

Business and Human Rights – A Comparative Regional Perspective

WUN Workshop Program

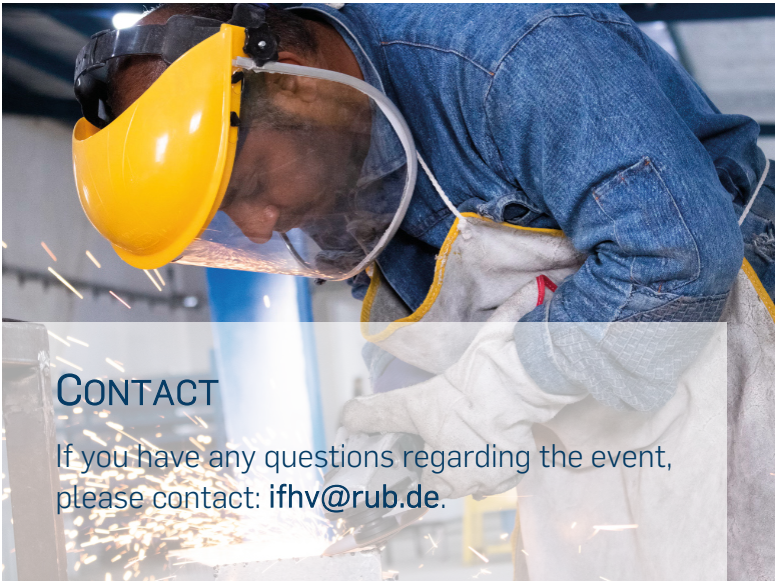
5–6 December 2024 in Pretoria, South Africa



PROGRAM

The detailed program can be found on the next page.

Participation in the event is free of charge.



CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the event, please contact: ifhv@rub.de.

with contributions from

Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua University of Ghana

Iris Benöhr University of Southampton

Vanessa Bliecke Ruhr University Bochum

Rouven Diekjobst Ruhr University Bochum

Aaron Dumont Ruhr University Bochum

Matteo Fornasier Ruhr University Bochum

Joanna Harrington University of Alberta

Michelle Maziwisa University of Pretoria

Livia Miraglia Federal University of Minas Gerais

Dianah Msipa University of Pretoria

Werner Scholtz University of Southampton

Pierre Thielbörger Ruhr University Bochum

Ramona Vijayarasa University of Technology Sydney

Frans Viljoen University of Pretoria

Ana Vrdoljak University of Technology Sydney

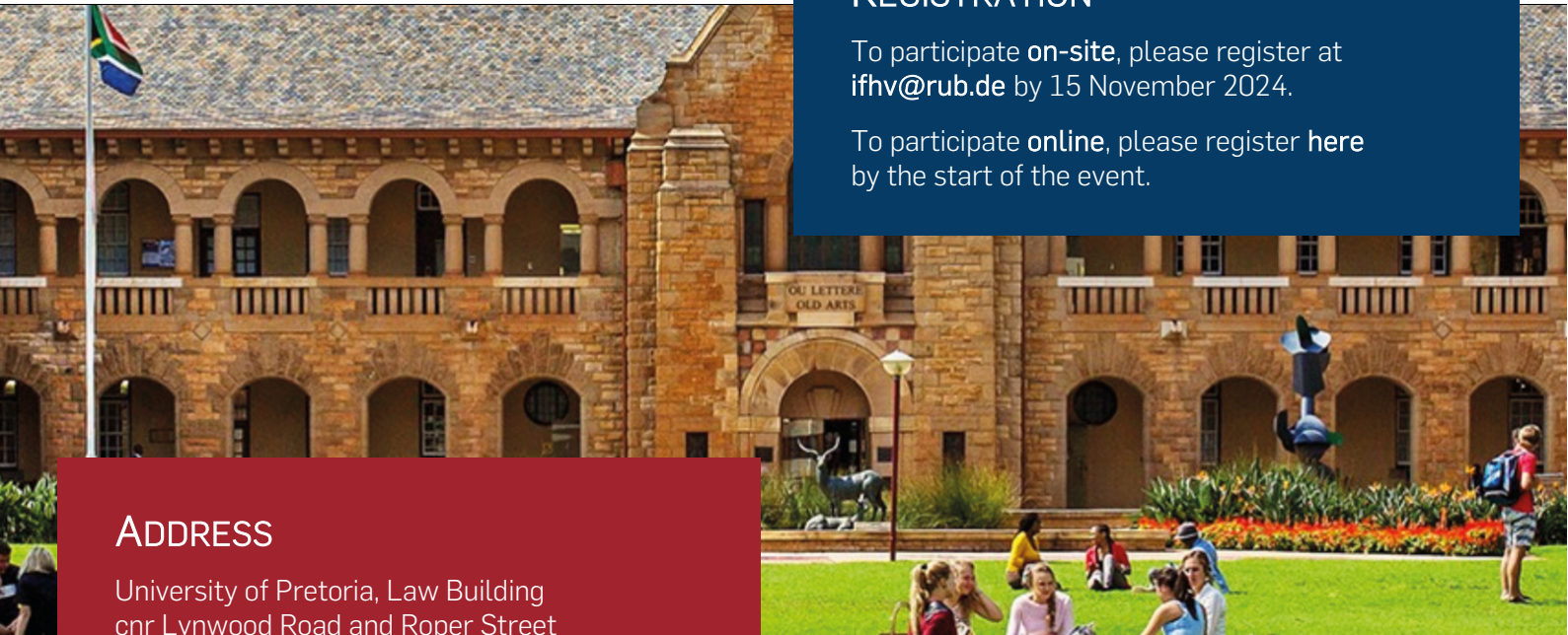
REGISTRATION

To participate **on-site**, please register at ifhv@rub.de by 15 November 2024.

To participate **online**, please register **here** by the start of the event.

ADDRESS

University of Pretoria, Law Building
cnr Lynwood Road and Roper Street
Hatfield Campus



THE WORKSHOP

The BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS – A COMPARATIVE REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE workshop, spanning two days, will provide a comprehensive exploration of the intersection between corporate accountability and human rights, both generally and through a regional lens.

Through four thematic panels, experts will offer insights into the evolving BHR landscape, discussing foundational concepts and key issues while also highlighting how different regional human rights regimes approach these topics. The discussions will examine diverse legal frameworks, policy initiatives, and practical challenges in integrating human rights principles into business practices. Topics will include the implications of corporate actions on discriminated groups, the importance of cultural preservation and natural resources, and the role of private law in enforcing corporate human rights obligations.

THURSDAY

5 December 2024, from 2:00 pm

2:00 pm - 2.30 pm Meet and Greet with Coffee

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Welcome and Organisational Remarks

2:45 pm – 4:15 pm PANEL 1: General Perspectives on BHR from a Regional Perspective



Pierre Thielbörger
Regional BHR Research – A Lacuna to be filled?



Frans Viljoen
A Euro-Centric Debate? A Perspective from the African Human Rights System on the BHR Debate



Rouven Diekjobst
The Role of Human Dignity in the BHR Debate

Chair: Werner Scholtz (online)

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm Coffee Break

4:45 pm – 6:15 pm PANEL 2: BHR & (In-)Equality



Kwadwo Appiagyei-Atua
BHR and Transnational Organised Crime



Vanessa Bliecke & Dianah Msipa
BHR and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



Ramona Vijeyarasa (online)
BHR, Artificial Intelligence and the Global South: Insufficient to Bridge the Digital Divide



Lfvia Miraglia
Modern Forms of Slavery from a Regional Human Rights Perspective

Chair: Joanna Harrington

from 7:30 pm Dinner

FRIDAY

6 December 2024, from 9:30 am

9:30 am – 11:00 am PANEL 3: BHR in its Connection to Culture, the Environment, and Agriculture



Ana Vrdoljak (online)
The Protection of Culture as an International Obligation of Businesses



Werner Scholtz (online)
Businesses' International Obligations towards the Environment



Aaron Dumont
Ecocide as a (New) Crime – also for Corporations?



Michelle Maziwisa
A Feminist Approach to BHR in African Agriculture

Chair: Matteo Fornasier

11:00 am – 11:30 am Coffee Break

11:30 am – 1:00 pm PANEL 4: BHR & Private Law



Matteo Fornasier
The Public-Private Divide in Business & Human Rights Discourse



Joanna Harrington
Anti-Corruption Efforts and the Business and Human Rights Agenda



Iris Benöhr
Addressing Corporate Human Rights Violations through Consumer Protection Law?

Chair: Frans Viljoen

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Concluding Discussion (roundtable)

from 2:00 pm Lunch