



BCHR

Newsletter

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The BCHR Network

The BCHR Network is pleased to present the BCHR Update Newsletter, which provides a host of insights into the work of the network and its members. The main purpose of this newsletter is to a) share information about the work of the network and its members to a wider audience, and b) to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the network members themselves and with other interested parties.

- Click [here](#) to learn more about the BCHR Network
- Click [here](#) for a complete list of the BCHR Network members

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Network Announcements

At the beginning of the month, we reached out to the members of the network to inform them that we were conducting a survey to improve the experience and content of the Network.

We are still accepting responses through this [link](#)

Your thoughts and opinions left here will be highly appreciated.
On behalf of the Secretariat we thank you in advance, and look forward to reading your responses.

Other announcements

A. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, AND COURSES

- **Gender and Global Supply Chains**

Date: 24 September **Place:** London

Brought to you by the Ethical Training Initiative, this course aims to develop your understanding of gender equality as both an enabler and a driver of better working conditions for both women and men workers. You will be given the tools to assess your supply chain and identify the risks that women face in the workplace, as well as how to develop appropriate actions that not only mitigate the risks but also work towards greater respect for women worker's rights.

[Learn more](#)

- **1st International Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding**

Date: October 23-25 **Place:** University of California, Irvine

The first conference will cover a range of topics concerning environmental conflict and peacebuilding, including: Technology and Innovation in Environmental Peacebuilding (Special Theme); Environmental Peacebuilding in Colombia (Special Theme); Environmental Governance, Law, and Conflict Prevention; Environmental Mediation and Peacemaking; Post-conflict Environmental Peacebuilding; Gender and Environmental Peacebuilding; Environmental Peacebuilding in a Changing Climate; and Causes of Conflict.

[Learn more](#)

B. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

- **Briefing on Business & Human Rights in Tanzania**

Author: IPIS Research **Published on:** 2019, Quarter I

This briefing presents an overview of present-day business and human rights issues and activities, as they prevail in four major economic sectors in Tanzania: resource extraction, agriculture, tourism and infrastructure, among others. A list of good practices, key resources and initiatives are shared in their report on human rights as the foundation of sustainable business.

[Learn more](#)

• Report from Justice For All: Justice Out of Reach for Two out of Three people in the world

Authors: Task Force on Justice, Justice for All

Published on: April 2019

Two in three people lack access to justice - with stateless, enslaved and war-affected people worst hit - according to research that showed the challenge of achieving the United Nations' goal of justice for all. More than five billion people currently fall into a "justice gap", unable to resolve disputes from land grabs to violent crime, said the Task Force on Justice, part of a partnership of U.N. members, civil groups and the private sector.

[Abstract Available](#)

[Full report Available](#)

• Modern Slavery in Pacific Supply Chains of Canned Tuna

Authors: Business and Human Rights Resource Center

Published on: June 2019

Only four of the world's 35 largest tuna retail brands said they conducted due diligence with the specific aim of uncovering modern slavery in their supply chains. In words of a BHRRC Researcher, the party in charge of the report, "the tuna supply chain is remote, complex and opaque ... [and, yet] tuna companies are taking little action to protect workers". This report explores the facts, reasons, impacts, and recommendations, as well as evaluates companies in the field on practical actions, stakeholder engagement, and Human Rights due diligence, among others.

[Abstract Available](#)

[Full report Available](#)

• Dying for Gold: the dark history of South African gold mines

Author/Directors: Catherine Meyburgh and Richard Pakleppa

Published on: 4 July, 2019

"Genocide". That is the word that Namibia-born filmmaker Richard Pakleppa uses to describe the system which saw generations of black men sent down South African mines to work in conditions that mine bosses and medical experts knew from early on would cause many of them to contract debilitating lung disease. There are other analogies that Pakleppa uses in grappling with the South African mining industry. One is slavery; another is the cold, bureaucratic horror of Nazism. Pakleppa, together with Catherine Meyburgh, is the co-director of the new documentary *Dying for Gold*, a powerful and haunting chronicle of South African mining seen from the particular prism of its health impact on the men who have toiled underground.

[Learn more](#)

- **Respecting the rights of indigenous people: a due diligence checklist for companies**

Authors: The Danish Institute for Human Rights

Published on: July 2019

This Checklist seeks to provide companies with operational guidance on how to ensure due diligence when operating in areas where projects may affect indigenous peoples. Based on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention No. 169, this Checklist aligns the principles and rights in these two instruments with the human rights due diligence approach set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

[Learn more](#)

C. CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS.

- **Commentary: Why arbitrate business & human rights disputes?**

Public Consultation Period Open for the Draft Hague Rules on Business and Human Rights Arbitration”, 12 Jul 2019. Revision and comments set to end by August 25. Please send your saved PDF form with your comments to the following email address: secretariat.simma@cilc.nl.

[Learn more](#)

International News

- **ICAR welcomes the introduction of the Corporate Human Rights Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Mitigation Act of 2019**

Author: Juli King **Published on:** June 2019

Source: ICAR

The Corporate Human Rights Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Mitigation Act of 2019 represents a landmark piece of legislation that would, if the bill were approved, require U.S. companies to provide critical information regarding their human rights risks and impacts to investors and consumers.

[Learn more](#)

- **Business Actors, Paramilitaries and Transitional Criminal Justice in Colombia**

Author: Philipp Wesche **Published on:** 9 July, 2019

Source: Oxford Academic, International Journal of Transitional Justice

This article deals with business actors, who financed and collaborated with paramilitary groups in the Colombian armed conflict. Based on interviews with human rights defenders and public prosecutors, it analyzes how the country's transitional justice process has addressed their criminal responsibility.

[Learn more](#)

- **Conflict in the Red Gold Industry in Spain**

Authors: Annie Kelly and Ofelia de Pablo **Published on:** 29 June, 2019

Source: The Guardian

Human-rights lawyers are warning that abuse claims by Moroccans picking fruit in Spain for UK supermarkets could amount to "state-sponsored human trafficking". Interfresa, the association representing the strawberry industry, implemented in July 2018 a non discrimination educational plan for the workers as a preventive method (PRELSI). Meanwhile, Human Rights activists and defenders claim that these women are being ignored in the tribunals because of their gender, their race and their economic status.

[Available](#)

[Learn more](#)

• Inside Italy's tainted tobacco industry

Author: Luca Muzi and Lorenzo Tondo **Published on:** 31 May, 2019 **Source:** The Guardian

Migrants working in areas supplying Philip Morris, British American Tobacco and Imperial Brands allege abuses including low pay and illegal contracts. Della Corte, leader of the General Confederation of Italian Workers labour union in Caserta, said: "Unfortunately, the reality of the work conditions in the agricultural sector in the province of Caserta, including the tobacco industry, is marked by a deep labour exploitation, low wages, illegal contracts and an impressive presence of the *caporalato* [illegal hiring], including extortion and blackmailing of the workers". Philip Morris response moves along the lines of commitment to ensure safety and fair conditions in its supply chain, as well as working with independent not-for-profit organisations (Verité) in order to develop an internal Agricultural Labor Practices (ALP) code, among others.

[Learn more](#)

• Salento in uproar after court overrules mining ban in "one of world's most beautiful towns"

Author: Adriaan Alsema **Published on:** June 5, 2019 **Source:** Colombia Reports

Not only has the The Quindio Administrative Tribunal annulled the mining ban approved by the municipal council, but mining in the area could be of substantial threat, since rivers in the area are a source for drinking water for much of the province in a 70% .

[Learn more](#)

• Germany Fines Facebook \$2.3 Million Under Hate Speech Law

Author: HuffPost Berlin AP **Published on:** 2 July, 2019 **Source:** Huffpost World News

The agency said Facebook's report for the first half of 2018 didn't reflect the actual number of complaints about suspected illegal content, which in Germany includes anti-Semitic insults and material designed to incite hatred against persons or groups based on their religion or ethnicity.

[Learn more](#)

• Brazil to issue 'dirty list' of employers using slave labor based on court findings

Author: Fabio Teixeira **Published on:** 2 July, 2019 **Source:** Thomson Reuters Foundation News

Brazil will create a new "dirty list" of employers that engaged in modern slavery, drawn from a roster of companies and people found guilty in labor courts of the practice, officials said. The move by the Labor Prosecutor's Office is aimed at shedding more light on slave labor, which Brazil formally acknowledged in 1995 existed in the country.

[Learn more](#)

- **Western and Chinese tech companies reportedly involved in development of surveillance technology in China**

Author: Ryan Gallagher **Published on:** 15 July, 2019 **Source:** Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
An American organization founded by tech giants Google and IBM is working with a company that is helping China's authoritarian government conduct mass surveillance against its citizens, The Intercept can reveal.

[Learn more](#)

- **Online fashion brands Boohoo & Amazon face calls to pay living wages in their global supply chains; Incl. co. responses**

Author and Source: Business & Human Rights Resource Centre **Published on:** 15 July, 2019
In June 2019, Labour Behind the Label launched a campaign and petition calling on online fashion brands Boohoo and Amazon to pay workers in their global supply chains a living wage and put this commitment into its supplier policies.
In Labour Behind the Label's Tailored Wages UK 2019 survey, both brands failed to show they had any policy for ensuring workers who make the clothes they sell are paid enough to live with dignity and support a family, despite being among the biggest players in online fashion.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Author: Lindsay Wright **Published on:** 10 July, 2019

What is going wrong? Why are we still finding slave labour in UK agriculture in 2019?

The ongoing legal case relating to the largest European human trafficking network confronts us with the depressing reality that four years on from the Modern Slavery Act 2015: forced labour is still very much an issue in the UK.

[Learn more](#)

About our Network

The Network brings together researchers, practitioners and NGO members from various fields with the aim of researching and analysing the role of business in conflict situations reducing the human and people's rights violations and any other negative social and environmental impact as well as other adverse consequences. It also looks at the potential role of companies in relation to peace building.

The Network reflects upon the causes, dynamics and consequences of business involvement in armed conflicts and systematic state repression, as well as upon existing or potential responses to such involvements in light of the responsibilities of all concerned actors and ongoing international and local efforts to develop and apply appropriate initiatives and guidelines.

Visit: <http://www.networkbchr.org/>

Sharing and posting materials

We very much welcome your comments and suggestions for how the BCHR newsletter can better serve the network's needs and interests as well as those of its members. We kindly invite you to share this newsletter with academics, NGO and practitioners that might be interested in its content.

If you are interested in contributing to future editions of the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at maria.prandi@networkbchr.org.
