



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

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UN Global Compact: Communication on Engagement

March 2021- February 2023

Statement of Continued Support

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Human Rights at Sea reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

We 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

David Hammond Esq.
Chief Executive Officer



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Activities

Our membership of the UN Global Compact is communicated via our publications. It is something we are rightly proud of. We use the UN Global Compact as a tool for engagement with maritime business. We encourage all business entities we encounter to adopt the principles of the Global Compact and to seek out membership.

Over the past 9 years Human Rights at Sea has become an established and recognised force within the human rights and the maritime spheres. We were exceptionally proud to achieve [ECOSOC Special Accreditation Status](#) at the end of 2022 and intend to use this status to further our engagement with the UN human rights system.

Last year saw us formally launch the [Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea](#). This is a soft-law instrument designed to formalise the universality of human rights and ensure that they do apply at sea as well as on land (principle 1). The Declaration is available in six languages, with more to be added and we are socialising it at the moment. Our aim is to have the Declaration adopted at UN level, and this will be a major focus on our work over the next reporting period.

Principle 4 of the UN Global Compact, concerning the elimination of slavery has been a particular focus on the past two years. This can be seen in the following points, which are just some examples of our work.

In April 2021 we, along with the 28 members of the Seafood Working Group [published a collective statement](#) highlighting the weaknesses in a CSR tool that has been developed for crews operating at sea. We explicitly drew attention to the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights.

We responded to the latest global slavery figures in a [piece in September 2022](#), by highlighting the issue of slavery at sea, and how easy it is for businesses to engage in and condone slavery in their supply chains.

Our Trustee, Dr Aidan McQuade OBE, former CEO of Anti Slavery International [published an option piece for us](#) in December 2022, calling for states and business to do more to challenge modern slavery.

Human Rights at Sea is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1161673

Patron: Lord Teverson of Tregony

Organisation in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2022



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As well as championing for the use of the UN Global Compact within our work and networks, we also ensure that we bring the principles to bear within our own organisation. We have robust and effective human rights, labour, environmental, and anti-corruption policies, and practices in place.

Our network and reach are considerable, as is our engagement with business. Some of our work is by its nature discreet and we cannot therefore disclose the details of the businesses we have engaged with. But since our foundation in 2014 we have engaged with business in a range of settings and contexts, this has continued over the past two years covered by this report.

Firstly, businesses within the maritime world seek us out for support and guidance. We work with these businesses to ensure that they are meeting their obligations to the best possible standard, and we utilise the UN Global Compact as a tool in this work.

Secondly, we actively campaign for human rights protections within the maritime world to be established and upheld. This brings us into contact with many organisations, where we advocate for the adoption of the principles of the UN Global Compact.

Finally, we receive allegations of abuse all too frequently. When we do receive these allegations, we investigate and engage with the business entities that have responsibilities in relation to the allegations.

Measurement of Outcomes

We have produced over [150 publications](#) since our foundation, and all publications since our membership of the UN Global Compact have had the membership logo of the Global Compact on them. We have reached over 12,000 people with our publications, resources, and training.

During the two-year period this report covers, we have [published 81 news items](#), 12 op-eds have been published in the press, we have carried out 10 webinars. and been on 10 podcasts.

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