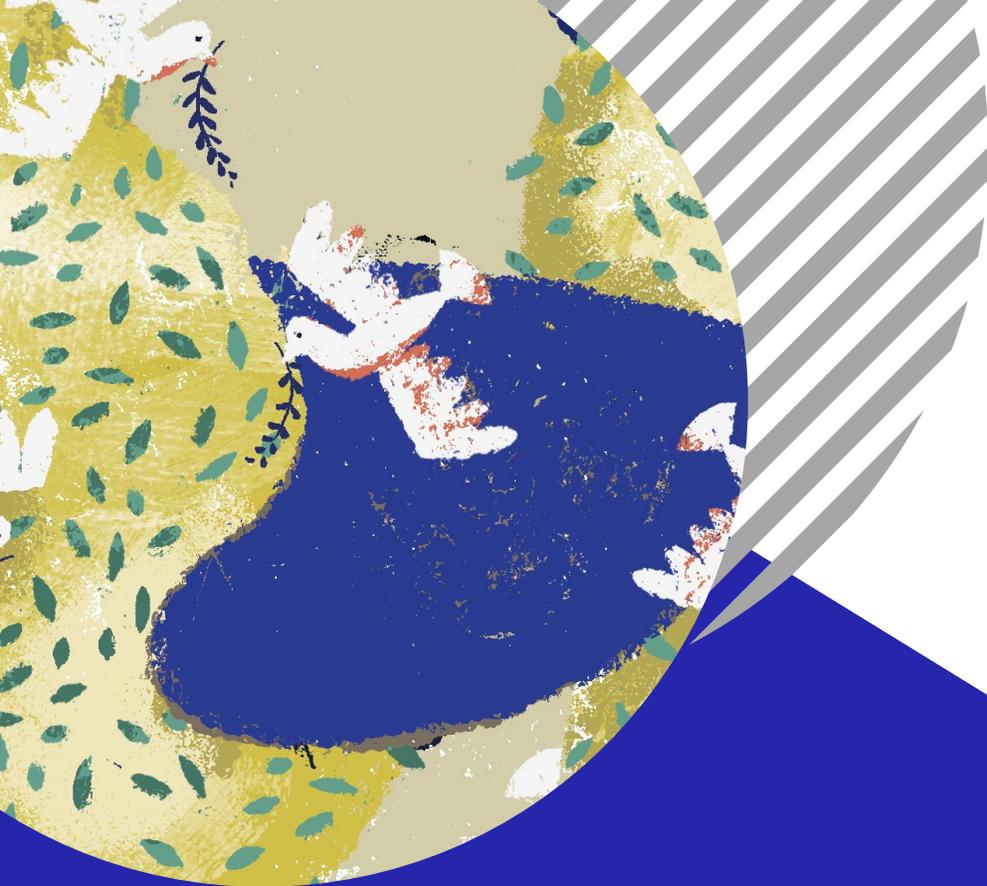


ICAR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

VIRTUAL SERIES
WEEK 1: SEPT 21 & 23
WEEK 2: SEPT 28 & 30



DETAILS

ICAR 9TH ANNUAL MEETING |

PLATFORM:

Zoom Webinar + Meeting Room

DATES:

Week 1: Sept. 21 & 23

Week 2: Sept. 28 & 30

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - around 12:00 P.M. EDT

GWYNNE SKINNER AWARDS + CLOSING CEREMONY |

DATE: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020

TIME: 11:20 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. EDT



INTRODUCTION

The International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) is proud to host our 9th Annual Meeting virtually on September 21 & 23, 28 & 30, 2020. Since our founding in 2010, ICAR has hosted members and partners from the Business and Human Rights and Corporate Accountability movement for an annual two-day conference in Washington, DC. In typical years, we gather together to explore where the movement has been in the last year, where we are going, and to identify connected efforts. While we are sad that we cannot be with you in person this year, we are excited that moving to a virtual platform will allow us to connect with more of you. This is the perfect time to bring the voices of those who would otherwise not know about or travel to ICAR's meeting into the conversation and to explore opportunities for our diverse efforts to come together to best serve those most negatively affected by corporate greed.

That's why we have taken a slightly different approach to the online conference. This year, we will convene on Mondays and Wednesdays over the course of two weeks. We hope that breaking the sessions up in this way will give you all a break from Zoom in between each day of the meeting. We're meeting from 9:00am EDT to around 12:00pm EDT on each day of the convening to ensure that as many of you can join in on the conversations that are occurring. We are excited for the community to come together in conversation around the rich keynote sessions we have planned and the in-depth breakouts many of our partners put together.

As always, the ICAR Annual Meeting is a convening by civil society organizations for civil society organizations. Although we are hoping to broaden the reach of this meeting, we remain committed to providing a safe and secure space where you – ICAR's members and partners – can freely explore new ideas, share tactics, and strategize for the future. This year's program will focus largely on how the Business and Human Rights and Corporate Accountability movement should respond to the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic and structural racism. It will feature sessions around ICAR's core areas of work: protecting protest, combatting corporate capture, and enacting legal safeguards to hold corporations accountable. The program will also include breakout sessions on a variety of other topics organized and hosted by ICAR partners.

In this packet you will find an agenda, Zoom webinar and Meeting Room links for each day of the meeting, as well as information about the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award. We know that everyone's time is precious right now and many of you are juggling more responsibilities than you typically do. Please plan to join us for what we hope will be an engaging and enriching few hours away from the chaos of daily life right now. We're continuously amazed by the work of this community and are grateful to be in this fight with you all. We hope to see you at the ICAR Annual Meeting.

In solidarity,

The ICAR Team



ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 1

Day 1: Monday, Sept. 21, 2020

9:00 - 9:15 AM

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Alison Friedman, ICAR

9:15 - 10:45 AM

Plenary: Racial Justice and the Corporate Accountability Movement

This plenary session will focus on racial justice and corporate accountability and draw connections between the intersectionality of climate justice; racial justice and how we can better address abuses of power--in our own organizations, policing, government more broadly, and the corporate sector.

Resources:

- [*When It Comes to Racial Justice, the Business and Human Rights Community Can Do More*](#) - Kelly Davina Scott
- [*I Stood Up for Indigenous Rights at Mount Rushmore. Now I'm Facing 17 Years | Opinion*](#) - Nick Tilsen

Moderator:

- Alison Friedman, ICAR

Speakers:

- Kelly Davina Scott, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR)
- Nick Tilsen, NDN Collective
- Sean Perryman, Internet Association

10:45 - 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 - 12:00 PM

Panel: Protecting Protest: Fighting Back Against Corporate Bullies

Judicial harassment against human rights and environmental defenders and other public watchdogs is on the rise around the globe. With a diverse panel of speakers, this session will explore how judicial harassment by companies against activists arises and plays out in a variety of jurisdictions. From this discussion, we hope to be able to identify ways civil society actors are working to combat judicial harassment in their jurisdictions can collaborate to build power and stigmatize the use of these tactics.

Moderator:

- David McKean, ICAR

Speakers:

- Lady Nancy Zuluaga, Business & Human Rights Resource Center (BHRRC)
- Leanne Govindsamy, Asina Loyiko
- Valentina Stackl, Greenpeace USA

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 1

Day 2: Wednesday Sept. 23, 2020

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Panel: Building Just Transition for Worker and Climate Justice

Globally, worker and climate activists are organizing to build support for policies that lead to a just transition. As the world transitions to a carbon-neutral economy, worker and climate activists are developing just transition models that address the needs of both people and the environment. The Just Transition framework creates the opportunity to develop a shared vision across movements on developing new models that serve the needs of people and not just capital.

Moderators:

- Catherine Feingold, AFL-CIO

Speakers:

- Samantha Smith, International Trade Union Confederation Just Transition Center
- Keya Chatterjee, US Climate Action Network
- Jan Philipp Rohde, DGB the German Labor Federation
- Jesper Lund-Larsen, United Federation of Danish Workers 3F

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Panel: Combating Corporate Capture

Corporate influence over and capture of our public institutions is a global challenge that poses an immense barrier to holding corporations accountable and addressing business-related human rights and environmental abuses. Recognizing this, many organizations within various movements are working hard to fight the rise of the corporate State around the globe. While these organizations may approach the problem differently, we are all working towards the same goal: ensuring that governments put the public interest ahead of corporate profits and hold bad actors, including corporations, accountable.

This session will bring together experts and practitioners who are monitoring and pushing back against corporate capture in different jurisdictions. Through an interactive discussion, we hope to: 1) explore challenges to combating corporate capture; 2) discuss strategies different groups are using and what has, and has not, been successful; 3) identify gaps in knowledge and mechanisms of capture that may be flying under the radar; and 4) identify opportunities to amplify and support each other's work.

Moderator:

- Nicole Vander Meulen, ICAR

Speakers:

- Dominic Renfrey, Center for Constitutional Rights
- Shayda Naficy, Corporate Accountability
- Jenn Ahearn, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Break

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 1

Day 2: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM **Breakout Sessions**

At the Root of Abuse: Challenging the Corporate Form

This breakout session will explore how the corporation is itself a main driver of human rights abuse and economic inequality, and how more equitable and democratic alternatives could pave a brighter road ahead. Benefit corporations, “stakeholder capitalism,” and reimagining the “purpose of the corporation” have all been proposed as solutions to corporate inequities and abuse—but will they actually mitigate harm and economic inequality? This session looks beyond these limited reforms to explore how worker and community ownership/governance more transformatively advances economic, social and environmental justice, and why corporate accountability activists ought to support these ideas and goals. It will feature voices from the solidarity economy movement, the labor movement, workers who have ownership/governance rights, and beyond. The session speakers will include Dr. Grietje Baars, senior lecturer at the City Law School at City, University of London, and Melissa Hoover, the founding Executive Director of the Democracy at Work Institute.

Organized by Amelia Evans and Teddy Ostrow, MSI Integrity

Moderators:

- Teddy Ostrow, MSI Integrity
- Amelia Evans, MSI Integrity

Speakers:

- Grietje Baars, University of London
- Melissa Hoover, Democracy at Work Institute

Introducing the Idea Bank, a Hub for Corporate Accountability Litigators

This session will focus on understanding and fostering innovation within the corporate accountability community. We will consider how innovation plays out at different levels: individually, as organizations, and as a broader community. We'll reflect on what structures and practices drive innovation within the community, and what could be improved. Within this context, we will introduce the “Idea Bank,” an online “knowledge hub” that Corporate Accountability Lab has developed to foster collaboration and innovation amongst litigators in the corporate accountability community. Community members will share how they might use the Idea Bank to gather feedback on particular strategies and share information with allies.

Organized by Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab

Speakers:

- Ben Hoffman, EarthRights International
- Cathy Sweetser, Promise Institute for Human Rights at UCLA
- Avery Kelly, Corporate Accountability Lab

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 1

Day 2: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2020

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM ***Breakout Sessions Cont'd***

Training the Next Generation of BHR Advocates: Teaching BHR Forum

This session is intended to re-familiarize ICAR members with the Teaching BHR Forum and its current work. The session will focus on our response to COVID, to illustrate the breadth and depth of our work and its relevance to ICAR members.

We plan to discuss three interrelated activities: our teaching notes and resource links; our weekly calls to support virtual teaching innovation; our speaker roster initiative, and our ongoing webinar series. We will then open up the conversation to discuss how the Teaching BHR Forum can support ICAR members in their work.

Organized by Meg Roggensack, Georgetown University Law Center & Teaching BHR Forum

Speakers:

- Anthony Ewing, Teaching BHR Forum
- Rachel Chambers, Teaching BHR Forum

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 2

Day 3: Monday, Sept. 28, 2020

9:00 - 9:15 AM

Opening & Keynote Speaker Introduction

Arvind Ganesan, Human Rights Watch

9:15 - 10:00 AM

Keynote Address featuring Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Moderator:

- Arvind Ganesan, Human Rights Watch

10:00 - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Breakout Sessions

Countering Corporate Strategies to Avoid Responsibility for Human Rights

Corporations around the globe continue to operate with impunity, as they often use strategies to avoid responsibility for human rights abuses and environmental damage. The wide prevalence and acceptance of these strategies is problematic. The Mind the Gap consortium presents an innovative framework that establishes five corporate strategies leading to the avoidance of responsibility for harmful effects on people and communities around the world. In order to make sure businesses can no longer avoid responsibility for negative human rights and environmental impacts, the governance gaps need to be closed, and other systemic barriers to justice need to be removed. Around the world, ideas and initiatives have emerged that aim to close the governance gaps and other systemic barriers to justice that allow or enable harmful corporate strategies to continue. These ideas and initiatives are often developed in engagement with and support of those people and groups who are most affected by corporate human and environmental rights abuses. In this session, the objective, activities and method of the Mind the Gap project will be introduced to participants. Then participants will be invited to share their ideas and questions on counter strategies that can be effective in tackling corporate strategies to avoid responsibility for human rights, and in closing governance gaps. Ultimately, the Mind the Gap consortium will release a toolkit that contains resources and materials useful for CSOs/NGOs development of their own counter strategies.

Organized by Virginia Sandjojo, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)

Speakers:

- Lydia de Leeuw, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- Julia Mello Neiva, Conectas

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 2

Day 3: Monday, Sept. 28, 2020

10:15 - 11:15 AM **Breakout Sessions Cont'd**

Access to Remedy in the Technology Sector

The [UN Human Rights B-Tech Project](#) seeks to provide authoritative guidance and resources to enhance the quality of implementation of the United National Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights with respect to [four strategic focus areas](#) in the technology space, namely: Addressing human rights in business models; Human rights due diligence and end use; Accountability and Remedy; and Regulatory and policy responses to human rights challenges linked to digital technologies. This session will be an engagement session to the ongoing work of OHCHR B-Tech on Access to Remedy in the technology sector. The B-Tech team is currently drafting a series of foundational on this focus area and would like to share some initial thoughts and questions for feedback and input from ICAR members, particularly as it relates to the foundational paper on the “remedy ecosystem”.

In this session we will be exploring the “remedy ecosystem” for addressing technology-related harms, and how technology companies can make a more positive and proactive contribution to remedy, in fulfillment of their responsibilities under the UNGPs. Drawing from the findings of the recently concluded phase III of the OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project, we will examine the role of company-based grievance mechanisms in this complex, fast-moving and dynamic sector, and the challenges that may be encountered in responding to specific types of technology-related harm (e.g. adverse impacts resulting from decisions based on algorithms), and in defining and allocating responsibilities for remedy in situations where technologies have been integrated into a wide range of products and applications. We will also consider the various ways that States can drive and support the development of a well-functioning system of remedies for technology-related harms that properly responds to the needs of rights-holders.

Organized by Nathalie Stadelmann on behalf of OHCHR B-Tech

Moderator:

- Lene Wendland, Chief, Business and Human Rights; UN Human Rights Office

Speakers:

- Jennifer Zerk, Consultant, OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project and B-Tech Project
- Professor Lorna McGregor, University of Essex

The Nestle-Cargill Supreme Court Case: Implications for Corporate Accountability

This breakout session will explore the underlying issues and implications for corporate accountability of the Nestle-Cargill case that will be heard at the US Supreme Court in late fall 2020. How will the case affect the Alien Tort Statute as a means of holding corporations accountable for human rights violations? How can CSOs use the case to highlight the need for strengthened legal mechanisms? What are some specific ideas for addressing the undermining of ATS and strengthening corporate accountability generally? The session will feature experts on tracking and child labor in cocoa production, a member of the legal team bringing the Nestle case, and corporate accountability legal and policy experts.

Organized by Keith Slack, EarthRights International & Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab

Speakers:

- Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab
- Terry Collingsworth, International Rights Advocates
- Marco Simons or Michelle Harrison, EarthRights International

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 2

Day 4: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020

9:00 - 10:00 AM

Panel: Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence

In the last several years, the corporate accountability movement has come together with one voice to call for the passage of mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence (mHREDD) laws around the world. Legislation that creates civil liability for corporations when they commit or contribute to human rights abuses is the new gold standard. Following the due diligence format illustrated in the UNGPs, mHREDD laws create an obligation for corporations to analyze potential risks of human rights and environmental violations; prevent or mitigate the realization of such risks; and, in the event that a violation occurs, provide remediation for victims.

As each jurisdiction explores how to right size these legislative measures to their domestic realities, the movement must work to ensure that we are both ensuring that the expertise of those most impacted are heard and addressed in developing legislation, as well as sharing lessons learned from more advanced campaigns. To facilitate these goals, this session will feature geographically diverse speakers, who will share their stories.

Moderator: Abby Henderson, MSI Integrity

Speakers:

- Claudia Saller, European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)
- Fernanda Hopenhayn, Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)
- Arnold Kwesi, Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER)

10:00 - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Breakout Sessions

Rightsholder Centered Approaches to BHR

In accordance with the spirit of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, human rights due diligence should translate to “tangible results for affected individuals and communities”. However, numerous studies have found that a decade worth of due diligence has yet to create meaningful change for rightsholders. The question is, why? What new approaches or methods may be needed. Placing rightsholders and communities at the center of BHR efforts may be a good start.

Organized by Matthew Mullen, Article 30 & Tyler Giannini, Harvard Human Rights Program

Moderator:

- Matthew Mullen, Article 30

Speakers:

- Tyler Giannini, Harvard Human Rights Program
- Gerardo Reyes, Coalition of Immokalee Workers - Fair Food Program
- Greg Asbed, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 2

Day 4: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020

10:15 - 11:15 AM

Breakout Sessions Cont'd

Using Data to Improve Working Conditions in Apparel Supply Chains and “Build Back Better” post COVID-19

The session description has been shortened for the annual meeting agenda, please see the [full session description here](#). The first part of the session will show what is out there, and what could be achieved by combining more data. The landscape of using data to shed light on the working conditions in the garment industry has shifted greatly over the past years. Under pressure from the [Transparency Pledge](#) coalition and others, many brands have started disclosing their Tier1 facilities. The [Open Apparel Registry](#) is successfully making those usable. And many more data sources can be found at <https://appareldata.org/>. Yet, there are also limitations: laggards, reliance on company-supplied data. In combining data, and in adding worker voices, we can counter the CSR speak, and go beyond transparency towards actual change. For example, [FashionChecker.org](#) contrasts the wage promises and policies by brands with actual wage data from garment workers and unorthodox research has used satellite images to locate forced labor camps in Xinjiang.

This session will also explore questions around data in connection to mandatory HRDD legislation. As the Covid19 pandemic has served as a contrast fluid, highlighting the structural power imbalance in garment supply chains, there is growing momentum for mandatory HRDD legislation, of which transparency should be a necessary part. How can we ensure that this data will actually help workers and rights holders to have access to remedy? How can we recognize red flags in upcoming legislation? And finally, some “Black Mirror” testing: with more data collection, we should also focus on ethics, data hygiene, and unforeseen consequences. What if full transparency on home-based workers can also serve to identify undocumented migrants to a hostile government, locate ethnic or religious minorities to fanatics or make women and girls vulnerable to GBV? Or, as an example, you could use cell phone location data to prove excessive overtime. Should we?

Organized by Paul Roeland, Clean Clothes Campaign

Moderator: Katie Shaw, Open Apparel Registry

Speakers:

- Paul Roeland, Clean Clothes Campaign
- Rola Abimourched, Worker Rights Consortium (WRC)
- Aruna Kashyap, Human Rights Watch
- Laureen van Breen, WikiRate

ICAR Annual Meeting

Week 2

Day 4: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020

10:15 - 11:15 AM **Breakout Sessions Cont'd**

Trade and Business & Human Rights

This breakout session will explore emerging linkages between trade policy, global supply chains, and corporate accountability for negative human rights impacts. Modern trade agreements, including the recently enacted United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), increasingly contain provisions that encourage companies to respect human rights across their global supply chains. How can the link between trade, global supply chains, and human rights be strengthened?

Organized by Eric Gottwald, AFL-CIO

Speakers:

- Jeff Vogt, Solidarity Center
- Caroline Khamati Mugalla, East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC)
- Judith Kirton-Darling, industriAll

11:15- 11:20 PM **Break**

11:20 - 12:00 PM ***Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Ceremony + Book Launch***

Moderator: Amol Mehra

Speakers:

- *Beth Skrypzak*
- *Katie Gallagher*

Award Recipients:

- *Alejandra Gonza, Global Rights Advocacy*
- *Shawan Jabarin on behalf of Al-Haq*

12:00 - 12:15 PM ***Closing Session***
Alison Friedman, ICAR

Gwynne Skinner Awards



Congratulations to our 2020 Award Winners: Alejandra Gonza & Al-Haq

ICAR and the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Selection Committee are pleased to announce the recipients of the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award, Alejandra Gonza and Al-Haq!

[Click here for the full announcement in English and Spanish.](#)

About Gwynne Skinner

Professor Gwynne Skinner was a Professor of Law at Willamette University. Professor Skinner also worked as an ICAR Advisor for over six years, serving as a resource, guide, mentor, and friend to the ICAR team and to our whole community of practice. Her work litigating on the front lines of corporate accountability, producing scholarship, and thought-leadership on access to remedy, parent company accountability, and a range of other issues put her at the forefront of the agenda of business and human rights.

Gwynne's textbook available for pre-order

In conjunction with the Award Presentation, Gwynne's textbook "Transnational Corporations and Human Rights: Overcoming Barriers to Judicial Remedy," drafted prior to her passing in 2017 and now completed in collaboration with Professor Rachel Chambers and Sarah McGrath, will be launched. The publication with Cambridge University Press is available for [pre-order here](#).

About the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award

The award will be delivered in conjunction with ICAR's Annual Meeting in September and will recognize the work of an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to corporate accountability that year.

A Selection Committee of preeminent leaders in corporate accountability as well as family members of Gwynne have been appointed to lead in the selection of the recipient. The Selection Committee includes:

- Anita Ramasastry, University of Washington School of Law;
- Paul Hoffman, Schonbrun DeSimone Spell & Hoffman LLP;
- Amol Mehra
- Katie Gallagher, Center for Constitutional Rights;
- Melissa Tuck, ICAR;
- Ari Alvarez, Nathan Cummings Foundation;
- Beth Skrypzak, Gwynne Skinner's wife.

The award will be presented on the last day of ICAR's Annual Meeting virtual series (Sept. 30th). For more information, please contact Melissa Tuck at melissa@icar.ngo or Basma Humadi at basma@icar.ngo.