

Tools for Corporate Transparency & Accountability

Advancing the SDGs: Understanding and
Improving the Role of Corporate
Transparency

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Business & Human Rights
Resource Centre

The Resource Centre's mission

- We seek to build corporate transparency, strengthen accountability, and empower advocates for human rights in civil society, media, companies, investors, and governments.
- Our 19 Regional Researchers – located all over the world – work with local communities to understand the impacts of business on the ground, and regularly engage with stakeholders from all sectors.



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www.business-humanrights.org

- Our website is the **only global business and human rights knowledge hub**, delivering up-to-date and comprehensive news in eight languages. We receive over **235,000 visits to the site every month**.
- We track the **human rights policy and performance** of over **7000 companies** in over **180 countries**, making this information publicly available.
- We take up alleged abuse **quickly and directly with companies**. We've made over **2400 approaches** to companies asking them to respond to specific human rights allegations. Our **global response rate is 75%**.
- Our **free Weekly Update** e-newsletter has over **18,000 subscribers** around the world, including advocates, activists, businesspeople, governments, and investors.
- We release **briefings and analysis, including rankings**, synthesizing the work of hundreds of advocates across the world and make recommendations for companies, governments, regions and sectors.



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Companies & SDGs

- **Businesses are critical to achieving the SDGs.** We need industry leadership, government regulation & civil society activism if they are to deliver for people and planet, as well as for profit
- This must include the company's contribution to their work sector, but the way they do business, including within their own supply chains: respect for workers' rights & shared prosperity (**modern slavery, workplace health & safety, living wage, freedom of association**)
- Our recent survey of the largest companies' compliance statements for the UK Modern Slavery Act showed that 69% score four out of ten or below. **Almost half did not meet the minimum standards of the Act.**
- Most people working in the world would benefit from the SDGs if companies transformed business models to provide decent work and a living wage in their operations and supply chains. This is not easy, but it's also not rocket science.
- *See also: [SDGs – the New Fitbit?](#)*

by Conniel Malek, Director, True Costs Initiative



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For example: A Fast and Fair Transition

- Allegations of human rights abuses associated with renewable energy projects are increasing: **115 allegations of human rights abuse since 2005, with 91 since 2010**
- Communities in **Central & South America & Asia** raising most allegations: More than 50% of allegations were related to projects in Central & South America, 28% in Asia
- We reached out to **50 wind and hydropower companies**:
 - 33 companies have a human rights policy, but only **half refer to international standards**
 - 34 companies have some commitment to consult with local communities. Only **5 companies referred to the international standard of FPIC** (3/5 faced allegations from communities).
 - **Half of the wind energy companies do not have a commitment to consult with local communities**

