



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA



HUMAN RIGHTS APPLY AT SEA, AS THEY DO ON LAND

Human Rights at Sea

UN GLOBAL COMPACT

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

Human Rights at Sea

UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2021

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Communication on Engagement Statement for Continued Support for the UN Global Compact

21 February 2021

Dear Secretary General,

I am writing to confirm continued support of Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) for the United Nations Global Compact and the ten Principles.

Human Rights at Sea joined the UN Global Compact in May 2015. We are a UK-based independent charitable human rights non-governmental organisation (NGO) established in April 2014, that continues to promote the Global Compact through its on-line platforms in all appropriate forms of advocacy, research and voluntary guidance documentation which is internationally published.

Human Rights at Sea, as a global catalyst for institutional and generational change in the maritime sector for the topic of 'human rights at sea', continues its ongoing development and advancement of the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights based on our Constitution, and specifically reflecting the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as all other applicable human rights instruments. This work has continued unabated throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic.

This third Communication on Engagement highlights the areas of our international collaborative work, our initiatives, delivery and profiling of the Global Compact with our official supporting entities and partners, specifically in relation to the first two Principles covering human rights and noting the four Principles covering labour rights, which are part of the wider human rights umbrella of fundamental rights; and also being aware of the tenth Principle concerning our international work and the avoidance of corruption in all forms.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is our pleasure to continue publicly to express our support for the UN Global Compact initiative as a core tool in bringing about consistent systems and a principled approach to undertaking lawful and credible business throughout the maritime value and supply chains.

Yours sincerely,

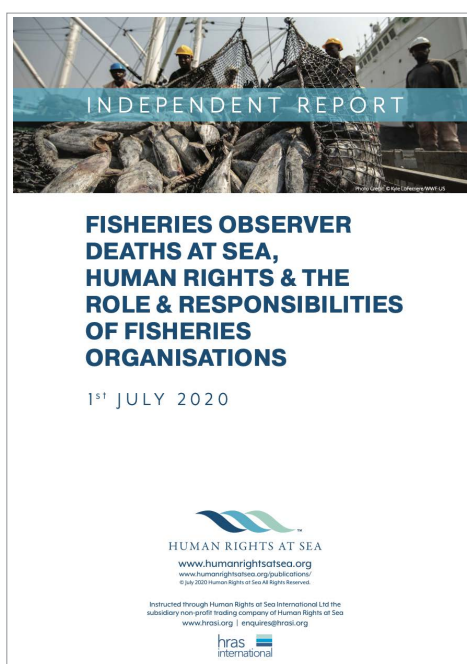
David Hammond Esq.
Chief Executive Officer

Human Rights at Sea

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Human Rights at Sea

UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2021

Human Rights at Sea: A Global Catalyst for Social Justice

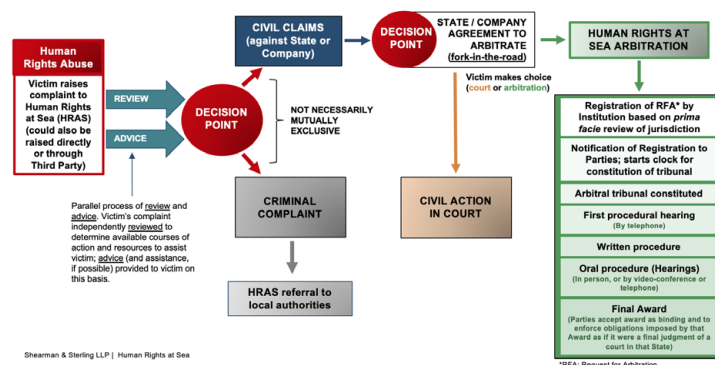
Before September 2013, if one had typed the four words 'human rights at sea' into any global web search engine as a matter of fact there was no explicit civil society platform then established covering the topic. The introduction of Human Rights at Sea (HRAS) in April 2014 brought the issue and narrative of 'human rights at sea' to the forefront of public awareness. This included the development of the focus of the UN Global Compact when engaged with business, maritime commercial, academic, civil society and state-level entities.

Since 2014, the NGO has continuously researched, advocated, investigated and lobbied for increased international awareness of abuses occurring in the maritime environment which are often unreported, hidden behind corporate veils and perceived as being issues that are out of sight and therefore out of mind.

The NGO has represented the perspectives of victims and their dependents by providing a platform for their voices from across the shipping, fishing and cruise line industries.

It has also developed through international partnerships innovative platforms such as the Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea, ongoing projects to enhance legal and policy provisions for human rights protections, and it has sought to

Victim-Oriented Process for Addressing Human Rights Abuses at Sea



develop arbitration mechanisms as a route to effective remedy for victims of abuse at sea.

Strategically, Human Rights at Sea is engaged with flag, coastal and post state authorities. It has reviewed human and labour rights legislation in the UAE, New Zealand and Fiji and has reviewed and drafted commercial human rights policies and regularly participates in international collaborative programs for improving social justice improvements.

OUR MISSION is to explicitly raise awareness, implementation and accountability of human rights provisions throughout the maritime environment, especially where they are currently absent, ignored or being abused.

OUR VISION is to end human rights abuse at sea.

OUR FOUNDING PRINCIPLE is that 'human rights apply at sea as equally as they do on land'.

OUR CORE VALUES are Transparency, Clarity and Accountability.

Human Rights at Sea and the UN Global Compact



The NGO joined the Global Compact in May 2015. We continue to see the Global Compact as an integral part of our continued transparent drive to build credibility in terms of our governance. This position has not changed since 2015.

The NGO continues to believe in complementary soft law and soft-instrument approaches and initiatives to helping track human rights abuses and highlighting the impunity from accountability that can surround unlawful business practices. As such, the charity believes that overt support and international profiling of the UN Global Compact Principles is another key tool in initiating positive institutional and generational change.

We believe that support and respect for internationally proclaimed human rights is a 'must have' fundamental for any credible business acting within the maritime supply and value chains. The charity therefore intends to continue to advocate this view through our online platforms, educational tools, investigations and international advocacy.

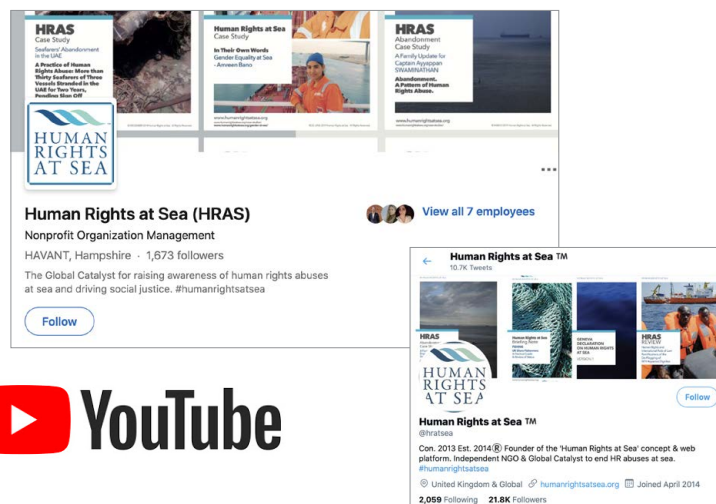
Human Rights at Sea

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Our Communication and Engagement

The NGO makes every effort to communicate our membership of the UN Global Compact.

This includes all oral and written advocacy demonstrating alignment with the applicable Principles and the use of the officially supplied logo on all our ISBN publications and annual reports. It is backed up by dissemination through our social media channels and in particular Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook platforms.



Highlighting Human Rights Abuses in Maritime Business Activities

In the past two years, the NGO has delivered key advisory and advocacy work to partners in relation to assisting the highlighting of abuses at sea in the shipping and fishing industries, including in relation to distant water fleets as well as detailed support to fisheries observer policy development in the Pacific region.

2020 was focused on the delivery in three international reports and one inaugural data survey in relation to the safety, security and well-being of fisheries observers following the collation of data highlighting a pattern of unexplained and under reported deaths at sea.

This was augmented by a series of case studies and policy documents for highlighting the likes of COVID-19 restrictions for seafarers, the effect of UK sanctions regimes in relation to addressing gross human rights abuses by commercial entities and a review of flag states actions in respect of protecting human rights.

Further, the NGO has undertaken intervention work to address force labour in fisheries supply chains in the likes of Fiji and Taiwan resulting in greater awareness of labour conditions and protections for workers, including seeing crew repatriated and paid outstanding wages.

Voluntary interaction with global business entities has continued with public and private webinars, seminars and briefings to supply chain advisors as to best inclusion of UN and international law instruments. This has included for the Global Tuna industry, American Ports, extractives and dry cargo industries.



Ongoing interactions with international organisations such as the Institute for Business and Human Rights (IHRB), the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRC), WWF, International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) and state entities including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and associated agencies have been core work-streams.

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Our Initiatives

The NGO's focus has been on the ongoing development of the **Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea** (www.gdhras.com) to finalise with its publication in Q2 of 2021. The document is a coalescence of existing international instruments covering the need to protect and respect human rights at sea, and in business dealings in the maritime environment. It is structured around four fundamental principles:

- **Human rights apply at sea to exactly the same degree and extent that they do on land.**
- **All persons at sea, without any distinction, are entitled to their human rights.**
- **There are no maritime specific rules allowing derogation from human rights.**
- **All human rights established under treaty and customary international law must be respected at sea.**



The NGO has additionally been working on a new Human Rights at Sea Arbitration Initiative (www.hrasarb.com) to provide victims of abuses at sea with both state-level and commercial remedy through the design of a new ad hoc international tribunal structure in association with staff from the US law firm, Shearman & Sterling LLP.

Original Project Initiative
Launched 24 March 2020

Arbitration as a Means of Effective Remedy for Human Rights Abuses at Sea©

L'arbitrage comme mécanisme permettant d'obtenir une réparation effective pour la violation des droits humains en mer

[VISIT MAIN SITE](#)



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Our Work with Anti-Bribery Initiatives

As highlighted in the first and second Communications on Engagement, our international engagement is undertaken with a view of undertaking lawful and ethical activities that protect our work, our reputation, our Intellectual Property (IP) and the same applies for our Supporting Entities and international partners. This includes our paid-for-services on a non-profit basis by our subsidiary trading company, Human Rights at Sea International Ltd (www.hrsi.org)

At all times we undertake all reasonable due diligence and associated checks in order to identify any aspect of a partner's or Supporting Entities business and/or not-for-profit activities, including identifying obvious conflicts of interest at Trustee or Non-Executive Board level which may lead to less than transparent charitable and business activity. Those organisations identified as being in conflict with our core values are not engaged with at first instance. Any organisation which seeks to align with the NGO, must actively demonstrate a 'clean bill of health'.

Influencing Partners

At all times, Human Rights at Sea seeks to positively influence our Supporting Entities and partners variously engaged in our charitable work, to encourage them to join the Global Compact, or at the very least to follow some or all of the ten Principles from a voluntary perspective. We also look for partnerships with organisations that are established members of the UN Global Compact.



Conclusion

This third Communication on Engagement reflects the ongoing charitable work that Human Rights at Sea is undertaking, and which seeks to embed the concept and intent of the UN Global Compact in terms of its ten Principles and specifically, the first two Principles which expressly apply to the charity's work in the maritime environment.

The NGO fully supports the UN Global Compact initiative and all other soft-law initiatives and related instruments that promote an environment which helps reduce abuse at sea towards individuals working in the global maritime supply and value chains, as well as those subject to deprivations resulting from ongoing global humanitarian crisis, most recently exemplified by the international crew change crisis during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Contact

For further information contact:

 enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org
 www.humanrightsatsea.org

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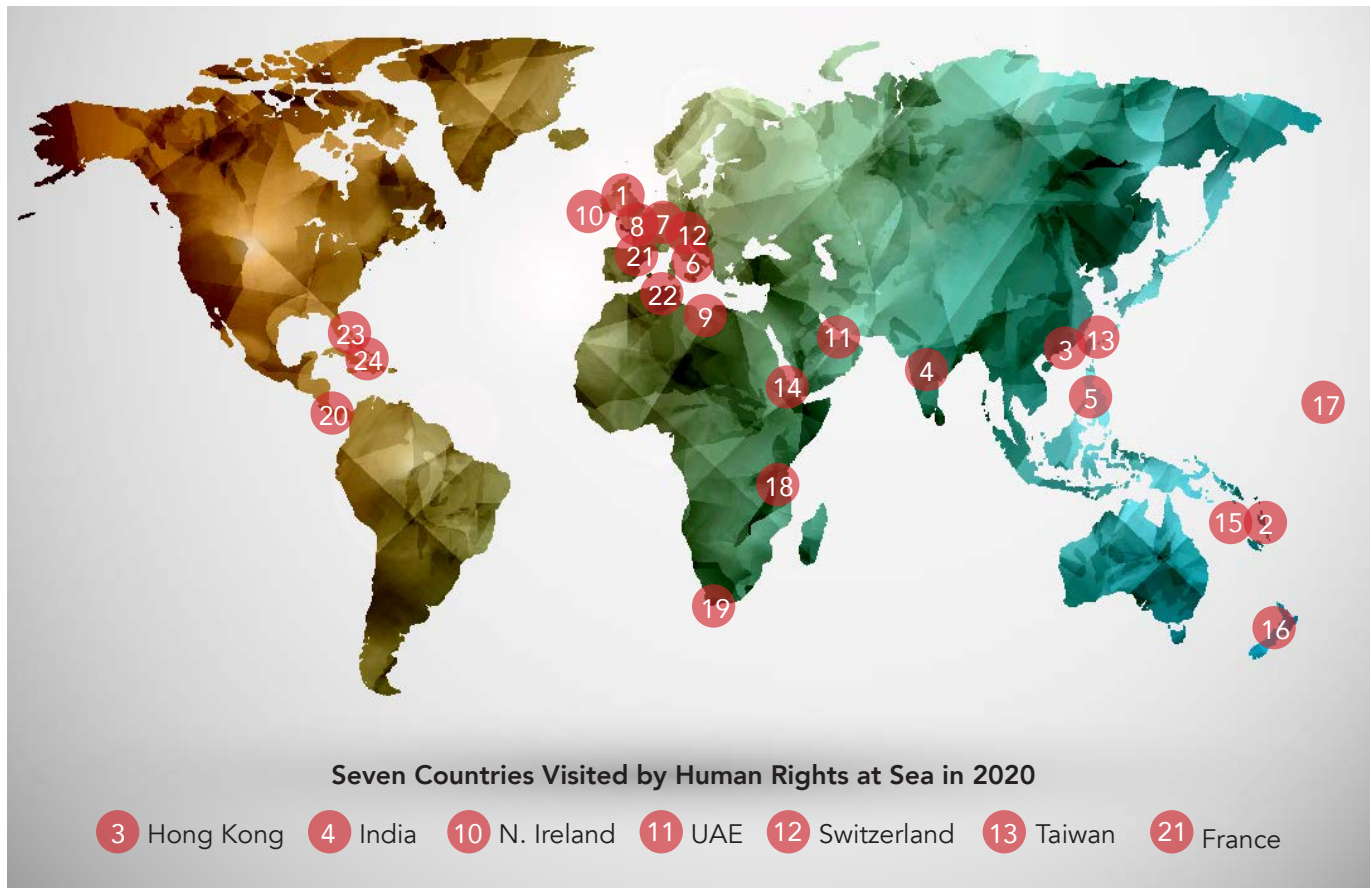
We are promoting and supporting:





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA





Human Rights at Sea: Global Map of Engagement



- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. UK | 9. Libya | 17. Marshall Islands |
| 2. Fiji | 10. Northern Ireland | 18. Tanzania |
| 3. Hong Kong | 11. UAE | 19. South Africa |
| 4. India | 12. Switzerland | 20. Panama |
| 5. Philippines | 13. Taiwan | 21. France |
| 6. Italy | 14. Eritrea | 22. Tunisia |
| 7. Germany | 15. Vanuatu | 23. Bahamas |
| 8. Netherlands | 16. New Zealand | 24. Commonwealth of Dominica |

Human Rights at Sea **UN GLOBAL COMPACT** COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2021

Human Rights at Sea is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1161673. The organisation has been independently developed for the benefit of the international community for matters and issues concerning human rights in the maritime environment. Its aim is to explicitly raise awareness, implementation and accountability of human rights provisions throughout the maritime environment, especially where they are currently absent, ignored or being abused.

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