

# 2024 Year in Review



In 2024, together with our investor members and civil society allies, we reinforced corporate respect for human rights as an expectation, not an aspiration, because a just and sustainable economy demands it.

**INVESTOR ALLIANCE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
AN INITIATIVE OF ICCR

## Tailored Corporate Engagements: Leveraging Investor Influence for Corporate Accountability

The [Investor Engagement on Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas Pilot Project](#) was a unique opportunity for investors to engage in open and frequent dialogue with companies in the technology and renewable energy sectors to learn about companies' leading practices and build investor knowledge on operating responsibly in these regions. Along with participating investors, we developed a set of [Investor Principles](#) to reinforce expectations for conflict-sensitive business practices under international frameworks. The pilot project included training led by the UN Development Programme on undertaking [heightened human rights due diligence](#) on investment and business activities.

With the 2024 mega elections cycle, our [digital rights engagement](#) focused on tailored outreach to tech companies on their critical role in enabling democratic processes and election integrity. Partnering with Digital Action and Ranking Digital Rights, the corporate engagement focused on elections in global majority markets and the prevalence of harmful political advertising and disinformation, deep fakes, and voter suppression. Investors called for greater transparency on the effectiveness of global and country-specific strategies in protecting voters and marginalized communities' voices.

## Harnessing Investor Influence to Champion Human Rights at the UN Forum and Beyond

At the 13th UN Forum on Business & Human Rights, over 25 institutional investors joined forces with civil society allies to underscore the significance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in advancing the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights. The Investor Alliance moderated a main UN Forum session, "[A Smart Mix of Measures to Leverage the Contribution of Financial Actors to a Just Transition](#)," sparking dynamic discussions on investing in renewable energy projects led by indigenous and local communities. Our investor members also engaged in critical dialogues on [human rights due diligence in the arms sector](#), corporate benchmarking, [Indigenous Peoples' land rights amid large-scale land acquisitions](#), and responsible investment in high-risk areas.

We convened over 50 investors for a dialogue with Robert McCorquodale, former Chair of the UNWG, following the [UN Report](#) on Investors, ESG, and Human Rights. Discussions explored aligning ESG investing with the UNGPs, emphasizing the need for better human rights data, proactive stakeholder engagement, and due diligence for diversified investments. Our work continues to drive the systematic integration of UNGPs into ESG investment strategies.

# 240+

investor members across  
20 countries representing  
\$20+ trillion in assets.

# 2100+

attendees across 10  
webinars and briefings  
focused on investors'  
capacity building.

# 25+

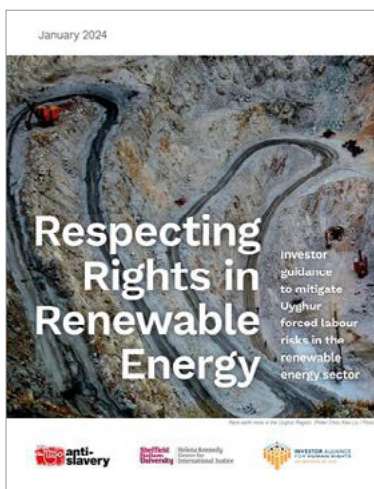
events providing  
expertise, thought and  
change leadership on  
issues ranging from  
human rights disclosure  
and due diligence, ESG,  
technology, CAHRAs,  
Uyghur Region & more.

# 7

CSO statements signed by  
the Investor Alliance urging  
protection against forced  
labor, misuse of AI, and  
limiting shareholder rights.

## Providing Thought Leadership and Expertise to Propel Investor Action

The launch event of our report, "[Respecting Rights in Renewable Energy: Guidance to Address Uyghur Forced Labor Risks](#)," co-authored with Anti-Slavery International and Sheffield Hallam University in January 2024, drew over 280 attendees. Developed through interviews and stakeholder discussions amongst impacted rightsholders, civil society experts, and investors, the report calls for investments into innovation and diversification of supply chains. Our article, published in Sustainable Investor, outlined the [limitations of relying on social audits](#) to address state-imposed forced labor risks.



## Advancing Rights-Respecting Due Diligence and Policy Reform through Strategic Investor Advocacy

Despite political challenges, we coordinated [significant investor advocacy](#) for the implementation of major rights-respecting laws that prioritize human rights protections – the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, the EU AI Act, the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, and the

EU Forced Labour Regulations. We co-authored a [blog](#) for Responsible Investor highlighting the transformative potential of the EU's due diligence directive. It emphasized how the legislation will equip governments, stakeholders, and investors with stronger tools to hold companies accountable for human rights and environmental impacts. We remain focused on overcoming emerging barriers to effective regulatory enforcement and corporate accountability.

## Agility.

Our rapid response enables investors to maximize their collective impact with both companies and policymakers on urgent and emergent human rights issues.

## Ground-truthing.

We ensure that our engagements on business and human rights concerns are informed by the perspectives of impacted rights-holders.

## Rigor.

Our engagements are held to the highest international business and human rights standards, including the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, to assess, disclose, and drive responsible business and investor conduct.

## We invite you to join us!

Membership in the Investor Alliance is currently open to all institutional investors. To learn more about membership, please read our [membership principles](#), contact Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt at [rdewinter@iccr.org](mailto:rdewinter@iccr.org) and visit our website at [www.investorsforhumanrights.org](http://www.investorsforhumanrights.org).

The Investor Alliance for Human Rights is an initiative of the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility \(ICCR\)](#).



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