



PEACE NEGOTIATIONS  
POST-CONFLICT CONSTITUTIONS  
WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION

19 April 2021  
H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that The Public International Law & Policy Group (PILPG) remains committed to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, the environment, and anticorruption. Since joining the UN Global Compact in 2018, PILPG has incorporated the principles into both its international procedures and external engagements. As an organization of international lawyers, PILPG considers the respect for fundamental human rights to be ingrained into its mission. Listed below are examples of how PILPG actively pursues these principles categorized by principle grouping.

### Human Rights

As a global *pro bono* law firm representing clients that include states, sub-state actors, opposition groups, self-determination movements, civil society, and marginalized actors, including women and youth, a commitment to human rights is at the core of PILPG's work. Recently, PILPG has become a force in documentation, a process for which data on past atrocity crimes is collected for potential use in wide-scale accountability proceedings. Through its pursuit of accountability for perpetrators of international crimes, PILPG upholds the principles of supporting and respecting the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, as well as that to make sure it is not complicit in human rights abuses. Central to PILPG's missions and trainings, including its own 2018 mission to document atrocity crimes against the Rohingya,<sup>1</sup> is the guiding ethical principle of "do no harm," which recognizes that human rights documenters have an obligation to avoid jeopardizing the physical and psychological safety and wellbeing of all persons with whom they interact. This includes victims, witnesses, intermediaries, local communities, other investigators and colleagues. With this mission and throughout all PILPG trainings on

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<sup>1</sup> The Public International Law & Policy Group, *Documenting Atrocity Crimes Committed Against The Rohingya In Myanmar's Rakhine State* (Dec. 2018), Available at <https://www.publicinternationallawandpolicygroup.org/rohingya-report>

documentation, PILPG seeks to first protect the safety of communities its lawyers and trainees engage with while pursuing accountability for past violations.

Further, as PILPG's president, I recently co-authored a blog post inspired by the choices that multinational corporations were forced to make after the military coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2020. In a London School of Economics Business Review blog post, Senior Consultant Anna Triponel and I argue that companies must act boldly as a collective. Otherwise, corporations find themselves in the uncomfortable position of profiting during a time of collective political and human misery. We argue that as companies decide to do business in a context such as this, they become part of the panoply of international actors and institutions that have a responsibility to seek to enhance human rights and rule-of-law standards. Therefore, we share how businesses can and should do to promote accountability in Myanmar, both for the genocide of the Rohingya and for the actions taken by the military in the recent coup.<sup>2</sup>

### Labor

PILPG is an equal opportunity employer with policies protecting against discrimination and harassment. As a truly global organization, PILPG employs a diverse workforce and has clear procedures in place for addressing arising concerns.

### Environment

As a twenty-first century organization, PILPG encourages the use of environmentally friendly technologies whenever possible. PILPG employees are well-versed in electronic storage and therefore, rely on digital archiving rather than paper filing. This practice, combined with PILPG's fully remote structure in which employees are not expected to regularly commute, PILPG seeks to reduce its carbon footprint as much as possible.

### Anti-Corruption

PILPG maintains a strong stance against corruption and bribery. As an organization that manages multiple grants at once from funders across the globe, due diligence is given to full transparency. PILPG submits regular narrative and financial reports to each funder and is audited annually, documenting all transactions and reimbursements.

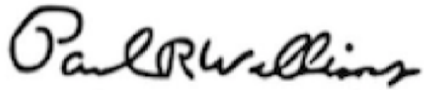
PILPG deeply values its partnership with the UN Global Compact and its other participating companies and organizations. As a leader in the field of international human rights, PILPG is

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<sup>2</sup> Anna Triponel and Dr. Paul R. Williams, *Responding to the Military Coup in Myanmar: What Business Can and Should do* (Feb. 2021), Available at <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/businessreview/2021/02/09/responding-to-the-military-coup-in-myanmar-what-business-can-and-should-do/>

proud of its commitment to these driving principles and continues to seek new ways to become more sustainable and entrepreneurial. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul R. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

*Paul R. Williams*  
*President, PILPG*