



# BCHR

Newsletter

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Image from: <https://tinyurl.com/ybm7e4nq>

# 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

• **Quick reminder: we are now only one month away from our next annual conference. [Register NOW!](#)**

The BCHR Network is happy to announce its **next annual conference** to be held on the **29th of November in Geneva**. Please have a look at our preliminary program with outstanding experts and practitioners from different disciplines, organisations and territories.

By bringing together a broad range of academics, practitioners and NGOs, we're able to get to crux of the big issues. Highlights include:

- Hear from SHERPA on legal accountability for companies in conflict zones in relation to cases such as Amesys.
- Participate in an academic debate on business and transitional justice.
- A wide range of perspectives and stories of success on how to make companies accountable in Western Sahara.
- How different tools and guidance are emerging in the realm of business and conflict.
- Participate in a consultation aimed at supporting the UNWG new project on the implementation of the UNGP in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The conference will open a space to consider these challenges in ways that rely on tools and perspectives drawn from the experience and research activity of all participants.

You can see full details of confirmed speakers, key themes and agenda items [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you in November!

• **The BCHR Network participated** in the expert workshop '*Developing guidance on business and human rights in conflict and post conflicts zones*', organized by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights on the 4th of October in Geneva. The UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights is about to launch a **project on implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in conflict and post-conflict settings** and the Network was invited to participate in a preliminary expert workshop to support the development of the roadmap for the project. This project will run during 2018-2020 and focus on identifying and clarifying policy options for States and business along the conflict cycle, in line with the Guiding Principles and international best practice.

• **International Conference Private Military and Security Actors in "Moderns Wars": Perspectives, Consequences and Strategies to ensure Human Security,**

**Date:** Barcelona on November, 21st-23rd 2018.

The International Conference **Private Military and Security Actors in "Moderns Wars": Perspectives, Consequences and Strategies to ensure Human Security**, will be held in Barcelona on November 21st-23rd 2018. The objective of this event organized by NOVACT, Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la Pau with the support of the Barcelona City Council, the International Catalan Institute for Peace and the BCHR Network is to raise public awareness to the increased participation of private actors in war and conflict settings and to reinforce the joint work with civil society organizations to lay the foundations for the creation of an international hub to confront the privatization of war and security. The event is open to academics, think tanks, representatives of civil society organizations and/or activists. We especially welcome the participation of BCHR network's members. For more information on the final agenda and list of panelist, kindly contact: [leticia@novact.org](mailto:leticia@novact.org)

# Other announcements

## A. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND CALL FOR PROJECTS

### • 4th Business and Human Rights Young Researchers Summit St. Gallen, Switzerland

**Deadline:** November 1st

The Institute for Business Ethics at University of St. Gallen, the Center for Business and Human Rights at New York University's Stern School of Business, and the Business and Human Rights Journal (BHRJ) are pleased to announce the 4th Business and Human Rights Young Researchers Summit in St. Gallen, Switzerland, taking place on April 11th-12th, 2019. The Summit will bring together approximately 10-15 excellent PhD students and early post-doc researchers (cut-off is one year after graduation) who engage in research in the business and human rights field. The objective is for participants to present their research project in an interdisciplinary, collaborative workshop setting. Scholars from all disciplines are invited to apply including ethics, law, business, and global affairs.

[Learn more](#)

## B. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

### • International Labour Standards and Corporate Social Responsibility: Understanding Workers' Rights in the Context of Due Diligence

**Date:** October 8th to 12th

**Place:** Turin Centre

This course aims to strengthen the capacity of participants to understand the principles of the ILO International Labour Standards (ILS) as they relate to company operations and due diligence related to labour rights and how these principles can be most effectively implemented in company operations along their supply chains.

[Learn more](#)

### • SDGs and Initiatives for Sustainable Global Value Chains

**Date:** October 30th

**Place:** European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Jacques Delors Building, Room JDE62 Rue Belliard, 99-101 B-1040 Brussels.

This conference, aims to share experiences on national instruments and initiatives for sustainable value chains and explore how they could be scaled up to the EU level. How do they foster responsible business conduct in international value chains? How are they coherent to existing policies, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises?

[Learn more](#)

## • Business and Human Rights Workshop

**Dates:** November 2, 2018 2:45 PM - November 3, 2018 4:30 PM

This is an introductory course on business and human rights designed for professionals in law, finance, development, and human rights advocacy. This workshop focuses on how corporations impact human rights and how they can manage those impacts. Through group exercises based on real-world cases, workshop participants will gain exposure to human rights practice within a company, including: human rights impact assessments, risk management, internal and external communication, stakeholder engagement and collaborative standard-setting through multi-stakeholder initiatives. It aims to replicate real-world conditions by modeling techniques of stakeholder engagement and dialogue in a trusted, participatory learning environment. In addition to the two workshop facilitators, leading business professionals will join to facilitate skills-building exercises.

To register and for more information visit <http://www.humanrightscolumbia.org>

## C. NEW LIBRARY RESOURCES

### • Corporate Legal Accountability Quarterly Bulletin: Parent Company Liability for Extraterritorial Abuse

**Author:** Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

The relevant topic of this quarter is the parent company liability for extraterritorial abuse. Victims often find themselves forced to seek justice in a foreign court, typically where the parent company is incorporated and supposedly carrying out global management of its subsidiaries' operations. Targeting the parent company along with its overseas subsidiaries can offer certain advantages to the victims of corporate abuse.

[Learn more](#)

### • Shiva Foundation Launches Online Toolkit for the Hotel Industry

**Author:** Shieva Foundation

The Shiva Foundation is launching the Stop Slavery Blueprint and free online toolkit for the hotel industry. The toolkit, which includes guidance, templates and training, provides practical measures to address some of the main risk areas regarding modern slavery in the industry. This toolkit is launched following wide-ranging insights from across the sector.

[Learn more](#)

## • Questions to Help Companies Respect and Protect Human Rights in Occupied Territories

**Authors: Eiris Foundation**

This paper aims to start closing that gap, by offering businesses additional guidance on how frameworks such as the Guiding Principles and OECD Guidelines for investors might apply in two of the world's highest profile areas of occupation: Crimea and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



Image taken from: <https://tinyurl.com/yd8t9rps>

[Learn more](#)

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## • Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the Extractive Industries in Southern Africa

**Author: OXFAM and Legal Resources Centre (LRC)**

The power to give or withhold consent to extractive industry projects is a key tool to help communities defend their right to participate in the development decisions that affect them. For Indigenous Peoples' the right to free, prior and informed consent ("FPIC") is recognized under international law, and requires that they be informed about projects that may affect their land, resource and other rights in a timely manner, free of coercion and manipulation, and have the opportunity to approve or reject a project prior to the commencement of all activities



Image from: <https://tinyurl.com/ybm7e4nq>

[Learn more](#)

# International News

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- **Indigenous Environmental Activist, Margarito Díaz González, Murdered in Nayarit, Mexico**

**Date:** September 14th

**Source:** Somos el Medio

The National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH) denounces the killing of Margarito Díaz González, defender of the environment and sacred sites of the Wixárika people, and have requested that the Government of the State of Nayarit, implement protective measures for his family.

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[Learn more](#)

- **Minors; A Big Challenge to the Mining Industry in Busia**

**Date:** September 5th

**Source:** Oil in Uganda

At a gold processing site in the new Tiira Town Council, Sikuda Sub County, a group of youth and minors are huddled over water filled pans trying to extract gold particles. Children are raised with a mentality that gold mining is the family source of income so it's normal to find minors working in mines or at processing centres.

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[Learn more](#)

- **Blood jades: The Dark Side of Myanmar's Trade with China**

**Date:** September 8th

**Source:** Channel News Asia

The jade trade between Myanmar and China is worth an estimated US\$30 billion a year - about half of Myanmar's GDP. But jade mining is a bloodstained business built on drug addiction, slave labour and massive environmental destruction. Who should be responsible for the dark side of jade?

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[Learn more](#)

- **Brazilian NGO and union request mediation at Brazilian NCP with major coffee sellers Starbucks, Nestlé, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, and others**

**Date:** August 21st

**Source:** OECD Watch Group

On 21 August 2018, the union ADERE MG and the NGO Conectas Human Rights filed a complaint with the Brazilian NCP against six multinational coffee brands. The complainants argue that Nestlé, Jacobs Douwe Egberts, Starbucks, McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, and Illy have not taken proper steps to address risks of forced labor and other rights violations in their supply chains. The NCPs of the home countries of the involved businesses (United States, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Italy) have also been informed of the complaint.

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[Learn more](#)



- **Colombia charges 13 former Chiquita executives over hundreds of murders**

**Date:** September 1st

**Source:** Colombia Reports

Colombia's prosecution said it would charge more than a dozen former executives of the popular Chiquita bananas on charges they used death squads to increase profits. In a press statement, the prosecution said that 13 former Chiquita executives, including three Americans, one Costa Rican and one Honduran for mass killings by paramilitary.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Trump Suspended the 'Conflict Minerals' Provision of Dodd-Frank. That's Probably Good for Congo**

**Date:** September 27th

**Source:** Environmental Peace Building

Most Americans think of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act as a far-reaching effort to regulate the financial services industry to prevent another global recession. But there's a somewhat obscure provision involving Congo that the Trump administration has already undone. And that's probably a good thing for Congo, since the provision had troubling unintended consequences and was not helping to reduce conflict, as intended.

[Learn more](#)

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- **Attorney Steven Donziger Files Human Rights Petition Claiming U.S. Judiciary Failed to Protect Him From Vicious Chevron Retaliation Campaign**

**Date:** September 25th

**Source:** CSR Wire

Renowned U.S. human rights attorney Steven Donziger, who has helped impoverished communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon maintain a global litigation and advocacy effort against Chevron for over 25 years, filed a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IAHCR). The petition details how Donziger has suffered a massive campaign of retaliatory litigation and media attacks from Chevron that has been facilitated by U.S. judicial and other institutions.

[Learn more](#)

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## Blogs and Opinions

**Article by:** Komala Ramachandra

### **What Does It Take To Be A Responsible Jeweller?**

Gold mining has been tainted by serious human rights abuses, including child labor, deadly working conditions, forced evictions, and harmful pollution. Human Rights Watch has documented such abuses in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Eritrea.

[Learn more](#)

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**Article by:** Siddharth Kara

### **Open Letter to Anyone Who Uses a Smartphone, Drives an Electric Car, or Flies on a Plane**

Companies such as Apple, Google, Samsung, Tesla, Boeing, and dozens more that buy cobalt sourced from the DRC are aware of the appalling conditions in which cobalt can be mined, yet no one appears willing to address the situation. Make no mistake - the supply chain of cobalt from the Congo is smeared in blood and misery.

[Learn more](#)

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# Campaigns

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- **Anti-Slapp Task Force: Protect the Protest**

Courts are for those who seek justice, not revenge. A growing number of corporations, law firms, and individuals attempt to silence their critics by filing “Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation” (SLAPPs). SLAPPs violate the First Amendment rights of those who speak truth to power.

[Learn more](#)

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## 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/>**

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## 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](mailto:maria.prandi@networkbchr.org).

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