

Towards effective EU mandatory due diligence legislation

Briefings – statements co-signed – other featured materials

Related briefings & commentaries from Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

[Closing the Gap: Evidence for effective human rights due diligence from five years measuring company efforts to address forced labour](#)

This report brings together evidence from nine separate KnowTheChain benchmarks to provide a broad assessment of companies' human rights due diligence policies and actions, finding only glacial overall progress and pockets of leading practice. Based on its findings, the report underlines key elements of effective regulation.

[Beyond Social Auditing: Key considerations for mandating effective due diligence](#)

This brief provides legislators with starting points for mandating a comprehensive and transformative due diligence approach that encourages best efforts to assess and address risks beyond an administrative tick-box exercise and an overreliance on social audits.

[Hearing the Human: Ensuring due diligence legislation effectively amplifies the voices of those affected by irresponsible business](#)

Based on consultations with over 60 participants from civil society organisations and communities, this co-authored report provides recommendations on safe and effective engagement with rightsholders and human rights and environmental defenders as a key part of due diligence.

[Trouble brewing: The need for transparency in tea supply chains](#)

Transparency is a necessary first step to addressing persistent inequalities and abuses in (tea) supply chains; this report summarises the findings of outreach to 65 major tea companies requesting supply chain disclosure and responses to a survey on due diligence processes and shows transparency is both urgent and immediately possible.

[Human rights defenders and business in 2021: Protecting the rights of people driving a just transition](#)

Human rights defenders are a driving force for clean and safe environments, fair working conditions, accountable democratic governance and responsible business – protecting their rights and civic freedoms and assessing risks to them as part of due diligence, is essential for a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and a more equitable and sustainable world.

[Unbearable harassment: The fashion industry and widespread abuse of female garment workers in Indian factories](#)

This co-authored report reveals how the prevailing fashion business model, which prioritises short-term profit, unstable relationships with suppliers and drives unreasonable production targets, creates and sustains the conditions for systemic and widespread gender-based violence and harassment in fashion supply chains, demonstrating the need for effective mandatory due diligence to address (ir)responsible purchasing practices of lead companies.

[Russian invasion of Ukraine: Analysis of companies' human rights due diligence](#)

Businesses operating in conflict zones are not neutral actors, even when they do not take sides – heightened human rights due diligence incorporating a conflict sensitive approach is imperative. This report based on a survey among 330 companies active in Ukraine and/or Russia indicates widespread business failure to address human rights risks.

[Blog: EU corporate accountability draft directive: Driver of business respect for people & planet or missed opportunity?](#)

In our initial reaction to the EU Commission’s proposal, we welcomed the release as a crucial first step towards mandating human rights and environmental due diligence for EU-operating businesses, but said that much remains to be done to make the law effective.

[Navigating the surveillance technology ecosystem: A human rights due diligence guide for investors](#)

This guide is a product of the Surveillance Technologies Accountability Project, a joint initiative of Access Now, the Resource Centre, and Heartland Initiative. It includes, inter alia, an examination of how surveillance technologies create human rights risks for individuals and communities.

Recent statements co-signed

[Civil society statement on the proposed EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence directive](#)

European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) & over 220 others

This statement, released in May 2022, outlines the collective view of over 220 civil society organisations and trade unions from all around the world. It calls for the proposal to be strengthened by: expanding company, value chain, and normative scope; including climate obligations on companies; enhancing access to justice for victims and consultation for affected stakeholders.

[Recommendations on corporate governance in the draft EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence directive](#)

Frank Bold, ShareAction, WWF & seven others

This joint briefing calls for strengthening the corporate governance and directors’ responsibilities aspects of the proposal, as well as the responsibilities of the financial sector.

[The EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence directive proposal and protecting human rights defenders](#)

Members of the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED)

Ten organisations from the global South and North provide their initial analysis of the proposal and what needs to change for the final legislation to better protect human rights defenders and Indigenous Peoples’ rights.

Other featured materials

[Ongoing documentation of civil society and other stakeholders’ reactions to the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence draft directive](#)

We have been documenting NGO and other stakeholders’ reactions to the EU Commission’s Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence proposal since its launch.

[Business statement: Making EU legislation on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence effective](#)

This statement, signed in February 2022 by over 100 companies, investors, business associations and initiatives, calls on the EU to include all EU-operating businesses regardless of sector and size in the scope of the legislation, and a due diligence obligation that extends across the full value chain. It also stresses the importance of including effective and safe stakeholder engagement, adjustments to purchasing practices, and a civil liability regime.