



Weekly news email

24th August 2023

News headlines

Indonesia - 2,000 Indonesian migrant workers died overseas as a result of abuse, accidents, or illness since 2020. "Desperate' Indonesians risk abuse, death in Malaysia by taking jobs from illegal recruiters".

Myanmar - H&M announced to exit amid reports of labour rights abuse. H&M (HMB.ST) has decided to gradually stop sourcing from Myanmar, as reports of labour abuses in garment factories in the country increase, Reuters.

Poland - Poland warned 'everything will end badly' as tensions soar over troops on Belarus border. A Russian politician has warned "everything will end badly" for Poland as tensions rise over its Belarusian border.

UK - Tetley Tea workers accept new pay offer after 200 workers vote to strike; union says there is 'still a long way to go'. Employees at the site in Teesside, north-east England, have accepted a 7% pay rise backdated to April 1.

UK - Bristol hoteliers welcome reports on short-term visa schemes for EU hospitality workers. The Government is reportedly in discussions with some EU countries to help plug gaps in the UK workforce.

UK - No app, no entry: How the digital world is failing the non tech-savvy. "If you are not tech-savvy you are toast. It is so exclusionary." ... It's the poor and marginalised who are forgotten.

UK - 'Heartless' government fails to fill two key human rights watchdog roles. Campaigners say rape and trafficking victims have been betrayed by the Tories' failure to appoint commissioners to defend them.

UK - 'Inhumane' NHS fees left more than 900 migrants without treatment. Patients turned down care they needed after demands for advance payments amid complaints of government's 'hostile environment'.

UK - Worker Interest Group's statement on leaving the 'Seasonal Worker Scheme Taskforce'. Statement by: Work Rights Centre, Worker Support Centre Scotland, Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX), Anti-Slavery International, & Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU).

Ukraine - [Ukraine may use new Black Sea route for grain shipments – producers](#). Ukraine announced a "humanitarian corridor" hugging the sea's western coastline near Romania and Bulgaria.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Business Fights Poverty - [Five Reasons Why We Need Fair Food Systems for Future Food Security](#). – from Fairtrade's - [Sustainable agriculture Policy](#) that calls for resilient food systems built on agroecology (i.e. that is, the application of environmentally, economically and socially responsible principles to farming).

Sustainability/climate

How heat affects the body – inside and out. [Heat is the number one cause of weather-related deaths in the US. What happens to our bodies when we overheat?](#)

USA- [Montana's landmark climate ruling could change the climate litigation landscape](#). In a groundbreaking legal decision, a Montana judge last week ruled in favor of young people who had accused state officials of violating their constitutional rights by promoting fossil fuels.

Resources / Reports

TUC report - [Insecure work in 2023](#). The impact on workers and an action plan to deliver decent work for everyone.

Anti-Slavery & La Strada International – [Human rights due diligence: risks of modern slavery for displaced workers](#). explains how businesses can prevent and mitigate some of the risks of labour exploitation, forced labour and trafficking affecting displaced people. . . aimed at businesses who work in or with suppliers in countries neighbouring conflict zones or where there are high numbers of displaced people.

United Nations Human Rights Office for High Commissioner Report - Business and Human Rights in Challenging Contexts - [Considerations for Remaining and Exiting](#)

Fairtrade - [Baseline report: Sustainable agriculture under Fairtrade terms](#).

Fairtrade - [People and planet in business](#) - A simple guide to how small and micro companies can start or strengthen their due diligence.

Podcasts/video/blogs

ETI Blog - [To protect displaced workers in humanitarian crises, businesses need to strengthen their human rights due diligence](#). Captures in summary the guidance by Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International designed for businesses to support the recruitment and employment of people displaced by conflict and address the risks of modern slavery in their value chains through heightened human rights due diligence.

ETI Blog - [Why the revised 'OECD Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct' matter.](#)

The revised OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct were finally published in June 2023 after more than two years of consultations and negotiations between governments, business, trade unions and civil society groups. What's changed?

Saudi Arabia - [Mass Killings of Migrants at Yemen Border.](#) Saudi border guards have killed at least hundreds of Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers who tried to cross the Yemen-Saudi border between March 2022 and June 2023, Human Rights Watch said in a report.

Issara and its Ethical Recruitment Network (ERN) partners - have launched [workervoices.org](#). .. it's a sandbox for sharing and amplifying worker voices. It aggregates data from worker voice channels in Asia to highlight the real-time, ongoing experiences and concerns of workers throughout supply chains, as well as worker-led videos and tools to support and empower migrant workers and jobseekers.

Events and webinars

Modern Slavery Intelligence Network (MSIN) – [MSIN annual conference](#) is coming up on 6th September, hosted by Tesco. Keynote speakers Theresa May, MP, and Caroline Haughey, KC. [Register here.](#)

IHRB event in SE Asia - [Advancing the Responsible Recruitment of Migrant Workers in Southeast Asia. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.](#) 6th September, 8:30 am - 6 pm. Attend to gain insights into responsible recruitment practices and challenges in the Southeast Asian migration corridor. & discover how companies can eradicate forced labor through ethical recruitment models.

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. 7th September 2023 14.00 - 15.00 hrs. [Register here.](#)

BHRRC'S - Mary Robinson Speaker Series 2023 | Raising the bar: Regulating to end corporate abuse. Date & time: Thursday 14th September 2023, London 14:00. [Click here for more information.](#) [Link to event.](#)

Business Fights Poverty – [Global Goals Summit 19 – 21](#) September 2023 – Online, New York, Nairobi, London. Attend to gain invaluable insights, connect with global peers, and learn from best practices in sustainability. You'll leave equipped with practical advice and the inspiration to drive sustainable development within your organisation. [Reserve a place here.](#)

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 21st September 2023 at 10:00-11:30 CET

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](#).