The concept of Business and Human Rights (BHR) focuses on the obligation of companies to respect human rights wherever they operate. It aims at preventing, mitigating and providing a meaningful remedy to victims in cases activities negatively impact human rights.

- **Examples:** adopting a human rights policy, providing human rights training to employees, exercising due diligence before starting any operation.

The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to voluntary activities undertaken by companies in order to integrate social and environmental concerns in their daily business operations. It aims at improving the social impact of private corporations.

- **Examples:** build a school or a hospital in a community, participate in fair trade, donate to a charity, encourage staff diversity or decrease pollution.

### Similarities
- Focus on companies engaging in responsible and socially beneficial activities.
- Recognize that a company's behavior can impact a wide range of human rights issues such as discrimination, sexual harassment, health and safety, freedom of association, freedom of expression, access to food & water, education, housing...

### Differences

#### BHR

**Bottom-up**
- Giving the individual a remedy against the company.

**Focus on the individual/the victim of human rights violations**
- Covers both individuals inside the company (e.g. workers) but also all those who are impacted by the company’s operations along its supply chain.

**Imposition of requirements embedded in law**
- Key universal human rights
- Instruments such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)

**Comprehensive**
- Requires companies to respect all human rights.

**Accountability/Consequences**
- Individuals can seek a remedy if companies do not respect HR.
- Failing to respect HR will lead to a wide range of negative consequences: reputational loss, legal consequences, sanctions...

#### CSR

**Top-down**
- A company decides how it wishes to make an impact on communities and individuals.

**Focus is on the corporation's image**
- Generally relates to the communities in the vicinity of the company's operation.

**Voluntary & self-guided**
- The company is the one who chooses what to do, how to do it and to what extent.

**Selective**
- Companies pick and choose their fields of engagement.
- Can be socially responsible in one area & still negatively influence other human rights issues.

**No consequences**
- Individuals negatively impacted cannot seek a remedy if a company fails to conduct CSR.

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