

2018 MASTERS COURSE

Business and Human Rights

- Implementing the Responsibility to Respect

This Masters-level course will be offered by the Department of Comparative Politics at the University of Bergen in cooperation with the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and the Institute for Human Rights and Business.

This course explores the links between human rights violations and corporate activity, and the importance of international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in strengthening respect and protection of human rights, by states and businesses alike. The course will focus on what corporate human rights due diligence means in practice, including how companies can effectively address human rights dilemmas across their global operations and throughout their supply chains. Participants will explore emerging sector-specific and thematic issues on the human rights and business agenda, and assess the effectiveness of existing efforts of relevance in Norway and globally. The course will provide participants with a deeper understanding of how human rights concerns relate to a range of industry sectors. It will also provide practical guidance for developing corporate strategies that are consistent with international human rights standards.

Upon completion of the course, students will:

- have a deeper understanding of international human rights standards and how they apply to companies.
- be able to assess human rights risks associated with business activity and understand steps needed to prevent, mitigate, and remediate adverse impacts.
- be familiar with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and what they require from governments and corporations.
- have working knowledge of available guidance and practical tools to analyse human rights challenges relating to business and align companies' policies and practices with international standards.

This course is available to masters students, professionals and individuals interested in business and human rights. A bachelors degree or the equivalent and at least two years' work experience is required.

The course counts 15 credit points and will be offered in English as part-time study with classes held over three weekends (14-16 Sept, 19-21 Oct, 9-11 Nov 2018). The fee will be NOK 19.000. Course code SAMPOL610. Deadline: 14 Sep 2018.

Further information:

<https://www.uib.no/en/course/SAMPOL610>

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MASTERS COURSE - details

Business and human rights

Course topics

Foundational Principles:

- Why human rights matter for business
- What drives change within companies
- Collective leadership

The UN Guiding Principles:

- The three pillars: the state duty to protect, the corporate responsibility to respect, the need for remedy
- Voluntary vs. mandatory approaches
- UNGPs, SDGs and Global Compact

Remedy and Due Diligence:

- Business and international law
- OECD NCPs and other non-judicial mechanisms
- National Action Plans
- Companies, crime and complicity
- International labour rights conventions, vulnerable workers, and companies

Sectoral Focus:

- Due diligence: the ICT, extractive, telecoms sectors
- Socially Responsible Investment
- Due diligence: high risk environments
- ICT and HRDs
- Norwegian NGOs and their campaigns

Critical Issues:

- Supply chain, consumer action, and workers' rights
- Business and LGBT rights
- Gender impact assessment and gender audits
- Human rights defenders

Course features

- ✓ Examination of four corporate cases
- ✓ Take-home exam/essay. Suggested topics:
 - Security forces and communities - the extractive sector
 - Labour rights and workplace issues - the apparel sector
 - Internet Surveillance, dual use of technology, network shutdowns – tech companies
 - Gender-based discrimination
 - Challenges in the maritime sector
 - People on the move – migrant labour

Faculty

- **Maryam Al-Khawaja** - Rafto Laureate 2013; Special Advisor on Advocacy, Gulf Centre for Human Rights
- **Dan Bross** - Senior Advisor, Article One (former senior executive at Microsoft)
- **Froydis Cameron-Johannson** - Group Head of Government and International Relations, Anglo American
- **Tina Davis** - Senior Business and Human Rights Advisor, Rafto
- **Kathryn Dovey** - Manager, National Contact Point Coordination, OECD
- **Frode Elgesem** - Member, OECD National Contact Point, Norway; Chair, Human Rights Committee, Norwegian Bar Association
- **Pia Rudolfsson Goyer** - Expert on Corporate Responsibility, Council of Ethics, Government Pension Fund Global, Norway
- **Erik Hagen** - Director, Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara
- **Malin Helgesen**, Legal Counsel Human Rights, Equinor ASA
- **Therese Jebesen** - Senior Advisor, Rafto Foundation
- **Scott Jerbi** - Senior Advisor, Policy & Outreach, IHRB
- **Janis Bjørn Kanavin** - Special Envoy for Responsible Business, Norwegian MFA
- **Harpreet Kaur** - Director, Genpact Centre for Women's Leadership, India
- **Terje Knutsen** – Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bergen
- **Reidun Blehr Lånkan**, Senior Advisor, Ethical Trading Initiative Norway
- **Marcela Manubens** - Global Vice President for Integrated Social Sustainability, Unilever
- **Asria Mohammed** - Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara
- **Sidsela Nyebak** - Senior Executive, Telenor
- **Gunhild Ørstavik** - Senior Adviser, Norwegian Forum for Environment and Development
- **Ron Popper** - Trustee, IHRB (former senior executive at ABB)
- **Anita Ramasastry** - UN Working Group for Business and Human Rights; Director, Graduate Program in Sustainable International Development, University of Washington
- **William Rook**, Regional Manager, Middle East, IHRB
- **Mark Taylor** - Senior Researcher, FAFO
- **Salil Tripathi** - Senior Adviser, Global Issues, IHRB