

Modern Slavery Declaration of Commitment

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Our commitment to human rights

Modern slavery is an unconscionable violation of human rights. Our ethical and moral responsibilities compel us to respond to the human rights violations of modern slavery

We recognise our responsibility to ensure that our operations, research activities, supply chains, joint ventures and investments are scrupulous in avoiding modern slavery and other human rights harms, while ensuring that our students, staff, suppliers and partners respect and share our commitments to uphold human rights.

Furthermore, we commit to directing the university's resources towards eliminating modern slavery, using our voice to advocate for an end to modern slavery globally, and supporting victims and survivors of modern slavery with access to an effective remedy.

In all our endeavours we will operate on principles of dignity, equality, and mutual respect within a human rights framework. We will act consistently with the Protect, Respect, Remedy framework set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Anti-Slavery Australia

UTS is home to Anti-Slavery Australia (ASA), a specialist legal, research and policy centre in the Faculty of Law. UTS values the support the centre has provided to victims of modern slavery in Australia through the unique free specialist legal and migration advice.

We expect all members of the UTS community to uphold their personal responsibilities to respect human rights. We seek to strengthen individual agency and accountability within our UTS communities, by building capacity through modern slavery training based on ASA's online modern slavery courses.

Our students

Every UTS student should be free from slavery.

We accept a duty of care to our students for ensuring their personal safety in our community and empowering them as rights-holders.

Within UTS's diverse community we recognise that certain groups of people, including international students, may be at higher risk to exploitation through slavery-like conditions. We will act to mitigate this risk to vulnerable students, building advocacy and support mechanisms into the student experience and providing assistance to those at risk.

Responsible procurement and supplier engagement

As large-scale consumers of a wide range of goods and services, we benefit from local and global supply chains. The prevalence of modern slavery in supply chains globally is a significant concern for our ethical business conduct, especially in instances where UTS procures goods or services where there is a known high risk of modern slavery, such as cleaning and IT.

We will act ethically with integrity in our business relationships. Through robust procurement principles and contractual arrangements, we set high expectations and engage with our suppliers to identify and address modern slavery risks, using our leverage as a large public institution to improve practices.

We encourage constructive dialogue, including enabling staff, students and members of our community to report any suspected abuses.

Leading research

We are committed to carrying out our research, learning and teaching to the highest ethical standards.

Acknowledging where our research intersects with high risk geographies and industries, we seek to adhere to the principles of the National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Research. The statement encompasses the values and principles of research merit and integrity, justice, beneficence and respect, including specific reference to vulnerable populations, or victims of illegal activities.

We will further endeavour to develop measures to know if we cause or contribute to human rights breaches or if our actions are linked to breaches of human rights.

Ethical partnerships

As a public purpose university, we occupy a unique institutional position. We are advocates and a critical voice on issues that concern and impact communities, and we use this position to advance the rights of vulnerable communities in Australia and globally.

We commit to harnessing UTS's capacity to further contribute meaningfully to public dialogue on modern slavery, driving it beyond a focus on legal compliance towards practical, survivor-centred responses to addressing modern slavery. We will draw on the leading role that Anti-Slavery Australia has played and continues to play as an advocate for law and policy reform on modern slavery.

Our modern slavery research and advocacy agenda strives to translate research into policy action, working collaboratively to ensure inclusive participation of affected and at-risk individuals.

We will extend our reach through collaboration with business, government, community partners and other organisations to use our collective influence to minimise modern slavery risks and drive action to address modern slavery.

This Modern Slavery Declaration of Commitment sets out our vision to contribute towards eliminating modern slavery, globally. The mechanisms, policies and guidelines that UTS will adhere to in order to achieve this will be outlined in the annual UTS Modern Slavery.