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The Declaration's Unfinished Promise

Research Accessibility and the True Pursuit of Happiness

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Critical Historical Perspective · American Student



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...”

— Declaration of Independence, 1776



A Promise Made in 1776

- The Declaration promised Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness — rights for all people.
- Yet in 1776, knowledge and research belonged exclusively to the wealthy elite.
- Jefferson, who authored these ideals, enslaved over 600 people in his lifetime.
- The document was visionary. Its authors lived a breathtaking contradiction.

The question isn't whether the ideals were right — it's who they were meant to include.

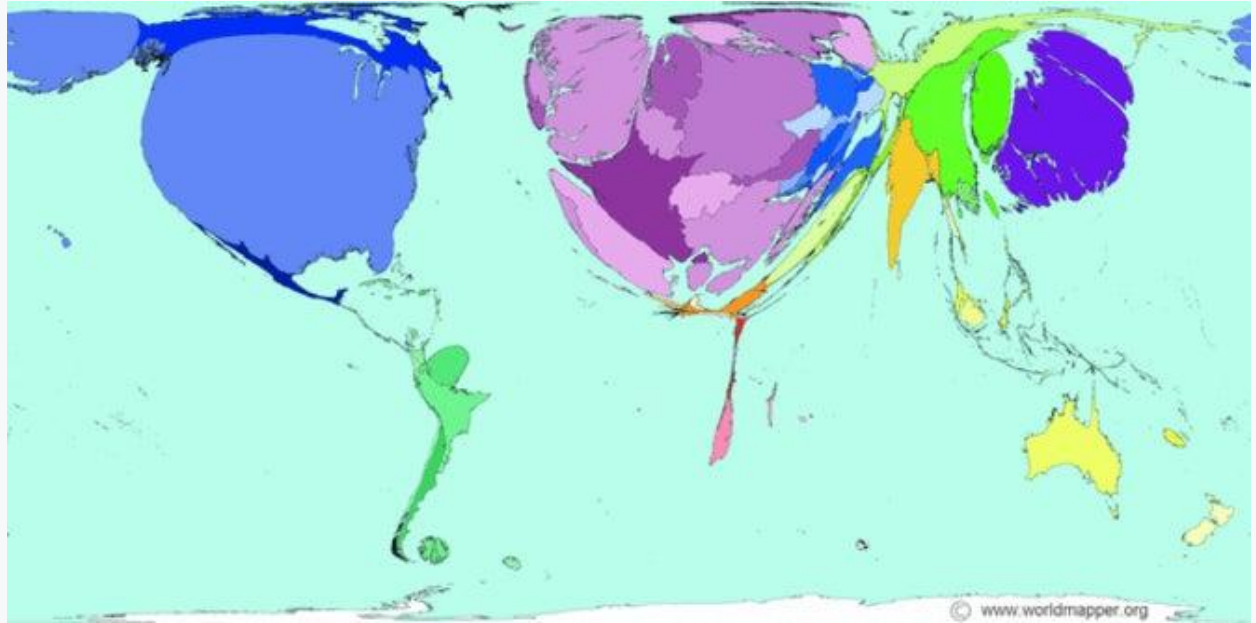
The Research Gap: Inequality Persists

10%

of global research output comes from low-income countries — which house 84% of the world's population

80%

of clinical trials are conducted in high-income countries, leaving underserved communities understudied



Who Gets to Ask the Questions?



Research shapes policy, funding priorities, and public understanding of the world.

When underserved communities don't do research, their questions go unanswered — permanently.

“Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” rings hollow if knowledge creation is gatekept.

The Declaration built political freedom. It never dismantled intellectual barriers.

Knowledge is power. Gatekeeping knowledge is gatekeeping freedom.

NSRI: Democratizing Research Access



16,700+

student researchers across 98 countries and counting

Online Only

No lab required — geographic barriers removed entirely

Systematic Reviews + AI/ML

Tools that need only a computer and internet connection

Free to Join

No cost, no prerequisite — just curiosity and commitment

NSRI doesn't wait for access to be granted. We build the access ourselves.

Research as a Civil Right

True Liberty

Freedom isn't just freedom from oppression. It's freedom to create, discover, and contribute to human knowledge.

Expanding the Promise

Jefferson's generation defined rights for the few. Our generation must extend them to include intellectual access for all.

The NSRI Model

Online-only research proves barriers aren't intellectual — they're structural. Remove the structure, unlock the talent.



“Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” must also mean the freedom to know — not just the freedom to obey.

The Unfinished Work

- 1 Support platforms that give underserved students a real path into research.
- 2 Demand that institutions measure who they include, not just what they discover.
- 3 Join NSRI — or organizations like it — to make research a truly global conversation.

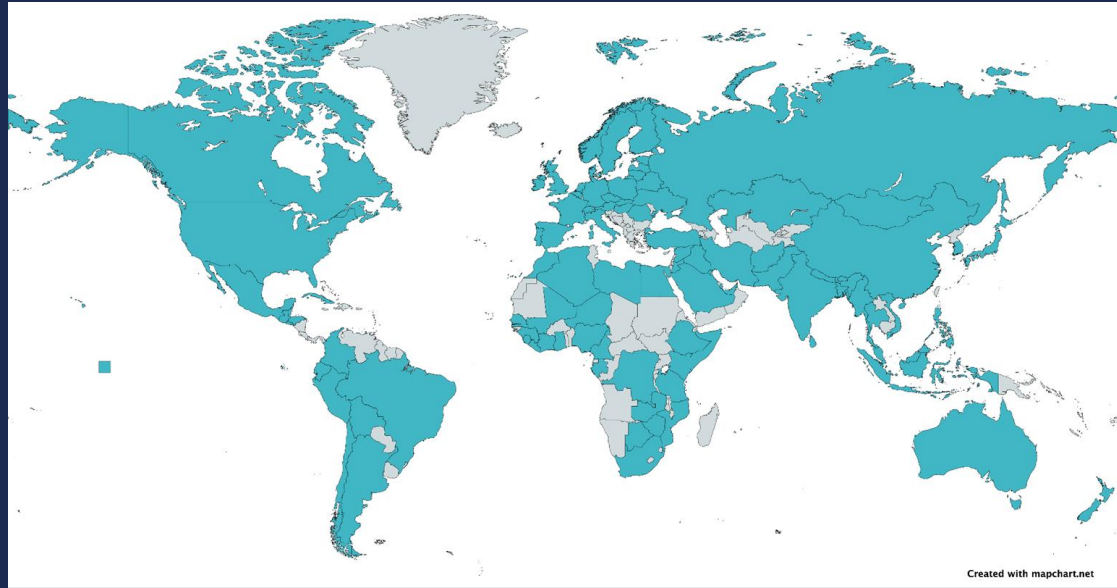
“We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.” — Declaration of Independence

NSRI’s pledge: to ensure every student, everywhere, can pursue knowledge.

Thank You

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nsri.world



The Declaration was never meant to be the finish line.

It was meant to be the starting point. The pursuit of happiness — including the pursuit of knowledge — belongs to everyone.