



Weekly News email

16th November 2023

News headlines

Africa – Africa seeks action plan on slavery reparations at Ghana conference. Financial reparations are long overdue to Africans and the diaspora as compensation for the enslavement of people of African descent, Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo said on Tuesday on the first day of a conference on how to address such historical injustices.

Indonesia - Indonesia's presidential front-runner Prabowo Subianto on Monday criticised the European Union over its ban on palm oil imports and said Europeans during colonial times were also guilty of deforestation.

Gaza - Israeli troops entered Gaza's biggest hospital on Wednesday and searched its rooms and basement, witnesses said, in pursuit of Palestinian Hamas militants, an operation that has stoked global alarm over the fate of thousands of civilians trapped inside.

Kenya - Allegations of extensive sexual abuse at Kenyan offsetting project used by Shell and Netflix

Kenya - We are living in absolute fear': call to stop Indigenous evictions in Rift Valley. Human rights groups demand Kenyan government halt forced evictions of Ogiek community from Mau Forest

Myanmar - Dozens of members of the Myanmar security forces have surrendered or been captured, a rebel group said on Wednesday, as a coordinated offensive by insurgent groups battling the junta gathers pace in several parts of the country.

Somali - Hit by floods and drought, quarter of Somali people at risk of 'crisis-level' hunger, World Food Programme says

Spain – Spanish presidency considers excluding finance from Due Diligence rules

UK - UK's Prime Minister Sunak suffers major blow as Rwanda migrant scheme declared unlawful.

UK - Annual consumer price inflation plunged to a lower-than-expected 4.6% from 6.7% in September, official data showed. The increase was the smallest in two years and prompted investors to increase their bets on BoE rate cuts next year.

UK - McDonald's harassment and bullying cases 'truly horrific', says UK boss. Chain is receiving one to two complaints about sexual harassment a week, says UK chief executive

UK – Mcdonalds sacks 18 workers after sexual abuse, racism and bullying claims.

UK - As Booths returns to fully-staffed tills at many of its stores, shoppers with varying opinions have their say.

UK - Thousands of migrant workers are at risk of exploitation because of multiple failures in the government scheme that allows them to come to the UK, a report has found.

UK - Inside a shocking new report on two dozen deaths between France and England in pursuit of asylum.

UK – Net zero must not throw farmers under the bus. UK Climate Change Committee called for more funding to ensure agricultural sector was 'resilient to the effects of climate change', as well as better recognition of the unique demands on tenant farmers

UK - The ongoing "disconnect" between retailer prices and production costs could force the UK to start importing berries at greater volumes, growers have warned.

Ukraine - Ukraine War's Toll on School, Children's Future

US - New York state sued PepsiCo (PEP.O) on Wednesday, accusing the beverage and snack food giant of polluting the environment and endangering public health through its single-use plastic bottles, caps, and wrappers.

Vietnam - Vietnamese authorities arrested a prominent parliamentary official on suspicion of links to an extortion racket, the ministry of public security said on Wednesday, while a U.N. representative on human rights visited the country.

Wales - The Welsh Rugby Union's chair admitted there was "a lot of work to do" to win back trust after a report uncovered a culture of bullying and discrimination, where slurs about women in same-sex relationships were being used.

Human rights and ethical trade news

Europe: EU Council Presidency proposes exclusion of finance sector from due diligence directive, despite objections from business & CSOs

ETI - When the Outlaw Ocean was first published in 2019 it sent shockwaves through the global seafood industry. Consumers as well were shocked to hear about the lives of fishers on the high seas – the awful working conditions, abuse, and exploitation rampant in this sector. The most recent publication by the Outlaw Ocean Project however has had even bigger reverberations and impact, on both sides of the Atlantic.

Sustainability/climate

Palm Oil Industry - Latest SPOTT research highlights urgent need for stronger traceability in palm oil production, despite industry's commitment to zero deforestation.

Greenpeace - Shell is suing the environmental charity group Greenpeace; the world is set to double its oil production therefore making it unable to meet its 2030 net zero goals;

Tuna Sustainability – [The UK retailers caught with destructive FADS](#)

UK - [Climate Disclosures and Targets From Animal Protein Producers: Not Improving](#), Investors Warn

US - The US and more than a dozen countries and groups have [forged a working group to advance efforts to measure greenhouse gas emissions across the natural gas supply chain](#) to cut global output of the pollution blamed for climate change.

Resources / Reports/Blogs

ICOCA – The responsible security Association [reports](#) on when the Abused becomes the Abuser.

IDH - Rewriting the Sustainability Playbook to [Integrate Social and Environmental Agendas](#)

FRA – European Union Agency for Human Rights [Report](#). EU survey of Immigrants and their dependents titles “Being Black in EU.

TUC - Code of practice on “reasonable steps.” [TUC response to draft statutory code of practice](#). The right to strike is a fundamental British liberty that is a vital part of ensuring a fair balance of power in the workplace. It is protected by the Human Rights Act 1998, Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the International Labour Organisation’s Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter. It is therefore a core part of the UK’s international commitments.

TUC Blog - As we mark Young Workers Month, Pablo John, member of the TUC Young Workers Forum shares their reflections on the challenges of [organising young workers](#), but more importantly how we can adapt to face those challenges.

Events and webinars

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