Caring about care

How to account for care
Right to Care?

• Unpaid care work as major human rights issue

• Gender issue

• Important focus for international policy makers
Right to Care?

- World Bank: barrier to social upgrading (improving working conditions/creation of higher skilled/better paid jobs) in global value chains
- UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights – heavy and unequal care responsibilities = major barrier to gender equality, condemn women to poverty
Right to Care?

• Civil society activists/development ngos

• Oxfam – care analysis to make care visible

• Less a woman’s responsibility more a public good
Whose responsibility?

• State responsibility to recognise, value, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work
• Care = social and collective responsibility
• Improve women’s access to public services, care services and infrastructure – address barriers to entering employment/opportunities for advancement
• Challenge of legislated social protection to competitiveness, under investment on part of governments
Whose responsibility?

• Stakeholders in Global Value Chains – lead firms/brands, industry associations, ngos, international development organisations, local women’s associations

• Address ‘depletion’ – not externality

• Through extension of ‘Accord’ or ‘Ruggie’ or UK Modern Slavery Act?
Modern Slavery Act 2015

• Consolidates and extends UK provisions relating to ‘modern slavery’ and trafficking
• Definition?
• person holds another person in slavery or servitude and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is held in slavery or servitude
• the person requires another person to perform forced or compulsory labour and the circumstances are such that the person knows or ought to know that the other person is being required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
Transparency in supply chains

• A commercial organisation must prepare a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year of the organisation

• Statement of the steps the organisation has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place—
  • (i) in any of its supply chains, and
  • (ii) in any part of its own business, or

• Statement that the organisation has taken no such steps
Transparency in supply chains

- statement may include information about—
  - (a) the organisation’s structure, its business and its supply chains;
  - (b) its policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking;
  - (c) its due diligence processes in relation to slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains;
  - (d) the parts of its business and supply chains where there is a risk of slavery and human trafficking taking place, and the steps it has taken to assess and manage that risk;
  - (e) its effectiveness in ensuring that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in its business or supply chains, measured against such performance indicators as it considers appropriate;
  - (f) the training about slavery and human trafficking available to its staff