



Ensemble Purchasing Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2019 Year Three

Introduction

Velocity 400 Limited (which trades as Ensemble Purchasing) is a non-profit cost sharing group providing professional procurement services to its seven members, established in 2016.

The members of Ensemble are;

- Royal College of Art
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal College of Music
- Trinity Laban
- Regent's University London
- Ravensbourne University London
- University of Roehampton

Ensemble Purchasing is committed to acquiring goods and services for its members without causing harm to others and remains committed to supporting the UK Government's National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding principles on Business and Human Rights.

Ensemble's members are also members of the London Universities Purchasing Consortium (LUPC), a non-profit professional collaborative buying organisation. Although a wholly separate legal entity, LUPC is very much from the same "stable", sharing three Board members. Ensemble Purchasing uses LUPC framework agreements for goods and services wherever appropriate and thus shares the same values and commitment to sustainable and ethically responsible procurement.

This Statement is designed to satisfy the requirements of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, by informing members, students, staff and the public about Ensemble Purchasing and its policy towards modern slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and labour violations in its supply chains.

Although, as a business, Ensemble Purchasing turns over far less than the threshold for businesses required to publish a Statement under the Act, its Board considers that our members' s collective turnover, which exceeds the threshold, warrants a statement on the risks inherent in its members' supply chains and the steps being taken to address them.

POLICIES

In 2017, LUPC introduced a [Responsible Procurement Policy and Strategy](#) prepared by LUPC Responsible Procurement Advisory Group. The Policy continues to be at the forefront of the business and the Strategy sets out a programme of projects and actions, aiming to address risks of human rights abuses.

POLICY LINK (<https://www.lupc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/lupc-responsible-procurement-policy-and-strategy-v10.pdf>)

LUPC has a Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure, which allows staff to report any illegal act or omission including human rights abuses.

Policy link (https://www.lupc.ac.uk/sites/default/files/lupc-whistleblowing-policy-and-procedure-11---230117_0.pdf)

RISK ASSESSMENT

Our Spend Categories

Ensemble Purchasing member supply chains mainly fall under these “super categories”;

- Professional services - i.e.: recruitment agency staff
- ICT Equipment and Services
- Facilities Management services such as cleaning, catering and security guarding

The LUPC deems the corresponding source countries to be as follows:

Category	Country
ICT equipment	East Asia, China, India, Eastern Europe, Mexico
Cleaning	UK
Catering	UK
Security	UK
Recruitment agencies	UK

The LUPC has focussed its resources on these highest risk categories in Ensemble’s high risk spend categories. LUPC came to this conclusion through assessing the risks associated to the production countries, their own research on products and production methods, including working conditions and supply chain structures and their continuous engagement with their partners and suppliers.

LUPC Equiano

In 2018 the LUPC implemented their own modern slavery risk assessment tool pilot project, Equiano which is designed to gather information to help identify risks of human rights abuses in public supply chains. The risk assessment in the pilot project was done by trained staff at LUPC and was overseen by an expert from the Business, Human Rights and Environment Research Group at the University of Greenwich.

DUE DILIGENCE

Continued Support for Electronics Watch

The LUPC continues to be an affiliate of and work closely with the NGO Electronics Watch, the collaborative organisation monitoring global electronics supply chains. Since March 2018, LUPC extended its affiliation to all its full members, including Ensemble Purchasing members.

Responsible Procurement Officer Role

The LUPC in September 2018 created a new role of Responsible Procurement Officer to bring in expertise in the area of modern slavery and human rights abuses and to ensure responsible procurement is practised across all LUPC's operations and relationships with Members' suppliers

Embedding Responsible Procurement into Tendering and Contracts

Each contract let by the LUPC has responsible procurement principles embedded in the tender process.

TRAINING

The Ensemble senior procurement managers continue to enhance their professional development in particular through undergoing the LUPC Modern Slavery e training module.

Ensemble's Purchasing Goals for 2019

In the year ahead, we will continue our strategy to combat human rights abuses in our supply chains with these key goals:

- Further analysis of the commodity spend categories for each Ensemble member. The spend to be mapped against the HE Sector's new Risk Analysis Tool to show the level of risk for a variety of sustainability measures including modern slavery.
- Offering more Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness briefings for senior management and other appropriate groups amongst Ensemble members.
- Continue to use LUPC framework agreements for goods and services wherever deemed appropriate.
- Undertaking LUPC's e learning topics on Protecting Human Rights in the Supply Chain.

This statement has been approved the Ensemble Board and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Judith Barber

Judith Barber, Chair of Ensemble

Velocity 400 Ltd, trading as Ensemble Purchasing

July 2019