

# Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians

## General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is about nine
- Term is three years

## Principal Activities

The AMS is committed to speaking whenever mathematicians are deprived of the opportunity to practice their profession due to violations of the freedoms enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>) and the Affirmation<sup>1</sup> adopted by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. This Committee will assist the Society in such matters by reviewing alleged violations of human rights of mathematicians and by recommending appropriate action to the AMS. For this purpose, a mathematician is a person professionally engaged in a mathematical science (such as pure mathematics, applied mathematics, mathematical statistics, computer science, or operations research) or trained for such activity.

The Committee should arrive at recommendations for action using common sense, any source of information available, and the advice of organizations which have had extensive experience in human rights cases such as the International League for the Rights of Man and Amnesty International. Some examples of recommendations that the Committee might make include (but are not limited to):

1. that the AMS President write a letter,
2. that the AMS membership be informed about a case (e.g., informed of a petition that members may wish to sign),
3. that a news item be posted to the AMS website,
4. that the AMS Council take an action in the name of the Council, or call a referendum on an action to be taken in the name of the Society.

The Committee files an annual report with the AMS Secretary's Office.

## Other Activities

Two members will serve as the AMS representatives to the American Association for the Advancement of Science Human Rights Coalition of which the AMS is a full member. These representatives shall be chosen by the AMS President and will be expected to travel to the twice-yearly coalition meetings in Washington D.C. Their travel expenses will be reimbursed. The two representatives will sit on the Council of the AAAS-HRC and have full voting privileges.

## Miscellaneous Information

The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail, or telephone, expenses which may be reimbursed by the Society.

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<sup>1</sup> As expressed in the 2008 U.N. declaration on sexual orientation and gender identity, AMS considers sexual orientation and gender identity to be included under "other status" in the enumerated categories of "race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Note to the Chair**

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest. Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary. Committees are reminded that records of work should be kept and submitted annually to the Secretary for archival purposes. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

**Authorization**

*15 January 2019 Council Minutes, Item 5.1* Principle Activities of the Committee were significantly modified.

*Council minutes of 23 August 1976, p.3; Council minutes of 26 January 1977, attachment.*

*Council minutes of 03 April 2004, item 4.5;*

*Updated 10/31/90; 8/24/94; 5/04/95; 3/22/99; 4/3/04; 10/13 Other Activities, membership, Note, Misc Info*

**Past Members**

A list of current and past members is available here:

<http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/humanright-past.html>