



W16 The American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center

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After attending this presentation, participants will understand the structure of the new AAFS Center and current developments. Attendees will also be informed about key issues and applications within different global regions.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by raising awareness of the new AAFS Center and important developments in global applications of humanitarian and human rights forensic science.

The value of the application of forensic science to humanitarian and human rights cases is growing as research expands, increasing the importance of the inclusion of such cases in education and practice. This presentation will provide current information on the development, structure, and progress of the new AAFS Center and its subcommittees, which will promote the application of contemporary forensic science to humanitarian and human rights cases around the world. In addition to providing access to AAFS resources to human rights cases, the Center will also offer support to AAFS members applying their skills to human rights projects, encouraging involvement in such instances. Perspectives from committee members will outline how the Center fits in with global advances and helps address issues relating to humanitarian and human rights forensic science.

Attendees will better understand the challenges faced and the benefits to be attained from further development and research in this area. Presenters from diverse research backgrounds will showcase how the new Center and its developments can fill a variety of niches in different contexts around the world. These perspectives emphasize the Center's potential for utilization in diverse situations and integration into scholarship. The Center will be comprised of an advisory committee, which will review proposals for support, and four subcommittees: Publications and Documents, Laboratory and Analysis Protocols (LAP), and Education, and Equipment. Additionally, many members have responded with their CV and personal letter of interest in participation as the Center advances. A database has been compiled of these individuals with the understanding that they may be contacted regarding circumstances related to their interests, specialties, and skills. This database and the committees are comprised of individuals from various regional backgrounds who represent all 11 sections of the AAFS.

The AAFS Humanitarian and Human Resource Center seeks to unify the resources of the AAFS to provide assistance for the growing demand of forensic science applications to human rights cases. It also seeks to encourage the integration of human rights issues into contemporary forensic science education as the field continues to expand.

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