



NEWSLETTER

February 2023

HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE CHANGE

Dear friends of the GCBHR,

We hope you had a good start to 2023.

In this first newsletter of the year, we would like to highlight our most recent research on how human rights and climate change strategies intersect:

1. This week, we published a white paper in collaboration with the [NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights](#) on **cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. We focus on artisanal mining, an integral part of the cobalt supply chain, where mining accidents and child labor are common. Accelerating the transition to electric mobility will require companies to address such human rights abuses in the cobalt supply chain for which the paper outlines viable approaches.
2. Our recent work with [Veronica Bates-Kassatly](#) on **sustainable fashion** shows that “greenwashing” is amplified by rating methodologies that overlook the fact that most greenhouse gas emissions in the garment supply chain are emitted at the manufacturing stage. Sustainability ratings to date, however, do not factor in the energy mix at different sourcing locations. To assess sustainability in fashion, we need to not only look at purchasing practices and labor standards at production sites, but also at the energy mix that powers the production.
3. During a trip in January to the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, we worked with a team from the [Australian Human Rights Institute](#) to analyze a **transformational business model for sourcing wild rubber**. The company created economic incentives for families engaged in rubber tapping for them to act as 'guardians of the forest' to protect the forest from deforestation. As one interview partner put it, “the protection of the Amazon is not only about trees and animals, but about the people who live there.”

The energy transition needs to be not only green but also just with human rights at its center.

Best wishes,

The GCBHR Team

Highlights

EXTRACTIVES

White Paper: Cobalt Mining in the DRC - Addressing Root Causes of Human Rights Abuses

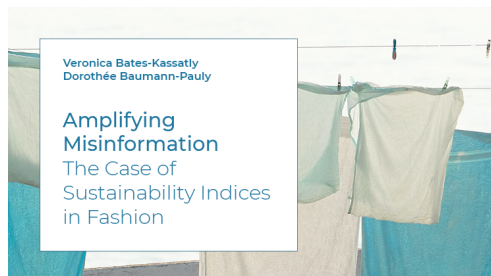


This joint report with the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights is based on Dorothee Baumann-Pauly's second visit to the DRC in December 2022. Her follow-up research highlights that formalization of artisanal mining is a viable approach to addressing human rights abuses in the battery supply chain.

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FASHION

White Paper: Amplifying Misinformation - The Case of Sustainability Indices in Fashion



In the third report of the “Greenwashing in Sustainable Fashion” series, co-authored with Veronica Bates-Kassatly, we demonstrate how brands’ sustainability ratings misrepresent their actual social and environmental impacts.

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BUSINESS EDUCATION

Business and Human Rights Clinic



We are currently offering two BHR Clinics to 15 students in the Master in Responsible Management program. With the International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA), we are developing metrics for the S in ESG focusing on security-related human rights risks. With Microsoft, we will outline strategies to strengthen societal resilience against misinformation.

If you are interested in applying as an organizational partner for Fall 2023/ Spring 2024, we now accept applications on a rolling basis. For more, take a look at [our brochure](#).

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ILO, UNIGE and GBSN Sign Momerandum of Understanding



In December 2022, we signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Labour Organization, the Global Business School Network and the University of Geneva to jointly develop teaching material for BHR.

Watch below different stakeholders explain why human rights is an integral part of BHR education.

[LEARN MORE](#)

The video player features a dark blue background with white text. At the top left, the logos for the International Labour Organization (ILO), Global Business School Network (gbsn), and Université de Genève (UNIGE) are displayed. The main title of the video is "ILO, GBSN and UNIGE join forces!". Below the title, the text reads "Why is it key for students to learn about business and human rights?". A large red play button is centered over the text. At the bottom of the player, there is a progress bar showing 0:00 / 8:59, along with icons for play, volume, closed captions, and settings, and the YouTube logo.

Upcoming Events

Transforming Business Models in the Global Garment Industry: Are Partnerships the Answer?



Co-organized with the [UC Berkeley Institute for South Asia Studies](#) and [NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights](#) on **February 13 at 5 pm CET**, this panel will explore the potential of a buyer-supplier partnership model to benefit global retailers, suppliers, and garment workers.

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