

Corporate Human Rights Benchmark newsletter

Thank You

A sincere thanks to the many people who have kindly written to us to express their support and willingness to contribute to the [Corporate Human Rights Benchmark](#) (CHRB) over the coming year. This short newsletter provides an update on our developments and plans, and highlights places where your support may be most helpful. If you have not registered your support and would like to, please click [here](#).

Launch

We launched the Benchmark at the December 2014 UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights with both a panel discussion as part of the formal programme, and an evening drinks reception. There was extensive [media coverage](#) of the launch, including in [Forbes](#), the [Guardian](#), [Huffington Post](#), and [Responsible Investor](#). We were particularly gratified that Monica Woodley, Editorial Director of Economist Intelligence Unit [reported](#) at the Forum that their own survey found that over 40% of CEOs thought that benchmarking companies on their human rights performance would make the biggest difference on improving corporate commitment to human rights.

Funding

We have now received generous support from the Dutch Government, the British Government, and the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. While this provides a solid basis for the start up of the Benchmark, we are continuing to fund-raise to consolidate the longevity of the Benchmark.

Programme Manager Appointed

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our programme manager, Vicky Dodman who will start in March 2015. Vicky comes to us with ten years' experience working in partnership with international business. She currently works for Business in the Community as International Programme Manager, driving responsible business focused on two strategic themes: Business and Human Rights, and Sustainable Supply Chains. She has experience in strategic management and programme delivery across multiple regions with diverse stakeholders and cultures.

Methodology under Development

Methodology development for the Benchmark is underway. We have had great help from many experts so far, especially those who built the Access to Medicines Index and Behind the Brands, and the UNGP Reporting Framework team. We'll be approaching many more of you for your insights over the coming weeks and months, and plan to consult globally on a draft methodology, once developed, throughout 2015 (see below).

Global Consultations on Methodology

The Benchmark team are committed to inclusive consultation with diverse actors in this field. The five consultations held in 2014 – in London twice, New York City, Amsterdam and Tokyo – brought rich insights that continue to inform our work. We want to gain reactions from a similarly diverse audience on both the technical aspects of the methodology and its power in driving change in markets to enhance respect for human rights. We are therefore planning to hold consultations in key hubs around the world from June – September 2015, as well as an online consultation. Further details will be announced on the CHRB [website](#) and in forthcoming newsletters.