

## PARTNERING UP ON CAMPUS – MEET THE RESPONSIBLE ENDOWMENT COALITION

By Terra Lawson-Remer,  
Business & Human Rights Fellow

In an exciting new step, through the SHARE POWER campaign, AIUSA has recently partnered with the Responsible Endowments Coalition (REC) to help you push your local organizing efforts even further. REC is a national coalition of students who are working to foster social and environmental change through their university endowments. REC activists pursue a number of different strategies, including shareholder activism, community investment, positive investment in screened funds, and divestment from the worst-offending corporations. Though Amnesty doesn't recommend divestment as a strategy for change, there are still many you're your Amnesty group can connect with REC to advance human rights concerns through universities and colleges.

REC groups work on a wide range of companies and issues. Swarthmore College provides a great example of REC in action. Students there successfully pressured the Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) Committee to file a shareholder resolution with Lockheed Martin, calling on the company to include sexual orientation guidelines in their nondiscrimination policy. Lockheed adopted the recommendations and changed its policies soon after shareholders voted on the proxy resolution. The next year brought even greater success to the student campaign at Swarthmore: the college SRI committee had to send only one letter to the CEO of FedEx to inspire a policy amendment there.

The REC website has lots of excellent resources that may be useful to you such as:

- Sample SRI proposals and resolutions submitted for consideration at colleges and universities across the country
- A matrix of colleges that have instituted SRI policies
- An extensive list of organizations, publications and campaigns

REC organizers are excited to share their expertise with Amnesty activists. If you have questions about SRI campaigning or want to network with other students working on these issues, email field organizer Morgan Simon at [info@sriendowment.org](mailto:info@sriendowment.org).

Check out our **Q&A on Boycotts and Divestment** to learn more about why Amnesty recommends shareholder activism as an alternative to divestment, and how you can collaborate with groups like REC. Visit [www.amnestyusa.org/business/sharepower/Boycotts.pdf](http://www.amnestyusa.org/business/sharepower/Boycotts.pdf)