



# Weekly news email

17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## News headlines

**Afghanistan** - The 16 brutal restrictions imposed on women in Afghanistan during two years of the Taliban. Since the Taliban leaders of Afghanistan, who remain unrecognised by any country since assuming power ... have enforced a growing list of restrictions against women's participation in society. Five key moments in the crushing of Afghan women's rights.

**Haiti** - Surge in Violent Abuses. Killings, kidnappings, and sexual violence by criminal groups in and around Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, have increased dramatically since the start of 2023 with a weak to non-existent state response, Human Rights Watch said.

**UK** - Don't wait for election to act on European Convention on Human Rights, say senior Tories. Plea comes ahead of Supreme Court ruling on legality of Government's plan to deport illegal migrants to Rwanda.

**UK** - Sharp rise in cost of food basics forces UK families 'to make desperate choices'. Research finds cheese, butter and bread are up by more than 30% in the past two years, hitting the poor hardest.

**UK** - Migrant boat sinks in Channel killing six people. The French coast guard said the vessel got into difficulty in the sea near Calais in the early hours of Saturday.

**UK** - WHSmith, M&S and Argos among stores 'named and shamed' for failing to pay staff minimum wage. WHSmith was the worst offender, according to HMRC, failing to pay around £1m to more than 17,500 workers.

**UK** - Data on insecure work in UK shows 'structural racism in action', TUC says. Number of black and minority ethnic workers in low-paid and insecure jobs doubled in past decade, figures reveals.

**UK** - UK wages grow at record rate. Wages grew at a record annual pace between April and June, according to new figures from the Office for National Statistics.

**UK** - UK will face greater food insecurity as climate crisis deepens, analysts warn. The UK will face ever greater food insecurity as long as greenhouse gas emissions continue heating the Earth's atmosphere, analysts have said.

**UK** - [Government exploring short-term visas while skilled worker visa fees set to rise.](#) Hospitality job vacancies could temporarily be filled by under-30s from a select list of countries coming to the UK under a short-term visa scheme.

**USA Hawaii** – [When a 'fire hurricane' hit, Maui's warning sirens never sounded.](#) Lahaina, once Hawaii's royal capital, is now a crematorium. [Maps and images reveal Hawaii wildfire devastation.](#)

## Human rights and ethical trade news

**Gov.UK** - [Crime leader who recruited illegal workers to clean at Sainsbury's jailed.](#) Members of a gang who worked for cleaning contractors used by a string of Sainsbury's supermarkets have been sentenced.

**Oxford Human Rights Hub** - [Decoding Manipur: Unveiling Human Rights Violations Against Women Amidst Ethnic Conflict.](#)

**BHRRRC** - [Revisiting American exceptionalism in light of child labor scandals.](#) As labor abuses come to light in one emerging market country after another, we are ignoring the warnings from frontline advocates about similar conditions in the US, argues Dr Shawn MacDonald, CEO of Verité.

## Sustainability/climate

**Regenerative agriculture** - [This way of farming is really sexy': the rise of regenerative agriculture.](#) On the Isle of Wight Hollie Fallick and Francesca Cooper are part of a movement to bring tired and depleted soil back to life – and boost food security.

## Podcasts/video/blogs

**BSR Blog** – [Implementing a Long-Term DEI Approach: Lessons from the Asia-Pacific Region.](#) ... read about a few key commonalities that these companies share that have helped to pave the way for successful work.

**ETI Blog** - [Why the revised 'OECD Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct' matter.](#) ... note key changes to the revised text in this blog post.

## Events and webinars

**International RBC / SER Webinar** - [Access to remedy- integrating worker voices into grievance mechanisms.](#) 21-09-2023. The Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) and the Initiative for Global Solidarity (IGS), project implemented by GIZ. On 21 September 2023 at 10:00-11:30 CET

**BHRC'S** - Mary Robinson Speaker Series 2023 | Raising the bar: Regulating to end corporate abuse. Date & time: Thursday 14 September 2023, London 14:00. [Click here for more information.](#) [Link to event.](#)

**FDF webinar** - Driving sustainability through digital transformation within the baking industry: The Necessity and Benefits. Discover why embrace digital transformation to support sustainability goals and unlock critical insights and benefits. From scaling and digitising internal operations to making sustainable decisions for your supply chain, learn how digital transformation can revolutionise your approach to sustainability. 07 September 2023 14.00 - 15.00 hrs. [Register here.](#)

**IHRB event in SE Asia** - [Advancing the Responsible Recruitment of Migrant Workers in Southeast Asia.](#) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 6<sup>th</sup> September, 8:30 am - 6 pm. Attend to gain insights into responsible recruitment practices and challenges in the Southeast Asian migration corridor. & discover how companies can eradicate forced labor through ethical recruitment models.