



#BusinessToo

—Gender Agency and Power in Private Sector Responses to Gender-Based Violence

DR. DEAN LAPLONGE is a gender-based violence (GBV) specialist responsible for assessing and responding to GBV risks related to international private sector operations, including sexual harassment of employees and sexual exploitation of people in local communities. In recent years, he has worked with the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, International Labour Organization, and other organizations in multiple global settings, including Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Myanmar, Cameroon, Jordan, Ukraine and Egypt.

There is increasing pressure on the private sector to pay attention to gender-based violence (GBV). This includes sexual harassment within workspaces; the impacts of domestic violence on employees and business operations; and the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse in recruitment practices, supply chains, and community interface. The pressure is coming from multiple angles – governments, media, investors, shareholders, human rights organizations, and international conventions.

In this lecture, I will explore the status of what businesses are doing to respond to this call to action. I will look at this rapidly increasing work from several perspectives – the specific actions businesses are taking; the ethics of these actions; the gaps and challenges in the management of GBV in the private sector context; and the gender dynamics at play in all this work.

I aim to offer a high-level view of how businesses are being advised to respond to GBV risks and incidents in their operations; and to emphasize that this advice and the resulting actions are born out of a genuine desire to help reduce the significant negative impacts GBV has on people – predominantly women, girls, and gender diverse people. Yet, at the same time, it is important we maintain critical reflection on how gender and power are playing out through the emerging knowledge and practices; and to identify if and where the root cause of GBV – gender inequality – continues to thrive.

March 7th, 2022 | 3pm to 4:30pm

GUEST SPEAKER Dean Laplonge, Fellow In-Residence

ZOOM carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/99084059635