

# Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas



**Seventh Generation Interfaith**  
Coalition for Responsible Investment

2022 Conference

11 October 2022

## Welcome to the 2022 SGI Conference

*"Peace is not just the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, class, caste, or any other social markers of difference."* Nelson Mandela



I want to welcome our members and guests to the Seventh Generation Interfaith 2022 conference. This year's theme, *Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*, will explore the challenges both companies and investors face in sourcing, marketing and operating in conflict zones around the world. We are living in difficult times. The world was still struggling with the global

pandemic when Russia decided to invade the sovereign country of Ukraine, leading to a local humanitarian crisis and a global energy & food shortage. This added to the military coup in Myanmar, forced labor in China, the Israeli-Palestine conflict, instability in Iraq and Iran, continued wars in Afghanistan and Yemen, and civil wars in Central Africa. It is all too difficult for companies and investors to even comprehend much less manage the risks and responsibilities. Our world renown keynote speaker and expert panelists will try to address these difficult questions.

As we approach our 50th anniversary next year, SGI is stronger than ever. Our members filed a record number of shareholder resolutions and negotiated a number of company commitments of more disclosure and to lessen the impacts on people and the environment. Some label our efforts as this as 'woke capitalism'; but I say our economic system are starting to awaken to the needs of all stakeholders.

I want to thank our sponsors for their generous financial support enabling us to continue our work. Special thanks to our Board of Directors for their guidance and dedication to our mission. With my upcoming retirement, I will be proud to pass the baton to Chris Cox who will succeed me as Executive Director, and Natalie Wasek who will assume the role of Associate Director. Please welcome Christina Dorett who recently joined our team, bringing her extensive corporate law and nonprofit experience to support our members. I feel very comfortable leaving the coalition in such capable and passionate hands. Finally, I'm humbled to have been selected as this year's Mike Crosby Award recipient. I have tried to chase his dream to create a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable. And I believe he is smiling as he celebrates with us this evening.

Peace and All Good,  
Frank Sherman

## Welcome from the SGI Board President

Dear SGI members and friends,



Welcome to the Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment 2022 Annual Conference! We are excited for the opportunity to once again convene in-person!

We look forward to renewing our connections – both virtually and in-person – and to celebrating SGI's work to fulfill our mission:

*Through the lens of faith and the promotion of human rights, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment builds a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable by integrating social and environmental values into corporate and investor actions.*

This year's theme is **Corporate Human Rights Due Diligence in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas**. A quick perusal of any given day's headlines makes for a strong case to explore this topic. We gratefully welcome this year's keynote speaker - business and human rights leader, Bennett Freeman - and a panel of experts who will offer their perspectives on the importance of sound policy to protect against risks to human rights that may arise when a company conducts its business in a conflict-affected region of the world.

Please join me in congratulating Frank Sherman, as the recipient of the 2022 Fr. Mike Crosby Award. Frank was the answer to Mike's prayer for an individual who could transform our founder-led organization into a member-led organization that could continue the work he began. Frank is dedicated, persistent, passionate, and determined to make the world a better place for people and the planet.

We owe our gratitude to Frank, Chris, and Natalie for continuing to foster Fr. Mike Crosby's work. As we wish Frank well in his upcoming retirement at the end of the year, we welcome Christina Dorett to the SGI team. We thank the SGI Board for volunteering their time and dedication. We offer our sincere appreciation to our sponsors for their support of our work, and finally, to our members, for their commitment to the care for all people and our planet, to ensure prosperity for all.

Kindest regards,

Cindy Bohlen

SGI Board President

## Today's Program

**Welcome** Frank Sherman  
Executive Director, SGI

Cindy Bohlen  
Board President, SGI

**Reflection** Pastor Bill Knapp  
Fox Point Lutheran

**Overview** Christopher Cox, SGI

### Keynote Address

**Keynote** Bennett Freeman

### Panel Discussion

**Panelists** Anita Dorett, Program Director for  
ICCR's [Investor Alliance for Human Rights](#)

Shari Gittleman,  
Senior Director, External Relations  
[Newmont Mining Corporation](#)

Samuel Jones, President and Co-founder,  
[Heartland Initiative](#)

Pat Zerega, Director of Shareholder Advocacy ,  
[Mercy Investment Services](#)

### Presentation of the Fr. Mike Crosby Award

**Presenter** Dan Tretow  
School Sisters of St. Francis

**Recipient** Frank Sherman



### **Keynote:**

Over the last two decades of a four-decade career, **Bennett Freeman** has been an innovative leader in the responsible business and investment arenas. He is an Associate Fellow in the Chatham House International Law Programme, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Conflict Network, a member of the Advisory Council of the Investor Alliance for Human Rights, and a co-founder and Steering Committee member of Business 4 Ukraine, and a member. As Principal of Bennett Freeman Associates LLC, he advises multinational corporations, international institutions, NGOs, and foundations on policy and strategy related to international labor and human rights. In 2018, he authored the report *Shared Space Under Pressure: Business Support for Civic Freedoms and Human Rights Defenders*. He co-founded the Cotton Campaign, the Global Network Initiative, and the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark while serving from 2006-15 as Senior Vice President for Sustainability Research and Policy at Calvert Investments, where he directed the firm's ESG analysis as well as its shareholder advocacy and public policy initiatives from 2006-15. Freeman served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor from 1999-2001.



## **Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment**

Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment (SGI) is a coalition of faith and values-driven institutional investors who view the management of their investments as a powerful catalyst for social change. It was founded in 1973 by Michael Crosby, O.F.M., Cap., Alphonsa Puls and Charlita Foxhoven, S.S.S.F., who were pioneers in corporate shareholder engagement. SGI was the key convener of the National Catholic Coalition for Responsible Investment and was instrumental in establishing other regional Catholic coalitions around the country. SGI was the first coalition to join the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to enhance our shareholder advocacy for systemic change. Please, join us!

## Panelists:



**Anita Dorett**, is the Director of the Investor Alliance for Human Rights, a collective action platform for responsible investment that is grounded in respect for people's fundamental rights. In this capacity, Anita drives the development of programs, tools and guidance for investors, to inform and advance their responsibility to respect human rights.

Anita has a Law Degree from the National University of Singapore and a Master's in Law from Columbia University, New York focused on Business and Human Rights. She brings with her 25 years of experience as a corporate attorney.



**Shari Gittleman** is the Senior Director of External Relations at Newmont Corporation, the world's leading gold company headquartered in Denver, CO. Shari has 20 years of field- and corporate-level experience in helping companies address human rights challenges. At Newmont, Shari is instrumental in developing and leading human rights strategy, covering critical industry issues such as responsible sourcing, artisanal and small-scale

mining and transparency initiatives. Prior to Newmont, Shari spent seven years at New Balance Athletics, Inc. leading on global compliance strategy and supply chain due diligence with contract suppliers in 30 countries. Shari got her start in the business and human rights space in the mining industry, where she spent 13 years working for Freeport-McMoRan Inc. Her experience at Freeport-McMoRan included implementing human rights impact assessments, managing community resettlement projects and serving on the Steering Committee of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Shari is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies with an MA in International Relations.



**Sam Jones** is president and co-founder of Heartland Initiative, where he leads the organization's development of methodologies, tools, and strategies for investors seeking to advance rights-respecting behavior among their portfolio companies and across industries in conflict-affected and high-risk areas. Prior to co-founding Heartland Initiative, Sam worked as Associate Director of the Human Rights Program at The Carter Center (TCC) where he managed programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on

human rights and industrial mining. Sam previously worked as the regional representative for Asia/Near East for Counterpart International. He also worked for Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in the West Bank and for American Near East Refugee Aid in the Gaza Strip. Sam is a native of western North Carolina, earning his master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University's School of International Service and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of North Carolina - Asheville.



For over the last two decades **Pat Zerega** has worked in Corporate Social Responsibility. Beginning this work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America she grew the CSR programs to include working with the pension board around shareholder resolutions and dialoguing with companies. Pat joined Mercy Investments, the socially responsible investment program of the Sisters of Mercy of the America's in 2011 overseeing Mercy's shareholder engagement pro-

gram, which uses corporate advocacy techniques to fulfill the goals of Human Rights and Equity; Healthy Planet; and Healthy Persons and Communities. In her role, Pat serves as shareholder engagement liaison to several faith-based investing institutions. She has served on several board of directors including the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Isaiah Funds, GoodWeave International, and Heartland Initiative. Pat holds degrees in a psychology and rehabilitation counseling from West Virginia University as well as a certificate in Organizational Development from the Gestalt Institute.



## **Fr. Mike Crosby Award: Frank Sherman**

Frank Sherman's background is unlike many others in our ministry; he sat on the other side of the table for 35 years. Before retiring from the corporate world at the end of 2012, Frank worked in the chemical industry, rising to serve as President of the American affiliate of AkzoNobel, a multinational paint and performance coating company. As part of his duties at AkzoNobel, he acted as

a board member and, later, chair of a trade association.

While others in retirement might have hesitated, Frank made a wholehearted commitment to Fr. Mike when he was asked to help with some engagements focused on the risk of transport by rail and engagements concerning deforestation. Frank's agreement to help resulted in his leadership in the process of creating a board of directors, re-naming SGI, and incorporating the organization. When Fr. Mike was diagnosed with cancer, Frank led the strategic planning process to envision how SGI might move from a founder-led organization to a member-led organization and was named executive director in July 2017. From the beginning, Frank has given his time freely to SGI, seeking no remuneration for his work.

Amid questions about the future of SGI following Fr. Mike's untimely death, in his actions, Frank guaranteed growth from seeds that Fr. Mike planted.

During his tenure as the Executive Director of SGI, Frank has worked to fulfill SGI's mission to build a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable by integrating social and environmental values into corporate and investor actions. Father Mike Crosby's vision to use the shareholder voice toward a more just and sustainable world for those most vulnerable has been realized and continues to grow thanks in large part to the dedication of Frank Sherman.





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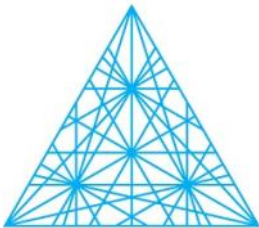
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FSPA congratulates Frank Sherman, Father Mike Crosby Award recipient.



**Thank you, Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition**  
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for the work of SGI in building a more just, equitable and sustainable model of commerce and trade that reflects our shared values as people of faith.

And our congratulations to Frank Sherman, recipient of the 2022 Fr. Mike Crosby Award.



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**Congrats Frank Sherman on  
the Mike Crosby Award!**

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