

HUMR 5133 Business and Human Rights

Student Assignment – Mid-term Paper September 15 2015

The mid-term paper consists of three assignments. All three assignments weigh equally. Use the same number of words for each assignment. **Do not exceed** the maximum number of 2500 words (papers exceeding 2500 words will not be accepted).

1. The UN Guiding Principles (UNGP) have been developed to guide shifts in corporate behaviour. Some claim that the UNGP are a compromise between supporters of *weak standards* of human rights regulation for companies and advocates for *strong regulations*.

Discuss this controversy. In your discussion you should address the meaning of “weak” and “strong” regulations. You should also address the structure of the UNGP and identify the responsibilities of businesses versus duties of the states. Please specify shared responsibilities of businesses and states, and suggest mechanisms of shared responsibilities.

2. Then, discuss theories of human rights change in the discourse of business and human rights. Address the meaning of “human rights change” in the context of business, and the actors, processes and mechanisms of such change. Refer to at least two theoretical approaches to human rights change of business behaviour.

3. Discuss the *Sawhoyamaya v Paraguay* case (attached): What is this case about? What is the human rights “substance” of the case (e.g., which and whose rights, whose duties; what is the nature and quality of the judicial procedure). Is the court’s judgement in line with the UNGP? In your conclusion, discuss if this case helped to advance human rights, and if so – for whom?