



Human Rights in the Finance Industry

Misconduct in financial services and behavior that fails to meet community expectations are not just matters of legality and professional ethics - they concern infringements of peoples' basic human rights. Join the University of Geneva's Center for Business and Human Rights, the University of Sydney, and Sustainable Finance Geneva on **International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2019** for an introduction of and discussion with participants about a new initiative to provide tools for financial institutions to help them better understand and assess their human rights impact.

The *Financial Services Human Rights Benchmark* (FSHR Benchmark) has been developed at the University of Sydney by a team led by Prof. David Kinley and Dr. Kym Sheehan. The Benchmark has been piloted in Australia surveying the country's largest listed financial services entities and measuring their human rights performance against a set of indicators devised specifically for the financial sector.

Building on the FSHR Benchmark, the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights at UNIGE is currently working on adapting and extending the existing Benchmark to the Swiss context. We are therefore looking forward to a lively discussion with the participants about the human rights challenges facing the finance industry in Switzerland. The objective of our exchange is to get practitioners' input on our draft of the human rights benchmarking tool for financial institutions.





Presenters:

Professor Dorothee Baumann-Pauly is the director of the new Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights at Geneva University, the first human rights Center at a business school in Europe. She conducts research on corporate human rights challenges to identify business models that allow profits and principles to coexist. In 2016, she co-edited the first textbook entitled "Business and Human Rights - From Principles to Practice" (Routledge). Since 2013, Dorothee also directs the research at the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. In March 2017, NYU Stern published the report "Putting the "S" in ESG: Measuring Human Rights Performance for Investors".

Fabio Sofia is President of Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG) and Managing Partner at Wecan Group, a fintech company specializing in digital financing solutions and blockchain. Fabio has over 15 years of experience in sustainable finance, and has played a pioneer role in the field of microfinance. He joined Symbiotics where he has held several roles, including Head of Portfolio Advisory, at its inception in 2004. Prior to joining Symbiotics, he worked for the Human Rights Policy section of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and for Lombard Odier & Cie.

Professor David Kinley is Chair of Human Rights Law at the University of Sydney Law School and an expert member of Doughty Street Chambers in London. He specializes in relations between the global economy and human rights and has worked for more than 25 years in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia with governments, international organisations, law firms, corporations and NGOs in the field. His latest book, *Necessary Evil: How to Fix Finance by Saving Human Rights* (2018) is available from Oxford University Press.

Dr Kym Sheehan first became interested in executive remuneration in 1994 when she started working as an Associate at an executive search firm. She continued her interests in executive remuneration and its regulation via a PhD on say on pay at the Melbourne Law School. Her interest in human rights and business came via her initial research on a modern slavery act for Australia in 2017. It was this research and a mutual interest in finance that led to David and Kym applying for funding via the Sydney Law School's Special Projects Scheme in 2017.

Dr Lilach Trabelsi is Project Lead at the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights at Geneva University. Her research focuses on the link between corporate strategy and sustainability, aiming primarily at enhancing our understanding of strategic decision-making in the area of corporate sustainability, and the role of stakeholders in achieving sustainability objectives. Prior to joining academia, she has held various positions in the private and public sectors, including roles in private banking.