



Weekly news email

14th September 2023

News headlines

Global – Over \$1bn in aid has been used to support failed ‘war on drugs’ over the past decade that has fuelled human rights abuses in low-income countries such as Colombia, Mozambique, Peru and others.

Global – Tackling climate change needs a rapid transformation of the way our world works, travels, eats and uses energy according to an important UN review.

Global – Environmental activists killed at a rate of one every other day in 2022 states global witness report, with Colombia being the deadliest country and Amazon rainforest recording 177 recorded killings.

Afghanistan – What the world needs to do for Afghan women. Gender crimes against humanity. The Taliban’s continued attacks on Afghan women’s rights are not just a problem for Afghanistan but for the entire world.

Africa – African leaders have proposed a global carbon tax regime in a joint declaration demanding that major polluters commit more resources to help poorer nations.

Libya – More than 5,300 feared dead after severe flooding following a burst dam in the wake of storm Daniel hitting the country

Morocco – Fears for the winter for those who survived the earthquake in Morocco, as survivors in limbo living in tents.

Cambodia – Human rights council should adopt meaningful resolution to address spiralling rights crisis in Cambodia in a joint civil society letter.

India – G20 summit: Biden says human rights in India were raised with Prime Minister Modi and discussed the importance of a free press

Vietnam – Biden should raise human rights concerns with Vietnamese government during Hanoi visit in September.

US - Study highlights conflict between Washington’s claims of climate leadership and its fossil fuel growth plans as US is behind more than a third of global oil and gas expansion plans report finds.

Colorado - [‘It’s slavery for modern times’: how children of 12 toil in Colorado’s fields](#). Some Republican-led states are pushing to relax child labour laws but even in the farms of San Luis valley, where most are Hispanic/Latino, youngsters can work an unlimited number of hours

EU - [Clean Air Task Force calls for overhaul of action plans with many countries, including Germany and France, missing drafts deadline](#), since EU states need to bridge ‘planning gap’ to hit climate targets

France – [Channel migrants jailed after small boat crossing violence on a beach near Calais](#).

Netherlands - [New tech boosts Dutch drive for sustainable farming](#). The world population is expected to reach nearly 10 billion people in 2050, according to the UN. Mr Sukkel and his colleagues are developing sustainable farming systems to ensure there is enough food for a growing global population, while also working to reduce carbon emissions.

UK - Have you signed up to our [2023 SDG Flag Campaign](#)? If not, you are still in time! Due to an overwhelming response, we have extended the deadline for orders to this Friday (15 September). Join hundreds of likeminded businesses, civil society, education centres and government offices to mark the eight-year anniversary of the adoptions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UK – [More than a fifth of UK shoppers favourite grocery items at climate breakdown risk](#).

UK - Britain’s fish populations are in a ‘deeply troubling state’ – [report states](#). Species such as mackerel and North Sea cod have been overfished or have reached critically low populations driven by UK government setting catch limits that exceed scientific advice.

UK – Green steel must not axe thousands of jobs reports TUC. There is an alternative where rapid decarbonisation can go hand-in-hand with protecting industries and jobs. Read the full [article here](#).

UK – [Bibby Stockholm located in Dorset is due to be used again ‘within weeks’ to house asylum seekers](#), if safety tests show no cause for concern, the immigration minister has said.

UK - Campaigners say [Britain becoming ‘toxic poster child of Europe’](#) and accuse ministers of breaking Brexit promise on standards as failed to ban 36 pesticides outlawed for use in EU

UK - [A woman accused of forcing vulnerable men to work at McDonald's in Cambridgeshire and taking their wages said she did not agree with the charges against her](#).

Human rights and ethical trade news

Human Rights Watch – [In Brazil, police killed more than 64,000 people in 2022](#) leading to calls in a letter today to attorney general for prosecutors to lead investigations enquiries ensuring that they use guidelines that reflect international standards.

Iseal Alliance – The consultation on the first draft of ISEAL’s ‘Making credible living wage claims: A framework to guide practice’ is now open. Please complete the [consultation survey](#) or send comments to billie@isealalliance.org.

ILO – [Study recommends digitizing the unions' grievance tools and case management system for effective advocacy and policy reform.](#)

Oxfam – [Antidote to denial: assessing human rights in the supply chain.](#) A new framework helps companies better evaluate the effect of their practices on the rights of workers and communities' up and down the supply chain.

Rainforest Alliance – Innovative ways to [enhance living income for Cocoa farmers](#)

Sustainability/climate

Oxfam – [Are G20 countries doing their fair share of global climate mitigation?](#) Comparing ambition and fair shared assessments of G20 countries' national determined contributions (NDC's)

Protecting The Future – ['Green growth' is a form of climate denial.](#) Instead of denying the science of climate change, 'green growers' are now denying the mitigation required to avoid the worst impacts of a hotter planet.

Seafood Sustainability - [Breeding breakthrough paves way for controversial tuna farming on land.](#) Spanish research centre achieves first tank-bred Atlantic bluefin as NGOs warn of poor welfare, more antibiotic use and water pollution.

Sustainability is everybody's business - [How your passion for change can build a better future.](#) The headlines generated by the climate emergency can often leave us feeling powerless, but the increase in sustainability careers means you can make a difference.

Resources / Reports

Unilever - [Human Rights Defenders policy and implementation guidance](#) (sept 2023). Useful guidance on stakeholder mapping, identifying risks and taking action.

Oxfam – [Living Wage Charter.](#) Useful paper to understand living wage description, benefits to organisation and shared experience from other countries together with implementation guidelines.

IHRB – As we approach the second half of the year its worth taking another look at the [Top 10 issues for Business and Human Rights in 2023](#) to see how they have shaped the news. Original document from December 2022 if you missed it.

Job Function Guides for Climate – Patagonia has worked with project drawdown on job function guides on how to make every job a climate one. Access the guides [here](#).

Podcasts/video/blogs

Cyber News - [Save the Children International hit with cyberattack but says operations weren't impacted.](#) Save the Children is just the latest major charity to face cyberattacks in the last year

after both [Amnesty International](#) and the [Red Cross](#) suffered breaches. The [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) and the [International Centre for Migration Policy Development](#) have also faced attacks.

LinkedIn- [NHS reckons with surgery #ME TOO](#). Nearly 1 in 3 female surgeons report being sexually assaulted by a colleague in the last 5 years.

LinkedIn – [Investment hit to UK net zero goals](#) . The UK government's latest offshore wind auction failed to attract any bids from developers, dealing a blow to the country's plans to expand renewable energy rapidly.

LinkedIn – [The human toll of renewable energy in the DRC](#). The renewable energy transformation is putting a strain on the DRC's resources and environment, and it is exacerbating the country's humanitarian crisis.

Events and webinars

Oxfam – A webinar jointly hosted by Oxfam and Tesco will share the Supplier Gender Toolkit developed for Tier 1 suppliers and workers to help Tesco reach its target of at least 30% supervisor and management positions occupied by women in all its Tier 1 suppliers by 2025. The gender toolkit offers practical guidance on approaches and activities to help companies meet this target. Guest speaker is Rokhsana Bilkis Lucky, deputy general manager from Aman Holdings, a garment company in Bangladesh who supported the development of the toolkit. Download the toolkit [here](#). To learn more, you are warmly invited to the webinar hosted by Jiselle Stelle from Oxfam, [register here](#) to attend. Date: 10.00am BST on **Tuesday 19th September**.

Seafish Common Language Group- [Seafood climate change winners and losers](#) – **26th September 2023**. To register for the event email Karen Green with on the [link](#). Climate change is already resulting in warmer temperatures and extreme weather patterns. Continued emission levels by maintaining business as usual will intensify climate change and may lead to further impacts.

Webinar on Forced Labour in Uyghur Region – Professor Laura T Murphy's evidence briefs and reports on connection of international supply chains with the systems of internment and forced labour of people of the Uyghur Region by the Chinese Government are compelling and confronting. Professor Murphy will share her insights and extensive knowledge, so come to the live webinar on **27th September** 12.00am and bring your questions. [Registration link is here](#).

EU Deforestation Regulation – A free webinar to help you understand your obligations in getting to grips with the [EU Deforestation Regulation](#) and how you can start addressing your due diligence. The webinar takes place on Thursday **28th September 2023** 10.00-11.00 CEST/9.00-10.00 BST. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will apply from December 30, 2024, for companies that do business in the EU. To register apply [here](#).