Human rights are increasingly at the forefront of global dialogue today and all social actors are called upon to play their part in making human rights a universal reality.

All businesses therefore, regardless of size or location, need to consider their business operations through a human rights lens to ensure that their activities do not infringe the rights of others.

Key in this regard are the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights, which set out the state duty to protect human rights, the business responsibility to respect human rights and the shared obligation to ensure access to remedy in the event of violations of human rights.

Adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, and unequivocally endorsed by the global business community, the UN Principles offer clear guidance to companies in addressing human rights and in making a positive impact in the markets, communities and countries where they do business. The IOE, with more than 150 members around the world, is proud to work with the UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights in advancing the implementation of these Principles.

The United Nations’ (UN) Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10 to mark the anniversary of the presentation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- IOE Guide to the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights
- [Business & Human Rights webpage](#)
- IOE Contact: Mr Matthias Thorns, Senior Adviser

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