

THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

Celebrating 10 Years of the Children's Rights and Business Principles

Business, Children and Sustainable Development

Children make up almost a third of the world's population and interplay with business as consumers, employees' family members and workers. They are a unique stakeholder group in local communities as well as in the society at large: children have specific vulnerabilities and needs, and in some cases, business activities that have no negative impact on adults may be very harmful to children's rights and well-being.

Addressing these impacts offers enormous potential to improve the rights of children and to protect them from harm through the way in which business treats its employees, operates its facilities, develops and markets its products, provides its services, and exerts its influence on economic and social development.

Despite the growth and stronger focus on corporate responsibility and sustainability strategies especially in the wake of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, children are rarely considered as distinct stakeholders and rights holders by business. However, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, business must become fit for children.

About the Children's Rights and Business Principles

Developed by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children – the Children's Rights and Business Principles (the Principles) are the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights.

THE TEN PRINCIPLES

Businesses commit to:

- 1 Meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children
- 2 Contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships
- 3 Provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers
- 4 Ensure the protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities
- 5 Ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them
- 6 Use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights
- 7 Respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use
- 8 Respect and support children's rights in security arrangements
- 9 Help protect children affected by emergencies
- 10 Reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights



Global Compact
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About the UN Global Compact

As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Our ambition is to accelerate and scale the global collective impact of business by upholding the Ten Principles and delivering the Sustainable Development Goals through accountable companies and ecosystems that enable change. With more than 15,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 69 Local Networks, the UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative — one Global Compact uniting business for a better world.

For more information, follow @globalcompact on social media and visit our website at unglobalcompact.org

About The Centre for Child Rights and Business

The Centre for Child Rights and Business (The Centre) supports companies to deliver improvements within their supply chains that benefit workers, families and children, and deliver positive business outcomes. Our mission is to improve the lives of children by working with companies to promote and respect children's rights in all their operations, with a particular focus on supply chains in manufacturing, agricultural and raw materials settings. Throughout our work, we strive to create tangible and long-term impact that serves both children, parent workers and business.

The Centre has set up the Sri Lanka office, in partnership with Save the Children, to launch and manage the Mother and Child Seal for Responsible Business, initially for the tea sector and then gradually for other business sectors as well. The Centre also provides training and consultancy services to business entities and development agencies. Please contact info.SL@childrights-business.org for more info.

About Save the Children

Save the Children is a global leader in development and humanitarian programming, working for over 100 years as the pre-eminent voice for children with governments, civil society and private sector partners in 120 countries worldwide.

In Sri Lanka, Save the Children was established in 1974, at the request of the government, to assist in their efforts to address issues faced by children in the country. The organization has been contributing to both humanitarian and development needs in Sri Lanka for 45 years. Save the Children is currently present in six provinces – Northern, Southern, Uva, Western, Central, Eastern and Sabaragamuwa – through its child protection, education, nutrition, vocational skill development, humanitarian and child rights governance programs. The programmes are aimed to focus on research and evidence-based policy advocacy and campaigning on critical issues relating to child rights, developing innovative and technology-based solutions that enrich the country's ability to address these issues.

About UNICEF

UNICEF works to protect the rights of every child in Sri Lanka. Our goal is to ensure that all of our children survive, thrive and fulfill their vast potential. In a world that is rapidly changing, children are faced with complex challenges and unprecedented opportunities. UNICEF's programs are designed to reach and benefit all children so that they can withstand these challenges, leverage these opportunities and be the drivers of their own destiny.

UNICEF is committed to creating a country in which every child is free to learn, play and grow. Our programs work towards providing all children in Sri Lanka with shelter, nutrition, protection and education, wherever they may be. We strive to create communities in which children can live with dignity and hope, free from discrimination, violence and fear.



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