Global Governance of Labour Rights
Assessing the Effectiveness of Transnational Public and Private Policy Initiatives

Leuven Global Governance series

Edited by Axel Marx, Deputy Director, Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven, Jan Wouters, Full Professor of International Law and International Organizations, Jean Monnet Chair ad personam EU and Global Governance and Director, Institute for International Law and Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven, Glenn Rayp, Professor in International Economics, Department of Economics, University of Ghent and Laura Beke, Doctoral Researcher, KU Leuven, Belgium

This insightful book incorporates perspectives from several disciplines to provide a unique systematic analysis of emerging public and private initiatives in global labour rights governance. The expert contributors explore the complexities of labour rights governance in a global economy characterized by transnational supply chains. They assess how transnational, intergovernmental and private initiatives aim to address the challenges of global labour rights protection before discussing the effectiveness of these initiatives and presenting new empirical findings. The book concludes with a detailed reflection on how to strengthen the global regime of labour rights governance.

‘Global Governance of Labour Rights provides an outstanding collection of essays examining how international trade relations, trade agreements and non-state actors influence labour rights governance. This well-crafted, coherent, and thoughtful volume will make important contributions to the ongoing debates on the regulation and enforcement of labour rights.’
– Aseem Prakash, University of Washington, Seattle, US

‘The Editors have managed to make, through this volume, a major contribution to the on-going discussion regarding the “internationalization” of labour rights. Their single most important achievement is that they have produced a coherent “whole” out of many heterogeneous parts. Both the intra-EU, as well as the international dimension, are skillfully debated in a volume that does not simply view the former as a hothouse for the latter, but discusses the interactions of the two orders in the most systematic way.’
– Petros C. Mavroidis, Columbia Law School, New York City, US

‘This excellent collection of essays provides fresh transnational and critical perspectives on the often ignored topic of labour rights. Ugly reports of collapsed factories and buried workers, of slave-like conditions among migrants and children, continue to horrify readers and viewers worldwide. What can be done? This book contains some long-awaited answers.’
– Thomas G. Weiss, The City University of New York’s Graduate Center, US

‘The bulk of the world’s governments and a growing number of firms now say they respect labour rights. Yet scholars, activists and policymakers have little understanding of the effectiveness of ILO conventions and government initiatives. In this important and well-written book, we get answers to many of the most pressing questions about how governments and private sector actors can advance labour rights and conditions. Kudos to Marx, Wouters, Rayp and Beke for a must-read book.’
– Susan Ariel Aaronson, Research Professor of International Affairs and Director eBay policy scholars, Eliot School, GWU
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