

Human Rights and Accountability: Non-negotiable
Human Rights Defenders on Canadian corporations in the Global South

Wednesday, April 27th, 2022

🕒 8 am (Vancouver/PDT)

🕒 11 am (Ottawa/EDT)

🕒 12 pm (Halifax/ADT)

🕒 10 am (Quito/ECT)

🕒 5 pm (Lusaka/CAT)

🕒 9 pm (Dhaka/BST)

1-hour Roundtable panel

English, Spanish, French – simultaneous interpretation available

Register on Zoom: bit.ly/3NXEs4p

What harms do Canadian companies inflict on communities and workers around the world? What are impacted communities asking of Canadians and of the Canadian government? Why do we need stronger corporate accountability laws in Canada?

Join us for a one-hour roundtable with human rights defenders from the Global South.

The Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) is honoured to host three courageous leaders in the defence of human rights, workers' rights, and the environment:

- **Kalpona Akter**, Director, Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- **Reverend Emmanuel Chikoya**, General Secretary, Council of Churches in Zambia (Lusaka, Zambia)
- **Josefina Tunki**, President, Shuar Arutam People (PSHA) (Sucúa, Ecuador)

Moderator: **Amélie Nguyen**, Coordinator, Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO)

Canada is part of the problem. Help make Canada part of the solution.

Too often, Canadian companies are profiting from operations overseas that harm both people and the planet. These harms are extremely serious, and include the use of brutal intimidation and violence to clear land for Canadian operations, polluting local environments, and violating the human rights of workers through unsafe working conditions. Communities around the world have spent decades demanding that the Canadian government finally hold Canadian companies accountable for such violations of human rights.

Two private Member's bills to address these harms were tabled in the House of Commons on March 29, 2022. Bill C-262 would require companies to do their due diligence to prevent human rights abuses and environmental damage throughout their supply chains. Bill C-263 would finally give the Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise the power needed to independently investigate allegations of harm.

This forum will give us first-hand information to help us get the laws we need for Canada to be part of the solution. And not part of the problem.

Additional information on Canadian Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation

- Media backgrounder on Canadian corporate accountability laws ([EN](#), [FR](#))
- FAQs ([EN](#), [FR](#))

Speaker biographies



Kalpona Akter is a former child worker in Bangladesh’s garment factories. Despite enduring abuse and retribution for organizing fellow garment workers to demand fair labor rights – including facing threats and finally being fired from the factory – she has continued the struggle. As the founder and Executive Director of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity, Akter campaigns for fair wages, garment factory safety, and the right to form labor unions and collectively bargain.



Reverend Canon Emmanuel Chikoya is an ordained Anglican Priest serving as General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Zambia since August 2017. He is a keen ecumenist with special interest in stewardship of the economic and physical environment, and promotion of good governance, justice and peace.



Josefina Tunki is the first elected woman president of the Indigenous Shuar Arutam government council (el Consejo de Gobierno del Pueblo Shuar Arutam - PSHA) which represents 47 Shuar Arutam communities in the Ecuadorian amazon. Josefina is renowned for her strong resistance to the extractive industries that threaten her territory. For this she has faced state-led discrimination as well as death threats from Canadian mining companies that are exploring in Shuar Arutam sovereign territories without the people’s consent.