

RESOLUTION ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING  
IN RELATION TO JEWISH VALUES

1           Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) describes investment  
2 strategies that consider not only financial returns, but also the social good  
3 of any investment. This is a quickly growing field, with current estimates  
4 indicating there is over \$6.5 trillion worth of investments in socially-  
5 screened portfolios in the United States alone. As a result, socially  
6 responsible investing has become greatly influential when it comes to  
7 global investment and business decisions.

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9           By accepting and following SRI principles, companies and  
10 institutional investors are increasingly being viewed as vectors for social  
11 change, not dissimilar to that of politicians and governments. SRI can be  
12 implemented in several ways, including:

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- 14       • *Divestment* – Removing stocks on ethical, rather than financial,  
15       objections
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  - 17       • *Negative screening* – Excludes the purchase of stocks or other  
18       investment based on pre-determined ethical criteria
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  - 20       • *Shareholder activism* – In which shareholders of companies  
21       communicate their concerns with corporate management through  
22       the submission of resolutions and voting proxies
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  - 24       • *Positive investment* – The making of investments in companies  
25       believed to have a positive social impact
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27           While the principles of SRI were developed by the Quakers in the  
28 1700s, SRI has since been adopted by a range of companies and

29 institutions, including state pension funds, corporate mutual and  
30 exchange-traded funds, and university endowments. Faith-based  
31 organizations have continued to be on the forefront of socially  
32 responsible investing; for example, the Episcopal Church, which has  
33 assets of over \$10 billion, has a “no-buy list” that includes military  
34 contractors and for-profit prisons. While several different denominations  
35 of Christianity, as well as countless social justice organizations, are  
36 heavily involved in the realm of socially-responsible investing, the  
37 organized Jewish community has yet to leverage its assets and voice in  
38 this area.

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40 **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:**

- 41 • Socially responsible investing provides an investment practice  
42 that considers both the rate of return as well as the positive  
43 societal impact.
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- 45 • Religiously-affiliated organizations, organized as they are around  
46 values, are bound to seek correspondence between the values they  
47 profess and their investment policies and practices.

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49 It is a duty of the JCPA to apply the principles of *tikkun olam* in all  
50 aspects of its work. Therefore, the JCPA commits to making  
51 socially responsible investment policies and practices an organic  
52 expression of our core beliefs to: (1) develop investment policies  
53 that insures Jewish values and social responsibility “are reflected”  
54 in their decision-making processes and (2) urges its affiliated  
55 Jewish Community Relation Councils to take steps to ensure that  
56 Jewish values and our commitment to social responsibility, as well  
57 as the rate of return, are reflected in investment policies

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59 **The community relations field should:**

- 60 • engage and must be committed to responsible investment  
61 principles for the long-term.  
62
- 63 • Participate in associations, conferences, shareholder meetings,  
64 etc., and provide education for pro-Israel, pro-Jewish advocates to  
65 engage in this space, and develop long-term relationships with  
66 corporate SRI leaders.