



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

GENEVA SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
AND MANAGEMENT

GENEVA CENTER
FOR **BUSINESS**
& **HUMAN**
RIGHTS

The first
human rights center
at a business school
in Europe

gcbhr.org

About the GCBHR

The mission of the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights (GCBHR) is to **educate future business leaders and support companies in developing business models that align profits and human rights principles.**

The institution was **founded in November 2019** as part of the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM) at the **University of Geneva (UniGE)** under the direction of Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly. It is the first human rights center at a business school in Europe and it closely collaborates with the New York University Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

The GCBHR is presented as a key institution in the *Swiss National Action Plan (2020-2023)* for business and human rights.

The five-year objective of the GCBHR is to establish itself as a business and human rights expert institution in International Geneva, within Switzerland, and the international business and human rights community.

“*The Geneva School for Economics and Management educates future leaders based on three core values: rigor, relevance, and responsibility. The work of the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights is a concrete illustration of how we put our school's values into practice.*”

Marcelo Olarreaga
Former dean of the Geneva School of Economics and Management

The GCBHR has developed a distinct methodology to **ensure research impact**. Its work typically consists of four main phases:

Methodology

- 1 DIAGNOSIS**
Conducting **academic and field research** to analyze a corporate human rights challenge with a focus on how business models affect human rights of workers and communities.
- 2 SOLUTIONS**
Based on rigorous analysis, developing **recommendations for policymakers and companies** to help advance human rights in corporate practice, followed by the publication of a report and public **advocacy for potential solutions to corporate human rights challenges** through public writing and speaking engagements on Swiss and international media.
- 3 ENGAGEMENT**
Engaging with **key stakeholders** throughout the entire research process, including following publication of recommendations, and intensifying this engagement to work with stakeholders that can help drive change, for example, through the development of specific human rights standards in multi-stakeholder settings.
- 4 TEACHING**
Creating **teaching resources such as case studies** based on GCBHR's research insights with the objective to empower the next generation of leaders to better tackle human rights management challenges, and developing a **network of business schools** that are committed to human rights in business education and share teaching resources.



Field research in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sept. 2019)



Based on Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly's review of three pilot projects



Global Business School Network Meeting (Nov. 2019)

Since its launch, the GCBHR has initiated and advanced the following five workstreams in collaboration with its partners:

Focus Areas

HUMAN RIGHTS IN EXTRACTIVES

The objective of this workstream is to **analyze viable solutions to mitigating human rights risks in the cobalt supply chain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**. The GCBHR engages with key stakeholders to encourage the development of common standards that ensure Congolese cobalt is sourced responsibly. The GCBHR publishes its research insights in public reports, op-eds, and teaching case studies and delivers presentations that outline GCBHR's findings and recommendations.

The GCBHR conducted a research project in collaboration with the Global Battery Alliance (GBA), a public-private platform at the World Economic Forum (WEF).

HUMAN RIGHTS IN FINANCE

The objective of this workstream is to **support the integration of human rights into the core activities of companies operating in the finance industry**. To achieve this objective, the GCBHR develops a human rights component for the sustainable finance agenda and generates educational content demonstrating good practices that integrate finance and human rights.

In partnership with the University of Sydney Law School with Finance & Human Rights (FaHR), Luxembourg for Finance (LFF), and Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG).

HUMAN RIGHTS IN AGRICULTURE

The objective of this workstream is to **support companies in establishing the conditions for a rights-based approach to supply chain management that can be sustained in times of crisis**. It ascertains how companies can positively influence supply chain dynamics during and after crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The dual objective of this workstream is to identify levers for corporate actors to proactively and collaboratively mitigate new or amplified human rights risks while supporting the development of resilient supply chains.

First phase in partnership with Nestlé.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTS

The objective of this workstream is to **develop tools for companies operating in complex environments, including conflict and post-conflict settings, where human rights due diligence is particularly difficult**. These tools outline how to align company policies, practices and behavior with international human rights standards. Their integration in corporate operations helps prevent human rights abuses and support peace and respect for the rule of law.

In partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF).

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BUSINESS EDUCATION

This workstream is part of the GCBHR's core mission. Through research, teaching, and establishing networks of business scholars, the GCBHR **advances its human rights agenda at business schools and prepares the next generation of business school students to manage human rights challenges in corporate practice**.

To advance human rights in business education, the GCBHR co-founded the Global Business School Network for Human Rights (GBSN-HR) in collaboration with the Global Business School Network (GBSN), the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights and the Business and Human Rights Catalyst (Alliance Manchester Business School).

The GCBHR also collaborates with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Business Education (PRME) where Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly co-leads the Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

The GCBHR co-founded the Young Researchers Summit in collaboration with the Institute for Business Ethics (University of St. Gallen) and the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

Other Partners

The GCBHR collaborates closely with the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights, where the GCBHR's director, Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly, also serves as Research Director.

In collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the GCBHR runs a series of webinars related to conducting human rights due diligence.

Dorothee Baumann-Pauly also co-leads the Business and Human Rights Pillar of the Wharton Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research.

Advisory Council

CHAIR **Marcelo Olarreaga**

Former Dean of the Geneva School of Economics and Management (GSEM)

MEMBERS **Joëlle Fiss**

Human rights analyst and researcher

Nadine Hack

CEO of Because Global Consulting

Isabel Lechtman

Former CEO of International Union Against Cancer (UICC)

Marcela Manubens

Business and Human Rights expert

Robert McCorquodale

Professor of International Law and Human Rights at the University of Nottingham

Michael Posner

Director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights

Franklin Servan-Schreiber

CEO of Transmutex

Vincent Subilia

CEO of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services

Lene Wendland

Chief, Business and Human Rights Section at Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Florian Wettstein

Director of the Institute for Business Ethics at the University of St Gallen

Julie Wynne

Partner at FRORIEP

Myret Zaki

Head of Communication Programme at the Centre de formation au journalisme et aux medias

Cobalt

Field research is an essential component of our research methodology. In 2019, Prof. Baumann-Pauly traveled to Kolwezi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to assess under what conditions the formalization of artisanal mining sites can be scaled. We published our research findings on responsible cobalt sourcing in the WEF White paper series in September 2020 and we work with the Global Battery Alliance to advance our key recommendations.



UniGE Opening Lecture

Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly had the honor of delivering the 2021 Spring Opening Lecture of the University of Geneva. In her talk titled “The Challenges of Human Rights in Business” she highlighted the unique business opportunities of innovative sustainable business models with human rights.

Swiss National Action Plan

The GCBHR is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and is mentioned as a key institution for the implementation of the Swiss National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights. Prof. Dorothee Baumann-Pauly is a member of the advisory group.

Highlights

Business and Human Rights Research Clinic

The GCBHR launches the first Business and Human Rights Research Clinic at a business school in the fall of 2021. This innovative educational initiative bridges between theory and practice and allows selected master's students to work on a current business and human rights challenge pitched to the GCBHR by a company.



Op-Eds

Based on our research, we publish op-eds in media outlets to advance our recommendations for companies and policy makers. These media pieces and our contributions to high-level events help to shape public debates that affect policy-making and corporate decision-making.

Donating Options

Business and Human Rights Research Clinic 5,000 – 30,000 CHF

Sponsor the Business and Human Rights Research Clinic at the GCBHR.

Event or Event Series 5,000 – 30,000 CHF

Sponsor one or several of our events: webinar, conference or other research-related events.

Project 50,000 – 100,000 CHF

Sponsor a research project.

Focus Area 50,000 – 150,000 CHF

Sponsor one of our focus areas: Agriculture, Business Education, Extractives, Finance, Security.

Endowed Chair 5,000,000 – 10,000,000 CHF

Sponsor the GCBHR's director position through a permanent endowment.