

# The construction industry: building better for workers



WEBINAR

29 January 2025 | 11:00-12:30 CET / 10:00-11:30 GMT

This webinar is the first of seven that make up Electronics Watch's 2025 Knowledge Building Series for public buyers. It is part of an Innovation Pilot to strengthen and expand our impact model via online workshops that will help you understand risks in your supply chains. The Knowledge Building Series will provide advice on how you, as public buyers, can use your leverage to protect the rights and improve the working conditions of the people who produce goods and services for public use.

## Why construction?

The construction industry contributes to economic growth and creates employment for around 220 million workers globally. But it is also known for its negative impacts on the environment and poor human rights record. Construction jobs are among the most dangerous and exploitative in the world, carrying high risks and incidence of modern slavery. Governments and public sector bodies are by far the largest customers of construction projects and have enormous leverage that could drive improvement for workers and reduce harm to the environment and communities.

## About the webinar

Construction workers, public buyers, civil society organisations, industry bodies and academics will share their expertise on labour and human rights issues in the construction industry. They will highlight examples of good practices and initiatives to tackle and prevent worker rights violations on construction sites, and provide practical advice you can use in your procurement processes. The speakers will discuss questions to ask suppliers and relevant tools and standards, as well as sources of expertise for further information and advice.

## The webinar will address:

- The biggest challenges facing construction workers
- Key modern slavery risks at site level/ project level/country level
- What you can do to manage these issues in your contracts
- Success stories where worker rights violations have been prevented and safeguards put in place
- Reliable certifications and standards in the construction sector
- Key recommendations (do's & don'ts) for public buyers



**Linnea Wikstrom**, Global Director of Construction & Health & Safety, Building & Woodworkers International

**Silje Bakke**, Legal advisor, Oslo City Council

**Huib Huyse**, Head of Research Group, Sustainable Development, HIVA, Leuven

**Neill Wilkins**, Head of Migrant Workers Programme, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)

**Charlene Collison**, Collaborations Director, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR)