

Shift

**FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
PRACTICE GROUP**

PORTFOLIO

APPROACHES TO

HUMAN RIGHTS

ISSUES

Applied Learning for Investors

2024

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS PRACTICE GROUP 2024

Portfolio Approaches to Human Rights Issues

Applied Learning for Investors

WHAT?

Through a series of in-depth virtual peer-learning workshops and dedicated advisory support, this six-month deep dive will help investors identify and manage human rights issues in a portfolio context, providing practical guidance for practitioners to help embed the lens of risks to people (the ‘S’ in ESG) into their organizations. This practice group is for investors looking to take a systematic approach to the “S” in ESG and human rights issues in light of growing stakeholder interest and regulatory attention to the role of investors in incentivizing investee respect for rights.

As members, participating institutions will have access to **16 hours of Shift’s bilateral advisory support** to build upon the work in the practice group.

WHEN?

February – July 2024

WHO?

The group will be facilitated by Shift’s expert advisors, who have extensive experience creating innovative solutions to human rights risks with investors and first-hand knowledge of the investment field. They are also members of the UNPRI’s Advance Technical Advisory Group, the UN Global Compact Expert Network, the Interim Working Group of the Taskforce for Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures. Participant numbers will be limited to 6-8 investor practitioners.

FEES?

US \$15,000

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

1

Participants will build expertise in the international standards for responsible business conduct, explore the challenges and opportunities that robust human rights due diligence processes bring for investment portfolios, and apply a model of a human rights due diligence framework for investors that is aligned with the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines.

Together, you will be sharing challenges and opportunities in a pre-competitive context related to risk identification, assessment, and action planning for a variety of asset classes.

Each participating institution will also have access to 16 hours of Shift's bilateral advisory support, tailored to their specific needs and circumstances, to build upon the work in the practice group.

YOU WILL TACKLE PRACTICAL CHALLENGES SUCH AS:

- **Obtaining scalable, forward-looking insights** into potential risks to people in portfolios.
- **Prioritization and action planning** in the context of the full range of risks and impacts to people in diversified portfolios.

YOU WILL GAIN

- **Readiness to launch a human rights due diligence process.**
- **An understanding of peer approaches and emerging best practices.**
- **Effective strategies to engage internal stakeholders and integrate human rights issues** into sustainability reporting and communications.

2 IS THIS PRACTICE GROUP RIGHT FOR ME?

In keeping with Shift's mission orientation, we are purposely selective about who we work with – so we're looking for organizations that can demonstrate a genuine commitment to pushing the boundaries of practice to advance respect for rights.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

3

A fee of US \$15,000 covers four deep-dive workshops and two person-days of bilateral advisory support.¹

¹ Our fee reflects economies of scale realized in a group setting while still including tailored advisory support.

Shift is the leading centre of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Our advisory work with asset owners, managers, commercial banks and real economy companies means we have a nuanced understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by investors and lenders and their portfolio companies. And our experience advising ministries, regulatory agencies, intergovernmental organizations, reporting standards bodies and multistakeholder initiatives, means we also have an in-depth understanding of how standards can best integrate impacts on people. Working with Shift means gaining access to a wide network of expert business practitioners and investors, and to tools for investors and lenders, such as those generated by the Valuing Respect Project.

General learnings from the practice group will inform the development of materials for the broader finance industry, civil society and regulators. These materials will explore how financial institutions can ground their human rights risk management in the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines to advance business respect for human rights.

For expressions of interest please contact: ashleigh.owens@shiftproject.org