



**Dear ECCR members, partners and friends**

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**Launch of new ECCR report, *Vulnerable Migrant Workers*, 28 May, London**

ECCR's new research report, *Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business*, will be published next month. It provides an overview of issues affecting migrant workers employed in the UK and Ireland, along with a comparative analysis of policy and practice relating to migrant workers of nine major food production, food manufacture and food retail (supermarket) companies. Report sponsors Rathbone Greenbank Investments will host and chair the launch on Thursday 28 May, from 5.00 to 6.30 pm, at Rathbone Brothers, 159 New Bond Street, London W1S 2UD. ECCR Researcher Sunniva Taylor will present the report; other speakers: Paul Whitehouse, Chair, Gangmasters Licensing Authority; and Krishnah Poinasamy (to be confirmed), Labour Rights and Migration Policy Officer, Oxfam GB. Places are limited. Please register: Miles Litvinoff (miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk, 020 8965 9682).

**Mining companies respond to Working Group report *Philippines: Mining or Food?***

Following publication of the new report *Philippines: Mining or Food?* from the Working Group on Mining in the Philippines, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited the principal mining companies named in the report to respond. Company responses can be read at [www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/MiningorFood](http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/MiningorFood). Members of the Working Group are studying the responses.

**Shell presses on with Corrib project in Ireland despite opposition**

ECCR wrote to Royal Dutch Shell last month urging the company to use the goodwill generated in a new inclusive community forum to reach an accommodation with Rosspoint residents. This would involve [relocating the proposed onshore gas refinery](#) to a site more distant from local homes. Residents' groups say that the talks have failed to produce a way forward. Shell is now expected to restart work to lay the offshore section of the Corrib gas pipeline in the coming weeks, despite what local campaigners describe as 'significant and mounting opposition in the local community' to the project as presently configured. Media report in *The Nation* (US): [Showdown with Shell to Preserve the Irish Coast](#).

### **Wiwa vs Shell: new website and video**

[EarthRights International](http://www.wiwavshell.org) has launched a new website, [www.wiwavshell.org](http://www.wiwavshell.org), and released a short film, *The Case Against Shell: Landmark Human Rights Trial*, highlighting the trial opening shortly in a US federal court. Royal Dutch Shell will answer charges that it colluded with the Nigerian military to commit human rights abuses, including the summary execution of writer activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni in November 1995. Recent articles about the case appeared in the *Financial Times* and *Observer*: [www.wiwavshell.org/press-coverage](http://www.wiwavshell.org/press-coverage).

### **New report on transparent and fair taxation from Christian Aid and others**

*Breaking the Curse: How Transparent Taxation and Fair Taxes Can Turn Africa's Mineral Wealth into Development* is a new report from ECCR member and donor-partner Christian Aid and other NGOs. The report argues that mining companies 'routinely deprive African countries of huge amounts of tax revenue that could be used to combat poverty' and refers to Anglo American, Barrick Gold, Impala Platinum, Lonmin and other mining companies. Available at [www.business-humanrights.org/Links/Repository/231357](http://www.business-humanrights.org/Links/Repository/231357).

### **Redeeming the Market? ECCR West Midlands, 18 May, Birmingham**

ECCR West Midlands invites you to Redeeming the Market?, introduced by Rev. John Johansen Berg, with Fr Patrick Gerard, author of *Performance & Reward*, speaking on the bonus culture and its impact on companies, relationships and behaviour, and Prof. Chris Mallin, Director of the Centre for Corporate Governance Research, University of Birmingham Business School, on issues of ownership and control and the evolving role of shareholders. Monday 18 May, 4.30 to 6.30 pm, [Carrs Lane Church Centre](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/cgcr), Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX (opposite Moor Street Station). For more information please contact Barbara Hayes: [cigb@birmingham.anglican.org](mailto:cigb@birmingham.anglican.org).

### **EIRIS seminars, 18 May and 18 June, London**

***Understanding Financial Risk***, a seminar for trusts and foundations exploring environmental, social and governance risk factors in investments, takes place on Monday 18 May, 3.00 to 5pm, in London. The event will explore environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities for investors and provide an opportunity for trustees and senior staff to learn more about current thinking on the financial relevance of ESG factors and debate the implications for foundation investments. Organised by ECCR donor-partner the [EIRIS Foundation](http://www.eiris.org) and chaired by the Friends Provident Foundation, with expert speakers from the investment community. To book a place at this free event please contact Sam Collin ([sam.collin@eiris.org](mailto:sam.collin@eiris.org), 020 7840 5738).

***Mission Impossible?*** - a free event for charities, will demonstrate options for implementing or improving partnerships and investment selection. Speakers include: David Locke, Chief Executive of Charities, Charity Commission; Stuart Davies, Director of Charities, Deloitte; Victoria Woodbridge, EIRIS: Thursday 18 June, 09:30 - 11:30 am, Deloitte, 3 New Street Square, London EC4A 3BT. Places are limited. Please contact: Victoria Woodbridge ([victoria@eiris.org](mailto:victoria@eiris.org), 020 7840 5701).

### **London Mining Network engages with RBS, Rio Tinto and Anglo American**

The [London Mining Network](http://www.londonminingnetwork.org) (LMN), the World Development Movement and other NGOs issued a statement on the eve of the AGM of the **Royal Bank of Scotland** calling on RBS to uphold the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee's recommendation on fossil fuel finance. The statement supported the Audit Committee's recommendation that the now largely state-owned bank adopt policies aimed at making full disclosure of its involvement in fossil fuel finance, and cap and reduce the level of involvement in successive years.

The LMN also held a press briefing at Amnesty International UK's Human Rights Action Centre on the eve of the AGMs of **Rio Tinto** and **Anglo American**. Representatives of affected communities in Colombia, West Papua (Indonesia) and the USA spoke about the human rights and environmental records of the two global mining companies. Among the representatives was Episcopalian priest Rev. Jon Magnuson from Michigan, voicing widespread opposition to Rio Tinto's Eagle Mine project in the Great Lakes region.

### **Investment and Engaging with Companies: A Guide for Faith Communities**

ECCR's user-friendly 30-page *Guide* aims to support church members, faith communities and other responsible investors in influencing companies on the basis of Christian and ethical values. Free download at [www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-48.html](http://www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-48.html).

With all good wishes.

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ECCR is a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (No. 2764183) and a Body in Association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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*ECCR's monthly e-newsletter reaches more than 300 people and is circulated midway through every month except August. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion. Please send to [Miles Litvinoff](#).*

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