



BHR Clinic workshop with
UniGe students and Holcim.

Business and Human Rights Clinic

at the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights

Explore strategies and tools to implement human rights in corporate practice together with a dedicated team of students and instructors from the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights (GCBHR).

Following a successful first Business and Human Rights (BHR) Clinic, the **GCBHR is now looking for a corporate partner** to run the second BHR Clinic in 2022-23.



What is a BHR Clinic?

Clinical education was first established by law schools in the US over three decades ago. Clinics as part of the law school curriculum offer students the opportunity to gain hands-on legal experience through real cases and pro bono legal aid to clients.

The BHR Clinic at the GCBHR serves the same purpose of bringing students closer to practical business and human rights work. It incentivizes action-oriented research and enables a closer collaboration between academia and industry. **The BHR Clinic at the University of Geneva is the first business and human rights clinic at a business school in Europe.**

How was the BHR Clinic experience so far?

Supported by Trafigura and Holcim, the inaugural BHR Clinic was offered between November 2021 and May 2022 as part of the Master in Responsible Management at the University of Geneva.

The 2021-22 cohort worked on a challenge presented by Holcim, a Swiss global player in the building materials industry. The objective was to build capacity for security-related human rights challenges and involved the development of scenario-based training material for Holcim employees.

The first BHR Clinic has been a success for both the students and the company. The collaboration between the GCBHR and Holcim resulted in insights and training concepts that have since been applied in corporate practice.

How do companies benefit from the BHR Clinic?

Over a period of five months each year, the students enrolled in the BHR Clinic work together with instructors from the GCBHR and a corporate partner to jointly develop solutions for a business and human rights challenge the partner is experiencing.

The BHR Clinic provides an opportunity for the company to connect with experts on business and human rights and benefit from the latest findings of academic management studies. Companies also obtain the perspective of the next generation of talent on potential solutions to these challenges. The student group and project management are supervised by an experienced academic project lead.



Why should your company support the BHR Clinic?

By becoming a corporate partner in the next BHR Clinic, your company will receive:

- solution-oriented, readily applicable project deliverables based on your company's needs and practices
- the opportunity to work with a team of up to eight highly qualified master students from the Master in Responsible Management program at the Geneva School for Economics and Management
- a fresh and independent perspective on business and human rights challenges from a culturally diverse and interdisciplinary group of students and instructors at the GCBHR
- state-of-the-art academic expertise on business and human rights
- mentions of your company's name as the corporate partner on the GCBHR's social media accounts, in newsletters and in other public communication documents in connection with the BHR Clinic



What is expected from corporate partners?

Companies interested in becoming a corporate partner are asked to pitch a relevant and exciting challenge to the GCBHR and, if selected, support the BHR Clinic with a donation between 8'000 CHF and 20'000 CHF.

Once selected, a corporate partner is expected to carry out the following activities over the course of the BHR Clinic (up to five months):

- regularly interact with the student team, facilitated by senior researchers at the GCBHR
- deliver a kick-off session for the project to introduce the students to the context of the challenge and frame their concrete tasks
- jointly define milestones and concrete project phases with the option for in-person workshops, interviews, on-site visits, etc.

The company representatives' time, knowledge and expertise is as important as the financial contribution to successfully address the corporate BHR challenge.

Become a corporate partner to support this unique and innovative business school course and **reaffirm your company's commitment to human rights!**



The Challenge

To be considered as a corporate partner, please pitch a business and human rights challenge by 1 September 2022. There are no restrictions for suitable topics.

Possible themes include:

- conducting business in challenging geographical contexts (e.g., in or with China, Myanmar, Russia)
- addressing concrete human rights issues (e.g., child labor, modern slavery, human rights management capacity)
- assessing interdepartmental challenges (e.g., security and human rights, procurement and human rights)

We are looking for human rights challenges that are:

REAL: What concrete human rights challenges is your company currently facing? What challenges are relevant to your industry?

IMPACTFUL: How will your company apply the outcome of the BHR Clinic in its operations?

INSPIRING COLLABORATION: Can the BHR Clinic facilitate interaction within your company and across the industry?

SCALABLE: How can your challenge inspire other companies to implement human rights in corporate practice?

FEASIBLE: Is the task clearly defined and manageable in the given time frame from November 2022 to May 2023?

The Timeline

1. Interested companies must develop their pitch (1-3 pages) and submit their challenge to gsem-gcbhr@unige.ch by 1 September 2022.
2. The submissions will be assessed according to the criteria by a committee composed of members of the GCBHR Advisory Council. Only one corporate partner will be selected for the BHR Clinic 2022-23.
3. The selected corporate partner for the BHR Clinic 2022-23 will be announced on 20 September 2022.
4. If selected, the company is expected to make a one-time contribution to the BHR Clinic of an amount ranging from 8'000 CHF to 20'000 CHF.
5. The student team will be selected in a two-stage competitive application process by GCBHR instructors in October 2022.
6. The BHR Clinic 2022-23 will start in November 2022.

For further information or questions about the application process, please contact:

Dr. Berit Knaak
gsem-gcbhr@unige.ch

**APPLY BY
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“The BHR Clinic was a real success for us, and was worth the time we put in. We benefited in three concrete ways: First, the immediate output provided by the BHR Clinic is readily applicable to our business context. Second, the coordination for the BHR Clinic contributed to very good internal exchanges between our human rights teams and our security teams and this collaboration reflected positively to the ExCo. Third, we created valuable relationships with academia and in the industry through involving ICoCA. For us, partnering in the BHR Clinic created real impact, through the training that students delivered to our security management staff, through our interdepartmental collaboration, and through the mutual insights from interacting with the GCBHR.”

Member of Holcim, corporate partner 2021-22

ACADEMIC PROJECT LEADS

Prof. Dorothée Baumann-Pauly is Professor at Geneva University's School of Economics and Management and directs the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights. Since 2013, she is also Research Director at NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

Dr. Berit Knaak is a postdoctoral researcher at the Geneva Center for Business and Human Rights. She has been the co-lead of the first Business and Human Rights Clinic in 2021-22.
