



TV Industry Human Rights Forum: Terms of Reference

Last updated: January 2024

Purpose

The purpose of the Forum is to understand how the TV industry impacts on human rights and to create positive change by proactively addressing potential human rights issues in the operations of the member companies and wider TV industry. The emphasis of this group is on operations and supply chains rather than on TV coverage of human rights. Within this, the Forum will prioritise the most vulnerable and those most at risk.

The Forum will do this by:

1. Sharing information, processes, approaches and challenges (where able, on a case-by-case basis).
2. Commissioning research into human rights risks in different aspects of TV production.
3. Developing tools and guidance to promote good practice.
4. Seeking opportunities to maximise impact through collaboration.
5. Communicating to the wider industry the importance of respecting and protecting human rights. As we develop research outputs and tools, we will share the information that we find – through academia, NGOs, and other businesses.
6. Seeking out cross-sector collaboration opportunities.

Membership

- The Group is open to any TV organisation (including production companies, broadcasters, streamers and industry suppliers) interested in understanding and improving their approach to human rights, including complying with legal requirements (for example the Modern Slavery Act 2015) and working towards good practice.
- Members are encouraged to send representatives from production and from relevant corporate functions to attend the meetings.
- Full members can participate in the steering group and decide on the priorities and direction of the Forum.
- Associate members can benefit from close engagement with the Forum.
- Non-members can attend Forum meetings, free training sessions and online webinars, where space permits.

Ways of working:

- The Group will work within the Chatham House Rule.
- The Group will work with a spirit of trust and collaboration.
- Competition law reminder. While all Forum members have an interest in promoting human rights, in many cases they may also be competitors, and should keep in mind at all times that discussions should focus only on issues related to human rights. In particular, members should not engage in any form of information exchange of any form of competitively sensitive information, including
 - Commercial or market strategy
 - Non-public price information
 - Non-public information on output/sales

External Engagement:

- All participants agree to be named as members of the working group in any statements and communications (including communications by other members).
- Where appropriate learning will be shared with relevant industry groups in order to maintain the spirit of collaboration (for example the Centre for Sports and Human Rights).

Meetings:

- The Steering Group will meet at least 6 times per year.
- The full Forum will seek to meet at least quarterly.
- Topics for forthcoming agendas will be agreed at each meeting.
- Any papers will be circulated by the Forum Secretariat – Amelia Knott, Romanac Consulting Ltd.

Review:

- The Forum will review its success against the points set out in its Purpose (above) every six months.
- These terms of reference will be reviewed annually.

Appendix – Current full members

- BBC Studios
- ITV
- Sky
- NBC Universal

- Channel 4