

Irish Business & Human Rights: benchmarking compliance with UN Guiding Principles

Date: November 8th
Time: 1-2:30pm
Location: Trinity Business School, Room B1.32, Pearse St., Dublin 2
Keynote: Eamon Gilmore, EU Representative on Human Rights
Chair: Mary Lawlor, Trinity Business School Advisory Board and Founder of Front Line Defenders
Report by: Benn Finlay Hogan

On November 8th, the Centre for Social Innovation (CSI) in Trinity Business School welcomes Eamon Gilmore, EU Representative on Human Rights, as key note speaker for the launch of the first report on Irish business compliance with UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights (UNGPs).

In the report, 22 of the largest companies in Ireland are assessed using the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark ([CHRB](#)) methodology. The benchmark looks at policies, due diligence and access to remedies found in publicly available documents produced by the companies assessed. Companies were contacted about the research and invited to provide further documentation if they so wished.

The overall findings suggest that Irish multinational companies are lagging behind other multinationals in their recognition of and compliance with the UNGPs – based on the benchmark used. Recognising that this raises social and political issues, there are also potential economic consequences and Prof. Martha O’Hagan-Luff will explain how similar indices have been shown to have an impact on financial performance.

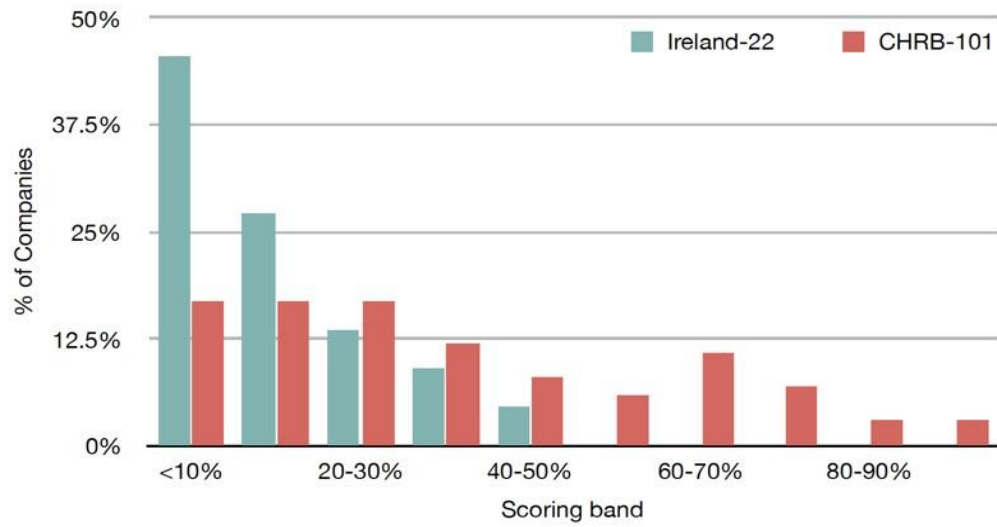
The report highlights the need to take the UNGPs more seriously across Irish industry. In the *National Plan on Business and Human Rights 2017-2020*, the government has committed to "promote responsible business practices at home and overseas by all Irish business enterprises in line with Ireland’s commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights globally and to being one of the best countries in the world in which to do business". The CSI report suggests that there is a long way to go if Irish business is to be convincing on their human rights policies and practices.

At the launch, the Chair will facilitate a Q&A session to identify next steps needed for Irish business to comply with UNGPs.

Table 5.10 Number of companies in each scoring band

Band	Company	Score (out of 24)	Percentage
40-50%	CRH plc	10	42%
30-40%	Kerry Group plc	9	38%
	Linde plc*	8.5	35%
20-30%	Medtronic plc	7	29%
	Smurfit Kappa Group plc	6.5	27%
	Weatherford International plc	5.5	23%
10-20%	Allergan plc	3.5	15%
	Greencore plc	3	13%
	Seagate Technology plc	3	13%
	Glanbia plc	2.5	10%
	Grafton Group plc	2.5	10%
	Ryanair Holdings plc	2.5	10%
<10%	Icon plc	2	8%
	Perrigo Company plc	2	8%
	Kingspan Group plc	2	8%
	James Hardie Industries plc	1.5	6%
	Alkermes plc	1	4%
	Kenmare Resources plc	1	4%
	UDG Healthcare plc	1	4%
	Horizon Pharma plc	0.5	2%
	Total Produce plc	0	0%
	Trinity Biotech plc	0	0%

Figure 5.3 Companies in each band: Ireland-22 v CHR-101



*For further information contact: Mary Lee Rhodes (087-915-2769),
Co-Director Centre for Social Innovation*