

Motion Name: Proposition for the SU to support the Divest Borders Campaign

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Background:

The Divest Borders campaign was originally initiated by People & Planet, the largest student network in the UK campaigning for social and environmental justice. The aim of the campaign is to challenge and dismantle the financial structures that enable the Border and Surveillance Industry (BSI)—a system that profits from the criminalization and dehumanization of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The campaign calls for universities and other institutions to divest from companies involved in border control, arms manufacturing, and surveillance technologies that are complicit in human rights abuses against vulnerable displaced individuals.

As a University of Sanctuary, the University of Bristol has a moral and ethical responsibility to support refugees and asylum seekers. However, its current investment practices contradict this obligation. The university's fund manager, Rathbone Green, has invested £1.5 million on the university's behalf in companies such as Microsoft, Accenture, Experian, and RELX, all of which are linked to the Border and Surveillance Industry. These companies profit from technologies and systems that track, detain, and deport refugees and migrants, contributing to the violation of human rights.

These investments are inconsistent with the university's commitment to providing a sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers and does not reflect true solidarity with the Sanctuary scholars at the university. For example, Accenture creates biometric systems that unjustly collect and store the personal data of asylum seekers, while RELX's subsidiary, LexisNexis, provides data to immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE, aiding in deportations.

The Divest Borders campaign calls on the University of Bristol to divest from these unethical investments and redirect funds to programs and services that benefit students and the refugee community on campus. This motion seeks to align the university's investment practices with its Sanctuary status and its values of inclusivity, human rights, and ethical responsibility.

Purpose:

- Urge the University of Bristol to divest from the Border and Surveillance Industry (BSI), an investment made without students' explicit consent, which conflicts with the University's Sanctuary status.

- Ensure that funds are reinvested into ethical companies that align with values of social justice, sustainability, and human rights, ensuring that future investments support industries that contribute positively to society. This can take place by providing the
- current fund manager with a list of 71 unethical companies that should not be invested in/should be divested from, or by the university selecting a more ethical fund manager.
- Reform the university's Ethical Endowment Policy to ensure that the university can no longer invest in the Border and Surveillance industry long-term.

Actions:

1. **Official Endorsement:** The Student Union should officially endorse the Divest Borders campaign and publicly advocate for the university to divest from the Border and Surveillance Industry. This includes making a formal statement calling for the university to revise its investment portfolio in accordance with its status as a University of Sanctuary. List of companies is below in Appendix A.
2. **Lobbying and Engagement with University Leadership:** The Student Union should actively engage with the university's Board of Trustees, Endowment Office, and other relevant decision-makers to push for divestment. This includes presenting student feedback, campaign data, and formal motions to those in charge of the university's investment portfolio.
3. **Collaboration with Other Student Groups:** Facilitate collaboration between various student groups and other activist organizations to build a coalition advocating for divestment. Joint events, awareness campaigns, and petitions can help strengthen the collective voice.
4. **Awareness Campaigns and Educational Events:** Host workshops, panels, and informational events to educate the wider student body on the ethical issues related to the Border and Surveillance Industry. These efforts should focus on explaining how university investments contribute to human rights violations and why divestment is a necessary response.
5. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establish a system for tracking the university's progress in responding to the demands of the Divest Borders campaign. The Student Union should aid STAR in regularly report on meetings, decisions, and any progress made in pushing for divestment to ensure accountability.

Appendix A:

Company Name	Country	Market Cap USD (Billions) [28/11/22]	Border Industry Classification	Date Added
ACCENTURE PLC	Ireland	186.756	Border Surveillance, Advisory and Support	31/10/21
AEROVIRONMENT INC	United States	2.301	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	28/11/22
AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES GROUP INC	United States	2.066	Deportation	31/10/21
AIRBUS SE	Netherlands	89.64	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
ALPHABET INC	United States	1262.277	Advisory and Support	28/11/22
AMAZON.COM INC	United States	952.937	Advisory and Support	31/10/21
ARAMARK	United States	10.632	Detention	31/10/21
ASELSAN ELEKTRONIK SANAYI	Turkey	5.992	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
ASSECO POLAND SA	Poland	6.11	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	28/11/22
AT&T INC	United States	136.27	Advisory and Support	28/11/22
ATOS SE	France	1.217	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
AUSTAL LTD	Australia	0.888	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
AWARE INC	United States	0.04	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
AXON ENTERPRISE INC	United States	13.373	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	28/11/22
BABCOCK INTL GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	1.52	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21

BAE SYSTEMS PLC	United Kingdom	24.94	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
BENCHMARK ELECTRONICS INC	United States	1.004	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON HOLDING CORP	United States	14.282	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
CACI INTERNATIONAL INC	United States	7.309	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
CAE INC	Canada	9.24	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	28/11/22
CAPGEMINI SE	France	30.626	Advisory and Support	31/10/21
CELLEBRITE DI LTD	Israel	0.879	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
COGNIZANT TECH SOLUTIONS CORP	United States	3.31	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
COLT CZ GROUP SE	Czechia	19.06	Border Security and Control	28/11/22
CORECIVIC INC	United States	1.402	Detention	31/10/21
ELBIT SYSTEMS LTD	Israel	8.456	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
ENTER AIR SA	Poland	0.388	Deportation	28/11/22
EQUIFAX	United States	24.541	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
EXPERIAN PLC	Ireland	27.13	Advisory and Support	31/10/21
FINCANTIERI SPA	Italy	0.93	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
FORD MOTOR CO	United States	56.609	Border Security and Control	28/11/22
FUJITSU LTD	Japan	26.61	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
GB GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	0.953	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
GENERAL DYNAMICS CORP	United States	69.672	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
GEO GROUP INC	United States	1.306	Detention	31/10/21

HENSOLDT AG	Germany	2.368	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
INDRA SISTEMAS SA	Spain	1.763	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
INTL BUSINESS MACHINES CORP (IBM)	United States	134.145	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
INTL CONSOLIDATED AIRLINES GROUP SA (PARENT COMPANY OF BRITISH AIRWAYS)	Spain	6.646	Deportation	31/10/21
L3HARRIS TECHNOLOGIES INC	United States	43.541	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
LEIDOS HOLDINGS INC	United States	14.884	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
LEONARDO SPA	Italy	4.406	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
LOCKHEED MARTIN CORP	United States	126.702	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
MAGNET FORENSICS INC	Canada	0.426	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
MANTECH INTERNATIONAL CORP	United States	3.932	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
MEARS GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	0.216	Detention	31/10/21
MICRO SYSTEMATION AB	Sweden	0.727	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
MICROSOFT CORP	United States	1844.908	Advisory and Support	31/10/21
MITIE GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	1.03	Detention, Deportation	31/10/21
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	United States	44.882	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
NEC CORP	Japan	9.42	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORP	United States	81.239	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
OSI SYSTEMS INC	United States	1.506	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
PAE INC	United States	0.935	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
PALANTIR TECHNOLOGIES INC	United States	15.144	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES CORP	United States	143.287	Border Security and Control	31/10/21

RELX PLC	United Kingdom	44.269	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
SAAB AB	Sweden	4.488	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORP	United States	6.098	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
SERCO GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	1.984	Detention	31/10/21
SMITHS GROUP PLC	United Kingdom	5.734	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
SOPRA STERIA GROUP	France	3.013	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
TARGET HOSPITALITY CORP	United States	1.346	Detention	31/10/21
TELEDYNE TECHNOLOGIES INC	United States	19.694	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
TEXTRON INC	United States	14.923	Border Security and Control	31/10/21
THALES	France	25.904	Border Security and Control, Border Surveillance	31/10/21
THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC	United States	216.198	Border Surveillance	28/11/22
THOMSON REUTERS CORP	Canada	55.45	Border Surveillance	31/10/21
TRANSUNION	United States	11.895	Advisory and Support	28/11/22
TURK HAVA YOLLARI AO (PARENT COMPANY OF TURKISH AIRLINES)	Turkey	8.63	Deportation	31/10/21