

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

10th Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights “Building Back Better” – Business, Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Climate Emergency in the Pacific - 2nd Regional Online Capacity Building Program

August 2021

Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the Pacific Region in partnership with Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF) and Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRR)

SUMMARY

DTP and OHCHR, in collaboration with other partners, are calling for applications for their 2nd Pacific regional capacity building program for civil society, business and government on **Business, Human Rights and the SDGs in the Pacific** to be held online in August 2021.

This online program, coinciding with the 10th Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) will build knowledge and capacity to promote business respect for human rights and sustainable development in the Pacific. It will provide space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement between civil society, government and business. Participants will learn from leading experts and practitioners, share knowledge with each other, and build networks. The course will involve 8 online sessions of 1.5 hours over four weeks. This program is part of a wider sub-regional strategy of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and OHCHR and part of a longer-term capacity building strategy of PIANGO, BHRR, CCF and DTP.

WHY THIS TRAINING?

As COVID-19 continues to impact the island nations of the Pacific, there is a focus on inclusive development and “*building back better*”. Foreign direct investment and the private sector are key drivers of economic development, along with loans to fund key infrastructure development. Extractive industries, including deep sea mining, forestry and fisheries, as well as infrastructure and tourism are impacting communities. Women, children and persons living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to negative impacts. The UNGPs have the potential to ensuring that economic development is inclusive and is economically and environmentally sustainable, but there is very limited awareness of the UNGPs and how to apply them. The climate emergency, and the urgency to reduce emissions requires joined up decision making by government and business.

Global frameworks and guidelines on responsible and sustainable business practices, human rights and climate change can ensure that the Pacific region “*builds back better*” following the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. Under the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPs\)](#), states have a duty to protect and businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, and both have a role in providing access to effective remedies. Moreover, the SDGs emphasise partnership and the Paris Agreement mandates reductions in carbon and environmental impacts, including from extractive industries. These frameworks provide governments, investors and business with guidance to make decisions.

This training is aimed at bridging the significant knowledge gap in civil society, government and business about global standards on business and human rights and of the SDGs to achieve inclusive, sustainable and equitable development consistent with the cultures of the Pacific. The program will foster dialogue between civil society, government and business.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

The program will be run in an interactive mutual learning format, with participants strongly encouraged to share examples, case studies, concerns or good practices from the Pacific for discussion. The content will be finalised to meet the needs of the selected participants and will reflect the specific context of the Pacific. Program content will include the following:

- An introduction to Business and Human Rights (BHR) and the UNGPs
- BHR during and post-COVID 19
- BHR and SDGs - BHR and Climate Change - BHR and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- BHR Policy Making and Regulatory initiatives: National Action Plans, National Adaptation Plans, mandatory human rights due diligence/supply chain transparency and modern slavery legislation
- BHR Advocacy and Corporate Accountability – use of various judicial and non-judicial mechanisms at the national and international levels

For a summary of last year's program, please visit [this website](#).

TRAINERS AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

Trainers are experienced local, regional and international human rights practitioners, academics, and experts who believe in the philosophy of participatory training. **Professor Surya Deva, Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Justine Nolan, Amy Sinclair and Joshua Cooper** will be among the program trainers. The organisers recognise and value the experiences and skills that participants bring to such programs. The training will use an accessible and user-friendly online platform, with a combination of lectures, presentations, webinars, videos, exercises and group activities between sessions. Interaction and sharing experiences and lessons with others is actively encouraged. There will be 2 x 1.5 hour online sessions per week and an estimated 4 hours per week of offline-activities/assignments over 4 weeks. If physical distancing norms allow, participants in some countries may be able to train together at local/national level. Participants completing the training will receive a certificate from DTP and the UNSW Law & Justice Faculty.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The program is aimed at CSOs, government officials and business representatives from Pacific Island nations who have the capacity to apply the training to their work related to BHR, SDGs or climate change. Consideration will be given to ensuring a gender balance and other diversities amongst selected participants. A limited number of international organisation applicants may also be considered. Participant numbers will be between 30-50.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms can be downloaded from the [DTP website](#) or can be requested from ntp@unsw.edu.au. Deadline for the application is **5 July 2021**. Applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

ABOUT ORGANISERS

The **Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)** is an independent NGO affiliated with the University of New South Wales providing practical training in human rights and advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region. **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Regional Office for the Pacific (OHCHR-ROP)** aims to ensure that the protection and enjoyment of human rights is a reality in the lives of all people. It provides assistance in the form of technical expertise and capacity-development in order to support the implementation of international human rights standards on the ground. The **Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)** is the major Pacific regional non-governmental organisation with membership in 23 countries and territories of the Pacific Islands. For over 25 years, PIANGO has served the Pacific through strengthening and building the capacity of the civil society sector. The **Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)** is an NGO based in Suva with more than 10 years' experience in community education and advocacy on democracy, human rights and multiculturalism. The **Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)** is a non-profit organisation that works to advance human rights in business through strengthening corporate accountability, building transparency, and helping empower advocates.