

8th International Conference on Responsible Tourism Taking Responsibility, and Achieving Change

Workshop on Human Rights

Professor Harold Goodwin has produced a very good overview of issues for the topic, and as an outsider to the industry I am aware that there are many initiatives ongoing, in a great many forums - this gives rise to a question of coordinated effort. Listening today has confirmed this, and in fact my feeling is that Tourism might well be a leader in many respects.

Human Rights are often pursued on a piecemeal basis, which in itself does not allow the progress that might be achieved by a coordinated effort, this appears true within this industry, as it is in many, and in the human rights world itself; this is worth bearing in mind when attempting to deal with the issues. There is a problem here also in how we understand human rights - do we have absolute rights are they actually held in balance - relying upon responsibility, often personal responsibility. This complicates matters, but there certainly are fundamental rights and within this setting to deal with poverty, labour rights, child rights, trafficking would seem reasonable, though this can be difficult as external forces often seek to distract or determine that other agendas are more important.

Before moving on I would like to share a personal view important to me, but also to the world of human rights and conflict resolution that I work in. In understanding human rights I begin my own work by considering term that I am sure you will have come across – “structural violence”. The theory of structural violence can provide a valuable framework for understanding violations of human rights, offering an opportunity to consider how structures can serve to constrain change and the affordance of fundamental human rights. Johan Galtung is said to have been the first use the term, which fundamentally relates to indirect ways in which people are denied important rights such as economic well-being, social, economic, and sexual equality, and the fundamental requirements for an existence (these might include the fundamental human rights). The denial being attributed to structures of power, control, or influence, exercised to indirectly affect these human rights)

My own concerns also address the issue of ownership or culturing of human rights - some would argue that the current codifications and the UN have a very particular and exclusive culture of human rights. There have been calls for alternatives, including the Bandung Declaration - though sometimes derided as political rhetoric.

In this forum I think that there are issues such as:

- Good, well-evidenced research, building on an action research agenda, but also providing a record of impact in a measurable form
- Some agreed measure of impact or a tool - how do we know the extent of change and achievement
- Risk is a factor, and one this industry deals with already, are there lessons here that could be learned from both within and outside the industry and used

Human Rights Impact Assessment

In order to deliver responses within the tourism industry, perhaps to child labour, trafficking and labour rights, and to offer an ability to understand and measure the valuable contribution already made, and the future impact of work, a tool or method is required that can offer a

reliable benchmark. One such tool is the Human Right's Impact Assessment, and here I offer a quick look at just two of the many options available.

Recent work by Human Rights Impact Assessments, in a report entitled "New Tool for Development Policy?" by Fabiane Baxewanos, Werner Raza, Jänner 2013, from OFSE (Austrian Research Foundation for International Development)

http://www.oefse.at/Downloads/publikationen/WP40_social_due_diligence.pdf

Or, if unavailable from

<http://www.oefse.at/publikationen/workingpapers.htm>

The paper offers the following well-constructed step-by-step structure that might be valuable as a tool to both set goals for human rights action and measure the impact of it, and is as follows:

"Conducting the HRIA: An 8-Step-Process

In order to make full use of existing capacities and to render the complex task of preparing a HRIA manageable, it should be broken down into the following key steps (Harrison 2010b: 8ff; Walker 2009: 86ff; cf. United Nations, Human Rights Council 2011a: 14f; Andreassen/ Sano 2004: 18).

- 1) Screening: selecting key human rights issues that are most likely to be affected and are thus subjected to further analysis.*
- 2) Scoping: identifying the information needed and formulating concrete questions.*
- 3) Evidence Gathering: applying a mixed-methods-approach, i.e. using quantitative (economic modelling, regression analysis, etc.) as well as qualitative (interviews with key right-holders, participatory case studies, etc.) research techniques.*
- 4) Consultation: of affected populations and other potential right-holders. Wherever feasible, participatory methods should be preferred as participation is both a means to inform the process and an end in itself.*
- 5) Analysis: deciding over the concrete human rights impact of the policy assessed.*
- 6) Conclusions & Recommendations: formulated as strong and concrete as possible, which requires identifying specific duty-bearers and assigning them concrete responsibilities.*
- 7) Publication at the earliest stage possible.*
- 8) Monitoring & Review: continuously or periodically supervising the progress of the policy and reporting about it to the relevant stakeholders."*

Please note that this is not the only model or source. It is important to identify the right model and the right implementation to ensure useful measurement of impact, but this could be a starting point I believe.

Another example that might be equally useful could be that of the International Finance Corporation

Welcome to the Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management (HRIAM)

This tool is the result of collaboration between the International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF) and International Finance Corporation (IFC), in association with the United Nations Global Compact. It is designed to be a practical tool that enables companies to identify, understand, and evaluate actual or potential human rights impacts of a project at each stage of development and operations. This approach links human rights assessment to existing management processes.

The Guide can help companies as:

*A risk-management tool to understand, anticipate, and manage a project's potential human rights impacts
An engagement tool providing a framework to engage stakeholders in a structured discussion about human rights issues related to a project
A decision-making tool creating a complete picture to facilitate decisions about project design and management of human rights issues*

This Guide to HRIAM website is intended to be an interactive site for practitioners to work through as they identify and manage human rights risks and impacts. For a PDF version of the tool, please register here to download the full Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management (available in English and Spanish).

"I am pleased to join the International Business Leaders Forum, the International Finance Corporation, and the United Nations Global Compact in welcoming you to the revised Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management (HRIAM) online tool. Having companies assess the actual and potential human rights impacts, through their own activities and through their business relationships, are a critical component of human rights due diligence, enabling companies to know and show that they are meeting their responsibility to respect human rights. I hope that companies will find this Guide useful in doing so."

http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/Topics_Ext_Content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/Guide+to+Human+Rights+Impact+Assessment+and+Management

Some concluding thoughts

The work undertaken within Tourism Industry to address human rights is already significant, as has been well evidenced within this conference and more widely. Indeed there is a proud and strong record that needs both publicising, which can be said to be leading the world of industry and not following it. There remains the need to think about how this contribution can be made more evident, become more focused, and can show measurable impact. This draws me back to the three points that I made earlier, the needs for:

- Good, well-evidenced research, building on an action research agenda, but also providing a record of impact in a measurable form
- Some agreed measure of impact or a tool - how do we know the extent of change and achievement

- Risk is a factor, and one this industry deals with already, are there lessons here that could be learned from both within and outside the industry and used

Further, can we develop a Human Rights Impact Assessment tool that can be used across the industry that can be flexible enough to make it relevant and useable by most, if not all?

In order to reflect, develop, and deliver, on these issues, I believe that we need to find a space in which we focus resource and build answers. Hopefully, within the Centre at Manchester Metropolitan University, under the guidance of Professor Goodwin we can create a Centre for Human Rights and Tourism.

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I handed out a few copies of a report on some recent research at the workshop, this was intended to exemplify the complexity of dealing with the trafficking issue, with a major international NGO, Plan International, and what other issues play in trying to deliver. The link below will take you to an electronic copy of the report:

[/http://plan-international.org/where-we-work/asia/publications/responding-to-cross-border-child-trafficking-in-south-asia-an-analysis-of-the-feasibility-of-a-technologically-enabled-missing-child-alert-system/](http://plan-international.org/where-we-work/asia/publications/responding-to-cross-border-child-trafficking-in-south-asia-an-analysis-of-the-feasibility-of-a-technologically-enabled-missing-child-alert-system/)