



# Weekly News email

1st November 2023

## News headlines

**China** – Calls for a global cooperation at the AI summit at Bletchley Park UK (United Kingdom), Elon Musk wants a referee.

**Côte d'Ivoire** – Multinational Cocoa buyers refusing to pay current market prices

**EU** – EU confirms timeline for new border controls. Everything you need to know about EES and ETIAS

**Gaza** – Israeli Tanks and Troops head towards Gaza City – Latest News 02.11.23

**Gaza** – First evacuees leave Gaza after a night of Israeli bombings. Israel has vowed to wipe out Hamas. But the civilian death toll in densely populated Gaza and desperate humanitarian conditions have caused concern across the world as food, fuel, drinking water and medicine run short.

**Israel** – How Thai workers became integral to Israel's economy.

**Israel** – Trapped by debt the migrant workers unable to escape the conflict in Israel. Foreign workers in Israel often must pay exorbitant 'placement fees' to secure work in the country, which has left many of them with too much debt to leave

**Pakistan** – Undocumented foreigners mostly Afghans are rounded up ahead of the deadline in Pakistan of 1<sup>st</sup> November to expel all undocumented foreigners; some of whom have lived in the country for decades.

**South Asia** – Overseas workers and students targeted in illicit visa trade. Brokers in South Asia charging £800 for appointments that should be free.

**Uganda** – Hope for more trade as Uganda and DRC abolish visa rule. Encouraging cross border trade.

**UK** – Watchdog criticises Home Office for dropping farm worker visa review

**UK** – Why global solidarity and action matter for decent work in the care economy | TUC. Care matters to us all. We all want excellent quality cradle to grave care for ourselves and our loved ones. This is only possible if the workers delivering care services have good pay and conditions.

**UK** - [UK workers see record pay rises, but inflation eats them up](#). British workers have had their biggest rise in weekly pay in at least a quarter of a century with the pace of earnings growth for women outstripping that of men, according to a comprehensive labour market survey published on Wednesday.

**UK** – AI safety Summit – [letter to the Prime Minister](#)

**UK** – Its officially Christmas – [The Christmas campaigns have started](#). M&S and Asda among the first to launch their campaigns.

**US** – [Biden plans to evict Gabon, Niger Uganda and Central African Republic](#) for the US trade programme due to gross violations of human rights.

**US** - [The great orange juice trading rally](#) – and why a big squeeze could lie ahead. A miserable harvest in Florida has led to a fevered market some are likening to the GameStop run

## Human rights and ethical trade news

**Gaza** – [The Unfolding Women's Rights crisis in Gaza](#). Israel's blockade of Gaza is devastating to women and girls.

**Japan** - [Victory for Transgender Rights in Japan](#). Last week, Japan's Supreme Court ruled as unconstitutional the country's law mandating sterilization surgery for transgender people as a requirement for legal gender recognition. The case follows years of advocacy and litigation to remove this abusive and retrograde requirement that contradicts medical best practices and international human rights law.

## Sustainability/climate

**Climate Crisis the Single biggest threat to Human Rights** - Ahead of COP28 BHRRC's Phil Bloomer discusses a [human rights-focused transition and policy investors can support](#). Here Bloomer answers ESG Clarity's questions about best practice for transition frameworks and how they can include a human rights focus, as well as what legislative frameworks investors can support and how to take a non-prescriptive approach to engagement.

**Climate Change Driven Damage Fund** - [British minister optimistic on climate fund host agreement](#). Britain's minister responsible for climate negotiations said on Wednesday he believed countries would be able to reach an agreement on which organisation hosts a fund to assist countries recover and rebuild from climate change-driven damage.

**Climate Goals** – How [greener buildings](#) will pave the way for meeting climate goals

**Hurricane Otis Impact** - [The week begins on a somber note in Mexico](#), with the count of deceased or missing people due to Hurricane Otis approaching 100.

**Nature in Business** – Is your business considering nature? Nature is in decline. Katie Leach, Head of Nature, Lloyds Bank and Jennifer Burrett, Director, Sustainability & ESG

Finance, Lloyds Bank, [explore the importance for businesses to embed nature considerations into the work that they do and to assess their nature related risks and opportunities in their operations and in their supply chains.](#)

## Resources / Reports/Blogs

**Clandestine Entrant Guidance Document** - Recent reports of incidents of migrants concealed in the back of lorries has reminded us of the FNET (Food Network for Ethical Trade) documents issued last December 2022. Find the guidance documents here.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has shared this [Clandestine Entrant Guidance Document](#) for distribution to Food businesses. Please share it with logistic teams / relevant teams in your business.

**Childrens rights and Business** - Are the world's most influential companies prioritising children's rights in their operations? Produced in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group, our global benchmark report 2023 evaluates 795 companies. It is essential reading for the corporate and financial sectors, and all stakeholders in society striving for a better tomorrow for children everywhere. [Read the full Benchmark Report 2023](#)

**ETI (Ethical Trading Initiative) Blog** - Israel-Hamas-conflict: ETI's updated statement found [here](#)

**Imagine and Possibility** – [Part 2](#) – Protecting the Future includes Social Housing, Job Guarantee the 4-day week and more

**TUC Blog** – [There is no tomorrow, only now.](#) As TUC Young Workers Month gets underway, I want more young people to get involved in their union and get active. We all have a part to play in making sure we are a movement that is vibrant, growing and winning. We have seen a shift in the trade union movement in the last couple of years. Young workers have demanded more from society and government

WWF – [Report](#) on Nature and Embedding Human Rights in Conservation

## Events and webinars

**Action through Collaboration: [IDH Market Transformation Summit 2023.](#)** IDH will recognize 15 years of public-private collaboration at our Action through Collaboration Summit in Geneva, Switzerland where we will be welcoming 200+ committed front-running leaders, ministers, investors, innovators, and practitioners that have the most influence over global value chains to accelerate action towards market transformation.

15-16th November, Geneva, Switzerland

**SEA Alliance Meeting with Outlaw Ocean** - Be aware that there is a confirmed date/time for the SEA Alliance meeting with Outlaw Ocean. This will be on **24<sup>th</sup> November between 2:30 and 4:00pm UK time.** A calendar invite for this meeting will be sent out when Karen is back from leave next week. In the meantime, please email

Karen ([karen.green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:karen.green@seafish.co.uk)) if you would like to attend and please hold the date/time in your diaries.

**United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights. 27 - 29 November 2023**

Location - hybrid – in person element in palais des nations, Geneva (Switzerland)

**The future of trade: trade justice in a changing political landscape – Trade Justice Movement**

Exploring the changes that we should be fighting for in 2024. a bumper election year.

Wed, 15 Nov 2023 13:00 - 14:00 GMT