

FAU HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS CLINIC

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Project “Just Transition Litigation Tracker” for the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

1. Summary of the project

The project aims to support the non-profit [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) to build the “Just Transition Litigation Tracker”, a database of lawsuits used to ensure a just energy transition, in order to highlight:

- litigation strategies and core legal arguments used by communities to promote a just transition, and related trends in this type of litigation; and
- the overall risk of rights-impacting operational approaches to the global energy transition and to companies given the delays that these legal challenges represent.

A team of 6 students will conduct a study and deliver:

- a. A database of lawsuits that meet the definition of “Just Transition Litigation”, with a number of key elements identified for each case.
- b. A short report on litigation trends and legal bases used by communities to assert their rights within the context of a rapidly expanding renewable energy sector and just transition aspirations.
- c. A short blog post with main findings.

The student team will also present their report findings to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. Additionally, the final report and/or a related blog post with author credit to the participating students will likely be published on the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre website.

As part of the project, students will receive training and reading materials on business and human rights, just transition, and related themes from doctoral researchers and partner experts beforehand.

Upon completion of the project, students will receive a **letter of recommendation** from the project leads of the FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic, as well as from the academic coordinator. Participation in the project will also count toward internship hours for MA Human Rights students.

- For purposes of this project:

“Just Transition Litigation” cases are frequently brought by Indigenous Peoples and other affected, marginalised communities, workers, or a State, relying on human rights arguments to challenge an unfair distribution of benefits and burdens associated with the transition away from fossil fuels and towards net-zero emissions. In other words, the cases seek to shape the manner in which the transition to renewable energy occurs, from the perspective of rightsholders. They may be viewed as a [subset of climate litigation](#).

Importantly, the objective of these cases is not to stop the global energy transition – particularly as Indigenous and other marginalised communities are disproportionately affected by climate change and also require this transition. The objective is rather to ensure that the transition is fair to hosting communities and workers and respectful of their human rights.

About the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre ([BHRRC](#))

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre is a non-profit organization formed by 12 trustees and 70+ colleagues dedicated to advancing human rights in business and eradicating abuse. The organization maintains expert knowledge of local contexts through a team of researchers and other staff members located across all major regions, including Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, North America, Latin America and the Middle East. Their website and weekly [newsletter](#) are some of the main sources of information in the field of Business and Human Rights.

They are supported by offices in London, New York, Berlin, and Bogotá. The BHRRC global team, senior management and board have extensive experience working in the human rights, development, and environmental fields and as academics, philanthropy professionals, and former business people.

The BHRRC has been active on the topic of Just Transition, pioneering the first [human rights benchmark of renewable energy companies](#) and maintaining the [Transition Minerals Tracker](#), which highlights the human rights impacts of the mining industry within the energy transition.

Estimated project time commitment:

- 5-6 hours per week (research, writing and student team coordination)
- 1-hour bi-weekly meetings with project leads online (see About the Clinic section below)
- 2 hours monthly meetings with the project leads in person.
- 1-hour monthly check-in with BHRRC partners

Project timeline:

Timeframe	Activity
October 2023	Selection of student team (call for application, interview rounds)
November 2023	Bringing students up to date on BHR and Just Transition
December 2023	Drafting strategy for analysis of just transition litigation Research additional just transition cases Conducting analysis of database collected by BHRRC + additional cases collected by student team
January 2024	Drafting report which identifies obstacles and lessons learned (5 to 10 pages)

	max, following BHRRC writing guidelines)
February 2024	Delivery of Just Transition Litigation Database and report to BHRRC Drafting and delivery of a short blog post for the BHRRC website with author credit to students Products are scheduled for launch on the BHRRC website in the Spring of 2024

2. Desired student profile

- We welcome students from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and partner universities, specifically those enrolled in MA Human Rights, the Law School, the Economic and Management School, as well as Master's level students from other departments with at least a basic understanding of human rights, such as those in political science, philosophy, or geography programs.
- We seek individuals with a strong dedication to human rights and environmental protection.
- Proficiency in English, both written and spoken, is mandatory.
- Proficiency in Portuguese, Spanish, and/or French is advantageous but not obligatory.
- While knowledge of Excel is not a prerequisite, it is considered a valuable skill for this project.

3. Application process

Interested students are kindly requested to provide the following documents:

- a. Curriculum vitae
- b. A concise letter of interest (maximum 500 words) detailing their relevant academic and/or professional background for the project, their current field of study, and instances of prior teamwork experiences. Please elaborate on your contributions to past teamwork efforts.
- c. Although not mandatory, including samples of written reports, papers, PowerPoint presentations, and/or experience in Excel would strengthen your application.

It's important to note that the project leaders do not expect applicants to possess prior professional experience in the field. The aim of FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic is to offer participants an opportunity to gain valuable experience with business and human rights projects. Therefore, examples of academic work completed during your bachelor's and master's degrees are also acceptable.

Application materials should be sent by **22 October 2023** by email with the subject "Call for Application_BHRRC Project" to Bruna Singh (bruna.singh@fau.de) **AND** Stephanie Regalia (stephanie.regalia@fau.de).

About the FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic

The FAU Human Rights and Business Clinic (hereafter, the 'Clinic') is a structure which brings together students and academics at FAU to work on practice-driven projects with partner organizations. Led by doctoral students of the [International Doctorate Programme "Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World"](#), the Clinic helps students harness research skills to deliver timely and impactful projects in partnership with an external organization.

Goals

- Use academic knowledge and expertise to respond to practice-led research needs.
- Provide students with professional experience in the field of business and human rights.
- Develop students' research, writing, advocacy and communications skills.
- Fill research gaps for partner organizations.

Coordination:

The academic advisor to the Clinic is [Professor Markus Krajewski](#).

The Project with the BHRRC will be supervised by two doctoral candidates from the [International Doctorate Programme Business and Human Rights](#): Bruna Singh and Stephanie Regalia.

Bruna Singh

Bruna Singh has a bachelor's degree in law from the University Centre Curitiba (Brazil, 2015), and a master's degree in human Rights and International Politics from the University of Glasgow (the UK, 2018), where she attended as a Chevening scholar. She has professional and academic experience in migration, the inter-American human rights system, women's rights, and business & human rights. Before joining the International Doctorate Program- Business and Human Rights: Governance Challenges in a Complex World, Bruna worked for a Business & Human Rights and ESG consultancy in Brazil, with projects involving mining and agricultural companies. Currently, she is a doctoral researcher at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and her research focuses on „leverage“ in the business and human rights framework.

Stephanie Regalia

Stephanie Regalia studied English law and French law at King's College London and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne for her bachelor's degree. She completed a dual master's degree in Energy & Environment at Sciences Po and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, where she was the project manager of the 2017-2018 Business & Human Rights Clinic. Prior to joining the International Doctorate Programme: Business and Human Rights at FAU, Stephanie worked in the human rights non-profit sector and trained as a lawyer in France. The focus of her doctoral research is effectiveness in mandatory human rights due diligence frameworks.