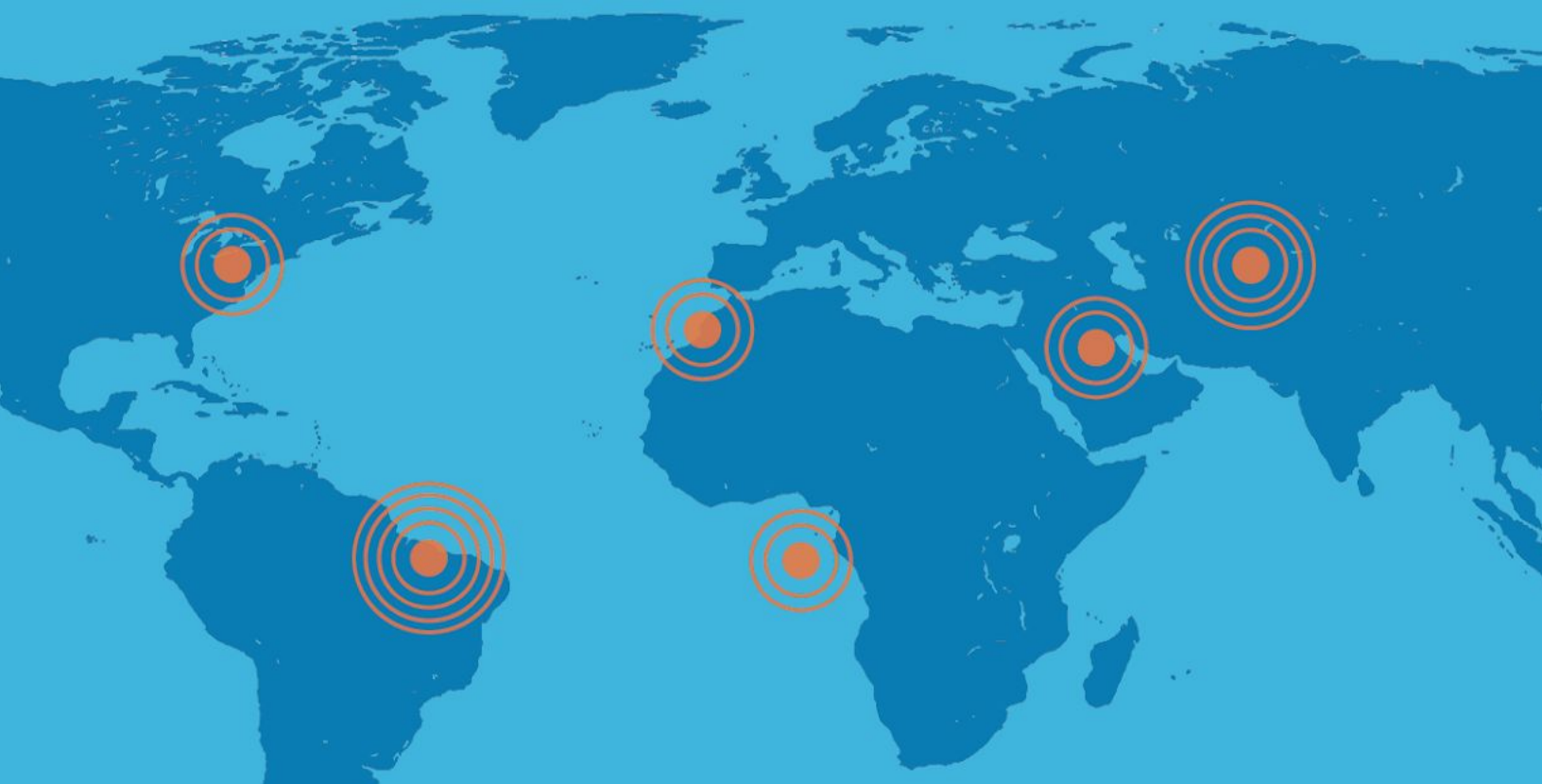
California (UTC-8/ PST)	New York (UTC-5/ EST)	SESSION
	8:00 am	<b>LIVE</b> Yemen's Universities Under Siege
	8:50 am	Call to Action
	9:00 am	<b>LIVE</b> Turkey's Academic Community in Paralysis
	9:50 am	Call to Action
7:00 am	10:00 am	<b>LIVE</b> Academic Freedom Tensions in Europe: Issues & Opportunities
7:50 am	10:50 am	Call to Action
8:00 am	11:00 am	<b>LIVE</b> Free to Think 2020, marking SAR's 20th anniversary and including presentation of the SAR 2020 Courage to Think Award
8:50 am	11:50 am	Call to Action
9:00 am	12:00 pm	Break
10:00 am	1:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom Issues in China & Hong Kong
10:50 am	1:50 pm	Call to Action
11:00 am	2:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom & India's Clampdown on Dissent
11:50 am	2:50 pm	Call to Action
12:00 pm	3:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Yemen's Universities Under Siege
12:50 pm	3:50 pm	Call to Action
1:00 pm	4:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Turkey's Academic Community in Paralysis
1:50 pm	4:50 pm	Call to Action
2:00 pm	5:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom Tensions in Europe: Issues & Opportunities
2:50 pm	5:50 pm	Call to Action
3:00 pm	6:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Free to Think 2020, marking SAR's 20th anniversary and including presentation of the SAR 2020 Courage to Think Award
3:50 pm	6:50 pm	Call to Action

Register by clicking [here](#). The program schedule for Europe/MENA/Africa is on the next page.

# Europe/MENA/Africa

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19		
Berlin (UTC+1)	Istanbul/ Sana'a (UTC+3)	SESSION
11:00 am	1:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom Issues in China & Hong Kong
11:50 am	2:50 pm	Call to Action
12:00 pm	2:00 pm	<b>REPLAY</b> Academic Freedom & India's Clampdown on Dissent
12:50 pm	2:50 pm	Call to Action
1:00 pm	3:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm	4:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Yemen's Universities Under Siege
2:50 pm	4:50 pm	Call to Action
3:00 pm	5:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Turkey's Academic Community in Paralysis
3:50 pm	5:50 pm	Call to Action
4:00 pm	6:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Academic Freedom Tensions in Europe: Issues & Opportunities
4:50 pm	6:50 pm	Call to Action
5:00 pm	7:00 pm	<b>LIVE</b> Free to Think 2020, marking SAR's 20th anniversary and including presentation of the SAR 2020 Courage to Think Award
5:50 pm	7:50 pm	Call to Action

Register by clicking [here](#). The program schedules for the Americas and Asia/Pacific are on the pages above.



## Thank You

We are grateful to the Office of the Provost and New York University for hosting Scholars at Risk (SAR) and to the National University of Ireland, Maynooth for hosting SAR Europe. We thank our partners whose vision and generosity have helped to build SAR into a vibrant, international movement for free inquiry, free expression, and human rights. These include the Vivian G. Prins Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the Charles Koch Foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Winston Foundation, the Vivian G. Prins Fund for Emigrating Scholars at NYU, the Charina Endowment Fund, Demoret Stiftung, Microsoft Corporation, Fritt Ord, Newman's Own Foundation, members of SAR's Board, Ambassadors Council, and International Advisory Committee, SAR's network members, and generous individual supporters, all of whom help us each day to protect more scholars.