BROTHERHOOD of St Laurence
NGO’s and Global influence

Introduction

• The global CSR policy & practice arena – how the BSL got involved
• Working with the OECD / OECD Guidelines for MNE’s
• International collaboration & capacity building to promote social justice
• Role and sphere of influence
• Progressing an influencing agenda
BSL Involvement in the International Arena

- Acquired an optical business (Mod-Style)
- Mapping the supply chain in China – labour standards
- Global collaboration & documentation – CSR / business & human rights
- Changes to Mod-Style practices
- International laws & regulatory mechanism
OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Voluntary CSR recommendations from OECD & adhering countries to their MNE’s
- 10 Chapters - broad range of issues
- Policy influence, e.g. investment, infrastructure, governance, weak governance zones
- Stakeholder support – Government, Business, TU’s & NGO’s
- Based on international treaties & conventions
- Complaint mechanism – quasi judicial instrument
Working with the OECD

- BSL involvement with OECD since 2002
- OECD Investment Committee - Paris
- Australian National Contact Point (Federal Treasury)
- Community consultations – Melb, Syd, ACT
- Presentations / papers to OECD Roundtable on CSR, Global Forum on International Investment, stakeholder consultation
- BSL experience in China unique & valued
Testing Regulatory Mechanisms

• 2005 NGO international collaboration to raise case against GSL
• First OECD Guidelines case in Australia – HR provisions
• Detention of children, arbitrary detention, poor medical, psychiatric & cultural care etc
• Breach of international law
• Challenges of PPP’s
• Successful outcome – mediation & media
• Best practice – OECD, NGO’s
Global Collaboration – OECD Watch

- OECD Watch – NGO network
- Key NGO stakeholder at OECD – Link with TUAC
- Test & influence OECD re: effectiveness of Guidelines.
- BSL as office bearer
- Publications, case data base, training & capacity building
• GSL (Australia) Case BSL experience used for training & capacity building
• OECD Watch Inter-regional seminar & fieldtrip – Ghana 2006
• EC funding for Model NCP – Madrid 2007
• EC funding for OECD Watch / SRI – Paris 2007
• UN Norms on Transnational Enterprises — Bangkok 2006
• Norwegian business & Gov. – Oslo 2004
Role & Sphere of Influence

- NGO’s - credible, sophisticated stakeholders interested in ‘engagement’
- CSR & sustainable development provide platform of influence:
  - labour rights / human rights
  - Climate change and access to affordable resources
  - Trade & investment policy
- Evidence based research, service delivery, experience & innovation matters, e.g. OECD responsible business conduct in China
- Upward harmonisation of regulation – soft & hard laws
Progressing an Agenda of Influence

- Making the connections – State, Federal & Global
  - Mapping Mod-Style supply Chain in China
  - Replicating supply chain work with HG – No Sweat Shop Label accreditation
  - Partnerships with TCFUA, Fairwear & Uniting Church re Outworkers Improved Protection Bill & Independent Contractors legislation, government procurement
  - Working with the ACTU – Australia China FTA scoping
  - Working with business – sustainability reporting & advice on social dimensions of CSR
  - Linking research & experience to Federal government inquiries and international policy makers - OECD
Challenging Perceptions
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