Background to Human Rights and Accountability: NON-NEGOTIABLE

The lived experience of United Church partners demonstrate that existing measures are not effective in preventing human and environmental abuses around the world. As companies continue to profit from abuses they either cause in their own operations or contribute to through their supply chains, it is increasingly clear that many will change their behaviour only if required to do so by law.

With the adoption of mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, the obligation to prevent human rights violations would be legally binding. Canadian companies would have to develop and implement human rights and environmental **due diligence procedures** for their entire supply and value chains, and report on it. With due diligence legislation, if a company fails to undertake reasonable steps the victims of any harm will have access to remedy and meaningful consequences through the Canadian courts. Canada is invited to follow the example of Norway, Germany, and France. who have already adopted similar legislation, and to respond to the call of the Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability along with 50 other civil society organizations from across Canada to enact **comprehensive and mandatory human rights due diligence legislation.**

Since 2015, United Church people across the country have been calling on the Canadian government to create an independent human rights ombudsperson with the power to hold Canadian mining companies responsible for their overseas operations. They have met with, called, and written to their members of Parliament and the minister of trade. They have done this in response to United Church partners, who have also clearly called for the creation of an ombudsperson.

In total, more than 600,000 Canadians and hundreds of civil society organizations have added their voices to the call. The tabling of Bill C-263 continues the quest for an office with powers that can lead to justice for people and planet.

For more information, see [Mining and Resource Extraction](#).