The US government’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has carried out inhumane family separation and detention. The UN considers such separation and detention illegal under international law and stated the practice constitutes “arbitrary and unlawful interference in family life, and is a serious violation of the rights of the child.”¹

Thomson Reuters has made its products such as CLEAR® available to ICE, which has been used to track/arrest immigrants on a massive scale.² CLEAR® enables background checks by consolidating millions of personal records across multiple databases to create 360° views of people’s lives. Thomson Reuters expects its revenue from US government contracts to grow between 6-9%, becoming a potential $3B market.³

By using private commercial data brokers such as Thomson Reuters, governments can circumvent barriers that would otherwise prevent them from collecting personal information.⁴ A bill to be introduced in the US Congress seeks to prevent law enforcement from obtaining personal data from brokers without a warrant, and the Corporation faces a US lawsuit claiming CLEAR® violates privacy laws.⁵

**Technology and Human Rights**

BCGEU’s 2020 proposal identified Thomson Reuters’s shift from a media company to a technology company and its lagging human rights due diligence practices.

Microsoft, Amazon and IBM have each indicated their approaches to human rights are informed by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), and in 2020 each announced that they would be restricting development/sales of facial recognition technology because of concerns over how such technology could be used. Microsoft’s President Brad Smith stated⁶:

> We will not sell facial-recognition technology to police departments in the United States until we have a national law in place, grounded in human rights that will govern this technology.

Thomson Reuters instead pointed to its Trust Principles in defending its work with ICE:

> As part of our commitment in the Trust Principles to integrity, independence and freedom from bias, we endeavor to be impartial and not to take sides and we seek to provide news, information, software, services and solutions upon which individuals, businesses and governments can rely.

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² [https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/magazine/ice-surveillance-deportation.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/02/magazine/ice-surveillance-deportation.html)
³ [https://investors.thomsonreuters.com/static-files/50361cc7-0efc-408d-8a44-03421ce04aeb](https://investors.thomsonreuters.com/static-files/50361cc7-0efc-408d-8a44-03421ce04aeb)
⁴ [https://theintercept.com/2019/12/22/ice-social-media-surveillance/](https://theintercept.com/2019/12/22/ice-social-media-surveillance/)
Impartiality is incompatible with

- sound risk management,
- a stakeholder approach to fiduciary duties, which is the law in Canada and the goal of the US Business Roundtable, and
- UNGPs.

The Trust Principles were more appropriate when Reuters News accounted for over 50% of Thomson Reuters’s revenues. In 2020 Reuters News accounted for only 10.5% and 3.7% of revenues and Adjusted EBITDA, respectively.

The Corporation’s recently announced Change Program embraces its shift from a “content provider to a content-driven technology company”. While the Change Program will see increased use of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning, it does not incorporate any framework to assess and mitigate human rights risk.

RESOLVED: Shareholders request the Board produce a human rights risk report

- identifying the potential human rights risks in its business, particularly after Change Program implementation, and
- comparing its procedures, if any, for identifying and mitigating human rights risk against those of other prominent technology companies.