



2020 Australian Dialogue on Business and Human Rights

Respecting Human Rights in Times of Crisis

9:30am – 5:00pm, 25 August 2020

9:30am – 9:45am: Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country
Kylie Porter, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Australia

9:45am – 9:50am: Introduction to Opening Keynote Address
Vanessa Zimmerman, Director and Chair, Business and Human Rights, Global Compact Network Australia

9:50am – 10:25am: Opening Keynote Address

The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) are just as applicable during times of crisis as other times, and in fact can provide business with an important framework to ensure their crisis response is rights-respecting and sustainable. Yet the reality is that businesses may face many pressures to deprioritise their human rights programmes at the very time they are most needed. This session will explore what the UNGPs expect businesses to do during times of crises including providing examples of good practice.

Anita Ramasastry, Chair, United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

10:25am – 11:25am: Inclusion and Reducing Inequalities

This panel discussion will explore the challenges posed by crises like COVID-19 on inclusion, systemic racism and inequalities and how these crises can create opportunities for business to align their practices towards greater equality in the workplace, and demonstrating leadership in a manner that strengthens social protection systems and eliminates discrimination. The session will explore some of the policies and practices that have been successful in reducing inequalities in the workplace and company supply chains across topics such as gender, race, disability, sexual orientation and other marginalised persons. The session will also highlight emerging practices and how companies can take specific actions that allow them to reject injustices and support inclusion, such as training employees on inclusion, investing in marginalised people to strengthen inclusive behaviour, and deciding when, and how to, speak out against systemic issues and the impact this might have on employees and stakeholders.

Catherine McNair, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, QBE Insurance

Allyn Shaw, President and Chief Technology Officer, Recycle Track Systems

*Facilitator: **Elizabeth Broderick AO**, Special Rapporteur and Independent Expert on Discrimination against Women and Girls, United Nations*

11:25am – 11:35am: Check-in on Key Themes

Vanessa Zimmerman, Director and Chair, Business and Human Rights, Global Compact Network Australia and **Kylie Porter**, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Australia

11:35am – 12:30pm: A Resilient Future — Climate Change and Respecting Human Rights

This session will explore how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the human rights impacts of climate change, what the responses to these impacts have been in Australia and globally, and the role of business in driving a recovery that addresses climate change and the associated human rights impacts. The session will also highlight how this pandemic has shone a spotlight on the need to transition towards a cleaner energy model and the role that business could play in delivering affordable energy for all. Drawing on lessons learnt from the global response to COVID-19, the discussion will unpack the role of business, government and civil society and what pathways they will



implement to rebuild a more resilient economy – one that is grounded in respecting human rights and climate change science.

Samantha Klintworth, National Director, Amnesty International Australia
Rachel Kyte, Dean, The Fletcher School, Tufts University and Co-Chair, United Nations Energy
Martijn Wilder AM, Founding Partner, Pollination
*Facilitator: **Kylie Porter**, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Australia*

12:30pm – 1:00pm: Lunch Break

Featuring a Presentation on Respecting Human Rights

Sanda Ojiambo, CEO and Executive Director, United Nations Global Compact

1:00pm – 1:50pm: Engaging Indigenous Peoples

There has been increased attention on the rights of Indigenous peoples in 2020. We have seen how the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in enhanced risks to Indigenous persons, particularly Indigenous people who live in rural or remote locations. And, we have witnessed the implications of racial injustices perpetuated by individuals, organisations and states, and the collective response of communities who are advocating for racial inclusion for all and an end to institutional violence and respect for Indigenous rights. The panellists will discuss how companies can address enhanced risks to Indigenous peoples that often occur during times of crises, how crises might impact on consultation with Indigenous peoples and the role that business can play in public campaigns (i.e. Black Lives Matter). The session will feature a preview of the Australian Guide to implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) produced in collaboration between the Global Compact Network Australia, KPMG and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

Cath Brokenborough, Executive Lead, First Nations Engagement, Lendlease
Florence Drummond, CEO, Indigenous Women in Mining and Resources Australia
Karen Mundine, CEO, Reconciliation Australia
*Facilitator: **Catherine Hunter**, Partner, Corporate Citizenship, KPMG Australia*

1:50pm – 2:00pm: Check-in on Key Themes

Corinne Schoch, Head of Programmes, Global Compact Network Australia
Vanessa Zimmerman, Director and Chair, Business and Human Rights, Global Compact Network Australia

2:00pm – 2:50pm: Better Business — Snapshots of Respecting Human Rights

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a test for business, government, civil society and communities. We are witnessing an unprecedented time. A time that comes with new challenges in identifying, preventing and addressing human rights risks across a company's entire value chain. This snapshot session will explore case studies from three different organisations: from the business perspective to understand what steps their business has taken to manage the pandemic in line with their human rights commitments, from the perspective of a civil society organisation and the expectations that they have for more effective stakeholder engagement and from a government representative to understand stakeholder expectations and the role of partnerships.

Keren Adams, Legal Director, Human Rights Law Centre
Jessica Casben, Director, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch, Australian Border Force
Margaret Stuart, Head of Corporate and External Relations, Nestlé Oceania
*Facilitator: **Kylie Porter**, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Australia*

2:50pm – 3:00pm: Break

3:00pm – 4:00pm: Responsible Supply Chains



As businesses rebuild following the COVID-19 pandemic they will find new challenges and opportunities in their supply chains. The crisis has had a significant impact on how businesses undertake human rights due diligence and implement remediation processes relating to their supply chains, including the ways in which organisations engage with suppliers and explore partnerships with third parties. The session will provide an overview of the ways in which the business landscape has changed and how organisations can best respond to emerging issues, including heightened risks of modern slavery in their supply chains.

Tony Khaw, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability Office, NXP Semiconductors

Rick Lambell, Head of Sustainable Development, Kmart Group

Julie Vallat, VP Human Rights, L'Oréal

*Facilitator: **Vanessa Zimmerman**, Director and Chair, Business and Human Rights, Global Compact Network Australia*

4:00pm – 4:45pm: Fireside Chat — Challenging Old Methods and Moving Boundaries

Businesses, civil society, communities and governments have been tested by the COVID-19 pandemic on an unprecedented scale. As the world emerges from this crisis, organisations have the opportunity to rebuild in a way that is more sustainable and conducive to long-term success. By embedding the UNGPs and Sustainable Development Goals into their core business strategies organisations will be better placed to respond to future crises. This session will provide advice on how to do this in practice including how best to engage with senior leadership teams to prioritise this type of response.

John Morrison, Chief Executive, Institute for Human Rights and Business

Carol Schwartz AO, Non-Executive Director, Reserve Bank of Australia; Non-Executive Director, Qualitas Property Partners; Non-Executive Director, Trawalla Group; Non-Executive Director, EQT Holdings Limited; Director, Skalata Ventures; Chair, Women's Leadership Institute of Australia; Chair, Our Community

*Facilitator: **David Cooke**, Chair, Global Compact Network Australia*

4:45pm – 5:00pm: Closing — Looking Forward to 2021

Vanessa Zimmerman, Director and Chair, Business and Human Rights, Global Compact Network Australia