

HUMR 5133 Business and Human Right, Exam questions

Fall term 2012

Please choose and answer one of the two exam questions below:

Question 1

An emerging perspective in the international discourse on the ethics of small and large-scale businesses is that “respecting human rights can be part of a standard regulatory regime of businesses; it concerns changing the standard rules of the game”.

Discuss this perspective from a human rights angle, including reasons for and against. Address and analyse initiatives and models that have been launched over the last decade to develop practical instruments for business compliance with human rights norms, and how they apply at national and international levels. Discuss normative as well as legal issues that arise and give examples of strengths and weaknesses in operationalization.

Question 2

Examine key issues related to the question of remedies for victims of human rights infringements involving transnational corporations. Do corporations have human rights duties under international law? Do states have legal obligations to regulate foreign corporations domiciled in their jurisdiction? Your analysis should address legal approaches to litigation as well as non-legal, voluntary approaches, and cover both national and international levels. Please, illustrate your analysis with legal cases in different jurisdictions.