Case Study 1:
Ten Thousand Villages (TTV) is a non-profit corporation of the Mennonite Central Committee, an international relief and development agency based in Winnipeg, Canada. It provides vital income to people in developing countries by selling their handicrafts in stores across North America. The company works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed, providing them with both market and product development assistance.

The income earned by the producers helps pay for food, education, healthcare and housing.

Since its beginnings in the 1940s, TTV has grown from a small, grassroots operation to a large, self-sufficient business. It still differs from traditional business in one fundamental way, though: the primary objective is not generating profit. Instead, the aim is to provide work, income and hope for producers in developing nations. (IISD’s Business and Sustainable Development, Global Guide)

Case Study 2:
Made in a Free World has created a digital platform for a community of businesses and consumers to buy better through the use of our supply chain transparency tool called FDRM®. They started in 2011 by partnering with the U.S. State Department to build their world’s first ever Slavery Footprint platform, combining product data with consumer purchase data to provide footprints to close to 30 million people worldwide. (madeinafreeworld.com)
Recommendations for Action

UN and Member States

- Encourage corporations to address human trafficking in their supply chains and promote transparency
- Provide a universal tool of assessment that highlights how CSR is being met globally
- Ensure clarity on chain of custody and ownership for products at each stage of supply chain
- Promote cross-sector collaboration between UN and businesses to leverage technology assets to identify traffickers and buyers

Individuals and Communities

- Start a coalition in your community with business leaders to identify what CSR efforts can be done locally
- Educate your community on the role of corporations in ending human trafficking and forced labor
- Purchase ethically sourced goods or introduce those products into your community to encourage buying ethically sourced products
- Highlight and promote local businesses that aim at curving monopolization of markets

Businesses

- Articulate the company’s responsibilities, commitments and expectations. Demand that suppliers are also expected to adhere to these policies and standards.
- Assess and be transparent in connections to labor conditions and complicity in human trafficking and forced labor.
- Ensure the integration of policies and standards into day-to-day operations, e.g. managerial responsibility, training, supplier contracts.
- Implement processes to monitor labor conditions in supply chains and to monitor compliance, e.g. – disclosure and integration of audit results.
- Implement programs to remedy violations/non-compliance found in its supply chains, e.g. corrective action plans, grievance mechanisms.

“Trafficking happens in sectors where workers are excluded from protections, and denied the right to organize. Trafficking doesn’t happen in a vacuum. It happens in systematically degraded work environments.”

- Noy Thrupkaew, Global Journalist

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The NGOCSTIP is committed to the prevention and eradication of human trafficking in all its forms through advocacy and education. The Committee recognizes trafficking in persons as a violation of human rights and advocates for policy and action plans to address all aspects of human trafficking. While the Committee’s work is primarily at the United Nations, it works in partnership with its member organizations and other stakeholders taking action on local and national levels.