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# **Talk to your financial institution**

If your bank, insurer or pension-fund is identified as an investor in nuclear weapon producer companies, you can help increase the pressure on them to drop their investments in nuclear weapons by calling or sending a message through their website.

Your message should let them know that you, as a client or shareholder, are watching and expect them to drop investments in companies building prohibited weapons of mass destruction.

# Call tips

Here are some tips on what you might say:

* Start by letting them know who you are, so that they know they are accountable to you: Do you hold a bank account with them? Are you a member of their pension or investment plan? Do you own shares in their company?
* Then, let them know you are aware of their investments in nuclear weapons companies, and ask them uncomfortable questions about it.

For example:

* “I just learned through PAX’s Don’t Bank on the Bomb report that NAMEOFYOURBANK is investing in nuclear weapons producing companies. This is unacceptable to me as nuclear weapons are indiscriminate weapons, prohibited under international law.
* Could you tell me more about how NAMEOFYOURBANK, as a responsible actor, justifies this investment?”

Chances are that they will try to wave you off by talking about their general policies on being responsible with their investments and how they have to make the money long-term, but always bring it back to nuclear weapons. Here are two things you can say:

* “I understand, but what I would like to know is if you have a policy on investing in weapons prohibited under international law? Surely it’s not acceptable by policy to profit off weapons designed to mass murder millions of civilians”
* “I understand, but how is investing in weapons of mass destruction a safe investment product? Surely that’s a major financial and reputational risk?”

Finally close it off by telling them what you expect: change and a written response.

* “ I would really like to hear back from you about the policies you have, or when you expect to adopt them. I am very disappointed that NAMEOFYOURBANK has these investments, and as a client, I would like to make sure none of my savings or investments are connected to the nuclear weapons industry.”

And remember, being confident in what you have to say, but always remaining friendly and calm will take your message a long way!

# Comment online

Some financial institutions don’t want to take your call, but do have a comment form for clients to send a message. Feel free to modify this as you like and send it in.

Hi,

I’m a client and I’m concerned that you may be using the money I have here to support companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry. There are a couple dozen companies involved overall, and as a client, I would sincerely appreciate it if you could make sure they are excluded from any investments made by this institution.

Nuclear weapons are prohibited under UN Treaty, and if they were ever to be used again they would cause catastrophic damage to people and the environment.

In the last couple of years, the threat of nuclear weapons use has been increasing. When you invest in the companies involved in the nuclear weapons industry, you’re using my money to contribute to a global problem that is extremely preventable.

Please send me a copy of your controversial weapons policy without delay, and let me know how I can make sure that I’m not exposed in any way to an industry designed to destroy.

Thanks for your time,