



Human Rights

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As a diversified, global company with growth in emerging markets, and as a provider of infrastructure around the world, GE regularly confronts complex human rights challenges. Our approach to those challenges starts with the Company's [Statement of Principles on Human Rights](#), which outlines our commitment to respecting human rights wherever we operate. To embed this commitment within our business operations, we have developed human rights "implementing procedures" that help our businesses incorporate human rights considerations in all aspects of their operations.


With the adoption by the UN Human Rights Commission of the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business in 2012, there was for the first time a broad agreement on a human rights framework: the states' duty to protect, businesses' duty to respect, and the mutual duty to address human rights deprivations. Despite this agreed-upon framework, pressure continues for increased "hard law" in this space, from legislation mandating specific due-diligence measures and regulations requiring transparency and reporting to broad national action plans and even suggestions of a global treaty on human rights. We believe the Guiding Principles provide the fairest and most realistic framework for protecting human rights globally, but we recognize that for the Principles to succeed, business entities like GE need to "know and show" that they have robust programs for fulfilling their responsibility to respect human rights.

GE's human rights efforts include working to prevent forced labor through its [Ethical Supply Chain program](#); collaborating with organizations and governments to improve human rights where it operates (see more [here](#) on Partnerships & Initiatives); and using its training, and employment opportunities to provide opportunities to those in challenging environments, for example see Women in the Middle East [here](#). States must be expected and required to uphold their duty to protect the human rights of those who live and work within their borders. While companies cannot be expected to assume the countries' duty to protect, we can continue to take steps to respect human rights across the globe both as a means to improve local communities and to be an example for others.

GE promotes respect for fundamental human rights.

We demand the same respect for human rights from our business partners.

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