



## **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre appoints Joe Bardwell as Corporate Accountability & Communications Officer**

November 2014



Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is pleased to announce the appointment of Joe Bardwell as its first Corporate Accountability & Communications Officer. Joe will divide his time between bolstering and leading the follow up on allegations of egregious human rights abuses by companies, and working to increase media and social media coverage of the Resource Centre's work. He began working for the Resource Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Joe's corporate accountability work will see him collaborate with the Resource Centre's Regional Researchers to pursue adequate accountability and remedy for victims of human rights abuse from companies which initially provide no adequate response to allegations. He will take up key cases up with international company HQs, their key investors, major business partners, home governments, plus journalists, and social media to create pressure for accountability and remedy.

On communications, Joe will work with the Resource Centre's Director, Phil Bloomer, to set and guide the strategy for all of the Resource Centre's communications, website, and media messages to consistently articulate its mission. He will also work with the Global Team to lead the creation of online content that engages audiences and leads to measurable action.

Joe said: *"Through working on business and human rights projects, I have seen the vital role the Resource Centre plays for NGOs, companies, advocates and victims. I'm looking forward to drawing on my experience in communications and corporate accountability to help build on the Resource Centre's fantastic work and increase its impact".*

The Resource Centre's Director Phil Bloomer said: *"Joe is a strategic addition to our staff. Joe will boost the media coverage of the struggles of our partners on the ground, and the advances of companies promoting human rights in their operations and supply chains. He will also bolster our company responses work to help ensure remedy for victims of abuse. Joe brings the experience and skills we need to make a step change in these two areas."*

### **About Joe Bardwell**

Joe, a UK national, most recently worked at ESCR-Net's Corporate Accountability Working Group, where he was involved in communications for the campaign for a binding treaty on business and human rights. Prior to this, Joe investigated human rights violations as a Legal Trainee and Legal Researcher for the European Centre for Constitutional and Human Rights; researched the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises for the Hertie School of Governance, Berlin; and worked as an adviser on disability and mental health issues, and the UK Equality Act. Joe holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the Irish Centre for Human Rights and a BA in Criminology from University of Central Lancashire.