



PRESS RELEASE

First responses received for public database of government action on business & human rights

(for immediate release)

London/New York, 27 Nov 2014 - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre today officially announced that it is building the first public database on governments' actions on business and human rights, based on outreach to 100 governments worldwide.

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will drive transparency and expose policy gaps, by making information on government business and human rights implementation efforts publically available. We directly contacted over 100 governments to request information on steps they are taking on business and human rights. Governments across the world have submitted information including Bahrain, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Guinea, Israel and Switzerland among others. Governments that have not yet responded are encouraged to do so. A list of non-responding governments will be published prior to the database launch and these will be clearly indicated in the database.

Although preliminary data suggests that knowledge and resource gaps persist, there are examples of the wide range of actions governments can take to improve protection against abuse. Some governments require companies to report on steps they are taking to address human rights impacts and link export credits and land-use licenses only if social and environmental standards are met. Others have established socially responsible procurement guidelines and strengthened non-judicial mechanisms to ensure victims have access to remedy.

Greg Regaignon, Research Director said: *"Transparency on government actions is key to move beyond commitments and drive real improvements in protection and access to justice for victims of business-related human rights abuses on the ground."*

The role of governments in protecting human rights from business-related abuses is indispensable and widely recognised as a core duty. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights unanimously endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011 set out States' duty to protect human rights from business-related abuses alongside companies' responsibility to respect human rights.

[National Action Plans](#) (NAPs) are also at the forefront of implementation efforts primarily in Europe with recent announcements from a few non-European to develop NAPs. The UN Working Group on business & human rights has recently issued a [report](#) on NAPs and a new [toolkit](#) by civil society is also available to assist states in the process of developing these plans.

The Resource Centre is accepting responses to its global survey until mid-December and will release the database of responses in 2015 indicating which governments did not respond.

To discuss the project please contact:

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Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is an independent non-profit organization. We provide the leading information hub on business & human rights: www.businesshumanrights.org. Our researchers are based in Brazil, China, Colombia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, UK, Ukraine and USA. For further details, see the ["About us"](#) section of our website.