



Ideas for how to help mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Familiarize yourself with the Global Compact's human rights principles

Explore the Global Compact Human Rights and Business Learning Tool available at: www.unssc.org/web/hrb/Default2.asp

Policy statements

Consider whether it would be appropriate for your firm to include more explicit references to human rights and the UDHR in your company policies (an integrated policy or stand alone human rights policy) and whether they could be posted on the Internet to share them more widely. Your firm may also add human rights into existing policies. You can see a list of policy statements at: <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/Policies>.

Awareness raising

Consider whether there is scope to raise awareness of the UDHR and its anniversary among employees, subsidiaries, business partners and other stakeholders through company communications channels.

The UDHR is available in 335 languages at www.unhchr.ch/udhr/navigate/alpha.htm.

You can also make your own individual commitment to the UDHR at: www.everyhumanhasrights.org. Some companies are helping to promote this campaign through their intranet and website.

Case studies, learning and good practices

Consider whether your company could commit to testing a business and human rights tool and sharing the experience with your Global Compact Local Network.

An optional one-page human rights management framework that businesses might find helpful in integrating human rights in business management is available in six languages at www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Tools_and_Guidance_Materials.html

If your company has good human rights practices that you think that others could learn from, consider sharing the know-how by volunteering to be the subject of a business case study for the UN case study series Embedding Human Rights in Business Practices III. The second volume is available at: www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/human_rights/EHRBPII_Final.pdf

Engage in Global Compact Local Networks

Global Compact Local Networks can consider referencing the UDHR's 60th on their websites and put human rights on their network agenda during 2008. Global Compact Networks that are already undertaking activities on business and human rights this year include networks in Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Korea, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nordic countries, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Zambia.

Engage in other networks

Consider what opportunities there might be to help raise awareness of the UDHR and the UN Global Compact at the local level through industry associations and other networks in which your

company is involved. Consider opportunities for engagement with non-governmental organizations.

Engage with national human rights institutions

Consider what opportunities there might be to engage with national human rights institutions. National human rights institutions are independent bodies established by states and combine the advantages of an official entity with the creativity and energy of non-governmental organizations. For more information about national human rights institutions, go to www.nhri.net.

Communicate progress

Please do include your human rights activities in your next Communication on Progress. You may also wish to consider publicizing human rights initiatives you are taking in connection with the 60th anniversary by notifying the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre: contact@business-humanrights.org. The Resource Centre will be drawing attention to such initiatives on its website, www.business-humanrights.org.

Philanthropy

The UN Global Compact focuses on the business case for supporting and respecting human rights and avoiding complicity in human rights abuse. However, you may wish to consider whether your company would like to support local or international development projects e.g. to preserve water or provide clean water, sponsor or provide materials to a local school, support a health clinic or education program, help with women's groups etc. Many companies have partnered with the UN or non-governmental organizations on such projects especially where there is a link between the company's core business and the project.