



# Weekly news email

28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## News headlines

**Armenia/Azerbaijan** - Thousands of ethnic Armenians flee from Nagorno-Karabakh. Ethnic Armenians fleeing from breakaway region to Armenia give harrowing accounts of escaping death, war and hunger.

**Brazil** - Brazil top court rejects time limit on Indigenous land claims. A majority on Brazil's Supreme Court overwhelmingly voted against a cut-off date limiting Indigenous land claims, a restriction sought by the powerful farm lobby to block rights to land that Indigenous people did not live on in 1988.

**Brazil** - Court orders Uber to pay \$205 million in fines for irregular working relations with the drivers on its app.

**Brazil** - 'Even Lucifer was using a fan': Brazil bakes as mercilessly hot spring begins

**France** - French public prosecutor opens two human trafficking investigations after France shuts down grape picker accommodation sites.

**France/UK** - How distress call to BBC led to rescue of six women trapped in refrigerated lorry in France. Six women have been rescued from the back of a lorry in France, after the BBC helped track them down and alert the police.

**India** - Indian Workers In The Gulf File 1 Labour Complaint A Day, On Average. From 2019 till June 30, 2023, the Indian embassies in Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, together received 48,095 labour complaints from Indian migrant workers. All reported issues indicate signs of forced labour as defined by the ILO.

**Italy** - Italian PM steps up crackdown on migrants with deportation decree. Giorgia Meloni sets sights on foreigners who lie about their age to benefit from protection scheme for unaccompanied minors

**Kenya** - Report claims multinationals selling highly hazardous pesticides to local farmers.

**Namibia/South Africa** - Bird flu prompts Namibia to ban SA chicken imports.

**Poland** - Anti-migrant rhetoric dominates politics in Poland ahead of October vote. Politicians from across the political spectrum engage in anti-migrant language ahead of October 15 polls.

**South Africa** - [South Africa hit by storms and unseasonably low temperatures.](#)

Temperatures 10-15C below norm forecast in South Africa while risk of wildfires rises in Australia after unusual spring heatwaves

**Sri Lanka** - [“If We Raise Our Voice They Arrest Us” Sri Lanka’s Proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#)

**Timor Leste** - [‘Playing the China card’ or a serious regional threat?](#) Timor Leste’s new deal with Beijing. The upgrading of ties with Beijing caught regional leaders by surprise, but experts say it could be a strategy to secure investment from Australia.

**Tunisia** - [EU to start releasing money to Tunisia under migration pact.](#) The European Union is set to ‘swiftly’ disburse 127 million euros as part of a July deal to halt irregular migration.

**UK** - [Braverman's refugee speech sparks UN human rights criticism](#)

**UK** - [Modern slavery victim speaks of exploitation by job agency.](#) A victim of modern slavery has told how he was exploited by an employment agency after he was recruited from Africa to work in care homes.

**UKRAINE** - [The consequences of Russia’s war on Ukraine](#) for climate action, food supply and energy security

**USA** - [No US State Meets Child Rights Standards.](#) Updated Scorecard Shows Improvement, but Many States Still Fail Children

**USA** - [Poultry processing firms Tyson and Perdue are under investigation](#) after contractors allegedly hired migrant children

## Human rights and ethical trade news

**Human Rights Defenders** - [Unilever releases ground-breaking principles & guide](#) in support of Human Rights Defenders

**Greenwashing** - [How the EU greenwashing regulations will impact your business.](#) Is your business ready to comply with the EU's greenwashing regulations?

**Living wage** - [Solidaridad supports letter calling for EU lawmakers to include the right to a living income in the CSDDD.](#) Solidaridad, along with 70 CSOs and producer organisations from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America have sent a letter calling on EU member states to back proposals by the European Parliament that would require companies selling goods in Europe to conduct due diligence on living incomes in their value chains.

**Modern slavery in DRC** - [Innovative project to strengthen social norms against the use of modern slavery in the DRC](#)

**TNFD** - [TNFD launch new reporting framework for nature.](#) Under the new Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures’ (TNFD) framework, businesses are encouraged to establish science-based nature targets and integrate nature risk considerations in their sustainability strategy.

**TNFD** - [Human Rights-Based Approaches to TNFD: What Does a Leading Approach Look Like?](#) Blog by ERM Sustainability Institute

**SIZA Standard Review 2023:** [Changes to SIZA Social and Environmental Standards](#)

**Standards** - [SIZA and LEAF Marque Announce Equivalency Agreement](#)

**Solar** - [ESMC demands ban on selling modules made with forced labour](#). Solar businesses in Europe are advised not to source any product or material at all from Xinjiang. The European Solar Manufacturing Council (ESMC) has again published an open letter regarding the solar manufacturing industry in the EU, urging European legislators to adopt legislation that prohibits the sale of products made with forced labour particularly in Xinjiang, China.

**Remediation** - [Nike to repay alleged unpaid wages to garment workers ahead of annual general meeting](#). More than a dozen investors are suing Nike for garment workers after labor rights groups say garment workers in Cambodia and Thailand have lost wages due to factory closures affected by COVID-19.

**Indigenous People** - [Indigenous children at high risk of being in child labour](#). Child labour and education exclusion among indigenous children is a direct result of the marginalization of indigenous communities says a new analysis.

## Sustainability/climate

**Litigation** - [Girl, 11, among six young people taking on 32 nations in historic climate case](#). Claimants say European countries are breaching their human rights by failing to take adequate action to tackle global heating

## Resources / Reports

**Gender** - [Designing for change through “reflecting and doing”](#): the CGIAR Community of Practice on Gender-Transformative Research Methodologies

**Supply chain due diligence** - [Due diligence in the downstream value chain](#): case studies of current company practice from The Danish Institute of Human Rights

**Accommodation guidelines** - [updated SIZA Accommodation Guideline](#)

**Indigenous Peoples** – cross-sector learning from Mining sector - [Recharging Community Consent](#): Mining companies, battery minerals, and the battle to break from the past.

**Worker voice** - [Building Worker Power in Global Supply Chains](#): Lessons from Apparel, Cocoa, and Seafood. This working paper is about the campaigners and worker organizers in the global South and North who have challenged the persistent lack of government and corporate accountability for workers' rights in the apparel, cocoa, and seafood industries.

**ETI Impact Report 2021 - 2023**

## Podcasts/video/blogs

**Workplaces – an ignored community.** Workplaces have a role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, driving change through the United Nations Guiding Principles for Business & Human Rights and significantly, contributing to climate change ambitions through the Just Transition framework. Blog by Bev Hall.

## Events and webinars

**Unpacking the CSDDD: responsibility, climate and justice – in-person event** 11<sup>th</sup> October, Brussels. Organised by The European Coalition for Corporate Justice; co-hosted by Frank Bold, Friends of the Earth Europe and Justice is Everybody's Business.