



Report of the ALHR Business and Human Rights Sub-Committee Year in Review

ALHR's BHR Sub-Committee, chaired by **Amy Sinclair**, was launched in September 2015. It has attracted a strong membership base, comprising 70 lawyers, academics and law students, in Australia and beyond, with a keen interest in business and human rights issues.

It has been a busy first year for the BHR Sub-Committee, with lots of exciting projects completed and underway:

Supply Chains Event

The BHR Sub-Committee organised an [event](#) in October 2015 on human rights in the supply chains of Australian businesses, hosted by Ashurst, Sydney. It attracted a wide-ranging audience and generated much interest.

Projects

UN OHCHR's Corporate Accountability and Remedy Project

Members of ALHR's BHR Sub-Committee prepared a comprehensive Submission in response to the UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights 'Corporate Accountability and Remedy Project'. Eleven ALHR members participated in the Project which also involved external contributors, including the Australian Human Rights Commission and two major legal practices.

Full details of this Project, including the UN OHCHR's final report to the UN Human Rights Council, May 2016, are available here: [Corporate Accountability and Remedy Project](#).

National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

The BHR Sub-Committee has been, and continues to be, highly active in advocating for implementation of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) in Australia. In particular, the BHR Sub-Committee has done extensive work in advocating for the adoption of a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles.

In February 2016, the BHR Sub-Committee released a Policy Paper with detailed recommendations for the Australian Government on a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Amy, together with a team of eleven BHR Sub-Committee members, produced the publication.

ALHR's Policy Paper is available here: [NAP Policy Paper](#).

In March 2016, the Australian Government announced its intention to hold public consultations on Australia's implementation of the UN Guiding Principles later in the year.

In May, ALHR participated in a Civil Society Roundtable meeting led by the Australian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Law Centre in preparation for the public consultations. The May Civil Society Roundtable was very fruitful and resulted in a comprehensive set of recommendations for the Government.

A paper setting out civil society's recommendations ('[Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Australia: Joint Civil Society Statement](#)') was submitted to the Government following the Roundtable.

The Joint Statement should assist in shaping the agenda for the upcoming public consultations.

Advocacy in relation to a NAP for Australia remains a key focus of the BHR Sub-Committee. ALHR looks forward to participating in multi-stakeholder efforts to drive the agenda forward in 2016-17 and to improving Australia's standing in this area.

Media engagement

[New Matilda](#)
[Guardian](#)
[Guardian](#)

Lawyers Weekly articles:

[22 October](#)
[16 February](#)
[27 March](#)

Press releases:

[16 February](#)
[12 March](#)
[15 August](#)

Twitter:

Follow [@auslawyershr](#) for Australian human rights news.

Follow our Chair [@AmyJSinclair](#) for tweets on corporate accountability and responsibility for human rights, with a focus on legal and policy developments.

ALHR Website:

[Member article](#)

Research and advocacy opportunities

There are many pro bono research opportunities and other ways to participate in the work of the BHR Sub-Committee (press releases, articles, submissions, reports and briefing papers). It is a great way to obtain hands-on, practical experience in the field of business and human rights.

We have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead. Being a member-driven organisation, we also welcome **your** suggestions and ideas for projects and events. If there are particular business and human rights issues that you are interested in and would like the BHR Sub-Committee to explore, please contact me at: bhr@alhr.org.au

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