



Weekly news email

12th October 2023

News headlines

Afghanistan - [Fears of more casualties as further earthquakes hit Afghanistan](#). Hospitals are at capacity since the quakes occurred around the city of Herat, and the Taliban are ill-equipped to respond effectively.

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 - [Indigenous Amazonians urge Brazil to declare emergency over severe drought](#). Drought and heatwave has killed fish in rivers as Indigenous group Apiam says villagers have no water, food or medicine

Chad - ['You have forgotten us': Darfur's victims struggle on in a Chad refugee camp](#). More than 420,000 people have fled across the border as attacks by militias in West Darfur continue. Another 200,000 people are expected to follow. Yet, says one refugee, 'the international community does nothing'

Dominica - [Dominica: Passports of the Caribbean](#). Revealed: thousands who bought 'golden passports' through Dominica's \$1bn scheme.

Guatemala - [Guatemala paralysed as pro-democracy protests run into second week](#). Tension is rising in Guatemala, where protests by supporters of President-elect Bernardo Arévalo have run into a second week.

Israel- Hamas conflict – [BBC website updates](#) [Al Jazeera updates](#) [The Guardian updates](#)

Italy - [Italy culls tens of thousands of pigs to contain African swine fever](#). Outbreaks in the Lombardy 'pork belt' were extinguished, say experts, but wild boar could act as a reservoir.

Laos - ['I feel hopeless': Living in Laos on the brink](#)

Malawi - [Malawi heatwave warning issued as temperatures set to soar](#)

Mexico - ['Extremely dangerous' Hurricane Lidia hits Mexico's Pacific coast](#)

Myanmar - [Dozens killed and injured in military attack on Myanmar refugee camp](#). The camp near the Chinese border houses thousands of people displaced by decades of conflict

Poland - [Far-right coalition tipped as kingmaker in Polish election](#). If neither the ruling party nor Donald Tusk's opposition wins outright on Sunday, the door could open to alliance with Confederation.

Russia - [Russia fails in bid to return to UN's Human Rights Council](#). Bulgaria and Albania win backing in General Assembly vote for two Eastern European seats available on UN body.

Rwanda - [Rwanda accused of broad campaign of repression against dissidents](#). Human Rights Watch report detailing alleged abuses at home and abroad raises questions over UK government's asylum plan.

Saudi Arabia - [Amazon linked to trafficking of workers in Saudi Arabia](#). Dozens of contract workers at Amazon warehouses say they were tricked into toiling and living in grueling, squalid conditions

Uganda - [Immigration vows action on labour export firms for withholding 8,000 workers passports](#)

UAE - ['We lie on the floor till someone buys us'](#): shocking allegations of UAE agencies' abuse of domestic workers.

UK – grocery UK grocery inflation slows again as butter price falls 16p in a year. Shoppers search out deals in September and sunnier weather lifts sales of ice-cream and burgers.

UK - CBD [Food regulators slash recommended dose of CBD over health risks](#). Food Standards Agency drops advised daily limit from 70mg to 10mg in surprise reversal, citing risk to liver and thyroid issues.

UK – single-use plastic ban [New bans and restrictions on polluting single-use plastics](#) come into force. Some of the most polluting single-use plastic items banned from 1 October

UK – visas [I'm already struggling on my supermarket salary](#) – Braverman's new visa fees will cripple me

USA - [Star Farms, supplier to Kroger & Safeway, faces investigation into renewed allegations of labour rights violations](#)

Human rights and ethical trade news

Coffee - [Leading Coffee Industry Stakeholders Join Forces to Transform Karnataka's Coffee Sector](#). Signatories to the MOU include IDH, Hindustan Unilever Limited, Sucden, ECOM, Tata Coffee, NKG, and is supported by the Coffee Board of India.

Bananas & Ecuador - [Civil society organisations call on companies sourcing from Ecuador to react in case of death threats against Human Rights Defenders](#).

Uyghurs & fish - [The Uyghurs Forced to Process the World's Fish](#) – The Outlaw Ocean Project. [Article in the New Yorker](#) (subscription).

Coffee Barometer 2023 - The [Coffee Barometer](#) shines a light on the current state of sustainability within the global coffee sector. Our 2023 report combines publicly available data and provides context to grasp the challenges, commitments, and achievements.

Soya - [Top grain traders 'helped scupper' ban on soya from deforested land](#). Cargill and ADM led push to weaken new protections for threatened ecosystems in South America, report says.

Chemicals - [Global chemicals safety agreement](#): big wins for workers, big challenges for the ILO

Sustainability/climate

Salmon - ['It smells so bad'](#): glut of wild salmon creates stink in Norway and Finland

Climate & gender - [Climate crisis is 'not gender neutral'](#): UN calls for more policy focus on women. Only a third of countries with climate crisis plans include access to sexual, maternal and newborn health services, UNFPA report finds.

El Nino - [Cocoa farmers face mounting challenges as El Nino rages on](#)

Climate and livelihood - [Hanging by a thread: Peruvian alpaca breeders' way of life under threat](#). For generations alpaca fleece has been prized for use in textiles. But the changing climate in the high Andes has led to a drop in production and many farmers are struggling to survive

Resources / Reports/Blogs

European Soy Monitor 2021 - The [report](#) shows that 40% of the EU27+ soy consumption was certified under a FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines (FEFAC SSG) compliant standard and that 24% was certified as deforestation and conversion-free.

Indigenous People & mining- [Recharging Community Consent: Mining companies, battery minerals, and the battle to break from the past](#). With mining set to expand as part of the sweeping energy transition, it is imperative that future mining only proceed with the full support and consent of Indigenous peoples and frontline communities. Report by Oxfam.

Responsible exit - [Business and Human Rights in Challenging Contexts: Considerations for Remaining and Exiting](#). Report by BHRRC

Growth? - [Degrowth: No, Let's Not Call It Something Else](#). The term 'degrowth' is honest and can't be co-opted, exactly what we need right now. Blog

Events and webinars

Shared Priorities for a Just Transition: Rights and the renewable energy value chain.
[BHRRC joint webinar with the UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights](#)

Tuesday 17 October 2023, 09:00 San Francisco / 10:00 San Jose (Costa Rica) / 12noon New York / 16:00 Accra / 17:00 London / 18:00 Geneva

Sustainable Commodities and Landscapes Forum - Towards nature positive: how business can adapt to regulatory pressure, protect livelihoods, and take an integrated approach to climate, nature and biodiversity

31st October 2023 - 1st November 2023 - Amsterdam

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'll 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

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

Jobs

BSR - Manager, Membership Engagement, New York, NY; Copenhagen, Denmark; Paris, France; London

The Rights Practice - The Rights Practice are looking for a new trustee.