



**THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION**

Thomson Reuters Foundation's Communication On Engagement (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: April 2019- April 2021

Statement of Continued Support by the CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation

I am pleased to confirm that [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s):

- Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability;
- Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues;
- Join and/or support special initiatives and workstreams;
- Participate in Global Compact global, and local events.

We recognise that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organisation's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

Antonio Zappulla,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Zappulla', with a stylized, flowing script.

CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Description of actions and outcomes

Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability

In April 2020, the Thomson Reuters Foundation [formed a community](#) of leading companies to share best practice on upholding the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

With the support of Baker McKenzie and Omnia Strategy, the Thomson Reuters Foundation has convened three roundtables throughout 2020 to engage the community of global corporations and encourage their activities in respecting and upholding human rights across their business operations and supply chains.

In January 2021, this corporate community, comprising of ALDI SÜD Group, Bower Swimwear, Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), Japan Tobacco International (JTI), Mars, Marshalls PLC, Outland Denim, Omnia Strategy, Refinitiv, Tesco, Thomson Reuters, released a joint [statement](#) in support of the European Commission's Sustainable Corporate Governance Initiative.

Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues

Human Rights (*Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses*)

The Thomson Reuters Foundation works to shape public discourse about new and ongoing [human rights](#) issues through our news coverage, our journalism training, through legal support and research for NGOs influencing policy change, and by seeking out experts and activists with whom we can work to advance human rights.

We convene experts to build global awareness of critical issues linked to our areas of work, to inspire collective leadership and to help shape a prosperous world where no one is left behind. Our annual flagship event and human rights forum, [Trust Conference](#), brings together frontline activists, thought leaders and top decision-makers in the areas of media freedom, inclusive economies, and human rights.

Women's Rights:

Legal Assistance:

In 2019, TrustLaw, the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono service, convened more than 20 women's rights organisations for a Legal Working Group in France, bringing together key

international and grassroots organisations to discuss how legal pro bono can strengthen their work on gender equality and support their advocacy efforts. With support from TrustLaw, two of the participants, Led By HER and the Kering Foundation, came together to [develop research](#) aimed at strengthening corporate policies and legislation to protect victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence in France. Domestic violence impacts in many ways, including on working life. It can cause career interruption, absenteeism, lack of work fulfilment and salary stagnation. The research, conducted by a team of pro bono lawyers around the world who were assembled by TrustLaw and Dentons, highlights the key workplace laws and obligations that exist to support and protect victims of such abuse in the UK, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

In a separate project facilitated by TrustLaw, pro bono lawyers mapped international [gender pay gap](#) reporting legislation across ten countries, with the goal of highlighting best practices internationally and a way forward for the UK. It compares legislations in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Spain and Sweden. It showed Britain trailed behind many other jurisdictions in terms of the details required on pay gap data and action plans.

Journalism:

Our editorial team covers [stories](#) that help to empower women and bring lasting change to gender inequality.

In 2021, our editorial team [produced a video](#) to highlight how female business owners were hit hardest by COVID-19. Businesses owned by women are more likely to close down because of the coronavirus pandemic than those owned by men.

Labour (Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; and Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour.)

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking:

At the Thomson Reuters Foundation, we use our unique combination of skills to support the whole anti-slavery ecosystem by raising awareness of the crime through [authoritative reporting](#) and journalism training, providing free legal assistance and research to anti-slavery organisations, and leading collaborative initiatives involving civil society, law enforcement, governments and corporations.

Our annual initiative, the [Stop Slavery Award](#) recognises companies leading the way in their efforts to limit the risk of slavery in their supply chain and operations, as well as the role they are playing as key agents in the global fight against slavery. The annual award has gone from strength to strength, most recently with the launch of new categories for 2020 that recognise the contribution of SMEs, NGOs, grassroots organisations, the public sector and journalists. In 2020 our application intake tripled with submission across three geographical regions.

Environment (Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility)

Using our journalism and legal skills, we raise awareness of climate issues and facilitate pro bono legal assistance to support civil society organisations fighting to protect our planet.

Journalism:

Our editorial team [reports daily](#) on the human impact of climate change through our dedicated environmental news platform.

In 2020, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, the Thomson Reuters Foundation delivered a 'Reporting on Climate Change' training programme to journalists from Tajikistan. The training focused on helping journalists to deliver clear and accurate stories on climate change and its impact on the lives of ordinary people.

Legal assistance:

In May 2019, the Thomson Reuters Foundation hosted [a panel discussion](#) on a cutting-edge scientific approach to tackling climate change. This first-of-its-kind event was hosted at Dentons law firm in New York City and featured leading experts Jeffrey Sachs, Michael Burger, Julie Arrighi, Peter Frumhoff and Lindene Patton. The panel explored 'event attribution', a ground-breaking new field of study that seeks to determine what proportion of a specific extreme weather event can be blamed on climate change, and by extension to approximate the role of humans and corporations in extreme weather events like hurricanes or droughts.

Join and/or support special initiatives and workstreams

The Partnership Against Child Exploitation ([PACE](#)) is a ground-breaking partnership of private sector, academic, media development and civil society organisations working together to combat the exploitation of children in the worst forms of child labour. We are collaborating with a consortium of partners led by World Vision UK and including the UN Global Compact Network, War Child UK, Columbia University, and Fifty Eight, on a large-scale project supported by the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to combat the worst forms of child labour in Africa.

The four-year initiative, launched in October 2018, focuses on Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR) and leverages cross-sector partnerships between NGOs, law enforcement and global corporations while building children's agency to advocate for their own rights. By addressing the management of global supply chains – which has to date failed to eliminate child labour – strengthening legislative frameworks, shedding light on the issue through media coverage and empowering survivors to articulate their experiences, the project aims to change the lives of thousands of children, while simultaneously building a knowledge base for what types of intervention are most effective in tackling the problem.

The work includes mobilising the business sector to examine its supply chains, identify and share best practice and strengthen its own operations accordingly, as well as supporting local lawyers, policymakers and other government officials to help tackle the worst forms of child labour at a national level.

Qualitative and quantitative data is captured through the PACE Results Framework to help the consortium understand the reach and impact of our global news coverage, the impact of our local journalism training and associated radio broadcasts on the child labour topic, and our capacity strengthening efforts with local law enforcement in the DRC and Ethiopia.

Participate in Global Compact global, and local events

Antonio Zappulla, CEO Thomson Reuters Foundation, spoke at the UN Global Compact Summit, Opening Plenary: Uniting Business (& Human Rights) for a Better World.