

# REPORT

---

# ANTI-CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- HOW TO BECOME MUTUALLY REINFORCING?

Roundtable 13-14 November 2017, Lund

**RAOUL  
WALLENBERG  
INSTITUTE**

OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

# ABSTRACT

What is the connection between human rights and corruption? Can the human rights based approach add anything important to the fight against corruption? These and other key questions were discussed when the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law held a Roundtable to discuss the intersections between corruption and human rights on 13-14 November 2017. The Roundtable aimed at stimulating a discussion about how a more active contribution of human rights in the fight against corruption could be developed to promote human rights and to reduce corruption. The idea was to identify human rights-based opportunities and to explore synergies and possibilities for cooperation between different actors in society. The 26 participants came from public and private sectors, from international and regional organisations including treaty bodies, from academia and civil society, from statutory bodies and municipalities. The blend created a vibrant and constructive explorative exchange. The outcome of the Roundtable included a set of 29 conclusions and recommendations for participants and other stakeholders to consider in their work to promote a corruption-free, and human rights-based society.

I would like to thank all participants for their great contributions to the Roundtable, which was held under Chatham House Rules.

I would like to thank Mikael Johansson, Isis Sartori Reis, Sandra Jakobsson and Gabriel Stein who have been involved in preparing the report from this Roundtable. On behalf of the Institute, I would also like to thank the cooperative Södra for the lunch sponsored during the Roundtable.

Morten Kjaerum, Director

---

# INTRODUCTION

It is widely recognised today that there is a clear relationship between corruption and the enjoyment of human rights. Corruption is one of the biggest impediments, locally and globally, not only for the realisation of human rights but for the whole sustainable development agenda as well. Corruption diverts funds intended for investment in public services, erodes the rule of law, distorts justice systems, interferes with political processes, and affects delivery of public services.

Corruption often thrives in societies where there is a concentration of powers in the executive branch, and weak or non-existent checks and balances. It also thrives where there is poor transparency regarding executive decisions, restricted access to information, weak systems of oversight and enforcement, and a controlled media. Such practices appear to be less frequent in societies with a high level of freedom of information, an independent judiciary, checks and balances, gender equality, transparent public decision-making, and a vibrant civil society. It therefore can be argued that human rights implementation helps to reduce corruption in society.

**“Corruption is the third largest industry in the world<sup>1</sup>”**

Bearing this in mind, the Roundtable brought together representatives from the international community, the public and private sectors, civil society organisations and academia to discuss issues such as:

- To what extent can integration of human rights standards and principles into anti-corruption strategies and actions make the fight against corruption more effective? And what concrete measures can be introduced to ensure that anti-corruption strategies are human rights-based?
- How can we build on positive examples or promising experiences of human rights-based systems or actions from, for example, governments, local and regional authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organisations, academia, the business community, and anti-corruption agencies that have contributed to or have potential to contribute to the prevention of corruption?

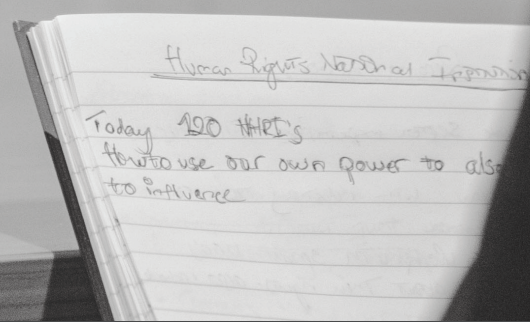
---

1 All quotes used in this report are drawn from the Roundtable and kept anonymous for non-disclosure reasons.

The Roundtable was organised in four different sessions, with the first session providing an overview of corruption and human rights from the perspective of different UN agencies. The second session looked at the role of local authorities in the fight against corruption, technology-based civil society initiatives, and the relationship between gender equality and corruption. The third session focused on how corporate compliance programmes and mechanisms could contribute to fight corruption and prevent human rights abuses. The fourth session addressed the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in combatting corruption.

### **Five Key Messages from the Roundtable**

- A Human Rights-Based Approach emphasising the role of principles, standards and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights can be a valuable and complementary tool in the fight against corruption.
- Corruption is often perceived as victimless crime, with the result that it is not as stigmatising as other criminal activities. A change in the way corruption is perceived and dealt with is crucial.
- A bottom-up approach to the fight against corruption is necessary to strengthen the popular support in this endeavor and empower victims. Technology-based solutions can play an important role in this respect.
- Promoting gender equality is key, given the perceived correlation that countries with higher levels of gender equality tend to have lower levels of corruption.
- There is no need for additional standards and mechanisms for the fight against corruption. Focus should instead be on making use of the existing ones, including human rights standards and mechanisms, more effectively and to develop tools and handbooks supporting their implementation.



# SUMMARY

There was a wide agreement among participants that corruption is one of the biggest obstacles for an effective implementation of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. It was however argued that more data and analytical work is needed to measure the impact that corruption has on human rights, with a view to foster a deeper understanding of, and provide an evidence-based argument for, the interrelationship between corruption and human rights violations. With this relationship further clarified, such analysis could also contribute to support the argument for applying a human rights-based and victim-oriented approach to the fight against corruption, meaning for example an increased use of the human rights system as a tool in the fight against corruption.

For this purpose, a number of participants proposed that a study should be undertaken to look at how, for example, UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, including Special Rapporteurs, and regional human rights systems, including the European Court of Human Rights, have seen corruption as potentially being a cause for human rights violations. In this context, calls were also made for more in-depth studies on how various anti-corruption efforts around the world are contributing to promoting or hindering human rights.

Participants at the Roundtable also recognised that one of the most vulnerable groups affected by corruption are economically disadvantaged people. Studies show that they more often fall victim to corruption than other groups in society, either by having to pay bribes or being referred to public services which are malfunctioning due to corrupt practices. It was argued that there is need for further research, collecting statistics on victims, including how many there are and who and where they are located.

A call was also made for more analysis on the relationship between gender equality and corruption, as arguments can be made that a higher level of gender equality have a positive effect on the level of corruption in society. This relationship should be further analysed in order to develop practical tools that countries, companies, local communities and other stakeholders could incorporate in their management systems in order to increase the number of women in senior positions, thus contributing to the fight against corruption.

Participants in the Roundtable also called for more research on the nexus between human rights, corruption, and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly on how to better integrate anti-corruption components under each individual goal.

It was recognised by the participants that education is an important tool in the fight against corruption. It was recommended to further explore how anti-corruption education can be strengthened and integrated into other disciplines, such as economics, environmental studies, and human rights. Building on the mapping of the global prevalence of academic education in anti-corruption by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), it was proposed that a similar mapping could be done for human rights education in order to examine the potential of a stronger interaction between ongoing initiatives in the two disciplines, as they are mutually reinforcing.

As to education, it was also stressed that NHRIs have an important role to play in addressing the relationship between corruption and human rights, for example through different awareness-raising programmes. The role of NHRI's in fighting corruption through education should be further explored.

Participants recognised that corruption must be addressed at all levels in society and that local authorities, who often are in charge of providing public services, play an important role in the fight against corruption. It is at the local level where citizens are closest to the decision-makers and can potentially hold them accountable for their actions. Examples from Sweden show how a Human Rights-Based Approach to local government, emphasizing principles such as non-discrimination, public participation, transparency in decision-making, and mechanisms for responsibility and accountability at different levels, could also contribute to reinforce anti-corruption initiatives at the local level. It was proposed at the Roundtable that such an approach could also prove to be valuable for the private sector and synergies should be explored between different private and public sector initiatives on how to prevent corruption by applying a Human Rights-Based Approach.

As to the corporate sector, it was acknowledged that compliance frameworks, such as those developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), business compliance codes and internal process mappings can play an important role in the fight against corruption and prevention of human rights abuses. Such tools can facilitate the establishment of effective routines contributing to the fight against corruption and prevention of human rights abuses. It was therefore recommended that it should be further explored how anti-corruption and human rights corporate compliance frameworks, which often are separate tools, could mutually reinforce each other.

## **“Many participants called for more practical tools, handbooks and training”**

While there was wide consent among participants that there is no need for more standards, but rather implementation of existing ones, many participants called for more practical tools, handbooks and training. Such initiatives would provide better guidance to both public and private actors on how to prevent or respond to acts of corruption and prevent human rights violations. As a step in this direction it was proposed that promising practices and case studies should be compiled and distributed to ensure a solid knowledge sharing.

The common assessment was that civil society initiatives through community-based organisations have an important role to play when it comes to exposing corruption and human rights violations. Examples given at the Roundtable confirmed that applying technology-based solutions, for example through smart phones, and doing so in close cooperation with victims or potential victims, has proven to be an effective tool to expose corruption. It was proposed that different innovative technological solutions should be further explored and promoted.

Finally, it was underlined that UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies have an important role in the fight against corruption, particularly in relation to victims, and that when relevant, corruption should be addressed in communications to UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies. It should also be explored how institutions spearheading the fight against corruption, nationally and internationally, could learn from the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, particularly in relation to reparations to human rights victims.

# Session 1: International perspective on the linkages between anti-corruption and human rights

*This session provided an overview of corruption and human rights from the perspective of different UN agencies. It addressed the relevance of integrating human rights into anti-corruption strategies, anti-corruption education initiatives, and the Sustainable Development Goals.*

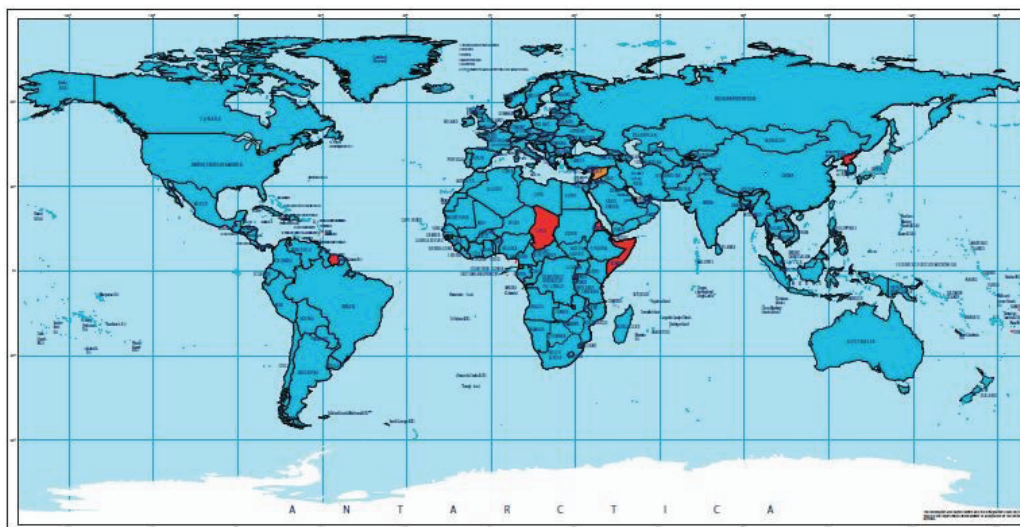
It was for example argued that the fight against corruption could be advanced by framing it under a “freedom from corruption”. This would add a new and powerful dimension to the fight against corruption, mostly if it is considered that “freedom from corruption” catalyses the indivisibility of human rights.

Others argued that it would derail the discussion to frame it as a new right, and that it would be more constructive to use the existing instruments. The victim-oriented approach stemming from a Human Rights-Based Approach would complement the existing approaches to combat corruption. It is important not to neglect the fact that corruption is one of the means through which states can violate civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. All human rights are endangered by corruption and should, therefore, be an elementary part of the fight against it. It is evident that there is considerable overlap between human rights and anti-corruption initiatives. Yet what is lacking is a standard methodology or checklist, as well as data, on how human rights and anti-corruption correlate. There are currently only limited examples on how a Human Rights-Based Approach impacts anti-corruption, and this lack of data prevents furthering the practical intertwinement of both agendas.

In such a context, it is important to ask: what can be done? Primarily, participants of the Roundtable agreed that we need to make sure human rights principles are upheld. Then, it is important to monitor compliance and complement anti-corruption education with human rights education. One more strategy would be to make better use of national and international legal frameworks. It was argued that the business and human rights framework in the UN system should also be improved, since its approach to anti-corruption is far from concrete. In relation to this, it was argued that it could be of interest to develop modalities for prevention of corruption under the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions and the Jakarta Statement on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies.



## UNCAC Signature and Ratification Status



**Signatories: 140**  
**Parties: 183**

## “Why not teach about it?”

One issue raised during the discussions was that despite 140 countries having ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, there are still very few initiatives to integrate anti-corruption into higher levels of education. Such initiatives should aim for a multidisciplinary approach and be incorporated into all levels of education, especially in higher-education programmes, such as law programmes in both developed and developing countries. This requires a database on what courses and trainings are available in different countries, to the extent that a “siloes” approach imposes a barrier in the effective implementation of training programmes, while it also could lead to duplication of efforts.

Many countries face difficulties knowing where and how to begin the training of officials in anti-corruption practices. Hence, developing the academic backbone to their work is necessary. The UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) provides an excellent starting point for the UN system, as well as others, to support the countries that have ratified the convention to develop training and educational programmes supporting its implementation. UNODC, as custodian of UNCAC, is already working towards that end, and have developed courses and modules on anti-corruption, under the “Education for justice initiative” and the “Academic initiative”. The latter engages with universities to encourage the teaching of issues related to anti-corruption in graduate and postgraduate programmes. The former disseminates educational materials in UNODC mandated areas of crime prevention and

criminal justice across the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels. Initiatives of this kind contribute to fostering support to the development of other academic programmes in the field of anti-corruption, which is important considering the role education has as a preventive tool in the fight against corruption.

A case was made for a multidisciplinary approach to anti-corruption education, integrating anti-corruption as a component into various educational programmes at universities around the world. In addition, given that it might be difficult to know where to start, it is key to promote the sharing of promising practices among countries. Learning from each other would strengthen existent educational programmes. To that end, mapping of educational programmes and other trainings in different countries is essential.

Overall, moving towards a better understanding of the links between anti-corruption and human rights is necessary, and interest has already been expressed by some of the relevant stakeholders. It was in this context that the UN Human Rights Council requested OHCHR to, in coordination with the UNODC and with the participation of UN relevant entities, arrange a workshop before September 2018, with the objective of exchanging best practices on how the UN system supports member states in preventing, and fighting against, corruption, with a focus on human rights.

Anti-corruption programming is based on the principles of transparency, accountability, participation, integrity, equality, access to justice, and effective remedy, among others. All of these overlap with human rights standards and principles. Acknowledging this would contribute to reinforcing both agendas. It was argued that it is of utmost importance to identify where the opportunities lie today and how these opportunities can be used strategically. One such opportunity is the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It was argued that it is necessary to unlock the untapped potential of the SDGs in bridging the existent gap between human rights and other international agendas, such as anti-corruption. It was also underlined that we need to stress that corruption is a constraint not only to the fulfillment of SDG 16, target 16.5, but to the whole 2030 Agenda. In this context, it was argued that there should be more emphasis on the relationship between each SDG, relevant human rights and corruption and that it is important to present this nexus in a measurable way.

It was argued that the political will and commitment from countries in fighting corruption is at stake. It is, therefore, important to encourage and strengthen existing mandates at the international level, be it by: filling the knowledge gap with research, pushing for compliance through activism or encouraging member states' compliance through reports on SDG 16. In addition, where political will is a barrier, there has to be creativity in finding common ground for discussion. That is, if it cannot be framed in terms of anti-corruption, there could be opportunities to communicate the ideas with another framing, like environmental rights, consumers' rights, or ethics.

**“[...] we need to stress that corruption is a constraint not only to the fulfillment of SDG 16, target 16.5, but to the whole 2030 Agenda”**

## Session 2: Three perspectives on fighting corruption and human rights abuses

*The second session looked at the role of local authorities in the fight against corruption, technology-based civil society initiatives and the relationship between gender equality and corruption.*

### **A. Local governance and anti-corruption**

Examples were given from Sweden on how local authorities and regions work to prevent corruption and how human rights can be integrated into their work. In recent years, there has been increased public debate on both corruption scandals and human rights violations. This has led to the call for more work to be done to address these issues, for example at the local level. The starting point is a need to re-establish confidence and trust between politicians and the community they serve.

In an effort to strengthen the respect for human rights at the local level, for several years work has been going on in Sweden as regards to the application of a Human Rights-Based Approach to local and regional governance. The work, which is spearheaded by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), is centered around principles such as non-discrimination/equality, participation/inclusion, transparency and accountability/responsibility. By adhering to these principles, the goal is to strengthen the awareness of, and respect for, human rights within the public sector on the local and regional level and to develop knowledge and methods on how to work in a strategic and systematic way with human rights issues.

It was argued that the application of a Human Rights-Based Approach to local governance has contributed to an increased quality of services, and that it is also possible to see reduced levels of corruption where this work has taken place. Also, a Human Rights-Based Approach can provide an effective and complementary tool for the prevention of corruption. In this regard, SALAR has expanded its work to include cooperation with the business sector and associations within the social welfare sector, where corruption is more likely to happen.

Finally, an initiative to develop and support Human Rights Cities and regions is also currently being undertaken by SALAR in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. It was argued that the Human Rights City concept has the potential to become an effective tool to combat corruption.

## **B. Community-based organisations**

The use of technology as a means to expose and combat petty day-to-day corruption can be very effective. Smartphones can play an important role in the fight against corruption and during the Roundtable different examples were given on how community-based organisations, in cooperation with victims or potential victims of corruption, can make use of mobile phone technology to expose corruption. Two concrete examples were given. The first one uses a video-app to record ongoing corrupt acts, while the other uses telephones to secure that cash transfers from government institutions reach the right recipients.

The video app was recently launched as a pilot project. It provides citizens with a tool to report on daily corruption. The project, which builds on individual reporting on direct and everyday corruption, aims to stigmatize corruptive behavior, make it a high risk activity, and raise awareness by placing it in a wider perspective. The project has a bottom-up approach, and works in close cooperation with, for example, investigative journalists, local community partners, and the Commission on Human Rights. It can already show positive results, meaning that action has been taken by the authorities to deal with corrupt practices exposed by the project.

Another example was given from a country where one challenge faced was the disappearance of cash transfers from state institutions to individuals in vulnerable situations. Instead of reaching the right recipients, the money was deviated to “ghost recipients”. In order to address this issue, a community-based organisation successfully created a telephone-based system allowing the intended recipients to confirm whether or not they had received the intended payment or not. This information was later published on a web-based system to trace and track corruption in these cash transfers. The website was able to show that during the period 2009-2015 only 10 % of a million intended recipients received their payments.

**“Smartphones can play an important role in the fight against corruption”**

## **“Corruption is a main factor depriving women of social and economic rights”**

### **C. The Gender Equality Perspective**

During this session, research findings were presented to illustrate that a high level of gender equality in society promotes or contributes to a lower level of corruption. This argument was made based on the fact that women and men are socialised into different behaviors. That is, men are taught to take risks, while women are taught to be caring. Subsequently, this would result in women being less inclined to engage in corrupt activities, which is a high-risk activity, and having uneven access to senior positions, which are often given to men. In addition, it was argued women are often part of the oppressed groups in society, being therefore less inclined to oppress others. Hence, an increased representation of women in decision-making bodies would have a positive effect on corruption in society.

When it comes to women as being less corrupt and better than men at fighting corruption, it was noted in the discussion that this could be seen at grass-root levels, but that more research is necessary to find out if this applies also on other levels in society. Thus, the argument was made for more data, especially on macro levels, since both women and men seem to be as prone to corruption the higher they get in positions of power.

Another issue that was brought up during the discussion was that women are more exposed to corruption than men. It was argued that corrupt practices, including sextortion, impose one of the biggest challenges for women in many countries to fully enjoy their human rights, particularly economic and social rights, such as education, work and health, but also access to justice.

## Session 3: The contribution of the private sector to the fight against corruption and to human rights implementation

*This session looked at the nexus between corruption and human rights from a corporate perspective, discussing primarily the role of compliance systems. It was underlined that corruption among corporations contributes to human rights violations. As an example, it was noted that more than 21 million people are involved in forced labour today, presumably often due to corrupt practices.*

To date, there are multiple existing codes of conduct, conventions, standards, etc., such as OECD's Anti-Bribery Convention, the UN Global Compact, and the ISO 37001 on Anti-bribery management systems. The solution is not in the development of more standards, but in consistently applying the existent ones to combat corruption, for example, the voluntary and user-friendly ISO 37001, which could be implemented by any company and in any country. It was also questioned whether the formulation of the existing standards per se could be the real issue, as corruption could have been defeated a long time ago if standards were properly implemented. It is perhaps a matter of commitment and a question about whether or not there is an interest among the different actors to change their behaviour.

There is today an immense flow of information on the impact of corruption on both society and individuals, but companies are still engaging in corrupt practices, often with human rights violations as a consequence. It was argued that anti-corruption compliance codes can certainly contribute to prevent human rights abuses, but if a given company cannot implement them for one or another reason, then it needs to look inwards and ask itself the question whether there might something wrong with the company's approach and strategies.

**“The solution is not in the development of more standards, but in consistently applying the existent ones”**

Staff training initiatives on ethics, codes of conduct and on how to react to corrupt practices and human rights violations in business operations are key in order to fight corruption and can prevent human rights abuses. Sensitisation programmes of different character is today a common feature in many companies throughout the world. During the session, the Swedish telecom conglomerate Ericsson gave an introduction to its compliance codes, (Code of Business Ethics and Code of Conduct) that integrate human rights and anti-corruption into its business operations. In the discussion it was stressed that such programmes are valuable but that it is important that they are always context-oriented, so that staff members can fully understand the existing risks and be ready to act on them in different environments.

Another example was given by the global shipping company MAERSK, headquartered in Denmark, who has developed a system of process mapping, as a way to combat corruption in local port services. The aim of process mapping is to identify when and where corruption takes place. From that information, the actors have more clarity as to what processes apply when entering a port to offload goods, so that there is a mutual understanding between the shipping company and the port authorities as to applicable rules and procedures. The system has contributed to reducing corruption in the company's operations.

MAERSK is now engaged in a pilot initiative with Danish foreign embassies and a group of other Danish shipping companies, the Blueprint Project, to test a model where embassies can assist companies from their home countries in similar methods as proven successful by MAERSK. Starting out as an anti-corruption initiative, it was noted that a system like this could indeed also contribute to promoting and protecting human rights, for example by reducing the risk of crew members to be illegally detained (if not paying a bribe) or by not delaying the offloading of goods such as medicines, whose delay could affect the right to health for people in the recipient country. It was argued in the discussion that it could be valuable to make a deeper assessment into how systems of this character could contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights.

**“The aim of process mapping is to identify  
when and where corruption takes place”**

## Session 4: The role of National Human Rights Institutions in the fight against corruption

*This session looked into the generally untapped resource that National Human Rights Institutions constitute across all continents in the fights against corruption.*

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play an important role to ensure that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled in their respective countries. The clear relationship between corruption and the enjoyment of human rights is therefore providing NHRIs with an opportunity to engage more actively in the fight against corruption. In this respect, it was argued that NHRIs are in a good position to conduct research, carry out investigations, develop educational programmes, and raise awareness on the consequences of corruption in respect to the enjoyment of human rights. Sometimes, depending on their mandate, NHRIs can also take action on individual cases involving corruption.

It was noted that The Paris Principles on the Status of National Human Rights Institutions requires NHRIs to cooperate with a broad range of stakeholders in society and that this provides a good opportunity to engage more directly with other institutions, such as anti-corruption bodies. Civil society organisations (CSOs) also play an important role in fighting corruption, and it was argued that NHRIs could also benefit from a closer cooperation with CSOs, for example in gathering of data linking corruption and human rights.

As corruption is still a territory rather untouched by many NHRIs, it was suggested that institutions from different countries could further exchanges among themselves on how to address the relationship between corruption and human rights. One idea could be to organise roundtables to share experiences and promising practices between different NHRIs.

**“The core function of National Human Rights  
Institutions is to bring human rights back home”**



## **“There has to be a commitment from member states including political will, to tackle the issue upfront”**

The last session of the Roundtable provided a case study from the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana. The institution is constitutionally independent and submits annual reports to the parliament. It deals with three distinct, but interconnected, topics: human rights, administrative justice, and anti-corruption. The Commission is, for example, mandated to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental human rights and freedoms, corruption and abuse of power.

It also reaches out to communities to disseminate knowledge on human rights and corruption through public education and awareness-raising campaigns. Teaching government officials, business professionals, and citizens about their rights and concretising the linkage between corruption and human is considered as a first step to prevent violations and promote integrity. It was, however, underlined that resources, funding included, can provide challenges to many NHRIs and Anti-Corruption Commissions, and that this has a negative impact on their work. It was argued that a possible solution to this could be the establishment of trust funds allowing commissions to operate independently and with necessary capacity also in time of financial constraints. It was in this context also argued that resources should not be a constraint in the fight against corruption anywhere, but a priority for all countries that are serious in their efforts to fight corruption.

# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*In conclusion, participants in the Roundtable agreed upon the necessity of a timely and coordinated response to combat corruption, and that an increased use of human rights principles, standards and mechanisms have an important role to play in this regard. The outcome of the Roundtable included a set of 29 conclusions and recommendations for participants and other stakeholders to consider in their work to promote a corruption-free and human rights-based society.*

## Main Findings

- 1** There is a clear relationship between corruption and enjoyment of human rights and efforts to protect human rights and fight corruption must become more systematic.
- 2** Corruption is one of the biggest impediments for the enjoyment of human rights in many parts of the world. Corruption erodes democratic institutions, distorts justice, facilitates impunity and affects social service delivery, thus affecting human rights, such as the right to health and the right to education.
- 3** Corruption is not a victim less crime and a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) can be a valuable tool in the fight against corruption, as it is victim-centered and empowering in the fight against corruption. It can contribute to create a bottom up approach to the fight against corruption as well as increase the stigmatization of being corrupt.
- 4** It was noted that human rights standards and principles must be reflected in anti-corruption strategies and interventions.

# Recommendations

## Research

- 5 More data and analytical work is needed to measure the effect of corruption on human rights and ensure a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness and interrelationship between human rights violations and corruption.
- 6 More data and evidence on how various anti-corruption efforts around the world are contributing to promoting or hindering human rights.
- 7 More research need to be undertaken to understand better the impact of a high human rights awareness in combatting corruption including what an increased stigmatization of act of corruption can contribute.
- 8 There is a clear relationship between the level of gender equality and low level of corruption in a country. This relationship should be further analysed.
- 9 Research projects should be developed on how corruption is addressed in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and how human rights is being addressed in corruption cases in different national and regional court systems.
- 10 Pilot projects should be initiated having researches documenting and analyzing the impact introducing human rights in the fight against corruption.

## Education

- 11 Education is an important tool in the fight against corruption and it should be explored how anti-corruption education can be strengthened and integrated into other disciplines, including human rights education. It is important to identify the shared principles between anti-corruption and human rights, such as no-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability, e.g. to guide educational strategies.
- 12 Inspired by the UNODC mapping of the global prevalence of education in anti-corruption a similar mapping was suggested for human rights education in order to get an overview of the potential in a stronger interaction between the two areas and where synergies could be developed.

## Legal and policy

- 13 The Sustainable Development Goals provide a good opportunity and framework to address the relationship between corruption and human rights, but there is a need for an anti-corruption champion in the SDG circle, as well as for mechanisms to integrate an anti-corruption perspective into the individual SDG's. It must also be recognized that democratic space is important for the implementation of the SDGs.
- 14 Local communities play an important role in the fight against corruption: It is imperative to work with corruption at the local level where the interaction between citizens and politicians is higher than at other levels.
- 15 The business community and local government can learn from each other on how to prevent corruption. Synergies should be explored between private and public sector initiatives.
- 16 It was acknowledged that International Standards such as ISOs and business compliance codes can be an important tool in the fight against corruption and protection of human rights, by facilitating the establishment of effective routines contributing to the fight against corruption and prevention of human rights abuses.
- 17 It should be explored how anti-corruption, human rights and corporate legal frameworks can support each other.
- 18 It is important to build capacity among National Human Rights Institutions on how to address corruption.
- 19 UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies have an important role in the fight against corruption and it should be explored how their role could be strengthened in this respect. When relevant, corruption should be addressed in communications to UN Human Rights Treaty bodies. It should also be explored if we can learn from the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as regards reparations to human rights victims (non-repetition/follow up on systemic issues).

## Managerial and other tools

- 20 Practical managerial tools/handbooks that provide clear guidance on how to prevent or act on acts of corruption and prevent human rights abuses should be developed.
- 21 Promising practices/case studies should be compiled and distributed to ensure a solid knowledge sharing and stimulation of need steps.
- 22 A tool on how to integrate human rights and anti-corruption into UNDP programmes should be developed.

- 23 Technology can be an important tool to fight corruption and promote/protect human rights. Different innovative technological solutions should be further explored
- 24 The victims have an important role to play in the fight against corruption and methods for engaging victims, including through technology solutions, should be explored.
- 25 It was proposed to develop a Global Advocacy Programme on the role of human rights in the fight against corruption.

### Next steps

- 26 RWI will elaborate a full report from the roundtable.
- 27 RWI committed itself to organise a follow-up meeting to the Roundtable in the fall of 2018 to take stock of where we are going.
- 28 RWI will convey the findings of the roundtable to the International Anti-Corruption Conference, to be held in Copenhagen 22-24 October 2018.
- 29 All participants will consider from their particular perspective the above recommendations.



Round Table

# Anti-Corruption and Human Rights

- How to become mutually reinforcing

Lund, 13-14 November 2017

Draft Programme

**Monday 13 November**

**Afternoon Session - 13.30-18.00**

- **Welcome and introduction to the Round Table**  
*Morten Kjaerum, Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*

## **Session 1:**

- **Can the integration of human rights standards and principles into anti-corruption strategies and actions make the fight against corruption more effective? What concrete measures can be introduced to ensure that actions and strategies countering corruption are human rights-based?**  
*Richard Lapper, Human Rights Officer, Right to Development Section, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- **How can an anti-corruption perspective be integrated in and strengthening actions aimed at promoting and protecting human rights – the role of anti-corruption education**  
*Ronan O’Laoire, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

- **UNDP's approach and strategies to build synergies between human rights and anti-corruption**

*Anga Timilsina, Programme Manager, UNDP's Global Anti-corruption Initiative (GAIN), Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Singapore*

Discussion

## Session 2:

- **How can human rights based public management contribute to the prevention of corruption?**
  - **The example of local government**  
*Cecilia Berglin, Senior Advisor & Ann Sofi Agnevik, Senior Legal Counsel, The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions*
- **The use of technology to empower citizens to fight corruption and human rights abuses in their local communities**  
*Kristoffer Hanson, Klarity*
- **Gender Equality as a Strategy in the Prevention of Corruption**  
*Amy Alexander, Quality Governance Institute, University of Gothenburg*

Discussion

**Tuesday 14 November**

**Morning Session 09.00-12.00**

## Session 3:

- **Can anti-corruption compliance codes help prevent human rights abuses?**  
*Louise Brown, Anti-Corruption specialist/auditor, Board member, Transparency International, Sweden*
- **Can human rights based compliance codes contribute to the prevention of corruption?**  
*Camilla Goldbeck-Löwe, Corporate Responsibility Expert, Sustainability and Public Affairs, Ericsson AB*
- **The Blueprint Project: is an anti-corruption initiative more closely linked to human rights than we thought?** *Kristin Berglund, Head of Anti-Corruption & Foreign Trade Controls, Maersk Line*

Discussion

## Session 4:

- **How can National Human Rights Institutions contribute to combat corruption?**  
*Beate Rudolf, Director of the German Institute for Human Rights and Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions*

- **Addressing Corruption in Ghana: The Role of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice**  
*Charles Ayamdoo Esq, Director, Anti-Corruption, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana*

Discussion

- **General Discussion: What are the intersections and possible opportunities for cooperation between different actors, including the international community, the public and private sectors, civil society organisations and academia to prevent corruption through human rights based actions**

**Conclusions and the way forward**





Round Table

# **Anti-Corruption and Human Rights**

- How to become mutually reinforcing

Lund, 13-14 November 2017

List of participants

**Amy Alexander**

Quality Governance Institute  
University of Gothenburg  
**Gothenburg, Sweden**

**Mirna Adjami**

Project Manager Anti-Corruption Collective Action  
Basel Institute of Governance  
**Basel, Switzerland**

**Ann Sofi Agnevik**

Senior Legal Counsel  
Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Charles Ayamdoo**

Director of Anti-corruption  
Ghana Commission on Human Rights & Administrative Justice  
**Accra, Ghana**

**Cecilia Berglin**

Senior Advisor

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Kristin Berglund**

Head of Anti-Corruption & Foreign Trade Controls

Maersk Line

**Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Louise Brown**

Consultant, Anti-Corruption specialist/auditor, Board member

Transparency International, Sweden

**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Camilla Goldbeck-Löwe**

Corporate Responsibility Expert, Sustainability and Public Affairs

Ericsson

**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Kristoffer Hanson**

Chief Executive Officer

Klarity

**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Björn Janson**

Deputy Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO)

Council of Europe

**Strasbourg, France**

**Martin Kreutner**

Dean and Executive Secretary

International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA)

**Laxenburg, Austria**

**Richard Lapper**

Human Rights Officer, Right to Development Section,

Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division,

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Hema Lehocky**

Head of Special Investigations, Group Ethics & Compliance  
Telia Company  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Torben Lindqvist**

Senior Consultant  
Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Copenhagen, Denmark**

**Ola Mattisson**

Senior lecturer  
Department of Business Administration  
Lund University  
**Lund, Sweden**

**Ronan O'Laoire**

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
**Vienna, Austria**

**Katharina Pabel**

Professor  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Johannes Kepler University  
Member of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee  
**Linz, Austria**

**Klas Rasmusson**

Senior Anti-Corruption Policy Specialist, Department for International Organizations and Policy Support  
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Beate Rudolf**

Director of the German Institute for Human Rights, Chairperson of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions  
**Berlin, Germany**

**Pontus Selderman**

Lead Counsel, Ethics and Compliance,  
Stora Enso Group  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Christer Thordson**

Founder Legal Edge AB, former General Counsel IKEA Group and Management board  
INGKA Holding BV  
**Helsingborg, Sweden**

**Anga Timilsina**

Programme Manager  
UNDP's Global Anti-corruption Initiative (GAIN), Bureau for Policy and Programme  
Support **Singapore**

**Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI):**

**Morten Kjaerum**

Director  
RWI  
**Lund, Sweden**

**Mikael Johansson**

Senior Policy Advisor, Anti-Corruption and Human Rights & Interim Team leader, Justice  
Team  
RWI  
**Lund, Sweden**

**Ilze Brands Kehris**

Affiliated Expert, RWI  
Member of the UN Human Rights Committee  
**Lund Sweden**

**Ilhami Alkan Olsson**

Chief Advisor, Turkey  
RWI  
**Lund, Sweden**

