

10 May 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Rana Plaza Ten Years on

A Wake-up Call for Corporate Due Diligence Around the Globe?



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 24 April 2013, the Rana Plaza building collapsed. More than 1,100 people lost their lives; at least twice as many were severely wounded. The factories housed in the Rana Plaza building produced garments for German, European, and American companies. The tragedy triggered a long-overdue international debate on inhuman working conditions, exploitation, and the responsibility of corporations and governments.

Ten years after the disaster, much has changed both in Bangladesh and around the world. Thanks to the Bangladesh ACCORD, numerous factories in the entire country have become safer and now count among the most modern ones in the entire textile industry. After intense debates, Pakistan followed Bangladesh's example and adopted an ACCORD of its own. In 2017, France was the first European country to adopt comprehensive legislation on corporate due diligence obligations in the field of human rights. In Germany, the Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains, which mainly aims at preventative worker protection around the world, entered into force earlier this year. At the European level, debates on an EU Supply Chain Directive are currently ongoing.

We would like to use this momentum to discuss the following questions with invited experts from politics, business, the trade union movement, and civil society – and with you.

- › Where does Bangladesh stand today? What has been achieved, what challenges remain?
- › Did policymakers and businesses at the international level draw the right conclusions from Rana Plaza?
- › What options and how much protection do existing supply chain laws really provide?
- › What elements must an EU Supply Chain Directive for companies include if it is to protect human rights and the environment at a global level?

We look forward to discussing these and other questions with you on **10 May 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 PM**, at the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Berlin. Simultaneously, the symposium "Rana Plaza – Never Again? The 10th Anniversary of a Global Wake-Up Call and an Ongoing Struggle to a Just and Sustainable Globalisation", hosted at the French National Assembly in Paris, will look at similar issues. We are delighted that both events will start at the same time and with a joint opening session.

Best wishes

Franziska Korn

Human Rights and Business / Decent Work Worldwide
Global and European Policy
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

PROGRAMME

3:00 PM WELCOME – REINER HOFFMANN

Vice President Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

3:10 PM DR BÄRBEL KOFLER

Parliamentary Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

3:20 PM DOMINIQUE POTIER

Member of the French National Assembly,
Parti Socialiste (PS)

3:30 PM 10 YEARS AFTER RANA PLAZA: INSIGHTS

› REPON CHOWDHURY

Secretary-General of Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC) / ITUC

› RUBANA HUQ

Former chairperson of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

4:15 PM BREAK

4:30 PM PANEL DISCUSSION

› **Dr Bärbel Kofler**, Parliamentary Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

› **Alke Boessiger**, Deputy General Secretary of UNI Global Union

› **Maren Leifker**, Representative of the Supply Chain Act Initiative, Member of the Advisory Board of the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA) for matters relating to the German Corporate Due Diligence Act

› **Lena Peleikis**, Corporate Responsibility Lead Human Rights & Supply Chain Transparency, Otto Group

› **Dr Johannes Keyserlingk**, Head of CSR, German Retail Federation

6:00 PM END OF SYMPOSIUM

Simultaneous interpretation between German, English, and French will be provided.

REGISTRATION

Please register here: [Registration](#).
If you would like to join us online, please send an email to: melanie.glinicke@fes.de

RESPONSIBLE

Franziska Korn, Human Rights and Business / Decent Work Worldwide
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

ORGANISATION

Raya Maana, FES Berlin, Raya.Maana@fes.de
Melanie Glinicke, FES Berlin, Melanie.Glinicke@fes.de