

# From moral duty to legal obligation – corporate behaviour and human rights in the context of Russian invasion of Ukraine

## Side Event UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

### Organizers:

B4Ukraine, Ukrainian mission to Geneva (TBC), BHRRC, ISHR

### Date & time:

28 November 2022 6:30pm – 8pm

**Venue – ISHR offices 5th Floor:**  
Rue de Varembe 1, 1211 Genève, Switzerland

Wine, soft drinks and finger food will be served at a reception after the event

### ABOUT EVENT

Over 1610 international companies still work in Russia at a full or limited scale. Altogether, they generate at least \$171 billion of local revenue annually in the Russian federation.

With the announcement of Russia's partial mobilization, the companies and their subsidiaries in the country have been imposed a legal obligation to support the state in war efforts, effectively boosting the Russian war capabilities, contributing to the development of the armed conflict.

The event will address business and human rights in the context of the Russian invasion. It will outline the obligations of foreign companies in the framework of the mobilization calls and legal arguments obliging companies to support the aggression. The presenters will discuss the evidence that indicates alleged complicity in the war by businesses in multiple sectors.

### Moderator:

**Bennett Freeman** – Former Senior VP for Sustainability Research and Policy at Calvert Investments and former US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

### SPEAKERS:

#### Ukraine delegation (TBC)

**Andrés Zaragoza** – Business and Human Rights Programme Manager International Service for Human Rights

**Andrii Onoprienko** – Deputy Development Director of the Kyiv School of Economics and Data Lead for LeaveRussia.org

**Anita Ramasatry** – Professor of Law and the Director of the Sustainable International Development Graduate Program at the University of Washington School of Law

**Mike Lewis** – Investigator. Former Head of Enhanced Investigations for Conflict Armament Research and a member of the UN Panel of Experts on Sudan in 2011

**Nataliia Popovych** – Founder at One Philosophy, Co-Founder at Ukraine Crisis Media Center and Co-Founder, Resilient Ukraine ([www.weareukraine.info](http://www.weareukraine.info))

**Phil Bloomer** – Executive Director at Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

**This is a hybrid event.**

For both in person and online attendance please register with Eka Iakobishvili: [eka.iakobishvili@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:eka.iakobishvili@opensocietyfoundations.org)

**Deadline for registration:**  
27 November