



ACS Science and Human Rights Charter

The American Chemical Society (ACS) has been involved in issues of science and human rights since the 1970's. As Article II, Section 3, of the ACS Constitution states, "The SOCIETY shall cooperate with scientists internationally and shall be concerned with the worldwide application of chemistry to the needs of humanity." Through this statement the ACS works to address how to best contribute to human rights issues and initiatives, from availability of basic rights, such as food, clean water and health care, to access to education (particularly science education), and monitoring/advocacy.

This charter aims to define the scope of the ACS Science and Human Rights program in terms of activities, initiatives, and case monitoring. The program strives to highlight the contributions of the chemical sciences to the advancement of humanity. When possible, ACS Science and Human Rights will also find avenues for international collaboration to further science diplomacy. This is in line with the ACS Board approved Statement on Freedom of International Scientific Exchange: "It is important for organizations that represent scientists and educators to advocate the most open and fair exchange among scientists without limitations imposed by national and global political concerns."

Case Monitoring

As of 2011, the ACS will consider primarily cases of at-risk chemists, chemical engineers, or chemically related practitioners for monitoring. Cases can be brought forward by ACS members, as well as external human rights groups and networks. Case response will be approved by the Board of Directors before any actions are fast-tracked.

Activities and Initiatives

The program will pursue activities that highlight the role that chemistry and related sciences play in addressing the human rights issues of the world. This will involve raising awareness of these issues among the ACS membership through initiating letter writing campaigns, publishing articles, organizing symposia, hosting webinars, and other related activities. Meetings with human rights, governmental and other relevant organizations will also be conducted to build and develop the Society's networks and/or to raise awareness of cases.