



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



Partners in  
Transformation  
Helpdesk Business  
and Human Rights

# Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights

A support offer for companies from  
the German Federal Government

## Growing Expectations and Requirements

Whether it concerns labour protection, combating forced labour and child labour or ensuring living wages – companies increasingly pay attention to ecological and human rights standards along their supply and value chains.

Amongst other reasons, this can be traced back to the growing expectations of employees, customers and investors. Furthermore, the legal requirements for respecting environmental standards and human rights are rising – both at national and European level.

In June 2021, for example, the German government passed the **Supply Chain Act** – a law that requires companies from all sectors to implement due diligence processes along their supply chain. The law may also have an impact on German SMEs and companies abroad.

## Free Advisory Services for Companies

Do you work for a company and would like to know which specific requirements need to be considered? Do you need support in implementing human rights due diligence processes? The Helpdesk is the right partner for you!

As a support offer from the German Federal Government, the Helpdesk has been the main contact for companies and business associations offering initial and referral advice concerning business and human rights since 2017. It is part of the Agency for Business and Economic Development and provides **free, individual and confidential advisory services to companies regarding human rights along the supply and value chain**.

The Helpdesk supports businesses in identifying existing gaps and in improving their actions when it comes to environmental and social responsibility. In addition to the advisory services, the Helpdesk offers workshops, training courses, online tools and events to raise awareness on the topic of “Business and Human Rights”.

### We advise:

1. Companies that have legal obligations under the German Supply Chain Act.
2. All other companies, e.g. suppliers and SMEs, that wish to implement human rights due diligence processes.

Implemented by:

**KFW** DEG Impulse

In Cooperation with:

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



## Our free Online Tools for Businesses



**CSR Risk Check:** The online tool to assess product-, commodity- and country-specific CSR risks.  
(Available in DE, EN and NL / In coop. with MVO Nederland & UPJ)



**SME Compass:** The online tool supporting companies to take responsibility for social and environmental sustainability along their supply and value chain:

- 1) The **Due Diligence Compass** of the SME Compass helps to implement due diligence processes step by step.
  - 2) The **Standards Compass** provides orientation in the jungle of sustainability standards and offers companies the opportunity to check and compare standards.
- (Available in DE and EN / In coop. with GIZ & ITC)



**Business & Human Rights Navigator:** The portal with numerous case studies, background information and guidance on ten specific human rights topics.  
(Available in DE, EN and ES / In coop. with the UN Global Compact & Verisk Maplecroft)



**Online Course:** A free online course for companies to learn more about business & human rights. Get your free activation code via: [kontakt@helpdeskwimr.de](mailto:kontakt@helpdeskwimr.de)  
(Available in DE, EN and ES / In coop. with KfW, DEG and Innovativkonzept)

## Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles

Corporate due diligence is an ongoing and individual process. Since 2011, the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights define the responsibility of businesses of all sizes to respect human rights. A due diligence process according to the UN Guiding Principles consists of the following five core elements:

- ✓ Policy Statement
- ✓ Risk Analysis
- ✓ Preventive and Remedial Action
- ✓ Reporting and Communication
- ✓ Grievance Procedure and Access to Remedy

With the help of these five steps, your company will succeed in systematically embedding human rights due diligence in its core business. The Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights guides you through the implementation process and is available to answer your questions (via phone, e-mail and in person).



### Contact


You can reach the Helpdesk on Business and Human Rights via telephone and e-mail.

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