

Ethical Investment and Exclusions Policy

G074

Policy Origin: **Student Officers (Rory Hughes)**

Approved by:
Board of Trustees – 7th June 2018

Expiry:
June 2021

This document outlines Liverpool Guild of Students' approach to working with external organisations both financially and organisationally. That includes our approach to investments, partnerships and the sale of promotional opportunities (advertising, careers stalls etc.).

ETHICAL INVESTMENT AND PROCUREMENT

These policies relate to our investment portfolio and procurement of goods. Such policies were passed by students via our democratic structures and can be reaffirmed, amended or removed by students via those same democratic structures. These policies are published on our website and listed in *Appendix 1* to this policy.

We also utilise the service of Corporate Critic to rate companies on their environmental, sustainability, workers and human rights records and any history of controversy. These ratings are used to guide our investments, procurements, partnerships and financial dealings with external organisations on a day to day basis.

The Guild will not place itself under undue financial risks when choosing to invest and all decisions will be reviewed and approved by the Resources & Audit Committee. Reviews may also be triggered by significant changes in the Bank of England Base Rate.

PROMOTIONAL EXCLUSIONS

This list is aimed specifically at our promotional relationships with external organisations and corporate sectors. As a members-led organisation students are able to propose, amend or remove sections to this exclusion list via our democratic processes. The following exclusions broadly fall into 2 categories:

1. Those organisations and corporate sectors that are excluded as a result of the political, moral or ethical objection of our members to them and/or their practices, See *Appendix 2*.
2. Those organisations and corporate groupings that are excluded as a result of our organisational commitment to offering confidential, non-judgemental and impartial advice on a range of issues from housing to sexual health (e.g. exclusion of financial organisations) and looking after our member's essential interests as students. Platforming some organisations, especially for financial benefit to the Guild, goes against such commitments and may create conflicts of interest. See *Appendix 3*.

Whilst this document is intended to be exhaustive we reserve the right to not deal with organisations who conflict with or violate any of the above principles or **any of our other policies or campaigns**.

Finally, we also reserve the right to not promote products and services which may have a harmful impact on our own commercial offer.

REVIEW

We will post, annually, all the investments made and the external organisations with which we had promotional dealings with on the Guild website for our members to review.

APPENDIX 1 - POSITIONAL POLICIES

These policies are published on the Guild website www.liverpoolguild.org/policy

1. BDS Policy
2. Sustainability Policy
3. Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy
4. Frack Free Zone Policy

APPENDIX 2 - POLITICAL, ETHICAL AND MORAL EXCLUSIONS

Organisation or Corporate Grouping	Method of Submission and Approval of Policy	Reasoning
Gambling Organisations	Students	The Guild should not promote gambling as it can cause financial hardship and welfare issues.
ATOS	Student Officers (Maev McDaid)	Participation in harmful Government Disability benefit Assessments
The Sun Newspaper	Students	Unjust and unethical coverage of the Hillsborough Tragedy

APPENDIX 3 - ORGANISATIONAL INTEGRITY

Organisation or Corporate Grouping	Method of Submission and Approval of Policy	Reasoning
International Volunteering Organisations (E.g. Thrive Africa)	Staff	High financial and systemic risk to students and the Guild
Religious Groupings	Staff	The Guild is a secular, pluralist organisation and thus does not actively promote any religious organisation or tendency.
Banks and similar financial organisations	Staff	The Guild provides confidential, non-judgemental and impartial advice on issues relating to our members finances. We thus do not wish to actively advocate for any particular financial institution.
Personal Injury Solicitors – Personal Injury Claims	Staff	The Guild provides confidential, non-judgemental and impartial advice on legal and financial issues. We thus do not wish to actively advocate for any particular solicitors in this regard.
Anti-Abortion Organisations	Student Officers (Sean Turner)	<p>The Guild provides confidential, non-judgemental and impartial advice on the issue of sexual health and pregnancy, as does the University.</p> <p>Organisations founded on the belief that abortion is immoral, unethical or sinful cannot provide such advice and to platform such organisations would contradict our own service provision.</p>
Housing Providers, Letting Agents and Landlords	Student Officers (Rory Hughes)	The Guild provides confidential, non-judgmental and impartial advice on housing issues. We thus do not wish to actively advocate for any particular housing provider or agent.