

# Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence: Risks and Opportunities for Workers and Unions?

**Monday**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**13:00 CEST**

**Via Zoom, [RSVP here](#)**

Across the OECD, new laws are being passed to mandate human rights due diligence (HRDD), including the EU's proposed Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. This roundtable examines whether HRDD initiatives are benefiting workers and balancing the asymmetries of information and power that characterise work in transnational supply chains. The roundtable brings together experts in worker rights and labour law with the Vice President of the European Parliament.

The panel will also reflect on the findings of the 'Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence: Risks and Opportunities for Workers and Unions' report. The report recommends five key principles to ensure HRDD is institutionalised in a way capable of driving meaningful change for workers in transnational supply chains. Importantly, the report advocates restoring power to workers as active participants in setting and enforcing labour standards.

The report, available [here](#), is authored by:

Shelley Marshall, RMIT University;  
Ingrid Landau, Monash University;  
Hila Shamir, Tel Aviv University;  
Tamar Barkay, Tel Hai College;  
Judy Fudge, McMaster University;  
Auret van Heerden, Equiception

The event is chaired by Associate Professor Shelley Marshall, Director, RMIT University Business and Human Rights Centre, and open to the public.

## Roundtable Participants:



**Heidi Hautala**, Vice President of the European Parliament

Heidi Hautala is Vice-President of the European Parliament, Member of the European Parliament in the Greens/EFA group. She was elected as a Vice-President of the European Parliament in October 2017 and serves on the Committee on International Trade and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. She is also the shadow rapporteur on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive in the committee of Legal Affairs. In 2017, she established a Working Group on Responsible Business Conduct in the European Parliament. In Finland, Ms Hautala served as a Member of Parliament from 1991 to 1995 and from 2003 to 2009. From 2011 to 2013, she was the Minister for International Development and State Ownership Steering. She holds a Master's degree in Agriculture and Forestry.



**Isabelle Schömann**, Deputy General Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation

Isabelle Schömann was elected Confederal Secretary at the 2019 ETUC Congress. Isabelle heads ETUC policy on workers' participation, legal affairs with a focus on mandatory human rights due diligence, gender equality, single market, industrial policy, and digitalisation.



**Jeff Vogt**, Rule of Law Director, Solidarity Center

Jeff Vogt is the Rule of Law Director of the Solidarity Center, which is the largest U.S.-based international worker rights organization helping to support workers and trade unions. In 2022, he was appointed to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Governing Body and serves on the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association.



**Ruwan Subasinghe**, Legal Director, International Transport Workers Federation

Ruwan Subasinghe is Legal Director at the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and Board member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI). He specialises in international labour and human rights law and represents the ITF at external bodies, including the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).



**Ingrid Landau**, Senior Lecturer, Monash University

Ingrid Landau is a Senior Lecturer and member of the Labour, Equality and Human Rights (LEAH) Research Group at Monash Business School. Her research focuses, among other things, on transnational labour regulation and socially responsible public procurement. She has recently authored the book Human Rights Due Diligence and Labour Governance, to be published by OUP later in 2023. Ingrid is an author of the Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence: Risks and Opportunities for Workers and Unions Report.