



Save the Date

13th March 2012, India Habitat Centre, Delhi

Migrant workers: responsible recruitment & fair hiring to combat human trafficking in South Asia

The Institute for Human Rights and Business and Verité invite you to a multi-stakeholder roundtable to explore the challenges, risks and human rights responsibilities around recruiting Indian, Bangladeshi and Nepali migrant workers for overseas employment, and ensuring responsible practice to combat human trafficking.

Safe and sustainable labour migration is a key driver of economic development in both sending and receiving countries. The protection of migrant workers is becoming an increasingly important issue for a number of global industries, as well as for home and host governments. Trafficking of workers, particularly women and girls, into global supply chains remains a significant reality, in part due to poorly regulated recruitment industries. Pockets of good and innovative practice in responsible recruitment and combating trafficking exist but have yet to be taken to scale.

This roundtable offers an important opportunity for brands and employers from a range of industries to sit down with recruitment agencies, government, trade unions, NGOs and representatives of international organizations:

- to discuss candidly the risks which poor recruitment practices present to individual workers, to employers and brands, and ultimately to sending-country economies;
- to understand the internationally-agreed labour standards and human rights principles which underpin responsible recruitment of migrant workers; and
- to identify effective means of tackling these challenges.

The meeting will have a strong private-sector focus on raising standards of protection and meeting international good practice in recruitment of migrants. Labour experts will raise concerns from the region regarding continuing cases of exploitation of migrants during the recruitment phase and discuss possible steps to minimise these risks. You will hear cases of good practice from across the region and beyond; leading global companies such as Coca-Cola and ManpowerGroup will share their thinking on the importance of enhanced due diligence of labour supply chains; we will look at the drive towards verification and monitoring of labour brokers in line with international standards in an increasingly competitive global market.

Recommendations from this meeting will be fed directly into an ILO tripartite meeting with government and trade unions in Delhi the following day at which the issue of strengthening enforcement of legislation and application of relevant ILO Conventions to raise standards of protection in the recruitment process will be addressed.

We would be delighted if you could join the roundtable. There has been considerable interest in the event already. To secure a place, please email neill.wilkins@ihrb.org by **February 20th**. Full agenda, participant list and further details will follow shortly.