Apple, Tesco among shortlisted candidates for Stop Slavery Award

Thomson Reuters Foundation names 10 businesses in high profile initiative recognizing global fight against forced labour

(October 18, 2016) – London, The Thomson Reuters Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the world's biggest news and information provider, unveiled today the 10 companies shortlisted for its Stop Slavery Award.

The Award is the first global recognition for businesses that have excelled in efforts to eradicate forced labour from their supply chains. Winners will be announced at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's annual anti-trafficking and women's rights conference, Trust Women, on November 30 in London.

Apple and Tesco are amongst the biggest global brands selected from a number of applicants spanning clothing retailers to hospitality companies. The winning company (or companies) will receive a sculpture by artist Anish Kapoor, as well as the right to use the Stop Slavery Award logo for one year. The artwork, created by Kapoor especially for the initiative, will be unveiled at the Award ceremony on November 30.

"We launched this award to demonstrate that business can play a critical role in helping to put an end to modern-day slavery worldwide," said Monique Villa, CEO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"It is clear from the strong response to our initiative that many companies - large and small - are taking action, doing much more than what is currently required by the law to ensure their business is not tainted by slavery. Their commitment to transparency and the courage they have shown to speak openly of this issue sets the standard for others to ensure that the fight against slavery is perceived both as a human rights priority and a business imperative", she added.

"We all know that the complexity of today's global supply chains means that no company could confidently declare that it is slave free. This impressive list of candidates is a first and very encouraging step."

The full shortlist for the Stop Slavery Award is:

(In alphabetical order)

ABP UK
Apple Inc.
Carlson
Fortescue Metals Group
Gildan Activewear Inc.
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
NXP Semiconductors
R. Twining & Co Ltd.
Tesco Stores Ltd.
Thai Union

All applicants completed an extensive questionnaire developed in partnership with global law firm Baker & McKenzie, and experts in the field. It highlights best practice in corporate commitment and reporting, performance management, business partner engagement, risk assessment and investigation and remediation.

Submissions to the Award have been assessed by an independent third party, DataREVSystems, using specific criteria based on existing standards and best practices to score the applicants.

DataREVSystems developed a decision matrix to assess the submissions and compared company responses to an assessment criteria that identified a company's practice as leading, base compliant, or lagging on a scale of 1-10 with individual weighting per question. The assessment criteria was developed using a combination of existing standards (e.g., UK Modern Slavery Act, US Federal Acquisition Requirements) and best practices (e.g., 2016 Know the Chain Benchmarking Methodology, 2016 Business Authentication Criteria).

The judging panel:

The shortlisted candidates will now be selected by a judging board comprising Nobel Peace Prize Winner Kailash Satyarthi; global human rights and business expert John Ruggie; Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus H. Vance Jr; Britain's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland; International Criminal prosecutor Patricia Sellers; Edelman President and CEO Richard Edelman, and Thomson Reuters Foundation CEO Monique Villa.

The UN's International Labour Organization estimates forced labour generates $150 billion in illegal profits every year. International anti-slavery NGO Walk free estimates 45.8 million people are trapped in modern slavery around the world, the highest number in history.

About the Thomson Reuters Foundation

The Thomson Reuters Foundation acts to promote socio-economic progress and the rule of law worldwide. The organization runs initiatives that inform, connect and ultimately empower people around the world; access to free legal assistance, media development and training, editorial coverage of the world's under-reported stories, and the Trust Women conference