



MILITARY WEAPONS

Social Criteria Investment Screen

AUTHORITY

The ELCA has a legacy of peacemaking from its predecessor church bodies through the present. Our concern for peace is laid out in the social statement *For Peace in God's World* (1995), where we acknowledge the complexity and offer direction as we act to keep and build earthly peace. The statement includes such assertions as “the principles for conducting war include noncombatant immunity and proportionality.”

WORDING OF SCREEN

The ELCA makes no investment in firms that contribute to research and development of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, or certain conventional weapons that may be deemed so destructive or injurious that their deployment is likely to violate the limits of noncombatant immunity or proportionality. It makes no investment in the production of key components for such weapons or the management of U.S. government-owned facilities for such weapons.

DEFINITION OF PROBLEM

The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons speaks to weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately. Recognizing that various investors will implement this along a continuum, for the purpose of this screen, such weapons might include nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; land mines; cluster bombs; blinding laser weapons; and weapons with nondetectable fragments. Where weapons systems habitually violate the principles of noncombatant immunity and proportionality by their design or effect, Portico could consider an investment screen.

SOCIAL POLICY AND STUDIES

For Peace in God's World (ELCA social statement, 1995), www.elca.org/Faith/Faithand-Society/Social-Statements/Peace

Corporate Social Responsibility in the ELCA uses the tools of screening of investments, shareholder advocacy and community investing to work with corporations, calling them to ensure that people are treated fairly and with dignity and to create sustainable communities. More at ELCA.org/CSR.

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