

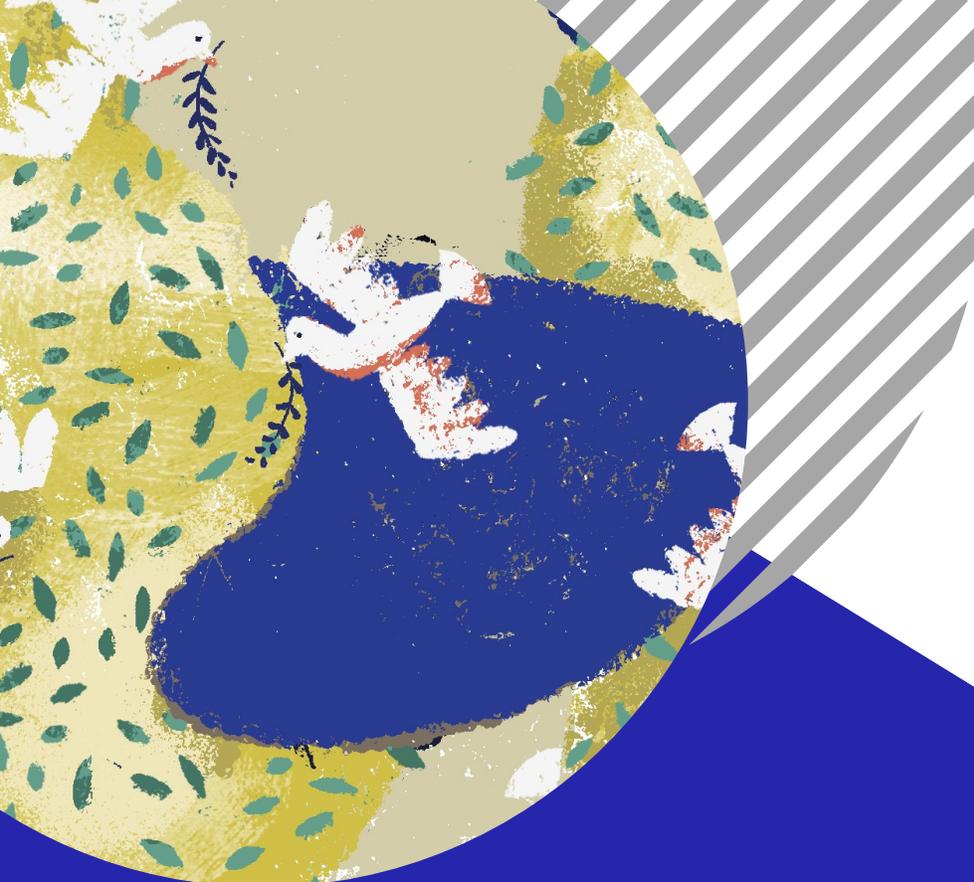
# ICAR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

VIRTUAL SERIES

DAY 1: MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

DAY 3: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22



# DETAILS

## ICAR 10TH ANNUAL MEETING |

PLATFORM:

Zoom Webinar + Meeting Room

DATES:

Day 1: Monday, October 18

Day 2: Wednesday, October 20

Day 3: Friday, October 22

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. EDT

## GWYNNE SKINNER AWARDS + CLOSING CEREMONY |

DATE: Friday, Oct. 22, 2021

TIME: 11:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M. EDT

For day-of support, trouble accessing materials + zoom links or more information, please contact Melissa Tuck at [melissa@icar.ngo](mailto:melissa@icar.ngo) or Basma Humadi at [basma@icar.ngo](mailto:basma@icar.ngo).



# INTRODUCTION

The International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) is proud to host our 10th Annual Meeting virtually on October 18, 20, & 22, 2021. 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 a virtual platform will once again 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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday over the course of a week. 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 1:30pm EDT on each day of the convening to ensure that as many of you can join in on the conversations. 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. 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 that includes session descriptions, speakers, and more information on the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Awards ceremony and recipients. We know that everyone's time is precious right now and many of you are juggling more responsibilities than you typically do. 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

Day 1: October 18, 2021

9:00 - 9:30 AM

## **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

David McKean, ICAR

9:30 - 10:45 AM

## **Keynote: Race & BHR**

As Jena Martin, Tara Van Ho, and Erika George wrote in a recent law review article: “The raison d’être of Business and Human Rights is to tackle structural corporate impediments to the universal realization of human rights. Yet, racism, one of the most obvious of such barriers, has been a blind spot for BHR. While the field has contended with gender inequality, there have only been tokenistic nods to intersectional harms caused by business activities. The failure to address racism seriously undermines both the promise of BHR generally and specifically the recognized need to redress intersectional harms experienced by women from racialized backgrounds.” This powerful statement warrants immediate and committed attention from the BHR community. This panel will begin a public conversation about where the authors feel that we as a community have fallen short, and how we move forward as a movement to respond to this call to action.

Article:

- [Reckoning: A Dialogue about Racism, AntiRacists, and Business & Human Rights](#) - Jena Martin, Tara Van Ho, and Erika George

Moderator:

- David McKean, ICAR

Speakers:

- Jena Martin, West Virginia University
- Tara Van Ho, University of Essex
- Maurice BP-Weeks, ACRE

10:45 - 10:50 AM

## **Break**

10:50 - 12:00 PM

## **Panel: Corporate accountability advocacy: Centering impacted communities' experiences**

There is a disconnect between where governments have significant power over corporations, and where those corporations are engaging in human rights abuses. As corporate accountability advocates in the U.S. and Europe, its important to be aware that the difference will be felt in other places, where these corporations choose to conduct their work. In this session, we will hear from human rights defenders in Uganda, Bangladesh, and Mexico, who will share stories of corporate human rights abuses their communities have faced and highlight what they see as important human rights due diligence legislation.

Moderator:

- Noor Hamadeh, ICAR

Speakers:

- Miguel Soto, PODER
- Joseph Byomuhangyi, ISER
- Muhammad Ashrafuzzaman, Odhikar

12:00 - 12:30 PM

## **Break**

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 1: October 18, 2021

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

## **Breakout Sessions**

### ***From "facts to feeling:" using storytelling for human rights advocacy***

When it comes to addressing human rights risks and violations, a powerful story can move audiences from "facts to feeling" - and, hopefully, to action. In this session, we will learn about how we can utilize storytelling to create real impact. We will hear the experiences of four speakers who have used creative storytelling approaches to defend human rights. They will share an excerpt of these stories with us and explain how their words have become powerful advocacy tools, bringing inspiration and change in communities affected by large scale investment projects and rights rollbacks.

- Brian Rawson, Storytelling for impact: Memorable and motivational narratives at work
- Michael Clements, The tale of two mine closures in South Africa
- Andrew Bogrand, Down the Line: The empty promises of oil money in Uganda
- Paul Redman, How to support environmental leadership from Indigenous peoples and local communities to build networks and cultivate inclusive impact driven storytelling.

Organized by Caroline Brodeur, Oxfam

Speakers:

- Brian Rawson, Lifelabs Learning
- Michael Clements, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR)
- Andrew Bogrand, Oxfam
- Paul Redman, Filmmaker and Founder, If Not Us Then Who, Inc

### ***Lawyers Behaving Badly - How Should Bar Associations Respond to Legal Bullies?***

This session description has been shortened for the full annual meeting agenda, please see the [full session description here](#).

As an increasing body of research has been published on the issue of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), a striking pattern has emerged: in a number of countries, many of the most high-profile and aggressive SLAPPs are being pursued by the same lawyers or law firms. Many of these law firms seem to celebrate their reputations for belligerence: one notable example in the US has adopted "Creative. Aggressive. Relentless" as its tagline. In countries such as the USA and the UK, it appears that a new industry has emerged in what is euphemistically termed "reputation management" - words that, in practice, often allude to the facilitation of SLAPPs.

Given the central role lawyers play in the growth of SLAPP, what should bar associations and law societies do to tackle the problem? SLAPPs are, by definition, abusive lawsuits - and many codes of conduct make it clear that abusing the judicial process is unethical. To date, however, examples of lawyers being held accountable for their use of SLAPPs or intimidation tactics are few and far between.

Organized by Charlie Holt, Greenpeace International

Speakers:

- Dalia Nareddin, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation
- Marco Simons, EarthRights International
- Professor Bruce Green, ABA

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 1: October 18, 2021

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

## ***Breakout Sessions Cont'd***

### ***The Fourth Pillar Initiative: Community Principles for Business and Human Rights***

This session will discuss a possible Fourth Pillar to the UNGPs that is community-centric, highlighting the need for rights holders to be consistently at the table in the field of business and human rights. We now have a working draft of the Pillar that is based on a series of workshops over the past six, seven years, and we are in the process of socializing the draft with individuals and groups to get both substantive feedback and see about ways to collaborate and share it more broadly in the coming months.

Organized by Tyler Giannini, Harvard Human Rights Program

Speakers:

- Tyler Giannini, Harvard Human Rights Program
- Nicole Vander Muelen, ICAR
- Milap Patel, MSI Integrity

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 2: October 20, 2021

9:00 - 9:15 AM

## ***Opening Remarks and Keynote Speaker Introduction***

Arvind Ganesan, Human Rights Watch

9:15 - 10:30 AM

## ***Keynote Address featuring Tom Perriello, Executive Director for U.S. Programs at Open Society Foundation and former U.S. Representative***

Tom Perriello, executive director of Open Society-U.S., will join us as a keynote speaker to provide a funder's perspective on business & human rights and corporate accountability.

Moderator:

- Alison Friedman, Former Executive Director of ICAR

Speakers:

- Tom Perriello, Executive Director for U.S. Programs at Open Society Foundation and former U.S. Representative
- Alison Friedman, Former Executive Director of ICAR

10:30 - 10:45 AM

## ***Break***

10:45 - 11:45 AM

## ***Panel: Corporate Accountability - The view from the Executive Branch***

As the world's largest and most powerful economy, the US has outsized power to regulate and enforce business and human rights standards, and hold corporations accountable for abuses throughout supply chains. As the Biden Administration seeks to press this agenda forward, this conversation will provide members of the Executive branch the opportunity to discuss how the the White House and the agencies are working together to make use of all the tools available to hold companies accountable, and provide our community with an opportunity to gain insight into where challenges remain, where we should be applying pressure, and what additional authorities the agencies need to enable them to do everything in their power to dismantle business models and supply chains built on human rights, labor rights, and environmental abuses.

Moderator:

- Nicole Vander Meulen, ICAR

Speakers:

- Scott Busby, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State
- Jenny Stein, Special Advisor for Internet Freedom and Business and Human Rights in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor at the U.S. Department of State
- Jordyn Arndt, Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State

11:45 - 12:30 PM

## ***Break***

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 2: October 20, 2021

12:30- 1:30 PM

## **Breakout Sessions**

### ***Updating and Revitalizing the U.S. National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct***

On June 16, 2021, to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles, Secretary of State Tony Blinken announced that the United States would update its National Action Plan (NAP) on Responsible Business Conduct. The last National Action Plan, released at the close of the Obama Administration, included some notable commitments, but received little follow up during the Trump Administration.

Launching a new NAP process at the beginning of the administration provides an opportunity for the administration to lay out a comprehensive vision for how it expects to engage with companies and regulate business impacts on human rights. The strategy session will discuss how the ICAR community plans to engage in the NAP process, including what issues we hope are addressed in the NAP, and how to encourage the Administration to develop ambitious and implementable plans.

Organized by Marti Flacks, CSIS

Speakers:

- Marti Flacks, CSIS
- Nicole Vander Muelen, ICAR

### ***Challenging the Corporate Form: The 'Missing Middle'***

This session description has been shortened for the annual meeting agenda, please see the [full session description here](#).

This session will dive straight into the gap between the struggle against multinational or large corporations and the often small-scale solidarity economy initiatives that serve as 'alternatives', and invites audience members into an interactive, imaginative space to begin to bridge this gap - the "missing middle".

The session will be facilitated by a group of moderators who have, over the last year and a half, loosely organized as a community of practice under the theme 'challenging the corporate form' and have been in a learning space about solidarity economy initiatives. The session will begin with an introduction to MSI Integrity's new research agenda, focusing on a taxonomy and a preliminary analysis of alternative corporate structures, that will set the stage for audience members to begin imagining, in small groups, how these structures could challenge existing hegemonic corporations.

Organized by Milap Patel, MSI Integrity

Moderator: Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL)

Speakers:

- Milap Patel, MSI Integrity
- Komala Ramachandra

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 2: October 20, 2021

12:30 - 1:30 PM

## ***Breakout Sessions Cont'd***

### ***Augmenting Difficult Realities: Using AR to Change Perspectives***

This conversation begins at the intersection of art, technology and social change. ICAR and our partners at 4th wall come together to launch an augmented reality app designed to reveal the hidden world of corporate capture. The Capitol, Inc project uses the "ICAR App", accessible to all, to geolocate art installations by 4 remarkable artists in various locations in Washington D.C. The art highlights 3 different industries illustrating how the prioritization of corporate profit undermines progressive change across a variety of issues.

In this session, Nancy Baker Cahill along with 3 artists from the Capitol, Inc project will discuss how AR can be used as a tool of subversion, impact and empowerment. These conversations aim to inspire and educate participants on the expansive potential of utilizing AR as a tool in the fight for getting corporations out of our government.

Organized by Nancy Baker Cahill & Caleb Craig, Nancy Baker Cahill Studios

Moderators: Nancy Baker Cahill & Caleb Craig, Nancy Baker Cahill Studios

Speakers:

- Nancy Baker Cahill, Nancy Baker Cahill Studios
- Alfredo Salazar-Caro, Artist
- Emma Robbins, Artist
- Stacy Waddell, Artist

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 3: October 22, 2021

9:00 - 9:05 AM

## ***Welcome and Introductory Remarks***

David McKean, ICAR

9:05 - 10:15 AM

## ***Building a Practical Foundation for Justice Work: A Self to Systems Approach***

**This session will not be recorded, and no new participants will be admitted after the intentions are set / agreed upon by the host and attendees. We highly encourage guests to arrive on time.**

How can individuals and organizations become active, authentic, and effective participants in the movement for Justice? Our society has practiced systems of inequality and injustice so long that it has become a habit. Racial inequality, social, economic, and environmental injustice are all results of our foundational beliefs, behaviors, and practices of inequality. These practices have drained and abused our natural resources and created division and chaos among us.

Do we desire to see positive, impactful and healing, and unifying change? Do we desire a better world for the generations to come? We are the co-creators of a new way of being. We must build a new foundation, a new system, and habits anchored in our social responsibility to humanity and the entire Earth ecosystem. We must anchor ourselves in Justice.

Justice is a systemic societal practice rooted in the equality of all things. Justice requires that we practice aligning our mindset, actions, and emotions with the values of equality, unity in diversity, inclusion, equity, and authentic allyship. While practicing these values with high integrity in our life, we can and will create a new way of being that eradicates every form of social, economic, and environmental injustice.

Session Takeaways/Goals:

- Provide a solid foundation that helps participants understand the Social, Economic, Environmental Justice and Human Rights Movement as a component of good citizenship and social responsibility and Earth stewardship
- Outline practical and manageable steps to building a foundation for you and your organization to become active participants in the Justice Movement.
- Provide tools to develop and strengthen Social and Emotional Intelligence in the context of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Racial Justice.
- Redefine Social Equality & Social Justice concepts into Universal Values.
- Engages and invites participants in creating a sustainable personal practice of Social, Economic and Environmental Justice from Self to Systems.

Organized and facilitated by [Pamela Gray Daniel](#), We Are One Consulting

10:15 - 10:30 AM

***Break***

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 3: October 22, 2021

10:30 - 11:30 AM

## ***Breakout Sessions***

### ***Global Trends in Corporate Accountability Litigation***

How can impacted communities obtain remedy through civil litigation or criminal cases, and what provides the best chances? This session will examine the most recent jurisprudence in corporate accountability litigation. Panelists from the UK, Germany and Argentina will discuss cases in their own jurisdictions and globally, providing a frank and timely analysis of what prospective litigants should expect from each legal system.

Anyone working with impacted communities interested in exploring how litigation could be another tool in the toolbox for confronting corporate abuse will benefit from this session.

Organized by Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL)

Moderator: Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL)

Speakers:

- Daniel Leader, Leigh Day
- Gabriel Pereira, Andhes Argentina
- Miriam Saage-Maaß, ECCHR

### ***Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Corporate Accountability: The Promise & Challenges of Integration***

In this session we will be unpacking the promise that Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) hold for the field of corporate accountability, but will also be diving into the disenchanting reality of how difficult and resource intensive it is to develop these tools (something that a handful of civil society organizations are beginning to experience now). It will be a hopeful reality check, a space to share lessons learned and good-to-know's with the community, bringing home the message that there is no need to be intimidated but that working with these technologies is not without its challenges.

Organized by Laureen van Breen, WikiRate

Moderator: Laureen van Breen, WikiRate

Speakers:

- Katharine Bryant, Walk Free
- Alex Pentland, TRUST :: DATA
- Natalie Grillon, Open Apparel Registry
- William Crumpler, CSIS

# ICAR Annual Meeting

Day 3: October 22, 2021

## ***Breakout Sessions Cont'd***

10:30 - 11:30 AM

### ***Growing global momentum towards mHREDD - perspectives from Europe, Canada, Mexico and Africa***

Global conversation about the role and elements of mHREDD for effective corporate accountability in global value chains.

Session Takeaways/Goals:

- We would like to explore what the priorities for corporate accountability are from the perspective of these different jurisdictions and how robust mHREDD laws fit in it (including what elements should these laws have to be robust).
- Participants will have an understanding of latest global developments towards mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation in several jurisdictions
- Panelists will share perspectives on how comprehensive mHREDD laws could impact rights-holders, identify risks and gaps, and hear how those working to put mHREDD laws in place in their jurisdictions are innovating.

Organized by ECCJ - CNCA

Moderator: Chistopher Patz, ECCJ

Speakers:

- Emily Dwyer, CNCA
- Arnold Kwesiga, ACCA
- Sylvia Obregon, ECCJ
- Fernanda Hopenhaym, Poder

11:30 - 12:15 PM

### ***Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Ceremony***

Moderator: Amol Mehra, Laudes Foundation

Speakers:

- Beth Skrypzak, Gwynne Skinner's wife
- Katie Gallagher, Center for Constitutional Rights

Award Recipients:

- Charity Ryerson, Corporate Accountability Lab (CAL)
- MP Theonila Roka Matbob

12:15 - 12:20PM

### ***Closing Remarks***

David McKean, ICAR

# Gwynne Skinner Award



## Congratulations to our 2021 Award Winners: MP Theonila Roka Matbob & Charity Ryerson

**ICAR and the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Selection Committee are pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award: MP Theonila Roka Matbob and Charity Ryerson!**

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

### **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 purchase:**

Gwynne's textbook "Transnational Corporations and Human Rights: Overcoming Barriers to Judicial Remedy," drafted prior to her passing in 2017 and completed in collaboration with Professor Rachel Chambers and Sarah McGrath, is available for purchase through [this link](#).

### **About the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award**

This award is delivered in conjunction with ICAR's Annual Meeting each year and recognizes 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, Laudes Foundation;
- Katie Gallagher, Center for Constitutional Rights;
- Melissa Tuck, ICAR;
- Ari Alvarez, Nathan Cummings Foundation;
- Beth Skrypzak, Gwynne Skinner's wife.