

#ResponsibleBiz

VIRTUAL COURSE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

6-10 JULY 2020

10 WEBINAR SERIES



OXFAM



This project is funded by
the European Union

IN VIEW OF COVID-19, OXFAM AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS ACADEMY (HURBA) ARE OFFERING THEIR ANNUAL SUMMER COURSE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (BHR) ONLINE.

Drawing on evolving regulatory standards, legislation, litigation and case studies, leading BHR experts from India and abroad will discuss cutting-edge BHR issues in an interactive manner. The virtual course in the form of webinars will particularly focus on issues and challenges from the perspective of India and other South Asian countries.

The course should be of interest to (i) graduate students and academics in the fields of law, business and management; (ii) civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and social activists; (iii) and lawyers, legal professionals, corporate executives, government officials and policy-makers interested and/or engaged in areas related to BHR, responsible business conduct (RBC), corporate accountability, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainability.

WWW.RESPONSIBLEBIZ.ORG

13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

MONDAY, 6 JULY

TUESDAY, 7 JULY

WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY

THURSDAY, 9 JULY

FRIDAY, 10 JULY

From CSR to BHR:
Old Wine in New Bottle?

*Surya Deva &
Justine Nolan*

Human Rights Due
Diligence: Emerging
Practice and its
Relevance for India and
South Asia

*Namit Agarwal &
Tara Van Ho*

Corporate Responsibility
Amidst Covid-19

*Jernej Letnar Černič &
Justine Nolan*

Addressing Gendered
Impacts of Business
Activities

*Surya Deva &
Harpreet Kaur*

Role of Human Rights
Defenders and National
Human Rights
Institutions in Corporate
Accountability

*Jernej Letnar Černič &
Lorenzo Urbinati*

Introduction to the UN
Guiding Principles on
Business and Human
Rights and the
Sustainable
Development Goals

Surya Deva

Labour Rights
Challenges in Global
Supply Chains: The Case
of Informal Workers

*Gopinath Parakuni
& Sandhya Drew*

Protecting the
Environment and
Climate from the
Development Assault

*Lara Jesani & Aruna
Chandrasekhar*

Access to Remedy:
Choosing the Right
Option

*Tara Van Ho &
Anirudha Nagar*

National Action Plans on
BHR: Moving from Paper
to Practice

*Livio Sarandrea &
Namit Agarwal*

MONDAY 6TH JULY | 13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

FROM CSR TO BHR: OLD WINE IN NEW BOTTLE?

SURYA DEVA & JUSTINE NOLAN

In 2014, India became the first country in the world to establish a law on corporate social responsibility (CSR) through an amendment of its Companies Act. It placed legal obligations upon large corporations to spend two percent of their annual profits on addressing pressing social and developmental challenges. Yet, how successful has CSR been in what it set out to achieve; and can responsible business conduct (RBC) do what CSR couldn't?

MONDAY 6TH JULY | 16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

INTRODUCTION TO THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SURYA DEVA

In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)— a set of guidelines to address business impact on all human rights that applies to both governments and businesses. And in 2015, world leaders unanimously adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. How are the two frameworks connected?

TUESDAY 7TH JULY | 13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE: EMERGING PRACTICE AND ITS RELEVANCE FOR INDIA AND SOUTH ASIA

NAMIT AGARWAL & TARA VAN HO

Businesses operate in increasingly complex environment that impacts people and the planet in significant ways. Human rights due diligence (HRDD) is a risk management process to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how businesses address their real and potential adverse human rights impacts.

TUESDAY 7TH JULY | 16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

LABOUR RIGHTS CHALLENGES IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS: THE CASE OF INFORMAL WORKERS

GOPINATH PARAKUNI & SANDHYA DREW

As businesses assume global operations, they increasingly rely on deep and extended supply chains that draw on competitive advantage in developing countries. The asymmetries of power and profits between (multinational) corporations and those who produce and supply often manifests in human rights abuses, indecent working conditions and exploitation of workers.

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY | 13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AMIDST COVID-19

JERNEJ LETNAR ČERNIČ & JUSTINE NOLAN

The COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the question of corporate responsibility more starkly than ever before. In India and other countries of South Asia, the crisis has deprived millions of people their wages, resulted in large number of job losses and increased exposure to the virus. While workers constitute the base of the giant corporate pyramid, what can companies do to protect their interests?

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY | 16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT ASSAULT

LARA JESANI & ARUNA CHANDRASEKHAR

In 2018, India ranked 177 out of 180 countries on the Environment Performance Index, dropping 36 points from its position in 2016. More recently, vast tracts of protected forests have given way to large-scale infrastructure projects, causing irreparable harm to the ecology and displacement of communities who depend on forests for life and livelihood. As GDP-dominated South Asian countries vie for economic growth and foreign investments, how will they balance the environmental impact and climate change?

THURSDAY 9TH JULY | 13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

ADDRESSING GENDERED IMPACTS OF BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

SURYA DEVA & HARPREET KAUR

Women, girls and sexual minorities experience business-related human rights abuses in unique ways and are often affected disproportionately. They face multiple forms of discrimination and experience additional barriers in seeking access to effective remedies for business-related human rights abuses. Therefore, business enterprises need to give special attention to their unique experiences and the structural discrimination or barriers that they face.

THURSDAY 9TH JULY | 16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

ACCESS TO REMEDY: CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTION

TARA VAN HO & ANIRUDHA NAGAR

It is the third pillar of the UNGPs, which establishes accountability and ensures justice in cases of business-related human rights violations. Access to remedy can assume many forms, State-based and non-State-based, judicial and non-judicial. Are they inter-changeable or are some remedial mechanisms better suited for certain specific scenarios?

FRIDAY 10TH JULY | 13.30 - 15.00 HRS (IST)

ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS IN CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

JERNEJ LETNAR ČERNIČ & LORENZO URBINATI

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are tasked with promoting and protecting international human rights law standards at the domestic level, and have a significant role in the context of the third pillar on UNGPs— access to remedy. Yet, threats and attacks against human rights defenders (HRDs) are on the rise as they raise concern about adverse human rights impacts of business operations. How can the NHRIs contribute towards BHR and provide safeguards to defenders?

FRIDAY 10TH JULY | 16.00 - 17.30 HRS (IST)

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS ON BHR: MOVING FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE

LIVIO SARANDREA & NAMIT AGARWAL

Since the adoption of the UNGPs in 2011, the Human Rights Council has called on all Member States to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) on business and human rights. The NAP is a policy document developed by governments to “protect against adverse human rights impacts by business enterprises in conformity with the UNGPs.” India and other South Asian countries are in the process of developing their NAPs.

SPEAKERS 2020

NAMIT AGARWAL



Namit Agarwal works at the World Benchmarking Alliance as Asia Policy Lead. His role focuses on issues which advocate long-term sustainable development, finance, and corporate reporting. Namit brings over a decade's experience of influencing public policy, companies, and investors on issues of transparency, accountability, human rights and gender. Prior to WBA, Namit has worked with Oxfam India, CARE India and Samhita Social Ventures in the areas of advocacy, campaigning, program design and communication. He strongly believes in evidence-based advocacy and multi-stakeholder dialogue. He has helped design and implement India Responsible Business Index, led supply chain researches, and convened civil society, companies, investors and government for advocacy and action. Namit has written extensively on the intersection of business, SDGs, human rights, and finance. He is a member of the India's National Human Rights Commission core group on Business, Environment and Human Rights. He is an MBA from ICAI University and Commerce graduate from Calcutta University.

Jernej Letnar Čerňič is Associate Professor of Human Rights and Constitutional Law at the European Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Government and European Studies of the New University (Ljubljana/Kranj, Slovenia). He has so far published a number of articles and studies in Slovenian, English, Spanish, Italian, Swedish and Romanian. He has recently published two scientific monographs, namely: »Corporate accountability under socio-economic rights«, Oxon; New York: Routledge, 2019, and "The Impact of European Institutions on the Rule of Law and Democracy: Slovenia and Beyond" Oxford, Hart (Bloomsbury), 2020 (with Matej Avbelj). His studies have been cited in the reports of the United Nations, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, in decisions of the Slovenian Constitutional Court and academic studies from all parts of the world. He has been active in various roles in Slovenian and global civil society, participating in numerous domestic and international humanitarian projects.

JERNEJ LETNAR ČERŃIČ



ARUNA CHANDRASEKHAR



Aruna Chandrasekhar is an independent, environmental journalist currently at the University of Oxford. She likes to tell difficult stories differently to answer questions around environmental justice, energy, climate impacts and the future of frontline communities at risk in a fast-warming world. Since 2011, Aruna has focussed on bringing underreported land and environmental conflicts to light. As a business and human rights researcher with Amnesty International, her report on state-owned coal companies When Land Is Lost Do We Eat Coal helped exposed patterns of forced evictions and displacement in India's coal belt. Her work has been published in the New York Times, The Guardian, New Internationalist, BuzzFeed, Gizmodo, The Wire, Scroll and The Caravan, besides other outlets. In 2018, her stories won a Red Ink award and a Shriram Financial Journalism Award for reportage on the environment and economic policy, respectively. When the climate beat gets too bleak, she sings and does stand-up comedy.

Surya Deva is an Associate Professor at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, and a member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. He has published extensively in the areas of Business and Human Rights, India-China Constitutional Law, and Sustainable Development, and has advised the UN and EU bodies, states, multinational corporations and civil society organisations on matters related to business and human rights. His books include Building a Treaty on Business and Human Rights: Context and Contours, Socio-Economic Rights in Emerging Free Markets: Comparative Insights from India and China, Human Rights Obligations of Business: Beyond the Corporate Responsibility to Respect?; and Regulating Corporate Human Rights Violations: Humanizing Business. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal, and sits on the Editorial/Advisory Board of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, the Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law and the Australian Journal of Human Rights. He is an elected Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law.

SURYA DEVA



SPEAKERS 2020

SANDHYA DREW



Sandhya Drew is Senior Lecturer at City, University London. She is also a Barrister of England & Wales and practised full-time for 20 years specialising in Employment and Public Law. During that time, she advised and represented workers, unions, employers and NGOs such as Oxfam, Save the Children, UNHCR and UNICEF. She has acted in a number of key cases, including CN v UK, which contributed to enactment of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. She has been Consultant to the International Labour Organisation on issues of forced labour on human trafficking. She is currently working with a colleague from the University of Paris Dauphine on a research project on issues of duty and risk in supply chains as they impact on fundamental labour rights. She is Visiting Professor on Employment Law at the University of Paris Dauphine. Sandhya is an Overseas Citizen of India. She first wrote on human trafficking for the European Human Rights Review in 2002, following a work visit to Delhi. She made submissions to the Indian Government on its Draft National Action Plan on GAP in March 2020. She is a member of a trade union, UCU.

Tara Van Ho is a lecturer and the educational director of the post-graduate programmes in human rights at the University of Essex's School of Law and Human Rights Centre (UK). She is a Vice President of the Global Business and Human Rights Scholars Association ('BR2R'). A core member of the Essex Business and Human Rights Project, she advises states, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and occasionally businesses on issues of business, investment and human rights. Her recent publications include 'Investor Obligations in Occupied Territories: A report on the Norwegian Government Pension Fund – Global' and 'Assessing the Duty of Care for Social Auditors,' European Review of Private Law, vol. 27(2), 'The Fukushima diaspora: assessing the state-based non-judicial remedies,' in Civil and Political Rights in Japan: A Tribute to Sir Nigel Rodley (Saul Takahashi, ed.), and 'The Duty to Prosecute and the Role of Victims' Rights,' in Beyond the Binary: Securing Peace and Promoting Justice after Conflict (Nelson Camilo Sanchez and Rodrigo Uprimny, eds.).

TARA VAN HO



LARA JESANI



Lara Jesani is an independent legal practitioner with primary practice based out of Bombay High Court and National Green Tribunal. She has been practicing law in Indian courts for the last 10 years and was formerly a Litigation Partner in M Mulla Associates till 2017. She takes up cases of human rights violations (particularly constitutional, environmental, development and anti-corruption matters), death penalty / criminal cases and in defence of HRDs. She's also engaged in public policy and advocacy work for democratic rights and civil liberties issues, and in human rights and legal education. She's an Ad-Hoc Committee member of the Maharashtra unit of People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) and a National Working Committee member of People's Commission for Shrinking Democratic Spaces (PCSDS) and a part of Human Rights Defenders Alert (HRDA).

Dr Harpreet Kaur is the Business and Human Rights Specialist at the United Nations Development Programme where she leads the regional project on Business and Human Rights in Asia. Harpreet has previously held senior leadership and management positions at Ashoka University, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, Conciliation Resources, BBC Media Action and consulted with several international organizations. She has presented at various national, regional and international forums and has published both in national & international media.

Harpreet has a PhD in Anthropology from University of Delhi, India and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Law, National Law School, Karnataka, India. She is a certified SA 8000 Auditor.

HARPREET KAUR



SPEAKERS 2020

ANIRUDHA NAGAR



Anirudha Nagar is Co-Director for Accountability Counsel's Communities program, supporting communities to defend their environmental and human rights and have their voices heard by the financiers of development projects. Previously, he worked for the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, advocating for police accountability across South Asia, and in the Office of the Prosecution at the International Criminal Court.

Justine Nolan is a Professor at UNSW Law as well as a Visiting Scholar at NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. Her recent book, *Addressing Modern Slavery*, examines how modern slavery is surviving and thriving in global supply chains. Prior to joining UNSW in 2004, she was the Director of Business and Human Rights at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First) in the US. She works with civil society, government and business on business and human rights issues.

JUSTINE NOLAN



GOPINATHA PARAKUNI



Currently the general secretary of Cividep, Gopinath has a master degree in Social Work with labour welfare as specialization. He was a student leader while at university and fought for civil rights when there was curtailment of fundamental rights in India in the mid-1970s. Later he worked for various NGOs concerned with Dalit rights, women's rights and for the empowerment of Indigenous peoples. Gopinath worked for a few years as news reporter and editor for English daily newspapers in the region.

He was instrumental in forming Cividep in the year 2000. 'Globalization, liberalization and privatization' were the watch-words of the government and the elite, but many socially concerned people believed that marginalized communities like Dalits, women, marginal-farmers, indigenous people and minorities would not benefit sufficiently through export-led economic growth. Gopinath, along with other colleagues established Cividep with the objective of understanding the impact of trade and global supply chains on underprivileged communities and to make sure that businesses are responsible for their human rights impacts.

Livio Sarandrea, is UNDP's Business and Human Rights Global Adviser. He is also the manager of the Program: "Business and Human Rights in Asia (B+HR Asia)" which is operational in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. A Human Rights lawyer with over 20 years of field experience in Southeast Europe, Africa and Asia, Livio has advised and managed programs on Business and Human Rights, in support of National Human Rights Institutions, Access to Justice, Conflict Prevention, Transitional Justice and Security Sector Reform for OSCE, DPKO/OHCHR and UNDP.

LIVIO SARANDREA



LORENZO URBINATI



Lorenzo is a Senior Programme Officer at the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), based in Bangkok, Thailand, where he has been working for 7 years in different capacities; in the Human Rights Defenders, Communication, New Initiatives, and now Development and Knowledge Management Programme. He coordinates FORUM-ASIA's work on human rights based approach to development, including business and human rights and environment, through research and capacity building. Lorenzo has a Master's Degree cum laude in International Relations, and has previously worked in Belgium and Uganda in the field of public affairs and human rights.

The course is free and open to all, with a cap of 100 places on first-come-first-served basis. While we recommend attending all the webinars in sequence, you may also choose those that suit your interest and schedule.

THE WEBINARS WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA THE **GOTOWEBINAR** PLATFORM. PRIOR REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY, WHICH CAN BE DONE HERE

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ABOUT OXFAM

Oxfam India is an Indian non-profit organisation that works to address extreme inequality and poverty. Oxfam believes that private sector has an important role in addressing inequality and poverty by adopting the idea of a human economy, which creates decent jobs, pays living wages, respects human rights and treats women and girls with equal rights to everyone else.



ABOUT HURBA

The Human Rights and Business Academy (HURBA) seeks to build capacity of diverse stakeholders – especially of marginalised, disadvantaged or vulnerable sections of society – to respond effectively with challenges that arise with the intersection of human rights with business. HURBA collaborates with like-minded institutions and organisations in all parts of the world to offer short transformative courses and conducts victim-oriented research on BHR issues.

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