

Good Business Matters Mass Lobby 21 October 2026

Briefing for participants

Overview

Thank you for signing up to take part in the [Good Business Matters](#) Parliamentary Lobby on **Wednesday 21 October**.

You will be joining hundreds of people across the UK to meet MPs in parliament and call for a new law that protects workers, communities and the planet from corporate abuses, and holds business to account when harms occur in their operations and global value chains.

This briefing will help you prepare for the lobby and meeting your MP, it sets out:

1. Logistical information
2. Suggested points for your MP meeting
3. Follow up

Logistical information

You can find out who your MP is by visiting this website
<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Plan for the day:

- 09.30 - 10.30: arrivals and check-in at [Methodist Central Hall Westminster](#), SW1H 9NH, Aldersgate Room
- 10.30 – 12.20: Methodist Central Hall - welcome, international speakers, activities and lunch
- 12.30 – 13.15pm: group photo & rally at [Victoria Tower Gardens](#), near Parliament
- 13.30 – 16.00: meetings with MPs at the Palace of Westminster/House of Commons (Cromwell Green entrance)

The Aldersgate Room will be available until 16:00, where you can rest, debrief and get a hot drink.

More detailed information is provided in the Friends of the Earth participant's lobby guide, which you receive when you sign up for the lobby, and includes a template email to set up a meeting with your MP.

Meeting your MP

Aim: The aim of the meeting is to ask your MP to support the call for new UK legislation that would ensure that business identifies, prevents and remedies harms to workers, communities and the environment in their own operations and in their global value chains.¹ This new law, **mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation**, would apply in the UK and around the world, increasing corporate legal accountability.

Before you meet your MP, check if they have signed the pledge in support of new legislation <https://www.goodbusinessmatters.org/>. If they have, you can welcome their support and adapt the talking points below.

Suggested points to raise in your meeting

1. The UK's fragmented and mainly voluntary approach to responsible business conduct is not protecting workers, communities and the environment from corporate harms. Survivors face significant barriers to access justice.

- Every worker in global value chains should have their human and labour rights respected. But violations of rights, such as poverty pay, unsafe conditions, discrimination, gender-based violence and union-busting, are commonplace.
 - [Next](#) has closed its only unionised factory in Sri Lanka, laying off over 1,400 workers. The union is still seeking justice for the workers.
 - [Tesco](#) is facing a landmark case, where migrant workers producing clothes for Tesco in Thailand allege being paid below the minimum wage and experiencing hazardous and abusive conditions.
 - [Boohoo](#) was found to have used suppliers in Leicester that paid below the minimum wage and violated health and safety regulations.
- In the move towards using cleaner energy, there has been an [increase](#) in workers' rights violations linked to mining key minerals; attacks on human rights and environmental defenders have increased; indigenous communities face water pollution, deforestation and land grabs; and an estimated 97 per cent of [solar panels](#) could contain materials made by Uyghurs in forced labour schemes.
- Public bodies, like the [NHS](#) and local authorities, spend millions in taxpayers' money on [goods and services](#) supplied by irresponsible businesses that are harming people and planet.
- The UK is being left behind as other countries, such as [France](#), [Germany](#) and [Norway](#), and the [EU](#) have regulated to protect human rights and the environment from corporate harms.

2. The government must bring in a new law requiring business to identify, prevent and remedy harms to workers, communities and the environment in their own operations and throughout their global value chains.

¹ A global value chain covers the range of activities related to goods and services used/provided by business and the public sector, including the production of food, clothing, and technological devices, warehousing and transport, minerals extraction/processing, social care, and housing.

- This new 'mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence' legislation – would apply to all businesses and the public sector. Increasing legal accountability would mean it is not tick-box exercise. A new law would:
 - help ensure respect for human and labour rights, and enable trade unions to play a key role throughout the due diligence process
 - help protect the environment in line with international standards
 - create a level playing field for business
 - help ensure that taxpayer's money, spent through public procurement, is supporting decent jobs and not harming the planet
 - reverse the burden of proof – to increase access to justice
 - contribute towards building resilient supply chains
 - help build a more sustainable and inclusive national and global economy.
- The UK would be keeping pace with the global trend to regulate to protect workers, communities and the environment, while aligning with international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

3. A new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence law has broad support from parliamentarians, business and the public

- There is strong public backing for ending corporate harms, with a 145,000-strong petition and YouGov polling showing over 80 per cent of the British public support a new law.
- This proposed legislation is also [backed](#) by over 80 parliamentarians, trade unions and UK civil society organisations.
- The British Retail Consortium, Ethical Trade Initiative, big brands such as Sainsburys, Unilever, Tesco and Asos, and investors representing over £4.5 trillion in assets - have all called on the government to "urgently bring forward" a new law – recognising the need to raise standards and create a level playing field.

4. Please support the call for new legislation. This is a crucial moment. The government has conducted a review of responsible business conduct (soon to be published) and is considering new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, as an option for action.

Ask your MP to show support by:

- signing the Good Business Matters pledge (you can let us know if your MP agrees to sign the pledge using the feedback form you will receive)
- taking a photo with you (and the pledge) and posting it on social media (see the social media guidance)
- asking parliamentary questions
- writing to the new minister for Responsible Business Conduct, Lord Anas Sarwar, about the responsible business conduct review and urging him to introduce new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation

- securing a Westminster Hall Debate on why the current approach to responsible business conduct is not protecting workers, communities and the environment from corporate harm, and the need for a new law that ensures business identifies, prevents and remedies harm in their own operations and in their global value chains.

5. Follow up

After meeting your MP, follow up with an email:

- Thank your MP for the meeting
- Either thank them for showing support for new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, or ask for their support again, using some of the above points.
- If they have not yet done so, ask your MP to sign the pledge <https://www.goodbusinessmatters.org/decision-makers-pledge>
- Ask your MP about actions they will take to show their ongoing support for a new law in future.

Resources and notes

1. The Corporate Justice Coalition and Friends of the Earth who are leading on organising the Good Business Matters Lobby have produced a detailed briefing for participants which can be found [here](#). This includes: what to expect in the meeting with MPs, planning for different scenarios, and social media guidance.
2. The TUC and unions are calling for new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation – our detailed policy briefing can be found [here](#).
3. We are working closely the [Corporate Justice Coalition](#) and [Ethical Trading Initiative](#) on calling for this new law.
4. The Corporate Justice Coalition (CJC) – refers to mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation as a ‘Business, Human Rights and Environment Act’ and has developed a [model law](#). You will see this term when reviewing the lobby materials. The TUC has input into this model law and it is consistent with what trade unions are calling for.
5. The TUC worked with CJC and Unison to produce a [briefing](#) setting why new mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation is needed to protect labour rights – in the UK and around the world.