

## INVITATION

Introductory training on international norms on business and human rights

### How to use UN frameworks and community-based mechanisms to hold mining companies accountable

**Time: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 10am-5pm**

**Venue: Double Tree Hotel, Cape Town**

**Organizers: Diakonia and Swedwatch**

*The power balance between mining companies and communities impacted by their operations is uneven. Affected communities can increase their potential for driving positive change through increased awareness and application of recognized international frameworks on business and human rights. This training by Diakonia and Swedwatch aims to increase participants' knowledge of such frameworks and will introduce participants to a number of tools that can be used by mining-affected communities.*

The aim of this training is to provide participant's with basic skillsets to document and communicate negative impacts caused by mining companies within their communities. The purpose is to enable participants to connect risks and impacts to international frameworks on business and human rights in order to more efficiently hold mining companies accountable.

#### **Workshop components:**

- Introduction to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR) and application in the local context.
- Overview of other relevant international norms that can be used by mining affected communities.
- Example of community based grievance mechanisms (guest speaker tbc).
- Introduction on how to effectively document community grievances.

#### **The training aims to leave participants with:**

- Increased knowledge of relevant norms, tools and methods that can be used to hold companies accountable.
- Practical skills on how to apply the norms and tools to participant's own contexts.
- Strengthened documentation capacity.
- Sense of empowerment in the communication with companies and government authorities.

The training is an introduction to business and human rights, and participants are not expected to have previous knowledge on the topic. However, participants will benefit if they have a basic understanding of human rights concepts. The training will focus on business' responsibility (as oppose to the responsibility of states). Upon confirming attendance, participants may be given a brief reading assignment in preparation for the training.

To allow for a more efficient implementation of the training and associated benefits, organizations are strongly encouraged to send two participants.

Kindly note that all related logistics and costs (travel, accommodation, per diem etc) will be the responsibility of each participant. The training organizers will *only* provide lunch at the day of the training. The training itself is free of charge. The number of seats is limited.

RSVP no later than January 17 to:

[asa.beckius@diakonia.se](mailto:asa.beckius@diakonia.se)

*About the training leaders*

**Diakonia** is an international development organization with Christian values that works together with local partner organizations for sustainable change for the most vulnerable people in the world. In Diakonia's work for change we strive to establish long-term commitment with our partner organizations and to support people in finding ways out of poverty and oppression. We cooperate with many different types of organizations. We do advocacy towards duty-bearers, such as politicians and private actors, in order to drive sustainable change based on human rights. **Åsa Beckius** is the policy advisor on business and human rights at Diakonia Head Office.

**Swedwatch** is an independent, non-profit research organization that investigates companies' impact over human rights and the environment. Swedwatch uses field-based research to conduct advocacy and engage in dialogue with companies, pushing them to adhere to international norms on business and human rights. Swedwatch focuses on countries where there is a high risk of abuses, and aims to give a voice to the people affected. The aim is to reduce injustices and work to bring about positive development. **Therese Sjöström** is a Researcher at Swedwatch, specialized in the mining sector. Therese presented her report [Childhood Lost](#) on diamond mining in the DRC at the 2017 AMI.



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