**WEEK THREE**

*Neil Howard, University of Bath.*

It is now widely accepted that forced and precarious labor are common within global supply chains. According one study, ‘71% of companies believe there is a likelihood of modern slavery occurring at some stage in their supply chains’. However, there continues to be heated debate regarding [who should be held responsible when forced labor is found to have actually taken place.](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/ilc/andreas-r-hmkorf/ilo-report-on-decent-work-in-global-supply-chains-much-ado-about-noth) Existing regulations governing supply chains frequently suffer from a combination of legal loopholes and failures of enforcement. National laws rarely extend beyond national borders or citizens, creating ‘[governance gaps](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/rachel-wilshaw/what-would-loosen-roots-of-labour-exploitation-in-supply-chains)’ between different legal systems. Corporations are only legally responsible for workers they employ directly, so any abuses that take place at the hands of companies to whom they have subcontracted fall outside their legal obligations. In addition, governments routinely fail to enforce their own labor laws without consequences.

The key question is therefore not whether or not there should be any regulation of supply chains. Supply chains are already regulated to some degree. Instead, the key challenge is to update and globalize worker protections for the 21st century. One of the most high profile responses to this challenge is corporate social responsibility (CSR), which has dominated the field for over two decades now. The main principles of CSR are self-disclosure and self-regulation. The basic idea is that responsible corporations – working hand in hand with responsible consumers – can play a transformative role in cleaning up (or keeping clean) their supply chains. Established regulations remain on the books, but are also argued to be supplemented via voluntary action by good corporate citizens. Thousands of different initiatives have recently been introduced to bolster labor and environmental standards in supply chains, covering products such as bananas, tea, cocoa, t-shirts, and computers. Some CSR initiatives are specific to individual corporations , such as [Apple](http://www.apple.com/supplier-responsibility/), [Microsoft](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/corporate-responsibility) or [Coca-Cola](http://www.coca-colacompany.com/coca-cola-unbottled/from-farm-to-table-sustainability-in-our-supply-chain). Others take the form of industry coalitions, such as [the International Cocoa Initiative](http://www.cocoainitiative.org/en/) and the [Ethical Trading Initiative](http://www.ethicaltrade.org/).

The most common application of CSR principles involves the publication of policies, principles, reports and stories relating to the treatment of supply chain workers. In some cases, these publications are little more than general statements of principle that outline the values to which corporations aspire, but contain little or no information on how these values will be realized in practice. Others contain detailed material on codes of conduct, internal audits, and budgets. A good example of the later is Apple’s annual [supplier responsibility reports](https://www.apple.com/za/newsroom/2019/03/apple-releases-13th-annual-supplier-responsibility-progress-report/). Despite these variations in practice, there is nonetheless a common strand linking together most CSR initiatives. As a general rule, they are voluntary, so there are no automatic or direct penalties for non-compliance or poor performance. Companies determine their own standards, policies and associations, and decide when and how much to disclose about regarding their overall performance to the public.

In recent years, a coalition of workers, civil society groups, investors, trade unions, and some industry and government representatives have argued that the current model of CSR-based solutions isn’t working. They have argued that a fresh approach is necessary, where global supply chains are regulated by global laws. The basic idea is for established regulations to remain on the books, but to supplement current models via expanded regulation at a national and international level to close down ‘governance gaps’. This means introducing a new regulatory framework with global reach that would legally curtail corporations’ ability to outsource liability for the working conditions associated with the production of the goods that they sell. In other words, holding corporations legally accountable for serious labor abuses across their entire supply chains. Much the same logic applies when it comes to improving pay and conditions for all workers.

**Welcome back everyone to week three of Forced and**

**Precarious Labor, in the Global Economy. Last week we looked at the problems**

**associated with global supply chains and in this week you're once again in the**

**good hands of Neil, who is going to take you through some of the ways in which**

**these problems might be addressed politically and strategically.**

**Thanks very much Joel. Yes indeed, last week we looked at the root causes of**

**exploitation in global businesses and this week we are going to be looking at**

**what we can do about it. Things like innovative forms of labor organizing,**

**increased labor protection, redistribution of land, of money and of**

**the resources that people need to stay safe in the world of work. Welcome back.**

Welcome back everybody, last week we spoke about the structural root cause

and forced labor in supply chains. This week by contrast, we are going to examine

some of the things that we can do to make supply chains fairer and to fight

against exploitation. These ideas come from struggles taking place all over the

world and together they can form a framework for making a fairer global

economy. The first, an immediate starting point is to ensure better enforcement of

labor standards. As we mentioned last week governments worldwide are not

protecting their workers in the way the workers need. We need therefore,

governments to make reforms which promote worker rights and increase,

for example the size and the mandate of their labor inspectorate's to ensure

that businesses are respecting the rules. This in turn requires shifting budgetary

priorities. In other words taking more money from business and spending it on

the enforcement of worker rights. Other strategies with regards to worker rights

include the penalties, in the creation of penalties. In fact for businesses who

violate labor standards. A good example here is Brazil's dirty list which shames

companies found to have used forced labor. We can also think of targeted

enforcement of standards in sectors where there is a high risk of

exploitation and we can think of support for collective action and the right to

organize, for example via unions. There are also

innovative worker let strategies that we can promote and these include

for example involving worker centers or unions as monitors of labor standards. In

other words in partnership with the state and with business. The coalition of

Immokalee workers in the United States, is a farm work organization which has

pioneered this type of worker led standards enforcement and it is

underpinned that with a worker drafted code of conduct agreed to work by

partner firms. This can serve as a model for others. A second move is to

redistribute value in global supply chains and to push for living wages.

Major firms need to be encouraged to pay more to their suppliers, to keep less of

the profits and to share value more equitably. Activists and worker

organizations can be supported to bargain with big businesses, to take a

greater share of the value that they help to produce. One example here is the

Asia Floor Wage Campaign which is a regional research initiative

that seeks to establish a living wage for garment workers across Asia, by

bargaining across countries with the big brands who sit at the top of the

clothing supply chains. A third set of reforms are those which tackle poverty.

Think of it like this, if being poor increases a person's vulnerability to

forced an exploitative labor, then policies which reduce poverty will

likely reduce the supply of people vulnerable to those kinds of labor. It is

a no brainer and what that means is massive redistribution, higher taxes on

those who have wealth, closing tax loopholes and ensuring that the

have-nots receive more. This means increased social protection, stronger

social safety nets, more extensive public goods provision - for example, health care

for all. There's also another option for tackling

poverty and that's the unconditional basic income. Unconditional basic income

is defined as a cash payment given regularly without means test or work

requirement. It's like a wage that we all receive simply for being human beings.

Ideally this could be rolled out at a global level, but it can also be rolled

out at a national level. The key point though is to give everybody, always

enough money to be able to resist the kinds of exploitative work that we saw

last week, which takes place all across the world in global supply chains. Now

previously UBI as it's known unconditional basic income, was thought

of as a utopian or fanciful strategy but it's recently started to be trialed by

governments and authorities across the world. A recent trial run by the United

Nations Children's Fund UNICEF in India, indeed also found the basic income

reduced forced labor. This is something that has to be built on when we're

thinking of how to overcome the poverty that structures forced labor in supply

chains. A fourth strategy for improving worker rights in supply chains involves

better immigration policies and pushing for more migrant rights. If unfair

policies which target migrants facilitate the use of forced and

exploitative labor then, it follows the policies which improve conditions and

the rules governing migrant workers work, must play an important role in

curtailing the supply of workers, migrant workers in particular who are

vulnerable to forced labor. A simple example of a reform that would be useful

here would be ensuring that migrants like non migrants can access free health

care or, ensuring that non migrants as again sterile in a fourth strategy for

improving work in supply chains involves better immigration policies, better

migration policies. If unfair policies which target migrants facilitate the use

of forced labor, facilitate exploitation, then it follows the policies that

improve conditions and rules for migrant workers must also play a role in

curtailing the supply of vulnerable migrant workers, who ultimately may or

may not end up in exploitative labor. A simple example here of a reform that

would be useful is ensuring free access to health care or legal support from

migrants as well as non migrants. Another is the employer pays principle which

involves the employer paying the costs of bringing over a foreign worker, rather

than the foreign worker paying for themselves to come over. We can also

think of abolishing tied visas. Tied visas are visas which ensure that a

migrant worker can come into a country to work but only for one particular

employer. In those cases when there is an issue with the employer, when the

employer is exploitative, the migrant ultimately faces a choice. Do I

leave this employer and protect myself but get deported or do I accept my

conditions. Abolishing such visa schemes would be a massive step forward for

migrant rights and for migrant worker conditions in supply chains.

Fifth, we have legal reform we showed last week that the lack of legislation at a global

as well as a national level allows exploitation to take place. Employers and

major corporations are responsible currently largely for checking their own

working conditions. The working conditions of those lower down their

supply chains but we know that this self-regulation doesn't work, so what we

need is binding legislation.

One of the complexities here around the role of government is that many supply

chains are global and so they cut across different national jurisdictions, yet

labor law in its present form tends to be national, that introduces a number of

different problems in terms of governing labor standards and global supply chains.

One of the ways that workers and others are trying to get around that now is by

proposing a binding global Convention on labor standards, in supply chains that

would make it so that companies who are at the head in the helm of these global

supply chains, actually have responsibility for ensuring fair labor

standards throughout their entire global supply chain.

One peculiar thing about a lot of corporate social responsibility programs and audit programs is that they

don't really involve workers and what we really need are supply chain governance

solutions that empower workers and involve them and there are examples of

this, that already exists, you know workers have been at the forefront of

pushing for new ways of governing supply chains that would address forced labor

and modern slavery, but that would also seek to stretch human rights and enforce

human rights across the whole workforce, not only looking at the sort of tip of

the iceberg of modern slavery, but ensuring fair labor across the entire sector.

A great example of this here in the United States in Florida is the

coalition of Immokalee Workers. What they've done is said well the people who

are the best qualified to know what the bad practices are in our industry, why

force labor exists, why modern slavery is thriving in the industry, how people are

getting away with it is actually not outside experts but it's the workers

themselves and so they have involved, workers have stepped forward to design

and enforce their own systems. As they've said we can't tackle forced labor and

modern slavery without also giving voice to workers and tackling exploitation in

the sec large because the same types of business

practices that in the extreme form might end up as modern slavery, are the same

business practices that in a slightly less extreme form are still highly

exploited if and so what we need to be doing is really raising the floor across

the board.

**Core Readings and Additional Resources**

 Bookmark this page

**Core readings:**

* Anannya Battacharjee, [Unbalanced corporate power has produced a global human rights crisis](https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/beyond-trafficking-and-slavery/anannya-battacharjee-yes/), Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 13 September 2016.
* Rachel Wilshaw, [What would loosen the roots of labour exploitation in supply chains?](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/rachel-wilshaw/what-would-loosen-roots-of-labour-exploitation-in-supply-chains) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 11 March 2015.

**Further readings:**

* Genevieve Lebaron, [Mandatory transparency, discretionary disclosure,](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/genevieve-lebaron/mandatory-transparency-discretionary-disclosure) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 17 November 2016.
* Georgios Altintzis, [Voices from the supply chains: an interview with the International Trade Union Confederation,](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/georgios-altintzis/voices-from-supply-chains-interview-with-international-trade-union-) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 24 August 2016.
* Jeffrey Vogt, [Efforts to clean up global supply chains so far come up short,](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/jeffrey-vogt/efforts-to-clean-up-global-supply-chains-so-far-come-up-short) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 22 March 2017
* Jenny Chan and Olga Martin-Ortega, [The Apple way to make products: a response to Apple’s 10th ‘supplier responsibility progress report’](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/ilc/jenny-chan-olga-martin-ortega/apple-way-to-make-products-response-to-apple-s-10th-supp), Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 6 June 2016.
* Judy Gearhart, [Global supply chains: time for a new deal?](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/ilc/judy-gearhart/global-supply-chains-time-for-new-deal) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 2 June 2016.
* Mark Meinster, [Voices from the supply chain: an interview with Warehouse Workers for Justice,](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/mark-meinster/voices-from-supply-chain-interview-with-warehouse-workers-for-justice) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 31 August 2016.
* Sinnathamby Prithviraj, [Corporate social responsibility should start with giving workers a fair wage](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/sinnathamby-prithviraj/corporate-social-responsibility-should-start-with-giving-worker), Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 13 October 2017.
* Urmila Bhoola, [Wrapup: can corporations be trusted to tackle modern slavery?](https://www.opendemocracy.net/beyondslavery/urmila-bhoola/wrapup-can-corporations-be-trusted-to-tackle-modern-slavery" \t "_blank) Beyond Trafficking and Slavery, openDemocracy, 13 October 2016.

Week 3 Activity: Evaluating Potential Solutions for Forced and Precarious Labor

(Round 1)

Many different solutions, strategies, and approaches have been proposed as part of efforts to combat forced and precarious labor. Not all of these solutions are compatible. Some point in one direction, while others point in another. Some are straight forward. Others are more challenging.

We, therefore, need to undertake a comparative analysis of what the most promising solutions to combating forced labor might look like, and how they might, in turn, contribute to a larger overall strategy for effectively challenging global patterns of exploitation and vulnerability.

Once again, this is not a graded exercise which has one right answer. We instead want you to make up your own mind regarding which of many potential solutions are likely to have a positive effect, and which potential solutions are instead likely to have limited or even negative effects.

In future weeks the list of potential solutions will be expanded to include additional options associated with different themes, such as supply chains, migration, and sex work. We will also be adding a further layer to the exercise which focuses upon relative levels of political difficulty.

By the end of the course, you should have come to an overall conclusion regarding what you think the most effective solutions are likely to be, and should, therefore, have a platform for action and analysis.

To complete this exercise, you once again assign a color to each of the solutions identified below based on your assessment of what you believe their overall effects are likely to be.

Reflecting upon potential solutions:

Likely to hurt, rather than help: Red

Likely to make no real difference either way: Light blue

Likely have a minor positive effect on forced and precarious labor: Yellow

Likely to have moderately positive effects on forced and precarious labor: Light Green

Likely to have a major positive effect on forced and precarious labor: Darker Green.

Not really sure about overall effects: White.

Round One (Week Three)

The passage of new laws.

The prosecution of offenders.

Ratification of international conventions.

Corporate social responsibility.

Technological innovations.

Increasing public inspections of employers and workplaces.

(Additional information about each factor is available in the activity and can also be found in the next unit or downloaded from the Handout for Week 3 Activity.

This list is by no means exhaustive, so we would also encourage you to make a case for why other factors should also be included – or prioritised – using the online discussion forum.

Activity Instructions

Click on the activity so it opens in a full screen.

Assign a color to each factor by clicking that color on the strip next to that factor block.

Click on the factors block to show additional information. To exit additional information, click of the text “exit” found at the top right-hand side of the additional information square.

You can navigate between pages, using the “>” and “<” icon found on the far left or right of the page.

When you are finished, take a screenshot of your colored-in rating of how different factors contribute to keeping labor vulnerable. (Please see "how to take a screenshot"PDF)

Push ESC. To exit full-screen mode.

Share your thoughts in the Weekly Activity Discussion Forum by:

Posting a copy of your screenshot to the Weekly Activity Discussion Forum, or

Sharing your motivation for why you rated one of the factors as making a major contribution, or

Suggesting other factors which contribute to keeping labor vulnerable.

## Evaluating potential solutions for forced and precarious labor

 Bookmark this page

Please complete the Week 3 activity. Then share your thoughts in the discussion forum below, by:

* Posting a copy of your screenshot to the forum, or
* Sharing your motivation for why you rated one of the factors as making a major contribution, or
* Suggesting other factors which contribute to keeping labor vulnerable

### Forum discussion

**Topic:** Week 3 / Evaluating potential solutions for forced and precarious labor

Hide Discussion

Add a Post

Filter:                                                           Sort:                                                           

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d945a6284452a07a90031d3)

[PLEASE POST RESPONSES HERE](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d945a6284452a07a90031d3)

[Please post your responses to the Week 3 topic in this thread. Thanks, The Course Team](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d945a6284452a07a90031d3)

**[14comments (14 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d945a6284452a07a90031d3)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcedf56c762770936001213)

[Week 3 - Evaluating Potential Solutions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcedf56c762770936001213)

[The passage of new laws: White The prosecution of offenders: Dark Green Ratification of International Conventions: Yellow Corporate Social Responsibility: Red Technological innovations: Light Green Increasing Public Inspections: Dark Green](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcedf56c762770936001213)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcedf56c762770936001213)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcadddd95b0620953000d18)

[potential solutions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcadddd95b0620953000d18)

[• Ratification of international conventions. • Corporate social responsibility. • Technological innovations. • Increasing public inspections of employers and workplaces.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcadddd95b0620953000d18)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dcadddd95b0620953000d18)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dc2e7eb7febe5092b000b60)

[Not many green fields...](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dc2e7eb7febe5092b000b60)

[I am not even sure for the two I selected... But coming from a very poor and devastaded country, I know that giving the voice to the ones most deprived and in risk, gives the best results.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dc2e7eb7febe5092b000b60)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dc2e7eb7febe5092b000b60)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dbba3e87febe509370005ad)

[Reflecting upon potential solutions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dbba3e87febe509370005ad)

[Likely to hurt, rather than help: Corporate social responsibility. Likely to make no real difference either way: Technological innovations. Likely have a minor positive effect on forced and precarious labor: --- Likely to have moderately positive effects on forced and precarious labor: --- Likely to have a major positive effect on forced and precarious labor: The passage of new laws. The prosecution of offenders. Ratification of international conventions. Increasing public inspections of employers and workplaces. Not really sure about overall effects:---](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dbba3e87febe509370005ad)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5dbba3e87febe509370005ad)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da9d6be84452a07a3004033)

[solutions with Caveats](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da9d6be84452a07a3004033)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da9d6be84452a07a3004033)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da7db9c8149fd0937003ea0)

[Potential solutions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da7db9c8149fd0937003ea0)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5da7db9c8149fd0937003ea0)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9634aa8149fd093d0030dc)

[it's complicated, isn't it? LOL](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9634aa8149fd093d0030dc)

**[4comments (4 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9634aa8149fd093d0030dc)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9d0b258149fd0946003547)

[My choices](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9d0b258149fd0946003547)

[I rated the factor "The prosecution of offenders" as making a major contribution, because it's important that people see that exploiting human beings for labour, has consequences. I also chose to rate the factor "Increasing public inspections of employers and workplaces" as making a major contribution. But the inspections must be kept separate from immigration controls, otherwise this method will not be of much help.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9d0b258149fd0946003547)

**[3comments (3 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9d0b258149fd0946003547)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9e0a35c06d26093f002f45)

[Not sure about the effect of Conventions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9e0a35c06d26093f002f45)

[I know there is a lot of hope that the ratification of conventions will somehow bring substantial positive change; the evidence shows that sometimes they really do not matter. Take the fundamental ILO Conventions for example ratified by countries such as Algeria, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Kuwait Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. All have ratified both C 87 and 98 and are also among the countries with serious violations of workers' rights, which in many cases have landed in the supervisory machinery of the ILO.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9e0a35c06d26093f002f45)

**[3comments (3 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9e0a35c06d26093f002f45)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9643b28149fd093f003487)

[technological solutions](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9643b28149fd093f003487)

[I was intrigued by the summary of the technological solutions. My first instinct was to say that more legislation is needed and that violators of laws need to be held to account. But technology as in e.g. use of drones can be used to see if laws are being adhered to and can be evidence to bringing violators to court. I had not quite considered the various technological solutions such as apps that may useful. So technology yes but alongside various other solutions proposed here.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9643b28149fd093f003487)

**[3comments (3 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9643b28149fd093f003487)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9a872984452a07a9003505)

[change the laws](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9a872984452a07a9003505)

[I rated changing the regulations and labor laws in being extremely positively affecting better labor in the supply chain because although CSR is important and certainly could help, changing the laws will force companies who refuse to change their practices and will create an umbrella for a standard of labor practices.](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9a872984452a07a9003505)

**[2comments (2 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9a872984452a07a9003505)**

[unanswered question](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9aeceb8149fd095b003521)

[Similar examples to the CIW?](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9aeceb8149fd095b003521)

[Hi all I have been very interested in the case of the Coalition of Immokalee workers Does anyone know of any similar organisations or emerging potential for something similar? ie truly worker led programs for labour codes of conduct in supply chains? Would like to do more research into this as a phenomenon but would like to cast a wide net](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9aeceb8149fd095b003521)

**[5comments (5 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9aeceb8149fd095b003521)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9ab67984452a07cf0032c2)

[new technology?](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9ab67984452a07cf0032c2)

**[1comments](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9ab67984452a07cf0032c2)**

[discussion](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9758dd8149fd09710033e2)

[Week 3](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9758dd8149fd09710033e2)

**[4comments (4 unread comments)](https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WitsX+BTSx+3T2019/discussion/forum/567b2d4368d3c91b834374d5a36c04180f9a0510/threads/5d9758dd8149fd09710033e2)**