

## Business Network

The rule of law is characterised by legal certainty, accessible laws that are equally enforced and access to justice through fair trials before an independent judiciary.



### Founding members:

- Anglo American
- BP
- BT Group
- Diageo
- HSBC
- Nestlé
- Rio Tinto
- Rolls-Royce
- Shell International
- Unilever

The Business Network acts as a bridge between the global business community and the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. The Network assists our researchers in identifying rule of law issues which have particular relevance to the business community and provides input to our research and capacity building. Since its launch in January 2017 ten leading international companies have pledged their support for the Business Network, which is chaired by Graham Vinter, formerly of BG Group.

The Business Network's first project, **What business should do when national law conflicts with international human rights**, examines how businesses should adhere to international human rights standards when faced with contradictory domestic requirements. Members of the Network are also working with the Bingham Centre to develop **capacity building for lawyers and senior management on the rule of law** as a business risk.

Other topics under discussion with the Network include:

- Transnational public interest in international investment and trade law
- Bribery and corruption
- SDG 16 and the role of the private sector
- A rule of law index for business
- Data privacy vs data sharing

"The rule of law provides the foundation for peace, political stability, human dignity and economic sustainability. The business community needs the firm and consistent application of the rule of law, thus contributing to economic development. Business can also play a key part in helping to build and sustain the rule of law in those countries where it has a presence, helping to make the world a safer and more equitable place".

**Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd**  
**Former Lord Chief Justice**

**The Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law** is a constituent part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL). The Bingham Centre was launched in December 2010 to honour the work and career of Lord Bingham of Cornhill – a great judge and passionate advocate of the rule of law. The Centre’s mission is to advance the rule of law worldwide. It does this by:

- **Democratising the rule of law** by mainstreaming it into policy-making, law-making and decision-making in all relevant sectors and explaining it clearly to relevant audiences;
- **Institutionalising the rule of law** by helping to develop the necessary institutional machinery, processes and procedures to give it practical effect;
- **Building rule of law leadership** in all relevant institutions to ensure a sustainable long term increase in rule of law capacity;
- **Broadening agreement about the core meaning of the rule of law** by building global awareness of the emerging international consensus about the rule of law as a practical concept.



### Joining the Business Network

Membership of the Network is open to companies of any size and from any part of the world. In addition to an annual membership subscription, members are also invited to provide input and funding for relevant projects. If you are interested in finding out how your company can get involved in the Business Network please contact:

Florence Skinner, Development Manager, [f.skinner@biicl.org](mailto:f.skinner@biicl.org)

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“We are very pleased to be able to bring the experience Nestlé has gained through its well-established global presence to collaborate with the Business Network in its important contribution to the promotion and enhancement of human rights and the rule of law”.

**Ricardo Cortes-Monroy**  
**Chief Legal Officer of Nestlé**

