



Position Statement

IACR Board of Directors Candidature

Candidate: Nadim Kobeissi

Homepage: <https://nadim.computer>

Background: Applied Cryptography

1 Vision for the IACR

As a candidate for the IACR Board of Directors, I am committed to strengthening our organization through transparency, accountability, and true global inclusion. The IACR has tremendous potential to lead the cryptographic research community into a more collaborative and equitable future, and I believe my unique background positions me to help bridge the divides that currently limit our collective impact.

2 My Platform

2.1 Transparency and Governance Reform

Enhanced transparency measures: I will propose initiatives to strengthen the timely publication of meeting minutes and enhance financial transparency, working collaboratively to establish clearer governance guidelines and decision-making processes. IACR members deserve to understand how decisions are made and how resources are allocated.

Strengthened governance structures: I will advocate for constructive governance improvements that reinforce best practices and establish robust accountability frameworks. Clear oversight mechanisms help build member confidence and ensure the organization continues to operate with the highest standards of integrity.

2.2 Global Inclusion and Representation

Bridging geographic divides: As a Lebanese IACR member, I will serve as a dedicated point of contact for members from developing countries, particularly in Latin America, India, the Middle East, and other underrepresented regions. True inclusion requires active outreach and sustained engagement.

Decentralizing IACR activities: I will advocate for reducing the organization's focus on US-based events and relocating our legal structure to more neutral areas that are more representative of our community, while also pushing for events to be held in countries that are also less financially onerous (as well as with lesser visa requirements), creating a more globally balanced presence that better reflects our international membership.

2.3 Political Neutrality

I am committed to ensuring the IACR remains permanently focused on cryptologic research and education, avoiding involvement in political affairs unrelated to our core mission. Our strength lies in our scientific focus and international collaboration.

2.4 Industry Collaboration

I will work to improve relations between the IACR and industry, fostering new collaboration opportunities and potential sponsorships that benefit both academic research and practical applications of cryptography.

2.5 Constructive Leadership

I pledge to work constructively with all IACR members, even when we disagree. Effective governance requires respectful dialogue and the ability to find common ground while advancing our shared mission.

3 My Qualifications

3.1 Unique Cross-Sector Experience

I bring a useful combination of deep industry experience and academic expertise to the IACR Board:

Industry Leadership: Having conducted over 300 security audits at Cure53¹ and Symbolic Software², I understand the practical challenges and opportunities facing cryptography in real-world applications.

Academic Excellence: As a researcher and instructor in applied cryptography with a proven research track record, I maintain active research engagement and understand the needs of the academic community.

Global Perspective: My global background provides me with firsthand experience of the challenges facing cryptographers in developing regions.

3.2 Commitment to Pedagogy and Global Inclusion

I developed and am currently teaching a comprehensive Applied Cryptography course at the American University of Beirut (since August 2025), having created over 1,500 slides across 16 lecture decks, 8 problem sets, 8 hands-on lab projects, and 100+ curated readings including cutting-edge 2025 papers. The course uniquely bridges theoretical foundations with practical implementation, covering everything from provable security to real-world protocol analysis, including post-quantum cryptography and formal verification tools like ProVerif. All materials are Creative Commons licensed (BY-NC-SA) and freely available at <https://appliedcryptography.page>, demonstrating my commitment to open education and knowledge sharing within the global cryptographic community.

3.3 Event Organization Experience

I have extensive experience organizing academic and private sector events. One recent example is the Real World Cryptography Paris³, which I co-founded and have co-organized since 2024.

3.4 Proven Advocacy

My track record demonstrates effective advocacy and the ability to drive meaningful change within professional organizations.⁴ I have successfully championed reforms that improved transparency and inclusion in previous roles.

¹<https://cure53.de>

²<https://symbolic.software>

³<https://cryptography.paris>

⁴<https://iacrbias.org>

3.5 Cultural and Linguistic Bridge-Building

Being multilingual and having worked across diverse cultural contexts, I am uniquely positioned to facilitate communication and collaboration among IACR's global membership.

3.6 More Information

For more information about my qualifications, please review my personal website⁵, which also includes a link to my academic CV⁶ as well as to my LinkedIn profile.⁷

4 Commitment to Service

If elected to the IACR Board of Directors, I will bring energy, fresh perspectives, and a commitment to evidence-based governance. I believe the IACR's best days lie ahead, and I am eager to help realize that potential through transparent leadership, global inclusion, and strengthened partnerships across all sectors of our community.

The cryptographic research community deserves leadership that reflects its diversity, understands its challenges, and can effectively advocate for its interests on the global stage. I am ready to provide that leadership.

I welcome questions about my platform via email, and look forward to serving the IACR membership: n@nadim.email

⁵<https://nadim.computer>

⁶<https://nadim.computer/res/pdf/vitae.pdf>

⁷<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nadimkobeissi/>