

2025 ICAR ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

IN-PERSON CONVENING
(VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE)

MAY 7th & 8th



DETAILS

ICAR ANNUAL MEETING

In-person Convening and Evening Happy Hour

DATES:

DAY 1: Wednesday, May 7

DAY 2: Thursday, May 8

TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. EDT

GWYNNE SKINNER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD CEREMONY

DATE: Thursday, May 8

TIME: 1:30 P.M. EDT

ICAR Annual Meeting Agenda

DAY I: WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

TIME	SESSION TITLE
8:30 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks
9:30 AM	Keynote Speaker <i>Remarks by Bobbie Sta. Maria, ED of EarthRights International</i>
BLOCK 1: REFUSING TO BE SILENCED	
10:00 AM	Threats to Civil Society <i>Plenary</i>
11:15 AM	Break
11:30 AM	Greenpeace Trial Updates: Implications and the Fight Ahead <i>Breakout Session</i>
	Protest Restrictions in a Political Climate Hostile to Free Speech <i>Breakout Session</i>

ICAR Annual Meeting Agenda

DAY I: WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025

TIME	SESSION TITLE
12:30 PM	Lunch (preview the lunch menu)
BLOCK 2: CORPORATE CAPTURE	
2:00 PM	Combating Corporate Capture and the Rise of the Corporate State <i>Plenary</i>
3:15 PM	Break
3:20 PM	Corporate Capture: The Role of Trade Associations <i>Breakout Session</i>
	From Principles to Practice: Policy Solutions and Tools for Ensuring UNGP Aligned Political Engagement <i>Breakout Session</i>
TIME	SESSION TITLE
4:30 PM	Closing Remarks
5:00 PM	Evening Happy Hour Event (preview the menu)

ICAR Annual Meeting Agenda

DAY II: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

TIME	SESSION TITLE
8:30 AM	Doors Open
9:00 AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks

BLOCK 3: THEMATIC TOPICS OF SPECIAL CONCERN	
9:15 AM	Corporate Crimes and Complicity: Fighting for Corporate Accountability During and After Conflict <i>Panel Discussion</i>
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Technology and its Targets: Defending Human Rights in the Digital Age <i>Panel Discussion</i>

TIME	SESSION TITLE
12:00 PM	Lunch (preview the lunch menu)
1:30 PM	Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Ceremony

ICAR Annual Meeting Agenda

DAY II: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

BLOCK 4: ENACTING LEGAL SAFEGUARDS	
TIME	SESSION TITLE
2:00 PM	Corporate Accountability in a Shifting Global Landscape: Taking Stock of Lessons Learned <i>Plenary</i>
3:15 PM	Break
3:30 PM	Global North Accountability Mechanisms from a Global Majority Perspective <i>Breakout Session</i>
	Opportunities for Advancing Corporate Accountability in the U.S. <i>Breakout Session</i>
4:30 PM	Break
4:45 PM	Closing Remarks

Session Descriptions

DAY I: Session Information

Keynote Speaker - Bobbie Sta. Maria

Bobbie Sta. Maria is the new Executive Director at Earthrights International. Bobbie's approach to human rights work and movement lawyering was initially shaped by her years at Saligan in the Philippines, working alongside organized rural communities, women's rights groups, and labor unions. Her approach prioritizes working directly with affected constituencies on strategic interventions toward state and corporate accountability for rights abuses, institutional reform, and long-term power building in communities.

Her journey has taken her from the Philippines to Thailand, Myanmar, and the United States – building and supporting programs that center the power and struggle of marginalized and underrepresented groups, and that uplift the strengths and successes of people-led movements, especially in the Global South. This work often requires shifting and improving practices in the way Global North-led NGOs partner with and win alongside Global South peers.

Threats to Civil Society

In this panel speakers will address the various emerging and intensifying threats to civil society, including through government action such as the IRS compliance and Congressional investigation, private actors through formal channels who utilize SLAPPs and other lawfare tactics, and private actors through informal channels utilizing harassment and doxxing. Panelists will discuss the current understanding of these attacks, what patterns we're seeing emerge, and what we might expect.

Session Descriptions

DAY I: Session Information

Greenpeace Trial Updates: Implications and the Fight Ahead

In this breakout, participants will hear from Greenpeace organizers about trial events and outcomes of the SLAPP against Greenpeace by Energy Transfer Partners and the implications for movement and advocacy spaces.

Protest Restrictions in a Political Climate Hostile to Free Speech

Legislative attacks on protesters rights have been on the rise, intensifying in the U.S. each year, and are only anticipated to increase under the current administration. Already this year there are at least 44 anti-protest bills pending within a political climate that emboldens lawmakers to pass and wield them against defenders. This session will look at anti-protest bills passed in recent years, their effectiveness against protestors, and trends to be aware of in the fight to protect freedom of speech under intensifying repression.

Combating Corporate Capture and the Rise of the Corporate State

Corporate capture is a global challenge that poses an immense barrier to holding corporations accountable and addressing business-related human rights and environmental abuses. The corrosive influence of corporate power over our public institutions has become painfully clear in recent years. The new Trump administration has ushered in an era of blatant corporate control in the United States, corporate lobbying efforts are growing stronger and more successful in Europe and elsewhere, and we're seeing a corporate-led attack on global institutions and accountability mechanisms, among other alarming developments. While the current situation may feel bleak, many organizations within various movements are working hard to fight the rise of the corporate State around the globe. Now more than ever, it is critical that we find ways to collaborate and build our power. During this session panelists will define the problem of corporate capture; discuss what the UNGPs have to say about corporate political engagement; highlight strategies we can use to fight back; and explore ways to bridge international and domestic efforts to expose and dismantle corporate capture.

Session Descriptions

DAY I: Session Information

Corporate Capture: The Role of Trade Associations

Trade associations play a particularly problematic role when it comes to corporate capture. Thanks to their opaque nature, trade associations enable individual companies to distance themselves from controversial anti-human rights lobbying efforts, allowing them to preserve their brand reputations while still helping to further policies that prioritize their profits over the common good. During this breakout session we will zero in on the role trade associations play in corporate capture around the globe and explore effective strategies for dealing with them. Resources that may be helpful for participants to review ahead of this session include the EIRIS Foundation's [Social LobbyMap](#) page and report on [Financial Sector Lobbying of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: a Social LobbyMap Analysis](#).

From Principles to Practice: Policy Solutions and Tools for Ensuring UNGP Aligned Political Engagement

During this breakout session we will discuss tools that exist to ensure UNGP aligned political engagement; explore strategies we can use to push companies to align their political engagement with the UNGPs in the absence of regulation; and identify concrete policy solutions and requirements that we should advocate for to prevent and protect against corporate capture. This breakout session will also highlight positive examples from jurisdictions that are taking steps in the right direction, and will seek to identify opportunities to collaborate and better link up efforts on this issue around the world.

Resources that may be helpful for participants to review ahead of this session include this [Spotlight on the CPA](#), this short piece [An Open Proxy Process is Even More Important for Companies Today](#), and ICCR's Press Release [Investors File 60 Proposals Calling for Transparency Around Corporate Political Activity](#).

Session Descriptions

DAY II: Session Information

Corporate Crimes and Complicity: Fighting for Corporate Accountability During and After Conflict

Corporate complicity in human rights violations during and after conflict can range from the direct perpetration of atrocities to funding, facilitating, or financially benefiting from abuses. However, there is a steep accountability gap for private sector actors' involvement in conflict-related abuses, and corporations have historically been able to escape accountability for their complicity. In this session, human rights experts across multiple global jurisdictions will discuss the obligations of corporate actors in the various stages of conflict and the varied tools that can be used to combat corporate impunity in both the active conflict and transitional justice contexts.

Technology and its Targets: Defending Human Rights in the Digital Age

Rapid developments in technologies from artificial intelligence to surveillance has led to the proliferation of human rights abuses facilitated by these technologies. Technology has played a role in digital censorship, data collection and targeting of human rights defenders, and the facilitation of other abuses by both state and nonstate actors—all in an uncertain legal landscape that has not kept up with the scope of violations or the opacity of these types of abuses. In this session, panelists will discuss the varied intersections of technology's role in human rights abuses around the globe and the strategies and tools for holding companies in the industry accountable.

Session Descriptions

DAY II: Session Information

Corporate Accountability in a Shifting Global Landscape: Taking Stock of Lessons Learned

This panel will explore the evolving climate of the corporate accountability movement around the world, examining both the progress and pushback that define current efforts to mandate human rights & environmental due diligence, combat forced labor, and fight corporate power. Panelists will dive into the recent backlash against corporate accountability successes particularly in the US and Europe. The discussion will also highlight the growing efforts toward implementing forced labor import bans around the world. The panel will focus on lessons that can be learned from corporate accountability movements in difficult environments.

Global North Accountability Mechanisms from a Global Majority Perspective

Advocates combating corporate human rights abuse often rely on various legal mechanisms in Global North countries that aim to hold corporations accountable for forced labor and other abuses throughout their supply chains. However, the impacts of these mechanisms are primarily felt in Global Majority countries where multinational corporations headquartered in the Global North export their abuses. This breakout session will explore how these laws and their implementation affect impacted communities in Global Majority countries.

Opportunities for Advancing Corporate Accountability in the U.S.

The Trump administration has deprioritized and even completely halted crucial U.S. government programs that protect against corporate abuse and exploitation and diminished the U.S. government's capacity to hold corporations accountable through instrumental government programs. This session will be a facilitated discussion exploring what opportunities for advancing corporate accountability exist in light of the Trump administration's animosity towards regulating corporate activity.



Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT)

GWYNNE SKINNER HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

ICAR and the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award Selection Committee are pleased to congratulate this year's recipient of the Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award, **Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT)**.

The Selection Committee is bestowing this year's award to Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT) in recognition of their extensive and successful campaign leading to the resettlement of 312 families in Piquiá de Baixo, Brazil. For over 30 years, these families suffered from severe contamination caused by local industries and mining operations. JnT's support, which began in 2007, included community organizing, documentation of human rights impacts, innovative campaigning, and strategic advocacy. Their efforts led to a commitment to build new homes, and after years of delays, the families received keys to their new homes in October 2024. JnT's work exemplifies successful remediation of corporate harms, community mobilization, and the importance of prioritizing community engagement in corporate accountability campaigns.

To read more about Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT), please visit <https://justicanostrilhos.org/>

The Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award recognizes the work of an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to corporate accountability that year. Gwynne Skinner was a multifaceted leader who worked both as an agent of change, and with agents of change.

To read more about ICAR's Gwynne Skinner Human Rights Award, including past winners, please visit <https://icar.ngo/about/gwynne-skinner-award/>.

This year we received **7** strong applications from individuals and organizations advancing the field of corporate accountability, and would like to take a moment to recognize the full list of nominees: Agnieszka Fryszman; Aly Sagne - Lumiere Synergie Developpement; Amina Souleiman; David Schilling; Initiative for Right View (IRV); Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT); and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN).

ICAR and the Selection Committee would like to thank all of the nominees and are once again thrilled to honor Gwynne's legacy by recognizing **Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT)**. We look forward to celebrating our winner at this year's Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 8th!