

PARTNER RESOURCES FOR SCHOLARS

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This list of resources sourced from Alliance for Higher Education partners provides proactive guidance to scholars to help protect their digital privacy and legal rights.

General Guidance

- [AAC&U's Campus Conflict and Conversation Help Desk](#): Offers free, confidential guidance and troubleshooting for campus educators and practitioners; use [this form](#) to submit an inquiry.
- [Faculty First Responders](#): [Academic Freedom Self-Defense Basics](#) gives a brief overview of recommended practices. Also provides individual support via facultyfirstresponders@gmail.com.
- [Researcher Support Consortium](#): [Resources and suggested actions](#) regarding practical steps to protect yourself and your institution. See [Toolkit for Institutions Supporting Researchers](#), especially the section on “Legal Issues & Public Record Requests” (page 27).
- [Scholars at Risk Network's "Responding to pressures on higher education in the United States"](#): Provides a set of resources, news alerts, and FAQs, particularly for international scholars working in the US.
- [Democracy Protection Network](#): Provides nonprofits and individuals in the pro-democracy space expert guidance, including regarding legal advice and representation, cyber security, physical security, and crisis communications.

What is FOIA?

- [FOIA.gov](#): Provides an [FAQ](#) regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), including how requests are made, what can be asked in a request, and what kinds of information are exempt or excluded.

- [AAUP Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom's "Responding to Freedom of Information \(FOI\) Requests at Public Universities"](#): Best practices for handling requests.

Digital Security

- [AAUP's What You Can Do about Targeted Online Harassment](#): Outlines what you and your senate, union, or AAUP chapter can do to help prepare for and respond to targeted online harassment.
- [Access Now's Digital Security Help Line](#): A free service providing real-time, direct technical assistance and advice to researchers, journalists, civil society groups, and others. They operate 24/7 and respond to all requests within two hours.
- [Digital Defense's "Doxx Yourself"](#): Offers practical guidance on reviewing your online presence.
- [Guidance from The Guardian](#) on protecting your phone and data privacy at the US Border.

Legal Support

- [National Lawyers Guild](#): The NLG provides guidance for setting up a legal defense fund and a [directory of attorneys](#).
- As noted in the Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom's [Academic Freedom First Aid Kit](#), if you are an AAUP or AFT member, you have access to AFT legal benefits, which include a free 30-minute consultation (and 25 percent off legal fees). For a fee, you can also enroll in a MetLife Legal Plan, which offers additional legal protection. AFT now offers Professional Liability Insurance; email aftplus@aft.org in order to purchase.