

Ethical Audits and the Supply Chains of Global Corporations



N a m e o f R e s o u r c e	Ethical Audits and the Supply Chains of Global Corporations
T y p e	Report / analysis
C o u n t r y / j u r i s d i c t i o n	Global
O r g a n i z a t i o n	The University of Sheffield
D a t e o f p u b l i s h i n g	January 2016
D e s c r i p t i o n	Part one of the brief looks at the rise of ethical audits; part two considers the effectiveness of audits; and part three assesses the impact of the audit regime on global corporate governance. The brief presents new evidence and key findings and argues that: ultimately, the audit regime is 'working' for corporations, but failing workers and the planet; labour abuses, poor working conditions and environmental degradation within global supply chains remain widespread; audits are ineffective tools for detecting, reporting, or correcting environmental and labour problems in supply chains; audits reinforce the labour and environmental problems that civil society NGOs are striving to improve; the audit regime, with the involvement and support of NGOs, is reducing the role of states in regulating corporate behaviour and re-orientating global corporate governance towards the interests of private business and away from social goods.

