Your name,

Address line 1,

Address line 2,

Address line 3,

Address line 4,

XX/02/2022

Minister Robert Troy TD,

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,

23 Kildare Street,

Dublin 2,

D02 TD30

Dear Minister Troy,

I write to you regarding my concern about the adverse impact some corporations have on environmental and human rights. I ask that you take action to support human rights due diligence legislation as called for by the Irish Coalition for Business and Human Rights.

Companies have an enormous impact on people’s lives and the communities in which they operate. Sometimes the impact is positive – jobs are created and investment benefits the community. Other times the impact can be negative – when corporations exploit weak and poorly enforced domestic regulation. Many corporations turn a blind eye to human rights violations in their supply chains, such as forced labour by trafficked persons. Complex global corporate value chains mask the production and distribution of goods tainted by human trafficking. Globally, 25 million people are locked in forced labour, and in 2021 the US Department of Labour identified 156 items from 77 countries produced by child or forced labour. Despite these abuses, there are few effective mechanisms to hold companies to account, and no global regulation despite the transnational nature of many businesses.

Government has a duty to protect human rights and create the conditions for social justice. That profits are derived from human trafficking, forced labour, and other abuses is an affront to the dignity of the person and undermines human solidarity. Indeed, Pope Francis has referred to human trafficking as an “open wound on the body of contemporary society.” When faced with such injustice we are morally obliged to act decisively.

It is deeply encouraging to hear that the European Commission is planning to publish Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Law at the end of this month. France, Germany, and Norway have already introduced legislation for mandatory human rights due diligence. Given Ireland’s long-standing commitment to human rights, I ask that you take steps to progress the legislation in the EU, and to introduce corporate accountability legislation domestically.

Such law must address a company’s entire value chain, and include all business relationships, including investment relationships. Legislation should require companies to undertake human rights and environmental due diligence, whereby companies would have to identify and address abuses throughout their supply chains and operations. The legislation should also provide access to justice for victims when their rights have been violated.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Is mise le meas,

*Your signature*