Collaborating to promote the welfare of workers in the engineering and construction industry

Who We Are
Building Responsibly (BR) is a group of leading engineering and construction companies working together to raise the bar in promoting the rights and welfare of workers across the industry.

Our Rationale
Consistent with our corporate values, we have come together to foster and ensure a better working environment for workers in the engineering and construction sector. Doing so will allow us to more effectively respond to stakeholder and regulatory expectations, and manage a more productive workforce.

How We Work
We believe in common principles designed by the industry for the industry. Through Building Responsibly, we are working collectively to:

- Create and adopt common principles and practices
- Develop tools
- Engage workers, clients, governments, and civil society organizations
- Drive innovation and improvements

Our Principles and Tools

WORKER WELFARE PRINCIPLES
Building Responsibly developed these Principles to serve as the global standard on worker welfare for the engineering and construction industry. They address key areas of worker vulnerability to raise standards and level the playing field so that competitiveness is not at the expense of the worker. Given differing local and national requirements and external guidelines, these Principles establish a common, global baseline for the treatment of workers in the engineering and construction industry. By collectively committing to and promoting these Principles, we can foster a business environment that advances the safety, security, and welfare of all people—especially those working in the construction sector. Read more.

GUIDANCE NOTES
Building Responsibly has released a series of Guidance Notes developed to help promote worker welfare in the engineering and construction industry. These Notes are a set of instructions for the practical application of the Worker Welfare Principles. They were launched by the collaboration in June 2019 and offer a discussion around the potential issues and challenges faced by the industry on each principle and suggest good practice options for their implementation. The Guidance Notes have been informed by multiple consultations with external stakeholders and provide basic expectations for construction companies dealing with worker welfare issues. Read more.

BUSINESS BRIEF and CASE STUDIES
Building Responsibly has released the first in a series of briefs focused on the business case for engineering and construction companies to promote the rights and welfare of workers. It is also developing case studies that are informed by member companies and provide their perspectives on the practical application of Building Responsibly Principles. The case studies offer a discussion on the challenges faced by member companies and aim at sharing practices and examples of concrete measures that have been implemented to tackle worker welfare issues. Read more.

“There are no sustainable individual solutions to tackle workers’ rights challenges.”

Source: Client Testimonial in “Addressing Workers’ Rights in the Engineering and Construction Sector”
Common principles designed by the industry for the industry

What Next?

Building Responsibly will continue to work to promote the rights and welfare of workers through the following actions:

THE PRINCIPLES IN ACTION
BR is working to raise awareness of the Principles and Guidance Notes and to promote their adoption and incorporation into existing standards by construction and engineering firms, clients, NGOs, business associations, investors, ESG rating agencies and the wider financial community.

NEW TOOLS
Members are working to develop a series of tangible tools aligned with the Principles and Guiding Notes including a standard Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) and training guidance for procurement staff.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
BR is conducting outreach and partnership development with key stakeholders including the investor community, industry groups and contractor associations. It is currently collaborating with the global oil and gas association IPIECA to develop a training on modern slavery.

GREATER VISIBILITY
BR and its members are developing communication materials including case studies on how member companies are tackling the challenges they face regarding worker welfare and the implementation of the Principles and the Guidance Notes.

STRENGTHENING MEMBERSHIP
The group has updated the BR Governance Charter in order to open up membership to smaller companies and those in emerging markets. It will develop a recruitment strategy, outreach plan and materials to increase membership over the course of 2020.

Who can participate?

Membership to the initiative is open to engineering and construction companies that are committed to upholding and promoting the rights and welfare of workers.