



# Weekly news email

10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## News headlines

**Angola** - Angola: Grave Police Abuses Against Activists. Angolan security forces have carried out more than a dozen unlawful killings and numerous other serious abuses against political activists and peaceful protesters since January 2023.

**Australia** - Tasmanian fruit pickers rescued from alleged "modern slavery" Tasmanian fruit pickers rescued from alleged "modern slavery" (pulsehobart.com.au).

**Brazil** - Indigenous activists gather in Brazil to discuss future of the Amazon. Campaigners voice hopes and fears for the rainforest before leaders of eight Amazon nations attend summit in Belém.

**China** - Anger in China over plan to use cities as 'moat' to save Beijing from floods. Communist party secretary for Hebei made comments after visiting flood-hit areas earlier this week.

**Ethiopia** - Ethiopia declares state of emergency following militia clashes. Ethiopia's government declared a six-month state of emergency on Friday in the country's second-largest region, Amhara, following days of clashes between the military and local Fano militiamen, giving it powers to impose curfews, restrict movement and ban gatherings.

**Europe** - The end of the road for fast fashion? The EU hopes so. EU ... policies to make clothes tougher, repairable and recyclable. They also backed regulations which suggest production must respect human, social and label rights, animal welfare and the environment throughout the entire supply chain.

**Italy** - 5 workers die from extreme heat as factory workers & labourers call for furlough.

**Spain** - Protocollo d'intesa tra Princes Industrie Alimentari e Casa Sankara per l'inserimento lavorativo di 32 risorse. Princes Industrie Alimentari and Casa Sankara sign a memorandum of understanding for the social and labour integration of 32 foreign citizens in the 2023 campaign.

**Turkey** - Several injured as blast hits grain silos at Turkey's Derince port. Reason for explosion near Turkish Grain Board silos not immediately clear. Police launch investigation.

**UK** - Man jailed for Sainsbury's illegal migrant cleaners scheme. A man who recruited illegal migrants as cleaners in Sainsbury's supermarkets has been jailed for six years.

**UK** - Business groups urge UK to scrap hike in migrant worker visa fees. Business groups have called on the government to scrap its planned increase in visa fees for migrant workers, arguing the change will make it harder to deal with ongoing labour shortages.

**UK** - NHS managers told not to offer sympathy to female staff worried about sharing toilets with biological men. The document states that it is discriminatory not to use a trans or non-binary person's preferred pronoun.

**UK** - Landlords and employers risk higher fines for failing to check for illegal migrants. Fines for employers and landlords of illegal migrants to be tripled in latest bid to deter small boats. Fines Hiked for firms employing migrant labour.

**UK** - Fears of food inflation rise as UK harvests hit by cool, wet summer. Farmers warn wheat, oilseed rape, potatoes and other crops have been affected after wettest July on record.

**USA** - Federal court sides with Indiana trans schoolchildren on bathroom access. A federal appeals court has upheld a lower court ruling that transgender students in Indiana must have access to the bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identities.

**USA** - Union formed for migrant farmworkers. their families & community members in Virginia to protect from rights abuse. "Labor Rights Group Helps VA Migrant Workers Unionize"

**Worldwide** - How the Work-From-Home Revolution Supercharged Women's Careers. remote work is good for women, because it's bringing more of them into the workforce. But it could simultaneously end up being bad for women, if it winds up reinforcing the glass ceiling.

**World & UK** - Millions face racism and homophobia at work in UK. major survey suggests. But the study, which examined workplace discrimination in six countries, found the UK fared better than the others nations polled. 22% of UK employees report facing discrimination.

## Human rights and ethical trade news

**NEW LWA report** - digs into exploitation of migrant workers in UK horticulture  
<https://landworkersalliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/LWA-Debt-Migration-and-Exploitation-2023.pdf>

**Oxfam** - brands GDP 'colonial and anti-feminist' as charity calls for women's domestic work to be valued. Charity argues fixation on the metric leads to policies that 'directly harm women'. 'Women short-changed as 65% of weekly working hours ignored in official data'.

**Asia Garment Hub** - The Role of Trade Unions in Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). Upcoming EU legislation on Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD) will not only be important for companies in the European Union. But, it will have a direct impact on workers in production countries upstream in the supply chain. HRDD training for trade unions recap here.

**Indigenous people rights international** - [Building Partnerships and Solidarity. Ending Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and advancing climate action.](#) Article on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

**IDH** - [Empowering Through Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: The Kpanyan Production Protection Inclusion Compact.](#) The Kpanyan Production Protection Inclusion Compact has emerged as a community-based organization dedicated to promoting gender equality and social inclusion in the region.

**Daily Coffee News** - [Eight Ways the EUDR is Likely to Affect Coffee Supply Markets.](#) The upcoming EU deforestation legislation is expected to strongly impact the coffee sector and the more than 12 million coffee smallholders worldwide.

**IDH** - [Important Steps Towards Worker Engagement in Ethiopia.](#) The inability to return to work after maternity leave due to a lack of affordable support is one of the biggest challenges female workers in Ethiopian industrial parks face.

## Sustainability/climate

**Climate Policy Initiative** - [Landscape of Climate Finance for Agrifood Systems.](#) Low-carbon and resilient agrifood systems are vital to ensure the food security of a growing human population and global economic development. [Full report.](#)

**Amazon Nations** - [8 countries fail to reach agreed goal to end deforestation.](#) A joint declaration on Tuesday created an alliance to combat deforestation, but left each country to pursue its own conservation goals.

**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** - [Climate action without informed consent branded 'green colonisation'.](#)

## Resources and reports

**Nestle Cocoa plan** - [Income accelerator program Progress Report, July 2023.](#) The income accelerator program is aiming to help close the living income gap and reduce child labor risks. This progress report reviews the results and learnings of the pilot in Côte d'Ivoire in 2020 to prepare for the expansion to Ghana by 2024.

**Shift Project** – [Double Materiality: What do you need to know.](#) With the recent adoption of the #ESRS, Shift is pleased to be launching a weekly series to help businesses put the standards into practice. This week we're exploring how to connect the dots between double materiality, impact materiality and human rights due diligence.

**UN Brief** - The Just Transition in [#SupplyChains](#) brief of the [United Nations Global Compact](#) guides business to counter these risks and build resilience. Learn more at <https://lnkd.in/duSpekts>.

**The ITF's new Human Rights Due Diligence Guidance** - [Respecting the Rights of Human Rights in Global Supply Chains](#) sets out a four-step guide to [#HRDD](#) show how brands can make sure seafarers are paid a decent wage, work safely and take their shore leave.

**BSR Sustainability FAQs** - [New BSR FAQ on the impact of new laws and regulations on just and sustainable business.](#)

**Lancaster Uni report on modern slavery reporting** - [Lancaster University Management School - 54 Degrees Issue 18 \(your-brochure-online.co.uk\)](#)

## Podcasts/video/blogs

**Elevate Blog** – [New Zealand Next to Impose Modern Slavery Legislation After Sharp Rise in Forced Labor Risk.](#)

**Elevate Blog** - [Managing Responsible Recruitment: Navigating Human Rights Challenges with the SafeStep App.](#)

**Oxfam America** – [New blog by Caroline Brodeur introducing its Human rights assessment framework.](#)

**New blog by Daniel Neale** - [With regulators and investors demanding action, companies need to get on the front foot with human rights - Corporate Citizenship \(corporate-citizenship.com\)](#)

**New ETI Video** - Addressing Caste Based Discrimination in UK Business and Supply Chains – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=tiZe3GPcGxq&feature=share>

**Sedex blog** - Canadas new modern slavery act <https://www.sedex.com/blog/canadas-new-modern-slavery-act-what-you-need-to-know/>

## 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

**BHRRC'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.](#)

**Consumer Goods in-person Event for businesses in S.E Asia** - [Advancing the Responsible Recruitment of Migrant Workers in Southeast Asia - Kuala Lumpur.](#) 6<sup>th</sup> September. Roundtable discussions on how investors, human rights due diligence and remedy are key drivers of positive change. [View agenda here.](#) [Register here.](#)