

# Statement in Support of Human Rights Defenders

amfori acknowledges the essential role civil society organizations, including human rights defenders, play in ensuring the protection of workers' rights. We believe that the protection of civic freedoms, including the right to freedom of speech, should be preserved and recognised by all organisations, in particular those working to protect human rights and improve labour conditions. To this end, human rights defenders should be able to speak freely, and without fear of retaliation or reprisal. Specifically, we call on all governmental authorities to guarantee the respect of rights and fundamental freedoms, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and to protect all human rights defenders.

As the leading global business association for open and sustainable trade we support companies to improve working conditions in factories and farms along their supply chains. amfori BSCI offers a wide range of tools and activities to monitor supply chain sustainability performance, train, share information, remediate violations and poor conditions and engage with key actors in supply chains, including supporting member companies in their efforts to report in line with national due diligence legislations.

Monitoring and detecting social issues in the supply chain is of course only part of the due diligence process, but it is also a crucial stage where human rights defenders and other civil society groups play a fundamental role. Undermining their work equals to putting due diligence at risk.

amfori's approach in addressing alleged rights violations increasingly favours, where possible, constructive cooperation, careful investigation, empowerment and engagement of all relevant stakeholders rather than litigation. Through this approach we believe we can effectively foster more sustainable forms of trade that is beneficial to all.

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**For more information please visit our website or contact us:**

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