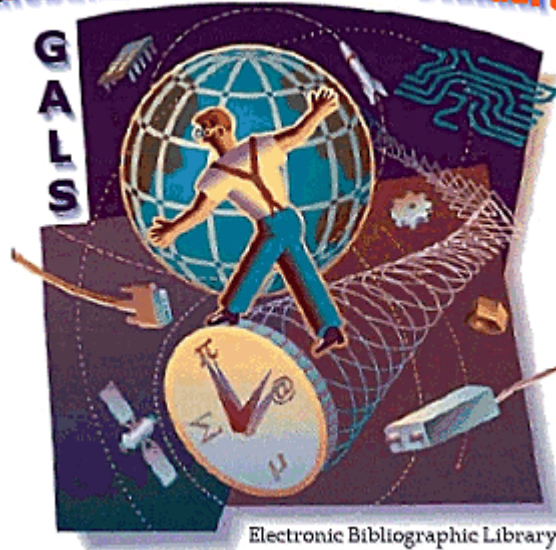


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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## Child Labor

Smith, Aine, "Child Labor: The Pakistani Effort to End a Scourge upon Humanity - Is it Enough?", *San Diego International Law Journal* v. 6 no2 (2005) p. 461-494

**Abstract:**

This article discusses why Pakistan's efforts to eradicate child labor are insufficient, and argues that the only way to abolish the practice is for the international community to give child labor the same status as torture and slavery. The author begins with a history of bonded child labor in Pakistan, in which parents are forced by poverty to sell their children to local factories. Then the author discusses international laws regarding children and child labor, including treaties to which Pakistan is a signatory. Although the Pakistani government has taken some steps to eradicate child labor, such as establishing a child welfare agency and a National Committee on the Rights of the Child, the author cites a Pakistani newspaper that stated that eight million children are unofficially working within Pakistan's borders. The author then offers her "ideal solution," which is to treat child labor, like torture and slavery, as a "jus cogens" under international law -- an activity so universally condemned by the international community that it can never be permitted. The author concludes with a condemnation of Pakistan for disregarding their own child labor laws and the international conventions that they have signed, and with a plea to the international community to make child labor a jus cogens.

**Subjects:** [Child Labor](#), [Country-Specific Case Studies](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WESTLAW](#) || [LEXIS-NEXIS](#) ||

## Extraterritorial Application of Law

Ward, Halina, "Securing transnational corporate accountability through national courts: implications and policy options", *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review* v. 24 no3 (Spring 2001) p. 451-474

**Abstract:**

This article discusses the concept of global corporate citizenship, arguing that there is a "governance deficit" created by the power disparities between developing countries and global corporations. The author suggests that the inequities of the situation demand that the "flipside" of foreign direct investment should be "foreign direct liability" and that the home country of the multinationals should insist that they are subject to the same standards of conduct abroad as they are at home. Moreover, the threat of liability could pressure multinational corporations to conform their behavior to international standards. To this end, the author proposes an international convention to regulate foreign direct investment that would empower developing countries to hold multinational corporations accountable as global citizens.

**Subjects:** [Extraterritorial Application of Law](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WESTLAW](#) ||

## International Labour Organization

Langille, Brian A, "Core Labour Rights - The True Story (Reply to Alston)", *European Journal of International Law* v. 16 no3 (2005) p. 409-437

**Abstract:**

This article is a reply to Philip Alston's article, "Core Labour Standards and the Transformation of the International Labour Rights Regime," that appeared in the *European Journal of International Law* in 2004. Alston argued that the International Labour Organization's (ILO) "core labour standards" undermine the "old ILO regime" in which international labor conventions are created in Geneva, and then ratified on a voluntary basis by the ILO member states. Ratification turns the conventions into binding international treaties with specific reporting obligations and a system of supervisory review. The genesis of the new core labor standards was the ILO's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work ("Declaration"), which designated four rights as fundamental and binding, whether members ratified them or not. The Alston piece argued that the core rights are arbitrary, have no coherent conceptual basis, and that they will have a negative impact on international labor rights. In this piece, Languille takes issue with Alston and contends that the articulation of core rights will have a positive pragmatic relationship. Languille further suggests that the Declaration may be the first step in the positive transformation of international labor law.

**Subjects:** [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#), [Labor Rights in General \(Misc.\)](#)

**Full-text links:** || [LEXIS-NEXIS](#) ||

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## Links to Related Projects

** The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Informal Economy Resource Database:** <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/infoecon/iebrowse.home>

The Informal Economy Resource Database contains a myriad of ILO activities, research or tools directly or indirectly related to the informal economy and decent work. This source is a "living" and dynamic inventory of information on labour issues relating to the informal economy, such as access to finance, data and statistics, employment, gender equality, policy, rights, social protection and working conditions. It is a valuable tool for anyone undertaking research or working on labour issues and the informal economy.

**Asian Law Center:** <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alc/bibliography/browse.asp?s=45>

The Asian Law Centre, an initiative of the University of Melbourne Law School, devoted to the development of understanding of Asian law, offers an extensive bibliography of Asian labor law articles and reports.

**Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law:** <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/celr/>

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law is a research and teaching center devoted to the development of an understanding of labor law at the University of Melbourne. The Center's website describes the activities of the Center and contains links to several databases that are of interest to labor law scholars and practitioners. For example, the Center's Work Relations Law Project contains extensive information about Australian labor law that can be accessed directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/industrial/>.

**ETUI Labourline:** <http://www.labourline.org/Etui>

ETUI Labourline is a database of European labor information resources covering European, international and comparative aspects of industrial relations and health and safety issues, developed by the Documentation Centres of the European Trade Union Institute and the European Trade Union Institute for Health and Safety (Brussels). The consolidated bibliographic database contains more than 20,000 references to documents focusing on industrial relations, and more than 15,000 references to documents on health and safety issues.

**Globalization Bulletin:** <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dbensman/bulletin.html>

The Globalization Bulletin is a weekly e-newsletter providing linked access to the latest articles, research, and web resources on a range of global labor issues—ranging from union organizing and labor markets to immigrations and trade agreements. The Bulletin is produced by the Globalization Task Force of the New Jersey Division of the United Nations Association-USA and the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. To subscribe, email David Bensman at

[dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu).

**Labor and Global Change Database:** <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lagn/>

The Labor and Global Change Database provides bibliographies, citation information and (where available) web links to the full text of research exploring connections between labor and globalization. The database aims to provide researchers with an easy means to make the results of their work widely available to other scholars and the interested public. The database is run by and continually updated by the Labor and Global Change Program of the University of Michigan.

**LabourWeb:** <http://www.lex.unict.it/eurolabor/en/>

The Labour Web is a comprehensive documentation center for information about European labor law, social law, industrial relations and the welfare state. It contains up-to-date versions of European Union law, directives, pending directives, EU news, press releases, economic statistics and decisions of the European Court of Justice. It also contains a Working Papers series and subject matter reports (dossiers) on issues concerning European integration. The site also provides links to other websites that contain working papers, statistical reports, and other information about social, economic and industrial relations affairs in the European context. It is run by the Massimo D'Antona Centre for the Study of European Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Catania.

**The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies:**  
<http://www.csmb.unimo.it>

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, functions as policy resource center on comparative labor issues. Besides publishing books and law journals, the Center provides a clearinghouse of international law journals, including the International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations (<http://www.csmb.unimo.it/journal.html>). Currently only in Italian, the Center's website will soon offer an English version.

**Trade Unions and Labor Relations Database:** <http://www.polwiss.fu-berlin.de/tu/english/>

The database, produced by the Institute of Labor Relations of the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie University of Berlin, contains almost 7,000 citations of books, articles, working papers, brochures, proceedings etc. The bulk of the citations address aspects of labor relations in Germany, but there is a substantial body of literature in the database covering the EU and Eastern Europe.

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*Project Director:*

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