



**Friends of
the Earth**

**Transform
Trade**

EKŌ

**Corporate
Justice
Coalition**



**anti-
slavery**



**LABOUR
BEHIND
THE LABEL**

**FREEDOM
UNITED**

**Protecting rights.
Ending corporate abuse.**

19 June 2025

Contact: Corporate Justice Coalition
Dominique.muller@cjcoalition.org

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
No. 10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you today to urge your government to take decisive action in the global effort to address human rights abuses and environmental harm in UK supply chains.

With this letter, we are delivering a petition of 145,480 signatures¹ calling for the introduction of a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act. The Act would require companies, the financial sector and public authorities to conduct meaningful human rights and environmental due diligence of their operations and value chains and would hold them accountable for failing to prevent harm.

Anti-Slavery International, Friends of the Earth, Labour Behind the Label, Corporate Justice Coalition, Transform Trade, Freedom United and Ekō are delivering our joint petition, to you and to the Secretary of State for the Department of Business and Trade, on behalf of over 40 civil society organisations and unions that support a strong new UK human rights and environmental due diligence law.

There is widespread public support for such a law. Alongside the petition YouGov polling shows that over 80% of British adults want new laws to prevent serious environmental harms and human rights abuses in UK company supply chains.

The date is significant as this week marked the anniversary of the UK adoption in 2011 of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the authoritative standard on how businesses should be addressing harm in their value chains.

Fourteen years on, the current patchwork of legislation is failing to protect people and planet from corporate-driven harms. The outdated Modern Slavery Act is entirely ineffective in driving corporate change to address modern slavery in UK supply chains. Section 17 of the Environment Act on due diligence for forest-risk commodities is weak, being narrowly

focused only on illegal deforestation and failing to meet international environmental standards. Without long overdue secondary legislation, Schedule 17 remains unenforceable.

We now urgently need a comprehensive due diligence law to prevent the UK becoming a dumping ground for goods made with human rights abuses and environmental harms, and a safe haven for companies unwilling to comply with stronger laws in other countries.

The time to act is now. In recent months, the House of Lords Modern Slavery Act 2015 Committee and the Business and Trade Committee have recommended that the Government introduce mandatory human rights due diligence legislation as a priority. Furthermore, the Global Commission on Modern Slavery, chaired by the architect of the Modern Slavery Act, Baroness May, reported recently that “*Human rights due diligence (HRDD) is the most effective tool available to companies to address forced labour in their operations and supply chains. To drive the systemic change needed to address its root causes, governments should move beyond voluntary measures and enact well-designed legislation mandating HRDD for companies, in full alignment with the UNGPs.*”

Your Government now has an opportunity to put Britain at the forefront of championing human and labour rights, and environmental protection. We urge you to introduce a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Moulinos, Chief Executive, Anti-Slavery International

Jamie Peters, Chief Executive Officer, Friends of the Earth

Dominique Muller, Director, Corporate Justice Coalition

Alice Oyaro, Chief Executive Officer, Transform Trade

Joanna Ewart-James, Executive Director, Freedom United

Ellen Kettell, Co-Director, Labour Behind the Label

Eoin Dubsky, Senior Campaign Manager, Ekō

ⁱ We have not enclosed physical or digital signatures. Signatures have been collected on the websites of the above organisations, and are available on request.