

Access to Experts



Simon Billenness
Consultant

Described by the New York Times “a super-specialist” in human rights advocacy, I have over 20 years of experience helping investors, non-profits, universities, communities, and unions use their power to hold corporations accountable.

At the socially responsible investment firm Trillium Asset Management, I pioneered the use of shareholder pressure on oil, gas, and mining companies operating in countries racked by conflict and burdened by repressive regimes in Burma, China, East Timor, and Nigeria. I also worked with Greenpeace and U.S. PIRG to file the first shareholder resolutions at BP on climate change.

As part of the Free Burma movement, I also pioneered the use of state and local Burma selective purchasing and investment laws. I co-authored the Massachusetts Burma Law and led the campaign to first enact and then defend the law from challenge at the World Trade Organization and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

At Oxfam America, I helped communities affected by Newmont Mining speak out at the company’s annual shareholder meeting. I also created a coalition of social investors that successfully pressed Procter & Gamble to start offering Fair Trade Certified coffee through its Millstone brand.

As Co-chair of the Business and Human Rights Group of Amnesty International USA, I have built the capacity of staff and members to press companies to respect human rights. In this role, I often advise students, administrators, and faculty on how to influence university endowment investment policies.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Campaign for Burma and the Committee on Socially Responsible Investment of the Unitarian Universalist Association. I especially love my role as an advisory board member of both SumOfUs and the Harry Potter Alliance.

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