



Weekly news email

21st September 2023

News headlines

Australia - Australian state suspends human rights law to lock up more children. Rights defenders fear 'irreversible harm' to children in Queensland after changes to justice system leave more under-18s in detention.

Brazil - Uber to appeal Brazil court's \$205 million fine for irregular labor relations. Uber on Thursday said it rejected a ruling from a Brazilian labor court ordering the ride-hailing firm to pay 1 billion reais (\$205 million) in fines for irregular working relations with the drivers on its app.

Canada/India - India suspends visas for Canadians as row escalates.

Colombia - Colombian government and dissident rebels agree to ceasefire. The Colombian government and the left-wing rebel group; EMC-Farc have agreed to resume peace talks and implement a 10-month ceasefire.

DRC - UN official urges "responsible" withdrawal from the DRC

Europe - EU moves to cut dependency on China for battery and solar panel materials. Parliament votes to cut mining red tape and diversify its supplies of raw materials such as lithium and silicon

France - Carrefour puts 'shrinkflation' price warnings on food to shame brands. French supermarket chain labels products that have shrunk in size but cost more before contract talks with suppliers.

India - India set to approve historic women's quota bill. The lower house of the Indian parliament has passed a bill guaranteeing a third of seats for women in the parliament and state assemblies.

Iran - US announces new Iran sanctions as prisoner swap looms. Washington targets Iranian officials and state-linked media outlets on first anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death.

Libya - As eastern Libya reels from disastrous floods, a new threat emerges. Health officials warn of the danger of water contamination in the aftermath of catastrophic floods in Libya's east.

Tunisia - [Europe frets over migration: Tunisia moves refugees to departure points](#). Pact that promised Tunisia financial support in return for stopping migration is being debated in Europe.

UK – Last mile delivery [Dodging death and immigration officers: 12 hours as a London fast-food rider – and all for £40](#). A quarter of UK adults use firms such as Deliveroo, but few think about the cyclists who bring their takeaways

UK – food poverty [I work in a supermarket and see how desperate some shoplifters are. My heart goes out to them.](#)

UK – climate policy [Tories at war over Rishi Sunak’s betrayal of net zero pledge](#). Boris Johnson and Al Gore lead outrage against PM’s watering down of climate promises.

UK – farming [Half of UK fruit and veg farmers fear closure due to supermarket buying behaviour](#). New research reveals the extent of the crisis, as over 100 Leading figures back campaign to #GetFairAboutFarming and launch petition calling on the government to intervene.

Ukraine - [Poland, Hungary, Slovakia to introduce own bans on Ukraine grains](#). Poland, Slovakia and Hungary announced their own restrictions on Ukrainian grain imports on Friday (15 September) after the European Commission decided not to extend its ban on imports into Ukraine’s five EU neighbours.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Modern Slavery Statement - [Launch of Coles’ supermarket Modern Slavery Statement](#)

Cocoa - [Who will pay? APAC cocoa industry says EU Deforestation Regulation could create ‘two-tier market’](#) The cocoa and chocolates industry in Asia Pacific is concerned that the EU Deforestation Regulation could lead a two-tier market for cocoa beans, which could have far-ranging cost and pricing implications.

Tea and gender - ["Consent. Just Consent. Then you can come to work"](#) Women Working Worldwide and THIRST’s new report designed to help the tea industry identify where and how it can reduce the risks to women workers.

UK legislation - [Explainer: Modern slavery clauses in Illegal Migration Act](#). Explainer of the modern slavery clauses in the Illegal Migration Act and legal analysis of its compatibility with international legislation.

UK policy analysis - [What is on the horizon for modern slavery policies and laws in the UK?](#) Modern Slavery PEC Policy Impact team’s Liz Williams and Dr Victoria Tecca analyse upcoming modern slavery laws and policy developments.

Social audits - [Bangladesh: Social Audits Shortchange Workers](#). Shahidul Islam’s Killing Underscores Heightened Risks for Independent Unions. The social audits and certifications that brands and retailers use are totally inadequate to monitor and respond to threats to workers trying to organize independent unions, Human Rights Watch released an analysis of standard social audit reports of garment factories in Bangladesh.

Mental health - What are you doing for World Mental Health Day on 10th October? The theme this year is: [‘Mental health is a universal human right’](#).

Food system - [Is a global food crisis the new normal?](#) From Indian rice to Australian wheat, climate change is hitting yields, adding to food shortages and price spikes caused by the war in Ukraine. But there’s a way around it, analysts say.

Business - [How Tony’s Chocolonely Created a Purpose-Driven \(and Profitable\) Supply Chain.](#)

Sustainability/climate

Mining - [Mining metals vital for EVs is ‘wrecking lives’ in the Democratic Republic of Congo, report finds](#) | [Euronews](#) [New Amnesty report](#)

Procurement - [New Action Sustainability Procurement Guidance: Addressing Modern slavery and Labour exploitation in Solarpv supply chains.](#)

Packaging - [Reusable packaging has huge environmental and financial benefits, so why are businesses lobbying so hard against it?](#)

Sustainable Development Goals

[These are the women who made the 'SDGs' happen](#) | [World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

[SDG Atlas 2023: Five key findings](#) ([worldbank.org](#))

[Getting The SDGs Back on Track](#) | [Accenture](#)

[Are the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals on track?](#) | [World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)

Resources / Reports

SMEs - [Foodies Fighting Slavery: Toolkit for SME’s](#) – Developed by Stronger Together and TRIBE.

Responsible exit report: [The business of leaving: How multinationals can responsibly exit Russia.](#) A new study by B4Ukraine members takes a closer look at whether companies are genuinely ‘stuck’ in Russia and how they can responsibly exit the market.

Indigenous Peoples Hub - [Shared prosperity models & Indigenous leadership for a just transition.](#) News and resources from Indigenous Peoples Rights International and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre exploring the significant opportunity of Indigenous co-ownership of renewable energy projects, for an energy transition that is fast, just and equitable.

Blog - [Decolonization – the long goodbye](#) | [New Internationalist](#)

Tesco's New Supplier Gender Toolkit: [Toolkit](#) Designed to provide Practical advice and guidance to support women to progress at work includes how to complete a needs assessment, case studies and suggested steps and actions to tackle and remove barriers that impact women workers

Podcasts/video/blogs

Tomatoes - [How the Italian mafia makes millions from tinned tomatoes](#) – short film from The Guardian

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre - [speaker series annual roundup](#). Includes speakers; Mary Robinson, and from companies, Trade Unions, European Commission on the most recent paradigm-shift in corporate responsibility and due diligence legislation.

Events and webinars

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](#).

Webinar on Forced Labour in Uyghur Region – Professor Laura T Murphy's evidence briefs and reports on connection of international supply chains with the systems of internment and forced labour of people of the Uyghur Region by the Chinese Government are compelling and confronting. Professor Murphy will share her insights and extensive knowledge, so come to the live webinar on **27th September** 12.00am and bring your questions. [Registration link is here](#).

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](#).