

# WORKER-DRIVEN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY NETWORK

All human beings deserve work with dignity, respect for their human rights, and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives. However, 500 million workers in global supply chains who make and harvest the products we consume are exploited on a daily basis. This ranges from poverty wages and dangerous conditions to gender-based violence and forced labor. Most consumers are unaware of these abuses, which stand in direct contradiction to their values.



## TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESS

The Worker-driven Social Responsibility Network promotes an effective and innovative paradigm for protecting fundamental human rights in corporate supply chains. This approach, known as Worker-driven Social Responsibility (WSR), emerged out of the worker-led efforts, including the Fair Food Program (FFP) in the US agricultural sector and the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh in that country's garment sector.

In the US, the Fair Food Program has resulted in significant changes on participating farms, transforming an industry described by federal prosecutors as “ground zero for modern slavery” into the “best working environment in American agriculture.” The FFP has won praise from the US Departments of Justice, Labor and State and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, among others.

The Accord, led by global and Bangladeshi labor unions, has had a profound impact on the Bangladesh garment sector, with the implementation of hundreds of millions of dollars in factory renovations—such as installation of fire doors, reinforcement of dangerously weak structural columns, and replacement of haphazard electrical wiring with safe systems. In both cases, the WSR model's track record of proven, measurable results stands as a true success story.

## WHAT IS THE WSR NETWORK?

The WSR model is founded on the understanding that, in order to achieve meaningful and lasting improvements, human rights protections in corporate supply chains must be worker-driven, enforcement-focused, and based on legally binding commitments that assign responsibility

**WSR** WORKER-DRIVEN  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
NETWORK

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for improving working conditions to the global corporations at the top of those supply chains.

WSR provides a proven new form of power for previously powerless workers to protect and enforce their own rights. These rights can include—according to the circumstances and priorities of the workers driving the program—the right to freedom of association, the right to a safe and healthy work environment (including the right to work free from sexual harassment and sexual violence), and the right to work free of forced labor or violence, among other fundamental rights.

The multi-disciplinary WSR Network was created to build understanding of the model among a wide range of relevant stakeholders and audiences, provide support and resources for worker-led efforts to replicate the model, and offer feedback and evaluation on implementation.

WSR Network Coordinating Committee members and technical advisors include:

- Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (UK)
- Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (MN)
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers (FL)
- Fair Food Standards Council (FL)\*
- Migrant Justice (VT)
- National Economic and Social Rights Initiative (NY)
- T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights (NY)
- Worker Rights Consortium\*

We look forward to working together towards a vision of a just workplace where every worker is assured dignity and decent conditions throughout global supply chains.

*\*Denotes Technical Advisor*