

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2017-36
Title: Suggestions for Socially Responsible Investing: Companies Complicit in and Profiting from LGBTQ+ Oppression
Sponsored by: Senators-at-Large Yasmeen Azam and Yasmin Elasmr, Senator for the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Hajer Rawag, and Vice President Logan Vournas
Date Submitted: April 14, 2017
Date Approved: May 10, 2017

- WHEREAS** the Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Board of Directors at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 37,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** the CSULB ASI mission states, “the Associated Students of CSULB seeks to facilitate the achievement of students’ educational objectives and life goals through programs, services, and facilities that advocate student needs and interests, compel student representation in campus decision making and provide students with resources that they identify as necessary for their intellectual, social and physical development;”¹ and
- WHEREAS** in the spring 2016 semester, the ASI Board of Directors overwhelmingly passed SR #2016-11, which supported the adoption of a Socially Responsible Investing policy for the 49er Foundation; and
- WHEREAS** as a result of this resolution, the University has decided to begin implementing socially responsible investing across the campus, as well as its auxiliary organizations; and
- WHEREAS** the CSULB mission states, “California State University, Long Beach is a diverse, student-centered, globally-engaged public university committed to providing highly-valued undergraduate and graduate educational opportunities through superior teaching, research, creative activity and service for the people of California and the world;”² and
- WHEREAS** in a description of the Commission on Inclusive Excellence, President Conoley stated that, “Inclusive excellence requires a paradigm shift in thinking about equity, diversity, student learning and community success... this paradigm shift requires the identification, examination, and dismantling of existing mindsets/norms/regulations in higher education that serve as catalysts for marginalization, inequity, and intolerance;”³ and
- WHEREAS** ASI recognizes the importance of students of all identities standing undivided against all forms of oppression, marginalization, and bigotry both on campus and globally; and
- WHEREAS** the ASI Board of Directors seeks to provide starting points for the socially responsible investing initiative and intends to use the strategy of divestment to expand its involvement in social justice initiatives by calling upon the university to end passivity in the systematic oppression of disempowered communities; and

¹ <http://www.asicsulb.org/pages/asi-mission-statement>

² <https://web.csulb.edu/about/>

³ <http://web.csulb.edu/sites/president/2016/06/presidents-commission-for-inclusive-excellence/>

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- WHEREAS** the LGBTQ+ community has been historically disempowered and continuously subjected to emotional and physical violence, and higher risk of hate crimes;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** this emotional and physical violence includes the use of “conversion therapy,” which attempts to change someone’s gender identity or sexual orientation through religious therapy or electric shock,⁵ and
- WHEREAS** the use of “conversion therapy” is only banned in five states and continues to be a popular form of manifested homophobia, oppression, and discrimination;⁶ and
- WHEREAS** due to the use of “conversion therapy” and other forms of systematic oppression and homophobia, LGBTQ+ people are three times more likely to experience mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, than non-LGBTQ+ people;⁷ and
- WHEREAS** the LGBTQ+ community is at a higher risk of suicide, and suicide is the leading cause of death in the LGBTQ+ youth community,⁸ and
- WHEREAS** in the U.S., over 25 transgender people were murdered in 2016,⁹ and over 50 LGB people were killed in the first half of 2016 alone;¹⁰ and
- WHEREAS** the LGBTQ+ community is also subjected to institutional oppression, facing consistent social discrimination, which has resulted in 21% of transgender women having spent time in prison, and the number of people who identify as LGBTQ+ is roughly twice that of their general population;¹¹ and
- WHEREAS** when determining eligibility for public accommodations, employment, and housing, only 18 states in the U.S. currently prohibit discrimination based upon sexuality or gender identity and three more states prohibit discrimination based only on sexual orientation;¹² and
- WHEREAS** this lack of protection results in an increase of poverty, increased risk of job loss, and a lower chance of employment in the LGBTQ+ community;¹³ and
- WHEREAS** there is no federal law that explicitly prohibits discrimination against the queer community,¹⁴ and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has not been expanded to explicitly include the protection of sexuality and gender identity; and

⁴ <http://fusion.net/it-s-still-dangerous-to-be-gay-in-america-here-are-the-1793857468>

⁵ <http://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>

⁶ <http://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>

⁷ <http://www.nami.org/Find-Support/LGBTQ>

⁸ <http://www.nami.org/Find-Support/LGBTQ>

⁹ <http://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-transgender-community-in-2016>

¹⁰ <http://fusion.net/it-s-still-dangerous-to-be-gay-in-america-here-are-the-1793857468>

¹¹ <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/02/there-are-twice-as-many-lgbtq-people-in-prison-as-in-the-general-population/>

¹² <https://www.aclu.org/map/non-discrimination-laws-state-state-information-map>

¹³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/30/lgbt-job-applicants-discrimination_n_5538195.html

¹⁴ http://www.americanbar.org/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/human_rights_vol31_2004/summer2004/irr_hr_summer04_protectlgbt.html

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- WHEREAS** fiscal support of transnational corporations that profit from or invest in any emotional, physical, or institutional violence against LGBTQ+ people directly furthers the various forms of oppression that LGBTQ+ people face; and
- WHEREAS** the University's continued investment in companies that oppress, support the oppression, or profit from the oppression of LGBTQ+ community include, but are not limited to: Chick-fil-A, The Salvation Army, Hobby Lobby;¹⁵ and
- WHEREAS** Chick-fil-A and Hobby Lobby, are heavily invested in anti-LGBT campaign groups that work against the empowerment and advancement of LGBTQ+ people and donate to continued conversion therapy programs;^{16 17} and
- WHEREAS** The Salvation Army will not donate to or allow membership of any openly LGBTQ+ people;¹³ and
- WHEREAS** it is our academic and human duty to hold our university accountable and call for divestment from any and all corporations that promote systematic oppression and participate in or profit from human rights violations; and
- WHEREAS** continuing to invest and thereby profit in companies complicit in human rights violations may become a financially unsound practice because they are increasingly vulnerable to international criticism, boycott and divestment campaigns; and
- WHEREAS** that investing in any of these companies that invest in, benefit from, or support in any way also makes CSULB appear complicit in the perpetuation of the aforementioned form of modern day slavery, violence, and oppression; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the protection of people who are discriminated against based on, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, nationality, citizen status, political affiliation, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, social status, age, and ability, are considered in the drafting of any socially responsible investing policy; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI also discourages any future investment in any company that violates human rights through:
1. Facilitating and profiting from the continuous use of conversion therapy against LGBTQ+ people
 2. Providing the financial support to anti-LGBTQ+ groups that enable them to commit the aforementioned human rights violations against LGBTQ+ people
 3. Lobbying and donating to anti-LGBTQ+ politicians who construct the laws that strip LGBTQ+ people of their rights in the United States; and be it further

¹⁵ <https://www.queerty.com/dont-buy-here-10-companies-that-hate-the-gays-20090224>

¹⁶ <http://equalitymatters.org/factcheck/201207020001>

¹⁷ <https://thinkprogress.org/why-chick-fil-as-anti-lgbt-giving-is-still-a-problem-88634cd34a81>

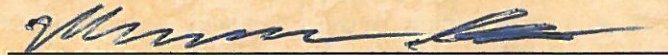
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- RESOLVED** that CSULB ASI encourages these actions to be taken by the University and all auxiliary organizations within a year of the approval of this resolution; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI Board of Directors calls upon CSULB, and all auxiliaries part of CSULB to further investigate and take strong action against companies that may possibly be involved in or profiting from the oppression of any of the aforementioned groups, as well as other disempowered people; and be it further
- RESOLVED** that the CSULB ASI Board of Directors calls upon CSULB, and all auxiliaries part of CSULB to divest, and not make further investments in any entities knowingly and consistently complicit in the oppression and marginalization of the LGBTQ+ community, the support of private prisons, and aforementioned violations of international law and human rights by Israel; and be it finally
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President for Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Jeff Klaus, Vice President for Administration and Finance Mary Stephens, Vice President for University Relations and Development Andrea Taylor, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, the California State Student Association, all current ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and the Union Weekly.



Logan Vournas, Vice President &
Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:



Marvin Flores, Associated Students President

5/10/17
Date
5/10/17
Date

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