

A Resolution Calling for the UC to Divest from War

WHEREAS, the UC system sits on unceded territory from Indigenous communities across California, with UCLA occupying Kizh-Gabrielino territory;

WHEREAS, today, the UC serves as an extension of war and policing through its technologies, weapons, and tactics, which are spread and applied throughout Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, the Philippines, Mauna Kea, Somalia, Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, native nations and reservations, Akwesasne of the Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) Nation, San Diego, U.S. border lands, and Los Angeles;¹

WHEREAS, UC's investments are spent on advancing the war industry through its General Endowment Pool,² University of California Retirement Plan,^{3 4} and smaller funds. These funds are under control of the Regents, who entrust management of it with the UC Investments Office and BlackRock. Students, faculty, and workers do not have direct control over where this money is spent and invested;⁵

WHEREAS, the strategy and tool of divestment has been used on numerous occasions to fight for justice, including such examples as the Darfur genocide in Sudan, South African apartheid, the private prison industry, fossil fuels, the Thirty-Meter Telescope, and against ethnic cleansing in Palestine by the Israeli government;

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Undergraduate Student Association Council passed *A Resolution to Divest Undergraduate Students Association Council and UC Los Angeles Finances from Corporations Profiting from the Prison Industrial Complex* to take away material resources from private prison companies profiting from locking up primarily Black people;⁶

¹ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i-g0yAgJPR0qz0VawjnlvGykUxEm5bFbk3Vp-bNRfVI/edit?usp=sharing>

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<https://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/investment-reports/annual-reports/annual-endowment-report-fy-2019-2020.pdf>

³ https://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/_files/invinfo/coi_2020_q1_ucrsp.pdf

⁴ <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/forms/pdf/complete-retirement-benefits-guide-for-employees.pdf>

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<https://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/investment-reports/annual-reports/uc-annual-report-2020-digital-version.pdf>

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<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2014.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20Undergraduate%20Students%20Association%20Council%20and%20UC%20Los%20Angeles%20Finances%20from%20Corporations%20Profiting%20from%20the%20Prison%20Industrial%20Complex.pdf>

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Undergraduate Student Association Council passed *A Resolution to Divest from Companies that Violate Palestinian Human Rights* proposed by UCLA Students for Justice in Palestine;⁷

WHEREAS, in 2015, the Undergraduate Student Association Council passed *A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide* to take away resources from the state of Turkey;⁸

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Undergraduate Student Association Council passed *A Resolution in Solidarity with Anakbayan at UCLA and Endorsement of the Philippine Human Rights Act* standing in solidarity with Anakbayan at UCLA in their advocacy against US imperialism and extrajudicial killings in the Philippines, and for the Philippine Human Rights Act;⁹

WHEREAS, the tool of divestment has also been used for other means, such as this year's fight against the Thirty-Meter Telescope and against South African apartheid in the 1990s;¹⁰

WHEREAS, the UC President and Chancellors all released statements in the context of the state-sanctioned murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd in 2020 calling out police brutality;¹¹

WHEREAS, *LA Times* investigations have revealed that over \$5 billion worth of surplus military equipment was distributed to US law enforcement agencies from 1997 to 2014, contributing to the state-sanctioned violence against Black people that the Black Lives Matter movement is fighting against;¹²

WHEREAS, the UC Investment Office (who manages investment portfolios on behalf of the Regents), recognizes “climate change is a global systemic risk [and] one that UC Investments incorporates into our investment decisions.” The Investments Office sold certain stock in fossil fuels and instead named a commitment to invest in renewable energy;¹³

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<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2014.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20from%20Companies%20that%20Violate%20Palestinian%20Human%20Rights.pdf>

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<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2015.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20from%20the%20Republic%20of%20Turkey%20to%20End%20the%20Perpetuation%20of%20the%20Armenian%20Genocide.pdf>

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<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2021.USAC%20Resolution%20to%20Condemn%20ATL%20and%20endorse%20PHRA.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://kora.matrix.msu.edu/files/50/304/32-130-E67-84-AL.SFF.DOCUMENT.acoa000126.pdf>

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<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2020/05/president-napolitanos-message-to-uc-on-george-floyds-death.html>

¹² <https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-schools-weapons-20140917-story.html>

¹³ <https://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/sustainable-investment/climate-change/index.html>

WHEREAS, the US military is one of the largest polluters in the world, emitting more greenhouse gases than the next 140 countries combined;¹⁴

WHEREAS, through the General Endowment Pool UC Retirement Plan, the UC has some of its largest holdings in the investment management firm BlackRock, which is the world's largest investor in weapons manufacturing, fossil fuels, and private prisons;^{15 16 17}

WHEREAS, the General Endowment Pool and UC Retirement Plan have their own holdings in companies such as Lockheed Martin, the world's largest defense contractor and a top supplier of militaries worldwide;¹⁸

WHEREAS, it is the University of California, Los Angeles' duty to uphold the True Bruin values of integrity, excellence, accountability and ethicality, respect for the rights and dignity of others, and promote public service that makes a positive impact in our global community, which includes the promotion of human rights, equality, and dignity for all people without distinction;¹⁹

WHEREAS, UC Divest Coalition, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UCLA, Student Labor Advocacy Project (SLAP) of UCLA, Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA, Improving Dreams, Equality, Access, and Success (IDEAS) at UCLA, Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) at UCLA, Eagle and Condor Liberation Front (ECLF), Anakbayan UCLA, Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA), American Indian Student Association (AISA), Samahang Pilipino at UCLA (SP), and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán de UCLA (MEChA) voted to support this resolution.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association Council of the University of California, Los Angeles, calls on the UC, within the UC Retirement Plan and other funds, to drop any holdings in weapons manufacturers, divesting all stocks and securities, in an expedited and timely manner;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association Council calls on the UC to sever its relationship with BlackRock as our investment manager, as well as drop our holdings in BlackRock;

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Undergraduate Student Association Council calls upon the UC to refrain from making further investments in weapons manufacturers, and other corporations engaged in the violation of human rights throughout the world;

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council, representing the interests of students, calls upon the university to sever itself from companies

¹⁴ <https://www.newsweek.com/2014/07/25/us-department-defence-one-worlds-biggest-polluters-259456.html>

¹⁵

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-05-30/blackrock-goes-to-college-to-bolster-private-equity-deal-making>

¹⁶ <https://www.codepink.org/blackrock>

¹⁷ <https://medium.com/@williamhartung55/blackrock-funding-war-preaching-social-responsibility-360bb4cea6eb>

¹⁸ <https://www.ucop.edu/investment-office/investment-policies/ucrp-holdings-disclosure-june-30-2020-final.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://truebruin.ucla.edu/>

that engage or aid in the oppression of any people based on religion, nationality, gender, race or orientation, or violence against them, by divesting from companies that participate and profit from human rights violations.²⁰