



## Female Directors Still Underrepresented on Corporate Boards, Especially in Leadership Positions

### *UN PRI Signatories Should Factor Gender Diversity into Investment Decisions*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Portland, Maine; March 18, 2010** – A [new report](#) from [The Corporate Library](#), an independent corporate governance research firm, concludes that assumptions that women are now well represented on corporate boards are not entirely valid. [The report](#) is based on a review of The Corporate Library's database of more than 30,000 board positions in the Russell 3000 index.

The first principle of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) states that signatories will incorporate environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes. Signatories and members of the responsible investment community therefore should be concerned with gender diversity among corporate directors as they seek to incorporate social ("S") and governance ("G") issues into their investment decisions.

"Attention to the issue of gender diversity among corporate directors is increasing as a result of the Securities and Exchange Commission's new requirement that companies disclose how they consider diversity in director nominations," said Senior Research Associate Annalisa Barrett, author of [the report](#). "To incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes, UN PRI signatories should consider whether women are represented on the boards of their holdings."

Additional findings from [the report](#) include:

- Gender diversity is much less prevalent in the universe beyond the largest and highest-profile companies. For example, while almost 90 percent of S&P 500 index companies have at least one woman on their boards, only 60 percent of Russell 3000 index companies and only half of Russell 2000 index companies have at least one female director.
- Only 57 percent of S&P 500 index firms have at least two women on their boards, and only 19 percent have more than two female directors.
- In the entire S&P 500 index, there are only 14 female board chairs (11 of them are also the CEOs of their companies).
- Very few companies in the S&P 500 index have women in two or more board leadership positions (e.g., a female board chair and a woman leading a key committee, or two female chairs of key committees).

The report, titled, "Uneven Progress: Female Directors in the Russell 3000," is available as a free download from [The Corporate Library's website](#).

[The Corporate Library](#) is a professional service provider signatory to the UN PRI and is committed to helping support global socially responsible investment initiatives. To help signatories fulfill their commitment to the first principle of the UN PRI, "We will incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes," The Corporate Library offers portfolio risk assessment solutions, governance and environmental data solutions and ESG custom research services. [Download](#) our white paper on the UN PRI or view our brochure [here](#).

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**About The Corporate Library**

For more than ten years, The Corporate Library has been the leading independent research firm providing corporate governance information products, research services and data to a broad variety of clients including institutional investors, corporations, D&O liability insurers, law firms, accounting firms, executive search firms, academic institutions and the media. The Corporate Library produces the definitive ratings of U.S. corporate boards of directors, allowing businesses that subscribe to the service to evaluate governance as an element of investment and other risk. The Corporate Library is also a leading publisher of corporate governance reports and studies, including reports on CEO employment contracts, governance practices, mutual fund proxy voting, and executive and director compensation, which its analysts compile using its extensive database of over 3,400 public companies and over 56,000 executives and directors. Additional information on The Corporate Library and its suite of online corporate governance data and analysis products can be found on its website at [www.thecorporatelibrary.com](http://www.thecorporatelibrary.com).

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