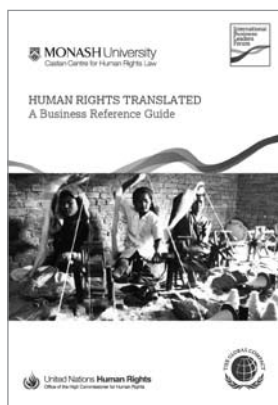


New guide: *Human Rights Translated*



A new publication explaining universally recognised human rights in a way that makes sense to business has just been released. *Human Rights Translated: A Business Reference Guide* is a joint publication of the Castan Centre, the International Business Leaders Forum, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN Global Compact Office.

The UN Human Rights Commissioner, Ms. Navanethem Pillay, was delighted that her office was able to be involved in the publication. "It provides companies with a comprehensive explanation of the entire

range of human rights contained in the two key International Covenants", she said. Ms Pillay was also impressed by the format of the booklet, which uses case studies based on real-life scenarios, noting that these studies offer "useful illustrations of how these rights relate to business practices".

The publication was launched in December at the International Seminar on Business and Human Rights in Paris, where UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, lent his support to the booklet, and applauded its plain-language approach, noting that "no comprehensive tool has existed that describes what such rights mean in a business context. This publication does so, in language that is rights-based while also being easily accessible to business executives and managers." On a similar note, Adam Leach, the CEO of the International Business Leaders Forum stated that even well-meaning companies had been put off by human rights terminology. "*Human Rights Translated* helps demystify human rights for company executives and practitioners across all industries and helps them to see how their existing practices fit within a human rights context", he said.

The publication launch in Paris coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, who was also present at the launch, commented that the anniversary was an appropriate time to launch the booklet: "the 60th Anniversary... is a key moment not only to recognize the leadership of companies that have already engaged on human rights issues but to remind businesses around the world of the challenges that still lie ahead". Professor Ruggie concurred, saying that "companies are encouraged to use *Human Rights Translated* as a reference guide when undertaking their human rights due diligence to ensure that they discharge their responsibility to protect rights".

Castan Centre Director Professor Sarah Joseph attended the launch in Paris and was delighted with the reception the booklet has received. "I think many businesses are very keen for information on human rights that is presented to them in a straightforward manner".

Human Rights Translated can be downloaded for free from the Castan Centre website.

Human trafficking project coming to an end

"I was a bit surprised by how much I enjoyed the interview process", admitted Castan Centre Deputy Director Professor Susan Kneebone as she reflected on the three-year human trafficking research project which she has undertaken with Professor Bernadette McSherry and another Castan Centre Deputy Director, Dr Julie Debeljak.

Professor Kneebone says that she has learned a great deal through interviews about trafficking in the Mekong Delta region and government, INGO and NGO approaches to the problem. While the level of each country's response to the issue varied (interviews were conducted in Laos PDR, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam), she noted that Vietnam had the most well-coordinated approach to dealing with trafficking, bringing the government

together with international and local NGOs to formulate appropriate responses. Countries in the Mekong Delta region also had different trafficking issues to deal with. In Laos and Cambodia, she was surprised by the emphasis on labour trafficking of men and boys from those countries into Thailand, while in Vietnam women and girls were more readily trafficked along the traditional trade routes, especially to Korea and Taiwan. Cultural differences among the countries appeared to explain the different trafficking patterns seen.

When asked what the interview process was like, Professor Kneebone stated that the organisations she interviewed were very welcoming and seemed happy that someone from outside cared about local human trafficking issues. "These organisations do some amazing work",

she said. When asked for her favourite memory from her trip to the Mekong Delta, Professor Kneebone recalled the incongruous sight of local monks strolling past green rice paddy fields on the outskirts of Vientiane in Laos PDR while she conducted an interview at a women's shelter in a nearby orchard.

In discussions on the Australian Government's current response to trafficking, Professor Kneebone noted positive changes. The Australian government is engaging fully with the NGO community and has overhauled its arrangements for trafficked women. It is taking a more open and responsive attitude toward suggested changes to its approach, which she felt was promising.

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