

## **Socially Responsible Investments**

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### **Union Notes:**

1. That the University has public commitments to tackling climate change/human rights abuses linked to the arms trade
2. Proven carbon reserves are well in excess of the amount of carbon that can be safely burned to have a chance of staying below 2C of global warming
3. Carbon Tracker's "Unburnable Carbon" 2013 report which highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge financial risks of investing in fossil fuels.
4. That the arms industry fuels deadly conflict and human rights abuses around the world.
5. That NUS Scotland, People & Planet and others, are running a campaign calling on universities to divest from fossil fuels and sever their links with these companies.

### **Union Believes:**

1. That the fossil fuel industry, by extracting, processing, promoting and facilitating the use of, selling and profiting from fossil fuels, as well as by having a major influence on government policy, is complicit in causing climate change and its catastrophic impacts.
2. That any funds given to manufacturers who produce armaments, would be used to commit human rights violations and to fuel violent conflict.
3. That we must do everything in our power to rapidly reduce the global use of fossil fuels and expand clean energy alternatives.
4. That we must not be complicit in the production and trade of arms for use in human rights violations and violent conflicts.
5. That our university should be a role model in society, acting responsibly and helping create a safe future for everyone.
6. The University does not currently have an ethical investment and banking policy to ensure that it invests in a social responsible manner.
7. That our University' commitment to tackling climate change and human rights abuses should extend to any future investment portfolio.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Students' Union to coordinate and put resources towards a high-profile Socially Responsible Investment campaign to include:

- Lobbying the University to create an ethical investment and banking policy for any future investment.
- Lobbying for positive investment in the University's own activities, particularly renewable energy, disability services and accommodation.
- Lobbying for a commitment to publish a complete list of investments made through the University's endowment fund biannually.
- Lobbying for a consultation with students and staff on the university's investment policy at least once every three years.

7. To mandate the relevant Students' Union officer to actively work with NUS Scotland, People & Planet and other organisations involved in fossil fuel divestment and related campaigns.