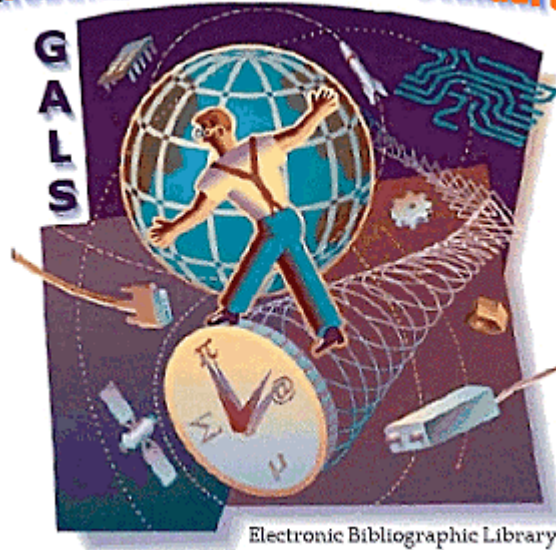


# Globalization and Labor Standards



## GALS Newsletter

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## Health and Safety

ter Haar, Beryl & Keune, Maarten, "One Step Forward or More Window Dressing? A  
Legal Analysis of Recent CSR Initiatives in the Garment Industry in  
Bangladesh", *International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial  
Relations* v. 30 no1 (2014) p. 5

**Abstract:**

This article analyzes the impact of two workplace initiatives in the garment industry in Bangladesh that arose in response to a number of major accidents, including the collapse of the Rana Plaza, the deadliest garment-factory accident ever known. The initiatives, referred to as the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, and the Bangladesh Worker Safety initiative, were the result of pressure from multinational corporations with the involvement of European and North-American brands. Both initiatives, that address fire and building safety, have received mixed reviews. Because both initiatives took the form of transnational private regulation, the authors raise questions about their legal status, legitimacy, implementation, and compliance mechanisms. Moreover, the authors are critical of the initiatives on the grounds that they are limited in scope because they only address fire and building safety, while allowing other major problems like low wages, inadequate working conditions, minimal employment, and a limited voice for workers to persist.

**Subjects:** [Health and Safety](#), [Corporate Accountability](#), [Country Specific Case Studies](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WWW](#)

## Flexibilization

**van Eck, Stefan, "Revisiting Agency Work in Namibia and South Africa: Any Lessons from the Decent Work Agenda and the Flexicurity Approach? ", *International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations* v. 30 no1 (2014) p. 49**

**Abstract:**

This article examines policy reforms in Namibia and South Africa that seek to provide greater regulation and protection for agency workers. The article also analyzes the reforms in light of the decent work agenda by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Union (EU) flexicurity policy, both of which have been major influences in the implementation of policies giving recognition to agency work. It considers whether and to what extent traditional labor law is relevant to Namibia and South Africa in light of these developments.

**Subjects:** [Flexibilization](#), [Country Specific Case Studies](#)

**Full-text links:** || [WWW](#)

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## Links to Related Projects

**The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Informal Economy Resource Database:**  
<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/infoecon/iebrowse.home>

The Informal Economy Resource Database contains a myriad of ILO activities, research or tools directly or indirectly related to the informal economy and decent work. This source is a "living"

and dynamic inventory of information on labour issues relating to the informal economy, such as access to finance, data and statistics, employment, gender equality, policy, rights, social protection and working conditions. It is a valuable tool for anyone undertaking research or working on labour issues and the informal economy.

**International Labour Organization's (ILO) Conditions of Work and Employment Laws**  
<http://www.ilo.org/travdatabase>

The Program maintains a Database of Conditions of Work and Employment Laws, which provides information on laws from around the world. The database covers measures on minimum wages, working hours and holidays, and maternity protection and provides information on around 130 countries from all regions.

**Asian Law Center:** <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/alc/bibliography/browse.asp?s=45>

The Asian Law Centre, an initiative of the University of Melbourne Law School, devoted to the development of understanding of Asian law, offers an extensive bibliography of Asian labor law articles and reports.

**Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law:** <http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au/celrl/>

Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law is a research and teaching center devoted to the development of an understanding of labor law at the University of Melbourne. The Center's website describes the activities of the Center and contains links to several databases that are of interest to labor law scholars and practitioners. For example, the Center's Work Relations Law Project contains extensive information about Australian labor law that can be accessed directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/industrial/>.

**ETUI Labourline:** <http://www.labourline.org/Etui>

ETUI Labourline is a database of European labor information resources covering European, international and comparative aspects of industrial relations and health and safety issues, developed by the Documentation Centres of the European Trade Union Institute and the European Trade Union Institute for Health and Safety (Brussels). The consolidated bibliographic database contains more than 20,000 references to documents focusing on industrial relations, and more than 15,000 references to documents on health and safety issues.

**Globalization Bulletin:** <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dbensman/bulletin.html>

The Globalization Bulletin is a weekly e-newsletter providing linked access to the latest articles, research, and web resources on a range of global labor issues—ranging from union organizing and labor markets to immigrations and trade agreements. The Bulletin is produced by the Globalization Task Force of the New Jersey Division of the United Nations Association-USA and the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations School of Management and Labor Relations, Rutgers University. To subscribe, email David Bensman at [dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu](mailto:dbensman@smlr.rutgers.edu).

**International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal:**

<http://www.business.curtin.edu.au/business/research/journals/international-journal-of-social-security-and-workers-compensation>

The International Social Security and Workers Compensation Journal is an on-line journal that focuses on international scholarship in the areas of social security, workers compensation, and occupational health, and disability support. It is published by the School of Business Law, Curtin Institute of Technology in Perth Australia. The IJSSWC contains inter-disciplinary articles in fields such as law, occupational medicine, health economics, and disability studies.

**Labor and Global Change Database:** <http://www.ilir.umich.edu/lagn/>

The Labor and Global Change Database provides bibliographies, citation information and (where available) web links to the full text of research exploring connections between labor and globalization. The database aims to provide researchers with an easy means to make the results of their work widely available to other scholars and the interested public. The database is run by and continually updated by the Labor and Global Change Program of the University of Michigan.

**LabourWeb:** <http://www.lex.unict.it/eurolabor/en/>

The Labour Web is a comprehensive documentation center for information about European labor law, social law, industrial relations and the welfare state. It contains up-to-date versions of European Union law, directives, pending directives, EU news, press releases, economic statistics and decisions of the European Court of Justice. It also contains a Working Papers series and subject matter reports (dossiers) on issues concerning European integration. The site also provides links to other websites that contain working papers, statistical reports, and other information about social, economic and industrial relations affairs in the European context. It is run by the Massimo D'Antona Centre for the Study of European Labour Law, at the Faculty of Law of the University of Catania.

**The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies:**

<http://www.csmb.unimo.it>

The Marco Biagi Centre for International and Comparative Studies at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, functions as policy resource center on comparative labor issues. Besides publishing books and law journals, the Center provides a clearinghouse of international law journals, including the International Journal of Comparative Labour Law and Industrial Relations (<http://www.csmb.unimo.it/journal.html>). Currently only in Italian, the Center's website will soon offer an English version.

**Trade Unions and Labor Relations Database:**

[http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/db\\_unions](http://www.polsoz.fu-berlin.de/polwiss/db_unions)

The database, produced by the Center of Labor Relations of the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Freie University Berlin, contains over 7,000 citations of books, articles, working papers, brochures, proceedings, etc. The bulk of the citations address aspects of labor relations in Germany and the

EU, but there is a substantial body of literature in the database covering global labor issues as well.

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*Project Director:*

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