Human Rights

The Business Case for Respecting and Supporting Human Rights
Respecting and supporting human rights leads to increased productivity, higher employee morale and retention, brand differentiation and access to new customers and markets. Having the foresight to anticipate and mitigate human rights risks as part of a company’s overall due diligence process minimizes legal, reputational and financial risk in the long term. Companies must adopt a systematic management approach to identifying and addressing human rights impacts. Respecting and supporting human rights is also a moral responsibility tied to the company’s social license to operate and is critical to creating an environment supportive of sustainable development.

How the UN Global Compact Supports Business Action
Led by the Human Rights & Labour Working Group, the UN Global Compact aims to:

- Develop, refine and disseminate practical tools and guidance to assist business in meeting their human rights commitments and developing the business case for human rights,
- Promote the implementation and uptake of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,
- Explore areas of specificity (geographical, issue and sectoral) to increase understanding among business of human rights and how to respect and support human rights, and
- Assist Global Compact Local Networks in their efforts to advance corporate respect and support of human rights.

Through participation in the UN Global Compact, businesses have a variety of opportunities to share best practices and learn how to address the most crucial business dilemmas as they pertain to human rights.

Activities and Engagement Opportunities

- Participate on the Human Rights and Business Dilemmas Forum and solve issues together
- Be the subject of a case study for the Embedding Human Rights into Business Practice Series
- Attend events and webinars
- Join the Women’s Empowerment Principles and Children’s Rights and Business Principles
- Sign the Open Letter calling on academic institutions to educate future managers and leaders on business and human rights