

Partner Lucy Blake Writes for *The Times* on Corporate Accountability Beyond Regulation

Publications

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By: Lucy Blake

Partner Lucy Blake authored an article for *The Times* examining Canada's recent decision to wind down its corporate human rights watchdog, the Office of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE). She explores what that move signals about the broader shift in how companies are being held accountable for forced labour and supply chain abuses.

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Lucy points to Canada's decision to toughen its forced labour import ban in the same breath as closing CORE, to the existing import bans in the UE and EU and to a UK bill bolstering the transparency statement requirement for corporates under Modern Slavery Act as evidence that countries around the world remain committed to tackling forced labour. She notes that courts, investors, and the media are also leading the charge - and filling gaps left behind by enforcement agencies.

She concludes that regulatory mechanisms built on political will are inherently fragile, as CORE's closure demonstrates, but that courts, investors, and public opinion are not, and that companies waiting for a regulatory signal before addressing forced labour risk are already behind.

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