

GC.10.09.8f

GUILD COUNCIL

29/10/09

Author/contact:	<i>Edward Bauer – E&E Officer</i> <i>Lizzy Bell – People and Planet</i>
Executive Summary:	This motion calls for the Guild to when economically feasible not to enter into a contract with any arms company, to support the Disarm Birmingham Campaign whenever possible and to attempt to avoid direct or indirect investment in the arms trade and encourage the University to do the same
GOG Recommendation:	No Recommendation

Motion: Disarm Birmingham’s Investments

Guild Council Notes:

1. According to *Transparency International*, the arms trade is the second most likely to involve corruption.
2. British arms companies, through the exports credits, guarantee department have sold arms to corrupt oppressive dictatorships such as Indonesia, Algeria, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia
3. The arms trade determines conflict in underdeveloped areas, which in turn, leads to increasing poverty rates and creates a vicious cycle of debt.
4. Bearing in mind that world military expenditure in 2006 was \$ 1,158 billion, ten times higher than development needs, war has more chances of being promoted and maintained than has been invested into poverty relief.
5. British universities hold over 246 million pounds worth of shares in arms companies.
6. That for the purpose of this policy, an arms company is defined as any company which works with products meant for a military purpose. Further clarification of this definition should be decided by The Ethical and Environmental Forum with appropriate reference to the UK government’s working definition.

Guild Council Believes:

1. That the Union and University should make sure students are aware of the activities of companies they may work for.
 2. It is a violation of the Guilds Ethical Policy to support the arms trade.
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Guild Council Resolves:

1. To endeavour when economically feasible not to enter into a contract with any arms company.

2. To support the Disarm Birmingham Campaign whenever possible.
3. To show its support for the disarm Birmingham campaign by means of banner over Mermaid Square from Monday the 30th until Friday the 11th December
4. To attempt to avoid direct or indirect investment in the arms trade and to encourage the University to avoid direct or indirect investment in the arms trade.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. For the officer team to try and win the recommendation of any relevant University committee they sit on, for the addition of a statement in the University ethical investment policy specifically excluding direct or indirect investment in the arms trade.
2. To liaise with and report back to People and Planet Student Society the responses of each committee and work with People and Planet in any ongoing dialogue.
3. To prepare with People and Planet Student Society a note for the University Executive.
4. For the President of the Guild to write a letter to the University informing of the Guild support for the campaign.

Proposed: Edward Bauer EEO

Seconded: Lizzy Bell People and Planet