Strengthening Corporate Responses to Modern Slavery

Impact Measurement, Capacity Building and Research
With modern slavery legislation under consideration or passing in countries around the world, there is growing pressure on business and industry to take action to address the issue in global supply chains.

Adding to this pressure is increasing scrutiny by investors, employees and consumers. Whilst this has caused many businesses to act, the growing industry supporting ‘modern slavery reporting’ has emphasized risk mitigation, which may not yield measurable practical impact and will not necessarily fulfil legislative requirements to report on the ‘effectiveness’ of anti-slavery actions. The business community has the potential and the interest to do more.

Globally, millions of dollars are being invested in anti-slavery efforts, yet there is no commensurate investment in ensuring that these efforts are realising impactful, positive change.

The next frontier in the global anti-slavery movement is measuring the impact of our efforts so that action is based on evidence, rather than intent, and success is determined by outcomes, rather than process.

As the impetus grows for corporations to take action against modern slavery, there is a need for clarity around what action is intended to achieve and a framework through which to measure success and synthesise learning. We also need to consolidate and share knowledge for the greater good.
At Monash, we recognise the newness of the issue of modern slavery for many firms and the challenge of formulating meaningful and measurable action in a highly complex environment.

Opportunity

To do this requires commitment to a higher standard than basic risk mitigation and ongoing support to innovate and test new solutions. With the passage of the Australian Modern Slavery Act, Monash sees a need to create something distinct from the standard services that will facilitate minimum compliance and reporting under the law.

We see a need for a pre-competitive space in which groups interested in going beyond minimum compliance may come together to test current solutions, identify common points of risk, and conceive new, evidence-based approaches to ending slavery and related practices.

On this basis, we seek to build an academic-industry partnership to advance research and build capacity to benefit individual firms as well as broader corporate responses to slavery.

Key Aspects of Work

- Joint research partnership to document, enhance, evaluate and inform corporate responses to modern slavery
- Capacity building and technical assistance, including assessment, training and resource development, to identify and respond to risks and cases of modern slavery
- Commissioned research for individual firms, industries and peaks
- Creation of a pre-competitive ‘space’ for firms to test ideas and solutions against the day-to-day realities of business operations
Benefits for Partners

It is our aim that groups who partner with us will enjoy the following benefits:

• The opportunity to shape and lead international thinking on what constitutes ‘effectiveness’ in corporate responses to modern slavery

• Expert assistance in developing impact measurement frameworks for individual firms’ and/or industries’ and independent impact evaluation

• Tailored assistance in assessing and refining existing strategies to better address risk and discovered instances of slavery and slavery-like practices in the supply chain

• Ongoing opportunity to learn with and from other firms, from within and across industries, through tailored workshops and ad hoc case advice

• Access to a safe, non-judgmental learning environment with exposure to diverse perspectives and strategies from a range of disciplines

• Economic modelling to identify the benefits of leading in the effort to address and reduce risk of modern slavery

• A meaningful and measurable reduction in risks of modern slavery
About Us

We are researchers and practitioners with extensive international expertise in developing, implementing and evaluating efforts to prevent and respond to trafficking and slavery. As an independent, expert academic institution, Monash is uniquely positioned to bring business from across different industries together in a sustained, pre-competitive forum that goes beyond isolated educational events. Led by Assoc. Prof Marie Segrave, with Managing Director Heather Moore, we bring together leading experts from across key research fields including business and economics and migration and trafficking.

*This work is about going beyond compliance – to achieve practical and measurable positive change.*

It is also about creating a safe and diverse space for pre-competitive thought, engagement and collaboration and documenting successes and challenges to inform the evidence base for broader change.

If you have ideas for how this work could be adapted or expanded to be of maximum benefit to your firm, we want to hear from you. Please contact us via the details in this document to share your ideas, gather more information and express your interest in being a part of engaged research for a future free of exploitation.

Contact

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