



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

We are pleased to remind you that the next BCHR Network annual meeting will take place on the 30th of November 2017 in Geneva, following the closing of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

All our members are most welcome to take part in this international gathering aimed at discussing the latest developments in the network's field of research as well as the next activities of the Network.

We kindly invite you to send us your suggestions regarding contents by sending an email to: maria.prandi@networkbchr.org

We would be delighted to hear about your ideas to make the most of this event. You are invited to register online [here](#).

- Register [here](#) to become a member of the network.
- Click [here](#) to know more about the network.

Other announcements

A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS, CALL FOR PAPERS

- **Human rights defenders and civic space – the business and human rights dimension**

Deadlines: 01 September 2017

A large number of human rights defenders are under threat and attack because they raise concern about adverse human rights impacts of business operations, often in the context of large development projects. Against this background, the Working Group has decided to give focused attention to the issue human rights defenders and civic space and identified activities it proposes to undertake to complement and support efforts by others.

Please submit information to: wg-business@ohchr.org

B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

- **UNGPs six years later : appraise the progress & fill the gaps**

Date: 04 September 2017

Place: University Foundation, Room A Rue d’Egmont 11, Brussels

Organized by: International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

In the context of the 6th anniversary from the adoption of the Guiding Principles, FIDH organizes a workshop which aims to look at key emerging trends on the three pillars of the UNGPs – State Duty to Protect, Corporate Responsibility to Respect and Access to Remedy–, and to identify ways to move the debate forward.

..... [Learn more](#)

- **Business Leaders Forum to Combat Human Trafficking**

Date: 05-06 September 2017

Place: United Way Worldwide, 701 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA

Organized by: United Way Worldwide

More than 20 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking. They are men and women, boys and girls, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens exploited for sex or labour. Businesses are increasingly engaged in the fight against human trafficking.

[Learn more](#)

- **Elements for a treaty on business and human rights**

Date: 05 September 2017

Place: Auditorium, Ivan Pictet Maison de la paix, Geneva

Organized by: International Commission of Jurists

This event, taking place at a critical moment to inform the process of elaboration of the draft elements, has been designed to foster the exchange of views among international actors, creating the bases for consensus on possible contents of a legally binding instrument in the field of business and human rights.

..... [Learn more](#)

- **Business and Human Rights – Implementing the Responsibility to Respect**

Date: 8–10 September, 6–8 October, 1–3 December 2017

Place: Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen

Organized by: Univ. of Bergen Dep. of Comparative Politics, IHRB & Rafto Foundation for Human Rights

This new Masters-level course explores the links between human rights violations and corporate activity, and the importance of international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in strengthening state and business performance regarding these issues.

..... [Learn more](#)

- **Training: International labour standards and corporate social responsibility – Understanding workers’ rights in the framework of due diligence**

Date: 11–15 September 2017

Organized by: International Training Center of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO)

Companies are under increasing pressure, stemming from stakeholder expectations, reporting requirements, conditions for tendering, etc., to conduct due diligence on human-rights issues in their own operations and with business partners in their supply chains.

..... [Learn more](#)

- **How to Conduct a Human Rights Risk and Impact Assessment?**

Date: 19 September 2017

Organized by: Enact

During this full-day training, there will be a look into the methodologies, trends and tools that are currently shaping best practice for the first step of human rights due diligence; to identify and assess human rights impacts. The course will go through the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and what is required of companies in identifying and assessing human rights impacts.

[Learn more](#)

C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

• Palming Off Responsibility

Author: SOMO

This report will attempt to provide a clear perspective on issues facing workers in the Indonesian palm oil sector. Furthermore, a discussion will be provided of the relevance of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) as well as the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) for the Indonesian palm oil sector and the labour conditions affecting its workers.

[Learn more](#)

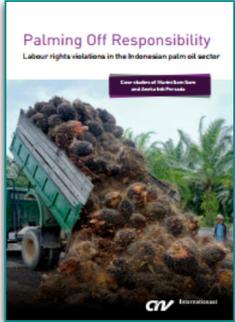


Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/ydcjkovo>

• Branded Childhood

Author: Martje Theuws, Virginia Sandjojo

The Stop Child Labour Coalition commissioned the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) to carry out this research into wage levels and working conditions in the export-oriented garment industry in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The research specifically looks into the relationship between wages and working conditions of adult workers and the extent to which their children attend school or are engaged in paid/unpaid work.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y9p9ym38>

• How Food and Beverage Companies Tackle Forced Labor Risks in Sugarcane Supply Chains

Author: Know the Chain

This case study assesses how a sample of 10 companies address forced labor risks across their sugarcane supply chains, finding that, while some companies have assessed risks and set targets, all companies in the case study need to improve significantly—in particular to provide grievance mechanisms and remedy.

[Learn more](#)



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/y9tyb1b1>

International News

• Human Rights Defenders' Security Deteriorates

Date: 28 July 2017 - **Source:** ABColombia

The two environmental defenders working for the *Young Peoples Social and Environmental Collective of Cajamarca* (Colectivo Socio-Ambiental Juvenil de Cajamarca – **COSAJUCA**) were shot at and narrowly escaped being injured or killed in Cajamarca on Friday, 28 July 2017. COSAJUCA is part of a large group of local organisations working to defend environmental and social rights. For the last four years, COSAJUCA have reported threats against members of their organisation for “defending [their] territory from the mining project of La Colosa”

[Learn more](#)

• Nike is facing a new wave of anti-sweatshop protests

Source: Quartz - **Date:** 01 August 2017

Now, Nike's sweatshop problem is threatening a comeback. On July 29, students and activists around the world participated in a day of protest against Nike, organized by United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

[Learn more](#)

• Fyffes gets five more weeks from ethics body to fix Honduras dispute

Date: 07 August 2017 - **Source:** The Irish Times

Fyffes, the Dublin-based tropical fruits company taken over in February by a Japanese group, has been given until next month to resolve a dispute over alleged worker exploitation in its Central American operations or face being expelled from an influential ethical body.

[Learn more](#)

• Modern slavery risk on rise in European supply chains

Date: 09 August 2017 - **Source:** Global Trade Review

The European migrant crisis is forcing a sharp rise in human rights risks in European supply chains. This includes the UK and Germany, which have moved up from 'low' to 'medium' risk in the annual Modern Slavery Index, released by global risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.

[Learn more](#)

- **7 Drop Paramilitary Funding Claims In Chiquita**

Date: 09 August 2017 - **Source:** Law 360

The claims brought by seven relatives of murdered hostages who accused Chiquita of being complicit in their deaths by routinely paying off the right-wing Colombian paramilitary group that killed them are being voluntarily dismissed from a sprawling multidistrict litigation.

[Learn more](#)

- **Hiring refugees: 'we have an amazing wealth of talent on our hands'**

Date: 11 August 2017 - **Source:** The Guardian

Some businesses are providing tools for refugees to overcome other barriers to rebuilding their lives, such as difficulties in opening a bank account.

[Learn more](#)

- **Business councils disband over Trump remarks**

Date: 16 August 2017 - **Source:** BBC

Business leaders left the White House manufacturing council after the backlash against how he reacted to the far-right rally last weekend. The clashes culminated in a woman's death and nearly 20 wounded when a car ploughed into a crowd of anti-fascists.

[Learn more](#)

- **Malaysia: AirAsia trains staff to spot human traffickers and help victims**

Date: 19 August 2017 - **Source:** Thomson Reuters Foundation

Planes are a key part of this illegal business, which victimizes an estimate of 46 million people, including children. Air Asia is one of the first airlines in the continent to crack down on this global crime. Companies have come under increased pressure to tackle human trafficking, with an estimated 46 million people living in slavery and profits thought to be about \$150 billion.

[Learn more](#)

- **ICAR, ECCJ, and Dejusticia Release 2017 Update of National Action Plan Assessments**

Date: 22 August 2017

This August 2017 report updates the ICAR-ECCJ November 2015 publication by incorporating assessments of the NAPs of Norway, Colombia, United Kingdom (2016 iteration), Italy, Switzerland, and United States. These structured NAPs assessments are based on the ICAR-Danish Human Rights Institute (DIHR) NAPs Toolkit, released in June 2014, which provides a set of 25 criteria by which the content of NAPs and the process undertaken by States in developing them can be assessed.

[Learn more](#)

- **Bishops press Trudeau for action on mining in Latin America**

Date: 23 August 2017 - **Source:** Catholic Register

In a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops president Bishop Doug Crosby has accused Canadian mining companies of “unethical, unjust and irresponsible ways of mining” in Latin America. The Aug. 9 letter was prompted by the government’s non-answer to another letter from the Latin American Church and civil society organizations which demanded Canada rein in mining companies embroiled in conflicts with local and Indigenous communities throughout Latin America.

[Learn more](#)

- **The human rights lawyers challenging corporate abuse**

Source: Business and Human Rights

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre has built an international directory of lawyers working on cases of human rights abuse involving companies. The directory aims to help victims of abuse find legal assistance in a range of countries – including countries where victims are located and countries where companies are based.

[Learn more](#)

Blogs and Opinions

Article by: Nadia Bernaz for the Journal of International Criminal Justice

An Analysis of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor's Policy Paper on Case Selection and Prioritization from the Perspective of Business and Human Rights

The article evaluates the significance of the policy paper for the field of business and human rights. It does so by pointing to the current deficiencies of both international criminal law and international human rights law regarding business accountability, and by assessing whether, and if so how, the new policy paper can tackle those deficiencies.

[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.
