Due Diligence: From Rhetoric to Practice
Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

16 June 2014, 15:00-19:45
British Institute of International and Comparative Law,
Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5JP

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (or “Ruggie Principles”) are the framework for all current approaches in this area. A key element of them is the concept of ‘due diligence’ to define and elaborate the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

There is considerable uncertainty about the meaning of due diligence. Thus there is potential for confusion as to the extent of the responsibility to protect and the degree of remedial action required by business when there are adverse human rights impacts. This seminar will address the various meanings and impacts of the concept of due diligence, and their consequences and implementation in practice.

The speakers will include those from legal practice, corporations, academia and non-governmental organisations, as well as others who are addressing these issues.

Programme

15:00 Registration

15:30-17:00 Panel 1: The Meaning of Due Diligence
Chair: Michael Addo, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
Speakers:
Andrea Shemberg, LSE and former Legal Adviser to John Ruggie
Robin Brooks, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, London
Dr James Harrison, University of Warwick
Mark B Taylor, Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies, Norway

Break

17:30-19:00 Panel 2: The Application of Due Diligence
Chair: Prof Robert McCorquodale, BIICL
Speakers:
Rae Lindsay, Clifford Chance LLP, London
Margaret Wachenfeld, Institute for Human Rights and Business
Rachel Wilshaw, Oxfam

Reception

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council as part of a seminar series coordinated by the University of Sheffield