

Update: The National Plan on Business & Human Rights

CSR Stakeholder Forum,

5 March 2019

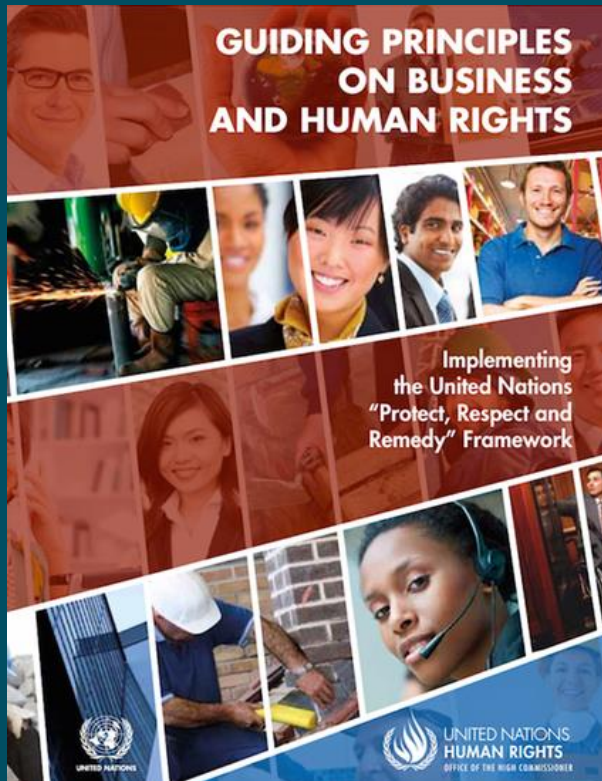


An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade





UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights



Endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011

Aim:

To enhance standards and practices with regard to business and human rights so as to achieve tangible results for individuals and communities.

They are intended to apply to all business enterprises, both transnational and local, regardless of size, sector, location and ownership or structure.



31 UN Guiding Principles

Three pillars

The State Duty to Protect Human Rights	The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights	Access to Remedy
States existing obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms	The role of business enterprises as organs of society performing various functions, required to comply with all applicable laws and to respect human rights	The need for rights and obligations to be matched to appropriate and effective remedies when breached



Development of National Plan

- June 2014 – Government Decision
- November 2014 – NGO Forum
- February 2015 - Workshop with business and civil society representatives
- December 2015 – Working Outline
- January 2017 – Draft National Plan
- Spring 2017 - Consultations with other Government Departments and Agencies
- July 2017 – Government Decision approving publication of National Plan on Business and Human Rights



Key commitments

- Business and Human Rights Implementation Group
- Baseline assessment of the legal and regulatory framework pertaining to business and human rights in Ireland



Business and Human Rights Implementation Group (1)

- Established in 2018
- Independently chaired by Ms Breege O'Donoghue
- Civil Society/
Business/
Government





Business and Human Rights Implementation Group (2)

Next steps

- Next meeting: 3 April 2019
- Three subgroups:
 - State duty to protect
 - Corporate responsibility to respect
 - Access to remedy



Baseline study

- Drafted by independent consultants
- Draft circulated to the Implementation Group for observations & corrections
- Finalised version will be made publicly available on the DFAT website



A living instrument

- The National Plan will have to be updated to reflect the evolution of the dialogue on business and human rights at international fora
- The membership of the group may be reinforced in the coming months to ensure that all key stakeholders are represented
- Further research may be commissioned by the sub-groups