Join Us

To schedule a conversation and to learn more about the benefits of membership in ICCR please contact Member Relations Specialist Allison Lander at 212-870-2984 or alander@iccr.org.

“I am a firm believer in the power of strong, 2-way consultations with investors. My conversations with ICCR members began as soon as I came to Campbell and they continue today. These dialogues help advance our understanding of emerging issues ... the dialogues challenge our thinking and provide the opportunity to share our point of view on a range of topics to a group of stakeholders invested in our company's long-term future.”
– Dave Stangis, Vice President, Public Affairs and Corporate Responsibility, Campbell’s Soup Company

“Guided by stakeholders, including ICCR, and other experts, we developed an enhanced set of requirements which have been communicated broadly, and will be included in capacity-building efforts and our third party auditing of our locations, bottlers and direct suppliers. We feel this is an important step in the journey to play our part to eliminate human trafficking and forced labor.”
– Stuart Kyle, Director, Workplace Accountability, The Coca-Cola Company

“ICCR has been a helpful and trusted advisor in the ongoing development of our sustainability program. Its staff has always been open and thoughtful in listening to our issues, encouraging our explorations and challenging us to always strive to do better.”
– Michale Kobori, Vice President of Sustainability, Levi Strauss and Co.

LEVERAGING ENDOWMENTS TO ADVANCE JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Shareholders calling the world’s most powerful companies to address their impacts on the world’s most vulnerable communities
Recent campus campaigns about divestment have reignited longtime concerns that financial practices of academic institutions are at odds with human rights and environmental stewardship. Members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility believe shareholder advocacy can bridge this gap. Rather than forfeiting their voice by divesting from corporate “bad actors” or sectors, our members are employing more productive engagement strategies that can achieve greater and more enduring results.

A growing number of colleges and universities are joining ICCR to participate in this important work. Tapping ICCR’s expertise and relationships with the largest global corporations, they are working to improve the sustainability of their endowments in a financially prudent way while demonstrating responsiveness to the valid concerns of faculty, students and other key stakeholders.

Why academic institutions join ICCR

Several large universities have been at the forefront of socially responsible investing beginning with the anti-apartheid movement of the early 70s. From avoiding stocks such as munitions and tobacco that may present social concerns, to impact investing in green energy, college and university endowments have been powerful forces for advancing the common good. ICCR members have the breadth of knowledge and experience to guide endowment committees, endowment professionals, faculty and students in the development of ethical investment and corporate engagement campaigns.

Our priority programs are:
- human trafficking and slavery in global supply chains;
- climate change;
- global and domestic health;
- food and water safety and sustainability;
- financial practices and risk, and;
- corporate influence through lobbying.

The ICCR coalition

ICCR is a coalition of faith-and values-driven institutions that view the management of their investments as a powerful catalyst for social change. Our membership comprises more than 300 organizations including faith-based institutions, socially responsible asset management companies, unions, pension funds and colleges and universities that collectively represent over $100 billion in invested capital. Working together as shareholder advocates allows us to amplify our individual voices with companies on matters of corporate social responsibility.

ICCR members and staff engage hundreds of multinational corporations annually to encourage more sustainable and just practices because we believe in doing so they will secure a better future for their employees, their customers and us, their shareholders.

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ICCR’s approach to shareholder advocacy

While our coalition engages corporations on a host of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, since our inception our principal focus has been on the social impacts of corporate operations and policies; for this reason, our engagements are always framed within a human rights construct. Whether the issue is sex trafficking, climate change or reforming the banking sector, in the end it is the impact on vulnerable communities that inspires us to act.

We ask companies to understand how their initiatives will enhance the well-being of the communities they are intended to serve not just now, but 10, 20 and 50 years from now. This concept challenges antiquated, deeply embedded business models, and yet, as a result of our questions, more and more companies are making this shift with increasingly positive results.

Shareholder advocacy employs many strategies from the more passive voting in favor of, or against, other investor proposals, to more direct engagement in the form of in-person dialogues with corporate management. The scope and intensity of engagement will depend on the priorities and resources of the investor. ICCR favors a multi-stakeholder approach to engagement that includes representatives of affected communities, policy experts, NGOs and investors working together to find meaningful and sustainable solutions. What is implicit in this work is an acknowledgement of the responsibility that comes with stock ownership to ensure that companies are doing what they can to improve their financial performance while mitigating their ESG impacts both in the communities where they operate and throughout their global supply chains.