

Special Notes

ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom & Human Rights

ASA/AAAS Human Rights Statisticians' Consultant Registry Seeks Statistical Experts to Assess Rights Violations Around the World

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& Human Rights,
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The ASA/AAAS Human Rights Statisticians' Consultant Registry is a joint project of the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Registry lists volunteer statistical experts who are willing to assist responsible organizations in assessing human rights violations. (Our definition of human rights is based upon the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights.) The assistance usually consists of providing consultation and data analysis, but may extend to site visits and foreign travel on fact-finding missions.

Currently, the Human Rights Statisticians' Consultant Registry contains the names of applied statisticians with special expertise, or a background in medical or legal statistics, or foreign language skills, or personal experience with various nations, that enables them to assist in human rights evaluations. Usually, statisticians make no charge for consultation assistance; however, any fees, reimbursements, or travel expenses must be settled directly between the statistician and the client organization. The Registry is operated as a joint project of the ASA and AAAS; it collects no fees, either from the registrants or the users of the Registry.

A joint ASA/AAAS Oversight Board controls the development, maintenance, and use of the Registry. The Board is accountable to the ASA Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights and to the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program. A client organization does not examine the Registry directly; rather, it describes the nature of its problem to the Oversight Board, which then searches the Registry for statisticians that have the desired combination of skills. Those statisticians are then contacted by an AAAS staff member; if they consent, their names and background particulars are supplied to the client organization. The Registry may be used by any responsible governmental or nongovernmental organization (e.g., Amnesty International or the Committee of Concerned Scientists) working on human rights issues.

To obtain forms for entering yourself into the Registry, please contact Elisa Muñoz, ASA/AAAS Human Rights Statisticians' Consultant Registry, AAAS, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005; telephone: (202) 326-6797; fax: (202) 289-4950; e-mail: rights@gwuvm.edu.

Your registration is active for three years from the date of receipt. There is no obligation to accept any case or perform any work. You will be notified at the end of the third year, since a renewal is required to maintain one's participation in the Registry.