



committee
on workers'
capital

press release

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Committee on Workers' Capital launches Second Investor Briefing on Forced Labour

Forced labour is one of the most pressing workers' rights challenges of our time.

The Global Unions Committee on Workers' Capital (CWC) announces the publication of its latest briefing paper: *Investing in Decent Work: Case studies of investor action on forced labour*.

Investments in companies that employ forced labour present diverse sources of risk – political, legal, regulatory, and reputational threats – that could ultimately affect a company's share price, operational performance and long-term financial viability.

Through the Investing in Decent Work briefing papers, the CWC's Working Group on Shareholder Activism is fostering an initiative to raise awareness among investors and trustees on the risks of investing in companies that employ forced labour. The briefing paper highlights previous investor initiatives (case studies) to better equip institutional investors and trustees looking to engage with companies employing forced labour.

The case studies include state-sanctioned forced labour in Burma's oil and gas industries, child labour and forced labour in West Africa's cocoa supply chains, and slave labour in Brazil's iron and steel industries. Each case study also includes an interview with the institutional investors, unions, and funds that engaged with the companies involved on their use of forced labour.

The briefing paper closes with a call for further debate and discussion regarding investor initiatives on forced labour, emphasizing the fact that labour rights abuses are indeed related to issues of investment risk and long-term value. The three cases highlighted in the briefing paper demonstrate that, by identifying the investment risks related to labour rights which affect fiduciary duty, investors can work to ensure sustainable long-term returns by supporting decent work.

Download the paper at: www.workerscapital.org.

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about the CWC

The CWC brings together representatives of the international labour movement to share information and develop strategies for joint action in the field of workers' capital. CWC works on shareholder activism, corporate and financial market governance, pension trustee education and economically targetted investments.

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