

## I. Human Rights Screen for New England Synod

- Board of Pension Investment Screening resolution

EC25.05.26b--RESOLVED, that the New England Synod Council urge the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA to require the ELCA's Corporate Social Responsibility review team to provide a public written report to the ELCA on the actions taken to adhere to the intent of the 2016 resolution as it pertains to the ELCA Middle East Strategy.

*2016 Churchwide Assembly Resolution: To direct the ELCA's Corporate Social Responsibility review team to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen based on the social teachings of this church and, in the case of Israel and Palestine, specifically based on the concerns raised in the ELCA Middle East Strategy;*

*To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to increase positive investment in Palestine and other under-resourced areas where human rights abuses materially impact the well-being of all people; and To encourage ELCA members, congregations, synods, agencies and institutions to engage in shareholder advocacy in support of human rights, exercising the right of a shareholder to submit resolutions at a corporation's annual meeting.*

The 2016 resolution asked ELCA CSR to develop a human rights social criteria investment screen. A civil and political human rights screen was brought to the church council and ratified in November of 2018. In November of 2024, the subject of the screen was broadened to extend to human rights in a more general way, so that other human rights topics in addition to political and civil human rights could be considered relevant to the screen. The screen will be revised again in 2029, as part of CSR's regular revision sequence.

Social Criteria Investment screens follow a [pattern](#) which includes the following categories:

- Authority: A section that relates the issue to ELCA social policy.
- Wording: A clear, succinct statement of the position of this church on the issue
- Definition: A section that places the issue in relation to the broader society and indicates the scope, extent or depth that this church deems necessary to implement the criteria.

The screen is located [here](#). It includes the following text under "definition of the problem"

*...this screen focuses on egregious denials of human rights taking place in occupied or controlled territories, given the specific authorization in "Justice for Holy Land Through Responsible Investment.*

*...The engagement strategy "Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine," named in the ELCA social policy resolution 16.06.31, gives priority to working toward "Israelis and Palestinians co-existing in justice and peace, as citizens of viable and secure Israeli and Palestinian states" as foundational to building a just peace for all.*