

FCI Guidelines form

BACKGROUND TO THE Faith-Consistent Investment (FCI) Guidelines

Most faith groups already have officially approved statements or position papers on environment, social justice and negative investment screening policies, based on their religious beliefs and priorities. The FCI Guidelines are a distillation of the key points in these existing documents with an additional drawing out of positive investment criteria and suggestions, together with examples of good practice.

While it is impossible for faith groups to specifically recommend particular investment houses, funds or projects in their guidelines, we would encourage them to indicate key areas in which their faith would be interested in having an impact, perhaps also with an indication of why this is theologically and culturally relevant to their tradition.

Key areas could include: sustainable development; sustainable urban and transport infrastructure; environmentally sound forestry or agriculture programmes; the development of environmentally sustainable technologies for energy production; the management of waste and water; educational investment in schools and universities; investment in ethical information technology.

Advice on investments should also be set within the wider context of faith-based values to do with ethical and spiritual lifestyles, and where relevant a reflection of traditional faith values around topics such as education, hospitality, and social justice.

While the Guidelines should be primarily for the investment programmes of the faith organisation, they should also be useful to individual members and foundations, organisations, businesses and charities operated by members of the faith, or in the name of the faith.

For more information see the *Faith in Finance* paper compiled by ARC in 2016 <http://www.arcworld.org/news.asp?pageID=827> For more information on the Zug Faith in Finance meeting see <http://www.arcworld.org/projects.asp?projectID=674>

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PART ONE: THE GUIDELINES

1. Name of the person or group who compiled these guidelines	
2. Organisation/institute name and department if relevant	
3. By whom have these guidelines been seen and agreed so far? What has yet to be done? 4.	
5. What is the scale and nature of your financial assets? If you are unable to provide a detailed picture here (or attached at the bottom of this document), then note the nature of your estimate.	

PART TWO: PRESENT SITUATION

1. What current guiding principles do you have for investments? E.G. non-usury; ban on armaments, alcohol or gambling; specific options you always include – such as health products or educational products. What criteria are you currently using to direct your investments into creating a more sustainable, just and environmental world? Please include current ethical guidelines.	
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<p>2. What screening process do you currently have?</p>	
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PART THREE: THE FUTURE

<p>1. What stories/teachings/texts etc are there in your faith tradition which will or could guide, your faith's investments in the future?</p> <p><i>E.G. In his 2015 Laudato Si Encyclical, Pope Francis identified how the problems of global hunger will not be resolved simply by market growth (Section 109) and urges 'developing economic institutions and social initiatives which can give the poor regular access to basic resources'.</i></p>	
<p>2. What current criteria could be relevant for investment in environmental and sustainable development projects in the future.</p> <p><i>E.G. if there is an active policy against faith funds being invested in armaments or alcohol or petrochemicals, could this be made positive by, for example, investing in post-conflict infrastructure development, environmental and sustainable food and drinks supplies, or alternative energy investment.</i></p>	

<p>3. Are there broad faith principles which <u>limit</u> areas of investment? If so, then is there potential for translating that into positive investment?</p> <p><i>EG in Islam there is a traditional ban on privatising essential common services such as water. Could that be translated into investment in municipal water supply development?</i></p> <p><i>EG In Buddhism and Jainism there is a traditional ban on the taking of any life (animal or human). What could that mean with regards to sustainable agriculture, food production, forestry?</i></p>	
<p>4. In the light of all this, how can current investment guidelines be adapted to be more far-sighted, positive and impactful?</p>	
<p>5. Where else would you like to take this in terms of resources, materials, ideas and comments.</p>	

PART FOUR NEXT STEPS

<p>1. What will be the process to incorporate these FCI guidelines into policy?</p>	
<p>2. Are there any obstacles or potential obstacles and if so what are they and how might they be overcome?</p>	

PART FIVE ATTACHMENTS OR EXTRA INFORMATION