



The Vance Center Business and Human Rights Initiative

In 2015, the Vance Center's [Human Rights and Access to Justice Program](#) launched the **Business and Human Rights Initiative** (“the Initiative”). Through the Initiative, we draw on our expertise and experience to assist NGOs and international organizations on human rights issues related to business activities, and contribute to the development of best practices in this area. Our work is grounded in the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs).

Examples of projects under the Initiative include:

- Hosting a [session](#) as part of the United Nations VI Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean bringing together, for the first time, more than a dozen bar associations from Latin America and the Caribbean;
- [Contributing](#) to the UNGPs10+ Project, an initiative of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights to chart a course for a decade of action on Business and Human Rights;
- Setting up and coordinating the [New York City Bar’s Working Group on Business and Human Rights](#), which in 2020 approved a [pioneer policy statement](#) on Business and Human Rights;
- Supporting the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with the project “[Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)”;
- Promoting strong legal frameworks for digital justice in Latin American and the Caribbean to address new challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, including new risks for human rights;
- Hosting a [panel](#) on the effectiveness of arbitration to resolve business and human rights disputes;
- A partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces to develop guidance for companies operating in conflict environments (the final product of which can be found [online](#));
- Training New York lawyers on business and human rights principles through [events](#) and [panels](#);
- Leading a workshop in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on [business and human rights and alternative disputes mechanisms](#);
- [Co-sponsoring a Geneva conference](#) on the role of lawyers and law firms in ensuring access to remedies for harms resulting from business activities.