



MEDIA RELEASE

From policy to practice: A multi-stakeholder dialogue on business and human rights

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More than 100 leaders and experts will meet in Sydney tomorrow for the second annual Australian Dialogue on Business and Human Rights.

Business, government, civil society and academia are coming together to discuss ways in which human rights can be integrated into business strategies and practices.

The Dialogue is being co-convened by the Global Compact Network Australia and the Australian Human Rights Commission.

“Many Australian businesses are taking action to support human rights as well as identify and manage any potential negative human rights impacts. The Dialogue is an opportunity to highlight where Australian companies are leading, and also identify challenges and how business can work with stakeholders to address those.” said Alice Cope, Executive Manager, Global Compact Network Australia.

International business and human rights expert John Morrison, from the Institute for Human Rights and Business, will be delivering the keynote address.

“Business benefits from hearing other stakeholders’ expectations about human rights performance. It also has much to share on how these issues play out in practice and what support it needs, including from government,” said Vanessa Zimmerman, Chair of the Global Compact Network Australia’s Human Rights Leadership Group.

Since the first Dialogue was held in 2014, the business and human rights agenda in Australia has continued to evolve, with pressure growing on Australian businesses to “know and show” that they respect human rights and also growing interest in the Government’s response.

“Never has there been a better time to look at business through a human rights lens. More importantly, this is an opportunity to make genuine and lasting change towards marrying business operations with human rights principles and that will not only prove that this can be done, but will act as a call to action for others,” said Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

“Today all companies, regardless of size or sector, need to consider their relationship to human rights, and face their challenges in order to mitigate legal, reputational and commercial risks,” said Rachel Nicolson, Partner, Allens.

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