



Weekly news email

7th September 2023

News headlines

Global – The future of millions of children is at risk as growing numbers are pulled out of school and into work, the head of the ILO labour body has reported to the BBC. Some of the worst forms of work involved sexual exploitation and urgent action is needed.

SE Asia – hundreds of thousands trafficked into cyber scamming in Southeast Asia, UN report says.

Thailand – Poultry processing firm loses defamation suit against individuals who commented on migrant worker abuse case. The case began in 2016 when 14 workers complained of working excessively long hours and having passports withheld.

Malaysia – Government to probe unethical migrant worker labour practices in Malaysia.

India – G20 ministers have reiterated their support for decent work in the cultural and creative industries including aligning with the international labour standards, skills training, effective social protection and reinforced channels for dialogue.

Australia – Major businesses support constitutional amendment to establish Indigenous peoples voice to Parliament.

USA – The summer food went weird: searing heat reshapes US food production

USA - Mexican farmworker tells of poor working conditions in Florida, including exposure to pesticides & heat.

USA – Many of America's best-known brands face multi-million-dollar law suits over misleading claims including Burger King, McDonalds, TCO Bell and Wendy's. Comes after Dr Pepper agreed a \$15million settlement for wrongly claiming its synthetically flavoured soda was made with aged vanilla.

Sierra Leone – The women breaking barriers to build a new maternity unit in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone.

EU – The EU ponders groundbreaking rules to help smallholder farmers.

Europe – Almost 1million people across Europe are homeless on any given night. This report says homelessness is worsening across EU and UK with only Denmark and Finland making progress.

France – A first in Paris : City fumigates for tiger mosquitoes as tropical pests spread, bringing disease. Parisian health authorities treat French capital for the first time as Zika and dengue – carrying tiger mosquitoes advance through northeastern Europe.

France – Schools send home dozens of girls wearing Muslim abayas on the first day of the new academic year.

Spain – Jenni Hermoso accuses Luis Rubiales of sexual assault. The legal complaint was filed over an unsolicited kiss at the Women's World Cup Final

Turkey – Acute labour shortages in earthquake-stricken regions of Turkey six months on from the devastating earthquakes that killed tens of thousands of people.

UK – Staff at Tesco stores are to be offered body cameras amid a rise in violent attacks, the supermarket chief executive has said. Physical assaults have increased by a third since last year.

UK – Why the trade unions congress (TUC) is responding to the consultation for Tackling non-compliance in the umbrella company market. The TUC believes that the only effective way to prevent the exploitation of workers by umbrella companies is to prohibit recruitment agencies and employers from using them. Read the full response [here](#).

UK – Poor people 'surviving not living' as UK social contract collapses, says report, leaving millions of low-income families forced to endure unacceptable levels of poverty according to the cross party report.

UK – What are personal pronouns and why do they matter?

UK - Ministers warned that UK could become a 'dumping ground' for Chinese forced labour, if it rejects an amendment by members of the foreign affairs select committee.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Modern Slavery & Human Rights – This article covers considerations around frameworks of modern slavery and decent work to addressing labour exploitation.

ILO – Working in apparel and footwear manufacturing: How does technological upgrading and automation affect women? Jobs are often underpaid, insecure and characterised by an uncertain future, in part due to the risk of being replaced by automation. New research examines the challenges women face.

ILO – Keep an eye on your health at work – more needs to be done to protect workers' eye health says a new report by the ILO and the international Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Read it [here](#).

ILO – Productivity Ecosystems for Decent work. A 5-part series investigates the importance of productivity growth for decent work and sustainable economic growth.

Human Rights Watch – Fire tragedy in South Africa is a 'Wake Up Call'. More than 700 people were killed last week when fire tore through the building in Johannesburg which was occupied in part by undocumented migrants.

Forbes – [Was your clothing made by forced Labour? These startups can tell you](#) (forbes.com)

Sustainability/climate

SIZA – [How the SIZA Environmental programme assists producers to be more sustainable](#). Member testimonials are shared from a 30-year-old business engaged in cultivation of avocado and mango in Limpopo.

Resources / Reports

Seafish – Guidance documents to help businesses navigate the skilled worker visa process and other legal responsibilities as an employer. [Introduction to fundamentals](#); [How to become a sponsor](#); [How to employ migrant workers under a skilled worker visa](#); [Responsibilities of Employers](#); [Legal obligations for employers](#); [Skilled Worker Visa Glossary](#)

Podcasts/video/blogs

LinkedIn – The economics of migration. [How recruitment costs in Bangladesh, India and Nepal impact development outcomes](#). Article covers the vital financial support of remittances from migrant workers in supporting less economically developed countries in global South.

Protecting the Future - The Kerala Model – Watch [this 2 minute video](#) on the Indian state of Kerala, where it is described as “representing the success of degrowth”. In the video it describes Kerala as having a higher human development index than some European countries (and a higher sustainable development index), one of the happiest and healthiest populations in the world, the highest daily wages in India, strong labour, trade unions and land reforms, and the highest literacy rate in all of India.

Events and webinars

Oxfam – A webinar jointly hosted by Oxfam and Tesco will share the Supplier Gender Toolkit developed for Tier 1 suppliers and workers to help Tesco reach its target of at least 30% supervisor and management positions occupied by women in all its Tier 1 suppliers by 2025. The gender toolkit offers practical guidance on approaches and activities to help companies meet this target. Guest speaker is Rokhsana Bilkis Lucky, deputy general manager from Aman Holdings, a garment company in Bangladesh who supported the development of the toolkit. Download the toolkit [here](#). To learn more, you are warmly invited to the webinar hosted by Jiselle Stelle from Oxfam, [register here](#) to attend. Date: 10.00am BST on **Tuesday 19th September**.

Seafish Common Language Group- Seafood climate change winners and losers – 26th September 2023. To register for the event email Karen Green with on the [link](#). Climate change is already resulting in warmer temperatures and extreme weather patterns. Continued emission levels by maintaining business as usual will intensify climate change and may lead to further impacts.

EU Deforestation Regulation – A free webinar to help you understand your obligations in getting to grips with the [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) and how you can start addressing your due diligence. The webinar takes place on Thursday **28th September 2023** 10.00-11.00 CEST/9.00-10.00 BST. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will apply from December 30, 2024, for companies that do business in the EU. To register apply [here](#).

ISSARA'S GLOBAL FORUM - 8 -10 November 2023, Bangkok. Forum will provide a space for participants to exchange and learn cutting-edge best practices and innovations in human rights and responsible sourcing worldwide, including critical insights from on the ground perspectives of workers, NGOs, and suppliers. [Register here](#).