

# 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Integrity Week – Alliance for Integrity

## The Role of Human Rights in the Business Integrity Agenda

#IntegridadyODS #

28/10/2021 12h GMT-5

### Summary

With the help of important representatives of companies and international organisations, we bring to the discussion table the importance of human rights in the business integrity agenda.

Our invitees will talk about their professional experience with these issues from their global conglomerates, and their particular operations in Latin America; as well as the challenges and opportunities that exist to improve the implementation of projects in favour of human rights..

### Main challenges

- Work with the supply chain, to protect our brand, we require that our suppliers protect human rights practices and be aligned with our values to avoid slave labour.
- The implementation of human rights policies in the organisation and in the value chain as part of compliance and production operations helps us to have greater control to avoid rights infringements.
- The implementation of human rights policies to avoid slave labour, child labour, among others, implemented in the sustainability strategies of the organisation and not only as a Corporate Social Responsibility activity.
- The company is a social actor that has a great influence on our societies, through changes in the organisation it can have a positive impact on society.

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### Best practices shared

- Collaboration with counterparts, joining efforts to have a greater influence, international organisations, trade unions and civil society to achieve goals such as women's empowerment..
- The recognition of the problem in our organisations is the first step; the implementation of procedures for the enforcement of national and international law; as well as the adherence to the 2030 agenda with a human rights approach will be our main allies. .
- As a statistic, consideration for human rights in organisations creates pride internally; fair treatment is a competitive advantage for the future of the organisations.

### Future recommendations

- We as business leaders must take care of the impact of our brand, the brand is who we are; if forced labour is used in the supply chain it can affect us globally.
- The protection of human rights in our organisations is an integrated effort of the whole organisation, not just a Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.
- We must recognise that human rights abuses exist in our supply chains and in our societies and take action.
- Work on identifying our organisation's vulnerabilities helps us to identify corruption hotspots.
- We must always consider including our value chain and surrounding communities in our improvement strategies in order to participate in collective actions.
- We must support our value chain to implement medium-, short- and long-term mechanisms for social, human and economic impact.