



**British Institute of  
International and  
Comparative Law**

# **Human Rights Due Diligence Forum**

## **Activities and Membership**

A Forum for legal practitioners working in the area of business and human rights





## Introduction from the Director

The Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) Forum is a invitation-only global membership group for the leading legal practitioners (law firms and barristers) in the area of business and human rights. The Forum benefits from being part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) – one of the world's leading legal research and membership organisations.

BIICL's business and human rights work is focused on informing business practices and regulatory developments, promoting constructive multi-stakeholder dialogue, organising events, bespoke training programs and conducting research in all areas of business and human rights. BIICL offers unparalleled access to network with those who work in the area of business and human rights in the UK and globally.

We always welcome new ideas from members and look forward to working together on organising events, bespoke training and conducting research in the area of business and human rights.

**Lise Smit**

Director of the Human Rights Due Diligence Forum





## Membership

The Forum membership is made up of legal practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds and jurisdictions globally, including from commercial law firms, claimant firms and the Bar. Membership of the Forum is available by invitation to legal practitioners in the area of business and human rights.

Membership of the HRDD Forum is available at the following annual rates (exclusive of VAT):

- Law Firm (three named members): £2,500
- Individual: £1,000
- Barrister: £400
- International: £400

Members have a direct influence on the agenda of the Forum and are invited to recommend topics for discussion in the group. The HRDD Forum shares the excellent reputation enjoyed by the British Institute of International & Comparative Law for independence, even handedness and academic rigour.

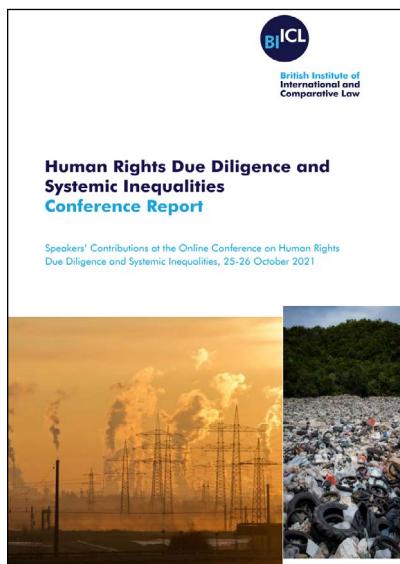
### **Key benefits of membership include:**

- Invitations to 3-4 closed events per year, on topics relating to legal practice and developments in the area of business and human rights;
- Free attendance at one annual Forum conference in the area of business and human rights;
- The opportunity to recommend guest speakers to be invited to Forum discussions and conferences;
- Access to the Members-Only area of our website where materials, notes and other sources are available;
- All Forum members also receive the following benefits: electronic access to the ICLQ; one free place per organisation at any standard BIICL evening event; and named Forum representatives are eligible for the BIICL member rate at other public Institute events.

For further details on how to become a member of the Forum, please contact Lise Smit ([l.smit@biicl.org](mailto:l.smit@biicl.org)).

Find out more: [www.biicl.org/hrddmembership](http://www.biicl.org/hrddmembership)

## Selected Publications



### Human Rights Due Diligence for Climate Change Impacts: Webinar Series Report

Developments around mandatory human rights due diligence laws are multiplying across Europe, and increasingly include climate change impacts within their scope. As a result, companies, regulators, judges, legal advisors, civil society and the public are asking what the legal implications of these due diligence laws will be for companies relating to their climate change impacts. In this webinar series, the discussion turned on the nature of due diligence as a legal standard of care, how this can be applied in relation to climate change, and what the practical implications for companies are likely to be.

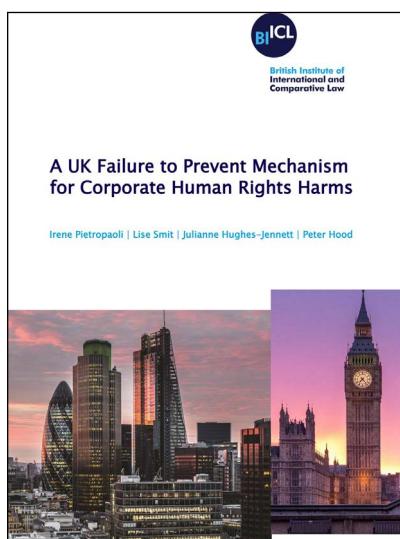
Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/human-rights-due-diligence-for-climate-change-impacts-webinar-series-report](http://www.biicl.org/publications/human-rights-due-diligence-for-climate-change-impacts-webinar-series-report)



### European Commission study on due diligence in supply chains

The study was conducted by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (lead), Civic Consulting and LSE Consulting for the European Commission. The study forms the basis of the European Commission Draft Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, published in February 2022. Through desk research, country reports, regulatory reviews, interviews and surveys the study identifies market practices and perceptions regarding regulatory options, intervention logic, and the anticipated economic, public, human rights and environmental impacts of regulation.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/european-commission-study-on-due-diligence-in-supply-chains](http://www.biicl.org/publications/european-commission-study-on-due-diligence-in-supply-chains)



### A UK Failure to Prevent Mechanism for Corporate Human Rights Harms

The report was supported by Hogan Lovells and Quinn Emanuel. As developments around mandatory human rights due diligence laws are taking place rapidly across Europe, this report considers the legal feasibility of introducing into UK law a corporate duty to prevent human rights harms, modelled on section 7 of the Bribery Act. The report sets out the results of a business survey on the potential impacts of such regulation, as well as a model legal provision. The currently ongoing civil society campaign for a UK Business, Human Rights and Environment Bill is based on this report.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/a-uk-failure-to-prevent-mechanism-for-corporate-human-rights-harms](http://www.biicl.org/publications/a-uk-failure-to-prevent-mechanism-for-corporate-human-rights-harms)

**When national law conflicts with international human rights standards: Recommendations for Business**

The report examines how companies can adhere to international human rights standards, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), when faced with contradictory domestic laws or practices. It provides practical guidance on how to address conflicts within a Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) framework.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/when-national-law-conflicts-with-international-human-rights-standards](http://www.biicl.org/publications/when-national-law-conflicts-with-international-human-rights-standards)

## When national law conflicts with international human rights standards

The first research supported by the Bingham Centre's Business Network examined how companies can adhere to international human rights standards, as described in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), when faced with contradictory domestic laws or practices. The report categorises the different types of conflicts businesses may face and provides practical guidance on how to address conflicts within a Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) framework.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/when-national-law-conflicts-with-international-human-rights-standards](http://www.biicl.org/publications/when-national-law-conflicts-with-international-human-rights-standards)

**Making sense of managing human rights issues in supply chains**

This project was conducted by BIICL and Norton Rose Fulbright. The research provides a comprehensive overview of the legal and regulatory framework relevant to the management of human rights in supply chains, sets out observations of current practice amongst businesses and provides best practice recommendations. It considers questions such as addressing human rights impacts beyond first tier suppliers, how to use leverage in the absence of a contractual relationship, and how to undertake HRDD when information about human rights risks is not readily available.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/making-sense-of-managing-human-rights-issues-in-supply-chains](http://www.biicl.org/publications/making-sense-of-managing-human-rights-issues-in-supply-chains)

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**BIICL and PRI Workshop on Human Rights in Private Equity**

According to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), all business enterprises regardless of sector have a responsibility to respect human rights, and to carry out necessary HRDD. This also applies to private equity investors. This paper summarises discussions from a workshop convened by BIICL and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) with the aim of exploring implications of expectations for HRDD by investors, private equity firms and/or their portfolio companies, and to discuss what guidance and direction is needed.

Read more: [www.biicl.org/publications/biicl-and-pri-human-rights-in-private-equity-investment](http://www.biicl.org/publications/biicl-and-pri-human-rights-in-private-equity-investment)

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## Events

Members meet 3-4 times each year for hybrid (online and in-person) thematic sessions to discuss topical issues. In addition, there is one public conference per year on a business and human rights-related topic, which members may attend for free.

Topics that we have discussed in the past include human rights due diligence in contracts, criminal liability for corporate human rights harms, the interaction between investment disputes and human rights due diligence, how to measure the 'effectiveness' of corporate human rights regulation, and human rights due diligence as a legal standard and defence.

Find out more: [www.biicl.org/hrddevents](http://www.biicl.org/hrddevents)



## Short Course: Business & Human Rights

This short course provides participants with an appreciation of the human rights impacts of business activities; an awareness of the core concepts and principles established by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and an understanding of corporate human rights due diligence requirements. The course builds on developments at the international, regional, and national levels.

### Who is the course for?

The course is for a wide range of professionals interested in business and human rights, including in-house counsel, legal practitioners, NGO representatives, government representatives, academics, PhD students and other professionals.

### Testimonials from past attendees

"Fantastic course! High-level content was delivered in a clear, interesting and engaging way. Fascinating discussions occurred in every session and helpful resources shared throughout."

"Fabulous course, excellently structured and presented, with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion."

"Very relevant - new developments referred to throughout whole course."

Find out more: [www.biicl.org/training](http://www.biicl.org/training)

## Forum Members

Forum Members include some of the most expert and experienced lawyers, academics, government officials and international civil servants working in the area of business and human rights.

The Forum's membership is increasingly global, with current members in Australia, France, Germany, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US.

## Organisation Members

Allens (Australia)

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Charles Russell Speechlys LLP

Clifford Chance LLP

Council of Ethics of the Norwegian Global

Pension Fund

Covington & Burling LLP

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

DLA Piper LLP

Doughty Street Chambers

Geulen & Klinger

Hausfeld

Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

International Council for Commercial

Arbitration

Johnson Winter & Slattery

Lalive

Leigh Day

Linklaters LLP

Mannheimer Swartling

Matrix Chambers

Norton Rose Fulbright LLP

Pogust Goodhead

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP

Schellenberg Wittmer Ltd

Temple Garden Chambers

Twenty Essex

Vieira de Almeida & Associados

Volterra Fietta

White & Case LLP

Withers LLP

Zelle



## Contact Us

For further information about the HRDD Forum, please contact:

### Lise Smit

Director of the Human Rights Due Diligence Forum

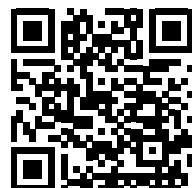
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[www.biicl.org/hrddfforum](http://www.biicl.org/hrddfforum)

**SCAN ME**



## Find Us

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law is situated in Bloomsbury and is easily accessible by public transport. The nearest tube station is Russell Square.



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