

## **Event**

Business and Human Rights

### **Brief Summary**

Corporations have an enormous impact on people's lives and the communities in which they operate. Sometimes the impact is positive, but there are countless instances where the impact is so negative it amounts to a breach of human rights. Despite this, there are few effective mechanisms at national, regional and international levels to prevent corporate human rights abuses or to hold companies to account.

In this event, we have brought together some of the leading practitioners in this area globally to discuss their experiences and ideas on how effective mechanisms can be created.

### **Venue**

John Tudor Room, Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London, SW1H 9NH

### **Panel**

**Katie Redford**, US Attorney

An American human rights lawyer and activist who is credited with spearheading a movement to hold international companies accountable for overseas abuse in the USA. She is the co-founder and US Office Director of EarthRights International (ERI), a non-profit group of activists, organizers, and lawyers with expertise in human rights, the environment, and corporate/government accountability. Co-Founder & Director, Earth Rights International.

Notable cases include *Doe v. Unocal Corporation et al* 395 F.3d 932 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002) (Where it was ruled that corporations and their executive officers can be held legally responsible under the Alien Tort Claims Act for violations of international human rights norms in foreign countries, and that U.S. courts have the authority to adjudicate such claims).

**Daniel Leader**, Barrister, Leigh Day

Dan Leader is a barrister and partner at Leigh Day with over 13 years litigation experience. He specialises in international human rights and environmental litigation with a particular focus on group actions by claimants from the developing world. The principle areas of his practice include international human rights law, private international law, personal injury and environmental law.

Notable cases include: *The Bodo Community v. Shell Petroleum Development Company Ltd* [2013] (A claim by a community of 49,000 Nigerians for compensation and remediation of their land arising out of extensive oil spills in the Niger Delta).

**Sue Wilman**, Solicitor, Deighton Pierce Glynn

Sue Wilman is one of the few top ranked lawyers for civil liberties and human rights, and administrative and public law in both the Legal 500 and Chambers directories where she is described as "an extremely committed solicitor: uncompromising and fearless", and "tactically astute." Sue Wilman is part of a team working to develop the firm's work on tackling international human rights and environmental violations. The Team is exploring new ways of challenging the activities of corporations where these result in abuses. Inspired by her experiences of working with human rights defenders in Colombia, she is currently working with Dan and Silvia Nicolaou Garcia on challenging the actions of extractive companies in Colombia.

**Rachel Logan**, Director of Law & Human Rights, Amnesty International

Rachel Logan has developed and leads Amnesty UK's strategic programme of work on domestic human rights law and policy. Currently focused on counter-terrorism, access to justice, extraterritoriality and effective incorporation of the international human rights law framework. Amnesty International (AI) is at the forefront of eradicating human rights violations related to corporate activity.

Rachel Logan is also a Barrister at Matrix Chambers with specialisms in public, international

and sports law. Her public law practice encompasses all areas, but has a particular focus on asylum and immigration, prison, equality and discrimination, education and community care law.

**Elodie Aba**, Corporate Legal Accountability Project Manager, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

Elodie Aba conducts research for the Corporate Legal Accountability project as well as on other business and human rights issues. She is a human rights lawyer and legal translator. She was a research assistant at the One World Trust and previously worked at Handicap International UK. She has also interned at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia; the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; and International Service for Human Rights.