

Partnerships for Responsible Contracting

Who is the [Responsible Contracting Project \(RCP\)](#)?

RCP works to improve human rights in global supply chains by developing and disseminating practical tools to implement human rights and environmental due diligence (HREDD) in commercial contracts. Our international team of legal and business and human rights experts collaborates with companies, investors, and public and private standard setters to achieve uptake and implementation of the core RCP Principles, which operationalize the shared-responsibility approach to HREDD reflected in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines.

Why Partner with RCP?

RCP is at the forefront of transforming contracts into a tool to support effective HREDD and alignment with emerging sustainability regulations. RCP develops practical tools, such as model contract clauses, template codes of conduct, and implementation guidance, that companies and associations can use to improve the human rights and environmental performance of their contracts, and, by extension, their supply chains. By partnering with us, you can:

- **Expand Your Offering and Impact:** Collaborate with RCP on embedding HREDD principles into client contracts, addressing regulatory requirements like the EU CSDDD.
- **Strengthen Your Market Position:** Establish your consultancy as a leader in ethical business practices, attracting clients seeking innovative tools for sustainable procurement and supply chain resilience.
- **Collaborate on Customized Solutions:** Co-develop and co-brand workshops, resources, and training programs tailored to your clients' needs alongside suppliers, industry associations, and other partners.
- **Utilise Best-in-Class Tools:** Benefit from and adapt our Responsible Contracting Toolkit, including templates, clauses, and implementation guides developed by global experts.
- **Develop Expertise Within Your Team:** Build staff capacity and skills in responsible contracting practices.


RCP Offerings include:

Training and Workshops: Tailored training sessions and workshops that cover the why and what of responsible contracting, helping you guide clients in building stronger supplier relationships, reducing risks, and enhancing their reputation—all while strengthening supply chain resilience.	Gap analyses: We help businesses integrate due diligence into their operations, contracts, and codes of conduct by identifying gaps between current practices and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The company's own code of conduct. • RCP's Core Principles & model clauses. • HREDD laws and sustainability reporting standards (e.g., the EU CSDDD, German Supply Chains Act). • The UNGPs and OECD Guidelines. 	Sector specific recommendations and clauses: We collaborate with industry and multi-stakeholder organizations to design responsible contracting tools addressing the unique risks and challenges of specific sectors, such as tea, apparel, shipping, and electronics.
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Uptake and Recognition: RCP's tools and resources are already in use across sectors including automotive, apparel, shipping, and food*. They have been referenced by leading organizations such as: the OECD, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the UN Global Compact, the European Commission, the American Bar Association, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, Know the Chain, Electronics Watch, Shift, and the BHRRC, among others. See our [Uptake](#) webpage for more information.


Contact Us: Collaborate with the Responsible Contracting Project and become part of the global shift towards responsible procurement systems. For more information, visit our website or contact us at: info@responsiblecontracting.org

Example slides:




Three Core Principles of Responsible Contracting

- 1) Shared commitment to **cooperating on HREDD** (v. guaranties)
- 2) Buyer commitment to **responsible purchasing practices** and supporting supplier's human rights performance
- 3) **Prioritize human rights remediation** over traditional remedies, such as suspension of payment, termination, and damages



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Benefits of Due Diligence-Aligned Contracts

Benefits to companies of responsible contracting:

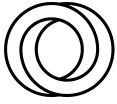
- **Stronger risk management** through greater supply chain transparency and resilience
- Improved **stakeholder relationships** with business partners, workers and communities
- Closer **alignment** with responsible business conduct standards
- Legal **compliance**
- Attracting **investment**
- Building **consumer trust** and loyalty
- Demonstrating **ethical leadership**

Contracts are essential for implementing HREDD and avoiding and/or remediating forced labor issues.

Examples of new legal requirements include:

- **EU CSDDD & HREDD expectations**. E.g.:
 - Obtaining **contractual assurances** from suppliers on HRE (CSDDD Art. 10, 11)
 - Obligation to adopt **responsible purchasing behavior** (CSDDD Art. 10, 11)
 - **Termination of business** only as a last resort (CSDDD Art. 10, 11)
- **Risk management systems and disclosures** (EU Batteries Reg, Deforestation Reg, CSRD, ISSB)
- **EU Forced Labor Regulation** & US Tariff Act and UFLPA

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Responsible Contracting Services

Gap analyses evaluating commercial supply chain contracts against :

- HREDD laws and sustainability reporting standards (e.g., the EU CSDDD, German Supply Chains Act).
- The UNGPs and OECD Guidelines
- The company's own code of conduct .
- RCP Core Principles & model clauses .

Tailored Training : with client and their suppliers and partners participants (e.g., buyers, In-house counsel, sustainability experts) to examine the company's contracts and related commercial agreements .

Roundtable / Workshop : Facilitated engagement through public / private roundtables with industry associations, civil society, regulators .