



Weekly news email

27th July 2023

News headlines

Africa / migrations - One dead in perilous boat journey to reach Spain from Africa. Boat capsizes off Senegal, leaving more than a dozen dead. President Macky Sall said 'around 15 Senegalese people' died in the accident after their boat capsized near Dakar.

Australia - Australian Border Force 'names and shames' businesses found to be exploiting migrant workers - including a Cheesecake Shop venue. 148 businesses found to be exploiting migrant workers.

Australia - How a Chinese 'student' was forced into modern slavery in Australia. Brought to Australia as a 'student', Henry was made into a slave.

India - Manipur assault video emboldens women to speak out. New allegations of violence against women are emerging in the north-east Indian state of Manipur, as the response to a viral video showing two women being paraded naked by a mob encourages others to speak.

Italy - 'A horrible way to die': how extreme heat is killing Italian workers. Olmastroni is one of five people in Italy whose death over the past week is believed to have been provoked by the extreme heat ... The true death toll is likely to be far greater.

Italy - Italy starts removing lesbian mothers' names from children's birth certificates. The northern Italian city of Padua has started removing the names of non-biological gay mothers from their children's birth certificates under new legislation passed by the "traditional family-first" government of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

Kenya - Del Monte guards accused of another attack on two teenagers. Serious injuries sustained by locals who say guards rammed their motorbikes.

Mediterranean - Deadly Mediterranean wildfires kill more than 40. More than 40 people have died in Algeria, Italy and Greece as Mediterranean wildfires threaten villages and holiday resorts, and thousands have been evacuated.

Oman - I shook with fear': the Indian women who escaped slavery in Oman – in pictures.

Russia - Vladimir Putin signs law banning gender changes in Russia. Legislation outlaws medical interventions 'aimed at changing the sex of a person' and altering gender details in public records.

Sudan - 100 days of fighting in Sudan and no peace in sight: What to know. After a flurry of diplomatic activities, the warring parties seem far from engaging in any meaningful negotiations.

UK – Conservative debates on LGBTQ+ rights 'toxic', says Tory MP. Former equalities minister hopes rights will become uncontentious in interview for 10th anniversary of equal marriage.

UK - Pair forced men to work at Caxton Gibbet McDonald's, trial told. A man and a woman took advantage of six vulnerable men, forcing them to work at McDonald's and taking their wages, a trial has been told.

UK - Afua Hirsch: Why anti-racism work is under threat in the UK. ... in some ways we've made progress. I think that the conversation is more visible and more people are beginning to self-educate about how they work. But in some ways we've also gone backwards because on the right, we have an unprecedented political hostility towards racial equity.

UK - British berry growers accuse supermarkets of pocketing soft fruit profits. British supermarkets have been accused by berry growers of profiting from increased soft fruit prices while failing to provide fair compensation to struggling producers.

UK – Wales - Care firm robs workers of employment rights and puts them on zero hours contracts. A care firm operating across Wales and England has told many of its British workers that their existing employment rights are being rescinded and instead they are being put on zero hours contracts.

UK - Modern slavery gangmasters exploit care worker shortage. The number of modern slavery cases reported within the UK care industry has more than doubled in the past year.

UK - UK accused of unlawful crackdown on visitors from Timor-Leste. Family members of East Timorese in UK denied right to visit, as Home Office says too many hoping to work illegally.

UK – Conservative debates on LGBTQ+ rights 'toxic', says Tory MP. Former equalities minister hopes rights will become uncontentious in interview for 10th anniversary of equal marriage.

UK - Female firefighters in Kent made to strip to underwear in front of male colleagues, union says. 'Unnecessary, degrading practice' at Kent fire and rescue service must end

UK - The mind of the asylum seeker is like an engine – always turning, always trying to find ways to survive.

USA - Texas worker accused of being on drugs was actually dying of heatstroke. Gabriel Infante was working for B Comm Constructors in San Antonio, Texas, on 23 June 2022, digging in the hot summer sun to move internet fiber optic cable, a job he had recently started with a childhood best friend while they were finishing college.

Zimbabwe - Unions say new labour law will restrict ability of workers to protest against employers. Under the amended labour law, workers' representative groupings or individual

employees that recommend or advise collective action against an 'essential service' can be imprisoned for up to 5 years.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Bananalink - [Colombia again raises the standard for good labour relations](#). Three commissions were held in the city of Medellin during June and July 2023, resulting in the signing of a four-year collective agreement for banana plantation workers, covering economic, labour-related and regulatory aspects. This is the first time in the history of over three decades of collective bargaining that an agreement covers such a long period.

KnowTheChain Food & Beverage Benchmark – 2023 Report. [Food firms 'failing to protect' workers from human rights risks. Food and drinks companies fail to address forced labour risks](#). Report reveals progress on identifying, preventing and addressing forced labour by the world's 60 largest food and beverage companies has stagnated, with average scores of just 16/100.

Seafarers' Charter - [The Seafarers' Charter is a voluntary agreement of standards for seafarers between the UK government and maritime operators](#). The charter was announced 24 July by UK and French governments to improve conditions for seafarers with the new Seafarers' Charter

Nature Food Paper - [Forced labour risk is pervasive in the US land-based food supply](#). The paper combines combine data on production, trade, labour intensity and qualitative risk coding to quantitatively assess the risk of forced labour embedded in the US land-based food supply, building on our previous assessment of fruits and vegetables.

Nestle income accelerator - [income accelerator program progress report June 2023](#).

Sustainability/climate

Agriculture - [Mapped: Meat Consumption By Country and Type](#).

Mapping Herb Supply Chains - [Sustainable Herbs Program](#).

Food Unwrapped - [Series 18: Episode 3](#). The team take their trolleys down the fruit and veg aisle getting the inside info on summer veggies in winter, temperamental bananas, and how to waste less fresh produce.

Resources and reports

City Harvest - [What Does Holiday Hunger Mean?](#) The Value of Food Redistribution to People. The media is full of reports of the cost-of-living crisis and holiday hunger is becoming a familiar term at this time of year. But what does this mean to people's lives?

Business Fights Poverty - [Integrating Social Impact into Business DNA](#). Leverage our popular safe-space format to explore effective strategies with peers across businesses and departments. Discuss and learn how to weave social impact into the very fabric of your business for sustained success.

Ergon Update July 2023 – [April to July 2023 - A snapshot](#)

Podcasts/video

Russia – Ukraine war - [Watch Wheat Prices Surge as Russia Threatens Ships Headed to Ukraine.](#)

Podcast - [What's behind the Kenya protests?](#) Protesters have taken to the streets in Kenya to decry the end of subsidies and rising taxes as the country's debt crisis looms.

What does living in high temperatures do to the bodies? - [Sky's Science and Medical correspondent Thomas Moore looks at the effects that high temperatures can have on people living in hot conditions.](#)

Events and webinars

Business Fights Poverty Global Goals event - With many of the Sustainable Development Goals significantly off-track, BFP will bring together business, civil society and governments during UNGA week to identify opportunities to accelerate delivery. New York/ London / Online 19 – 20 Sept. [Save the date.](#)

Business Fights Poverty – Climate Justice event - Coinciding with COP28, we will be bringing companies and partners together to address the social and equity dimensions of climate change. Dubai / London / Online 5-6 December. [Save the date.](#)

African Business and Human Rights Forum: For Africa, from Africa. This year the forum will reflect on the importance of local perspectives and solutions in the collective effort to implement the UNGPs in Africa, including linkages between the UNGPs and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). 5-7 Sept, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) and virtual. [Register here.](#)