

Charushila

Communication on Engagement

This is our public statement on the engagement and awareness raising undertaken by the charity, Charushila, as a member of the UN Global Compact programme. It covers the period from November 2016- 2017.



Charushila (UK registered charity no 1163253) is an environmental design charity which works with youth and children in realizing creative projects within the community. It has worked internationally and in the UK. We are a small organisation with three trustees, working with volunteer help. Charushila has no employees or shareholders.

Charushila is proud to be associated with UN Global Compact and the Global Compact logo is displayed on its website and newsletters. Charushila's name comes from two Sanskrit words- *Charu* meaning beautiful and *Shila* meaning foundation.

Charushila facilitates projects in all aspects from engagement, design to funding, and then once the initial part is finished, it lets the community do further outreach work. So, for example, Charushila's 2015 work with the community gardens at Hoxton, East London, has meant that the community is now working independently- they received a free greenhouse for their winter gardening in 2016 and are now able to hold training and planting sessions for wider members of the community.

In early 2016, Charushila started work on an 'Energy garden' project at London's Acton Central train station with the London Overground, and the environmental charities, Groundwork Trust and Repowering London. The first year, 2016, was spent in community engagement which provided a foundation for what the local community wanted and getting ideas together for the project as well as securing future commitment to the project in terms of maintenance and ownership. In all, about 200 local people were consulted for this project- including residents, passengers, station staff, school children and local businesses. The project has been slowly coming together- many ideas are yet to be implemented. Some of the planters have been adopted by local organisations. But even though it is yet to be totally finished because successful food growing always takes time, it is heartening to get compliments from people getting in and out of the trains (a man said, "wonderful to see this work!") and even better to eat the produce. (extract from Newsletter One 2017 sent to stakeholders and interested parties)



Photo: a planter with vegetables growing in it. People are free to take some home after leaving some for others. The planters were made with wood certified by Forest Stewardship Council, FSC. FSC is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests.



Photo: Volunteers, two of these are teachers from local schools, help in planting, weeding and pruning. Local children are also helping out in this way. Plants are planted and cared for by local communities and station staff.

As part of public dissemination of the principles behind the UN Global Compact, Sumita Singha, chartered architect and the director of Charushila, spoke at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) on ethical supply chains in November 2017. She emphasized the role of the UN Global Compact in her speech and urged architectural SMEs and charities to adopt the Global Compact. The RIBA is a member of the Global Compact. Sumita and Nicole also wrote about two Charushila projects- one from Venezuela and the other from Palestine- and their impact on the health and food security on the communities. This has been published by Routledge, in their themed issue on Contemporary Social Science, Journal of the Academy of Social Sciences, 2017. Sumita also attended the Sustainable Development Goals UK

Roadshow organised by the UN Global Compact Network UK in London in May 2017 and learnt about other inspiring Global Compact initiatives.

Each year through its projects and awareness raising events, Charushila aims to honour the ten principles of UN Global compact in these ways-

Human Rights

[Principle 1](#): Charushila supports and respects the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

[Principle 2](#): Charushila makes sure that it is not complicit in human rights abuses in its projects.

Labour

[Principle 3](#): Charushila engages in equitable community participation and upholds the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

[Principle 4](#): Charushila does not work with forced and compulsory labour and supports ethical supply chains;

[Principle 5](#): Charushila engages with children and young people as equal design partners and does not use child labour; and

[Principle 6](#): Charushila does not support discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

[Principle 7](#): As part of Charushila's day to day running, it supports a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

[Principle 8](#): Charushila undertakes initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

[Principle 9](#): Charushila actively encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

[Principle 10](#): Charushila does not support corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribe