



services limited



national union of students

# Ethical Statement

National Union of Students  
NUS Services Ltd.

## Our ethos

The student movement has led social thinking and policy on the consideration of ethical issues. Students' Unions and NUS have a long history of campaigning for change, focusing attention on the ethics of particular companies, ensuring injustices are addressed.

We have a responsibility to take leadership on ethical issues and we will be open and transparent about the ethics of the organisations and suppliers that we have relationships with.

As a student led company, NUS Services Ltd. is committed to ensuring that the ethical concerns and priorities of its members are reflected in their purchasing decisions. The Company is committed to considering the ethical status of all their purchasing consortium suppliers. Both NUS and NUS Services Ltd. will actively seek out businesses, partners and individuals that have complimentary ethical values to our own.

## Ethical issues for consideration

### The exploitation of workers

We expect that all our suppliers will meet the core values of the International Labour Organisation, as outlined in our *Sound Sourcing Guide*. The exploitation of workers is unacceptable. The notion of unionism and the freedom of association are important values to us within our supply chain.

### Equal opportunities

Equal opportunities are a founding principle for the student movement. We value diversity and we expect our partners to have policies and practices relating to prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, race, religion, disability, gender and sexual orientation.

### Oppressive regimes

We are keen to work with companies that proactively invest or have operations in countries whose structures are open, democratic and accessible. Companies should be using their position to challenge oppressive regimes.

### Finance and student debt

With increasing levels of debt within society, and increasing levels of student debt, where possible we will only work with suppliers that have an acceptable policy to minimise debt levels of students and have responsible marketing and promotional strategies.

### Ethical issues in the supply chain

Our partners should have an ethical supply chain and as such we will trade with companies that have considered and acted upon this. Being implicated in arms manufacture; the pornography industry; unnecessary animal testing; factory farming of animals; the fur trade will lead us to consider not trading with that company. We are wary of genetic modification.

### Environmental issues

Environmental issues are important to both the NUS and NUS Services Ltd. We expect the companies and institutions that we work with to be receptive to the effect that they have on the environment and to have responsible environmental policies in place.

## Campaigning

NUS will use its position as the national campaigning voice for students to lobby for change, highlight injustice and campaign on matters which impact upon students. Campaigning on ethical issues is not a means in itself, but when used alongside other tactics can bring about lasting societal and corporate change.

NUS Services Ltd. will use its significant influence with its suppliers to positively effect change on ethical issues of concern to our shareholders.

### **Corporate social responsibility**

We expect all our suppliers to be genuinely corporately socially responsible, operating ethically and with integrity at all times and maintaining good community relations wherever they do business.

### **Responsible Marketing**

The suppliers and partners we work with should practice ethically responsible marketing. We are wary of companies that use marketing irresponsibly to the detriment of society. Although not an exhaustive list, we expect all our suppliers to market alcohol responsibly, market breast milk substitutes responsibly, respect advertising standards and not to be anti-competitive.

### **What we support**

We are supportive of ethical investments, charitable initiatives and have a purchasing preference for socially-positive products such as Fairtrade.

### **Monitoring our supply chain**

NUS Services Ltd. is committed to assessing all its direct suppliers on the above ethical issues and to annually publishing their comparative scores to our shareholders.

### **Practicing what we preach**


We seek to integrate the above values into our daily operations to make sure we are practicing what we preach. Individual members of staff, and volunteers representing the Company, will go about their duties in an ethically responsible manner in line with our values.

### **Constructive engagement over boycott**

NUS and NUS Services Ltd. favours constructive engagement over boycott and actively seeks to use its influence within commercial relationships to effect positive change within our supply chain.



**NUS National President**



**NUS Services Company Chair**  
8 March 2008