



Weekly news email

3rd August 2023

News headlines

Brazil - Brazil to launch multibillion-dollar green transition. Brazil is set to launch a green transition plan worth hundreds of billions of dollars in public and private investments.

Brazil - Migrants rescued after 14 days at sea on ship's rudder

China - Tech shares fall as China mulls child smartphone limits. Chinese technology shares fell after the country's cyberspace regulator recommended limiting smartphone usage of children under 18.

China/USA - US blacklists two Chinese firms over Uighur forced labour accusations. US says sanctions aim to 'promote accountability for ongoing genocide, crimes against humanity' in China's Xinjiang.

Colombia - Treacherous Darien Gap migration route sees record number of crossings. Nearly 250,000 people have risked their lives crossing a perilous stretch of jungle between Colombia and Panama.

France - French Poultry Company prosecuted for human trafficking. On 6 July, the Brest Correctional Court in France issued the final verdict in a human trafficking case against a poultry company. (in French)

India - 23 million gig workers vulnerable without legal protection and social security, says union

India - Why India's rice ban could trigger a global food crisis. What happens when India bans exports of a food staple that is essential to the diets of billions around the world?

Niger - Niger power blackouts blamed on coup sanctions. Major cities in Niger are facing rolling blackouts following last week's coup in the West African country.

Panama - Climate displacement threatens Indigenous Guna people in Panama. Panama's government has failed to follow through with promised aid for Indigenous people, Human Rights Watch says.

UK – food prices Supermarkets warn over food prices as Putin blockades grain exports. Prices of items like bread and breakfast cereals could see an increase in the coming weeks

UK – food prices Food price inflation slows to lowest level this year. New figures suggest food price inflation has slowed to its lowest level this year as prices of oils, fish, and breakfast cereals fall.

UK - exploitation Exploitation of care workers in England is ‘appalling’, says government adviser. Brian Bell says ministers have let social care become reliant on low-paid and vulnerable foreign workers.

UK – strikes ‘To them, we are like robots. The things that make us human are ground out of you’: the inside story of a strike at Amazon.

UK – child smuggling Van driver jailed after trying to smuggle children as young as one into UK. A man who tried to smuggle migrant babies and children into the UK by hiding them behind cardboard boxes in his van has been jailed for four years.

UK – farming Dairy farmers quit in fury amid UK price squeeze and rising costs. While supermarkets slash the price of milk, soaring energy bills and labour shortages are endangering the industry’s future.

Ukraine - Russian missile attacks leave few options for Ukrainian farmers looking to export grain. Ukraine currently produces three times more grain than it consumes, while global prices will inevitably rise if the country's exports decrease.

Ukraine/Croatia - Ukraine and Croatia agree on use of Croatian ports for grain exports. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said that after talks with his Croatian counterpart on Monday (July 31), Kyiv and Zagreb have agreed on the use of Croatian ports to export Ukrainian grain.

Uruguay - Uruguay’s missing women may have been trafficked. Why doesn’t the state care? Exclusive: A 12-month investigation into cases of nine women reveals years of failure by police and prosecutors.

USA - Labor Department Finds 44% Rise In Illegal Child Workers Since October. More than 4,470 children were found working in violation of federal child labor laws between October of last year and July 20 of last week.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Seasonal Worker Scheme (UK) - Verick Maplecroft Risk Alert 27th July 2023: UK’s Seasonal Worker Scheme Raising Human Rights Concerns in the Food Sector.

A new EU-funded project, MirreM (Measuring Irregular Migration) - will examine the quantitative dimension of irregular migration and related policies. A core aim of the project is to address the uncertainty and contested nature of evidence on irregular migration by fostering a shared understanding of basic features of and policy options to address the phenomenon. Includes the UK.

Litigation - [Gender-based violence and harassment emerges as key risk](#). Significant litigation addressing gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH) in overseas operations is increasingly being brought and heard before UK courts.

ETI project on grievance mechanisms - [Tackling exploitation of migrant workers in agriculture](#).

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 30 July 2023 – [Defend and promote civic space to ensure that no victim of trafficking is left behind](#) - Statement from La Strada International.

European Commission announces Victims' Rights Directive revision. On 12 July, the European Commission published the proposal [for revision of the Victims' Rights Directive](#), which includes the strengthening of victims' access to compensation

Impact of board gender diversity on modern slavery statements - [An examination of UK companies' modern slavery disclosure practices](#): Does board gender diversity matter? (research paper)

Sustainability/climate

Reporting - [Binding Climate Reporting – Get Ahead of Regulation](#). Blog by Elevate.

Ethical pricing - [German supermarket trials charging true climate cost of foods](#). Penny chain raises price of products including wiener sausage, cheese and yoghurt in week-long experiment.

Resources and reports

Helpline - [Nuestra Voz \(Our Voice\): Strengthening Workers' Rights in Spain's Agricultural Sector through Effective Grievance Mechanisms](#) - Elevate helpline

Webinar recording - [The EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\) – 5 Steps to Help You Prepare](#) – by Elevate

'State of Remedy' report for [business violations of human rights 2022](#). OECD Watch's latest State of Remedy report discusses outcomes of complaints concluded in 2022 under the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises

Podcasts/video/blogs

Lived experience – [“They were taking nearly everything I earned, I lived in fear”](#). Jonas (a pseudonym) is a factory worker from Lithuania. He was tricked and trapped into modern slavery in the UK.

Events and webinars

Business Fights Poverty Global Goals event - With many of the Sustainable Development Goals significantly off-track, BFP will bring together business, civil society and governments during UNGA week to identify opportunities to accelerate delivery. New York/ London / Online 19 – 20 Sept. [Save the date.](#)

Business Fights Poverty – Climate Justice event - Coinciding with COP28, we will be bringing companies and partners together to address the social and equity dimensions of climate change. Dubai / London / Online 5-6 December. [Save the date.](#)

African Business and Human Rights Forum: For Africa, from Africa. This year the forum will reflect on the importance of local perspectives and solutions in the collective effort to implement the UNGPs in Africa, including linkages between the UNGPs and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). 5-7 Sept, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and virtual. [Register here.](#)