



**Dear ECCR members, partners and friends**

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**Migrant Workers: Rights and Responsibilities - 20 November ECCR debate report**

ECCR's annual panel debate, held at Friends House, London, and chaired by Lord Harries of Pentregarth, was a well-attended, lively and informative event. A report on the debate is available on [ECCR's website](#) and in the December [Bulletin](#). The debate received media coverage in the [Church Times](#) and The Friend. ECCR is very grateful to the panellists and audience members who participated and to those who provided comments for our evaluation.

ECCR's forthcoming research report on migrant workers is taking shape and due for publication in the first quarter of 2009. Sunniva Taylor summarised initial research findings on page 3 of the autumn 2008 issue of [Better World Economics](#). More details will follow.

**ECCR's Niger Delta partnership yields results**

ECCR's partner the Centre for Social and Corporate Responsibility (CSCR), Port Harcourt, has reported how our joint meeting with Royal Dutch Shell in London in 2007, along with donor-partners Cordaid and Trócaire, has helped bring positive changes in the Niger Delta. Following this meeting, Shell Nigeria agreed to participate in a multi-stakeholder forum on the implementation of oil companies' memoranda of understanding with Delta communities, co-organised by CSCR in October 2008. And CSCR reports successful rehabilitation of neighbourhood water boreholes in Bayelsa State, which it ascribes to its own follow-up with the company and to dialogue between Christian Brothers Investment Services of New York and Shell directors in the USA, informed by briefings provided by ECCR and CSCR.

Work continues on ECCR's forthcoming report on Shell in the Niger Delta. Following initial comments on an early draft text, and conversations with Stakeholder Democracy Network, CSCR and Cordaid, we are consulting with other Delta NGOs about the report's scope and focus.

Four Nigerian citizens and Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Nigeria have filed a [lawsuit against Shell](#) in The Hague.

### **Companies, Communities and Religious Investors - conference on socially responsible investment, Dublin, 5 March 2009**

ECCR is one of a coalition of churches and faith groups holding an ecumenical and interfaith one-day conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 5 March focused on how religious communities and people of faith can use their role as investors to promote corporate responsibility and improve companies' impacts on sustainability and justice. Organisers and sponsors include Trócaire, the Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues, the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, the Missionary Oblates, the Missionary Society of St Columban, Christian Aid Ireland and International Interfaith Investment Group (3IG). Venue: All Hallows College; entrance is free. [See poster and programme](#). For more details, or to reserve a place, please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#), tel. +44 (0)1325 580028, or [Mark Cumming](#), tel. +353 (0)1 505 3261.

### **Churches Together conference on the economic crisis, 20 January 2009, London**

The Economic Crisis: Towards Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods is the title of a one-day conference organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to reflect on the root causes of the current crisis and the response of the churches in terms of their prophetic, pastoral and partnership roles and responsibilities. Keynote speakers include Bob Goudzwaard (Free University Amsterdam, former member of the Dutch Parliament) and Ann Pettifor (former head of Jubilee 2000, consultant to Operation Noah). The conference takes place on Tuesday 20 January 2009, 10 am – 4 pm, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Further details available from [CTBI](#), the [Methodist Church](#) or call 020 7654 7254. To register, please contact [Mary Gandy](#).

### **New reports from EIRIS, FairPensions and the Christian Council of Tanzania**

#### *EIRIS, The State of Responsible Business, September 2008*

Recent research from ECCR donor-partner EIRIS reveals that 80% of the world's largest companies listed on the FTSE All World Developed Index face significant unmanaged environmental, social and governance risks that present challenges to signatories of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and other investors. Key areas of concern include climate change, human rights, bribery, and labour standards in the supply chain. Overall EIRIS finds that corporate disclosure on environment, social and governance issues is not good enough for investors to be clear about the risks they face or what companies are doing to manage those risks, and the report highlights opportunities for greater collaboration, integration and engagement and best practice examples. [Further details](#).

#### *FairPensions, Investor Responsibility? UK Fund Managers' Performance and Accountability on 'Extra-Financial' Risks, November 2008*

ECCR corporate member FairPensions has published its annual survey of the responsible investment strategies and activities of thirty of the largest UK asset managers. The report highlights leaders and laggards, and charts progress since last year, in terms of engagement, integration of environmental and social issues, and transparency. [Further details](#).

#### *A Golden Opportunity? How Tanzania is failing to benefit from gold mining*

A new report from the Christian Council of Tanzania, co-sponsored by Christian Aid, focuses on gold mining, the fastest growing sector of Tanzania's economy. It finds that ordinary Tanzanians are not benefiting from this boom because the Tanzanian government has agreed very low tax revenues with mining companies Anglo American, AngloGold Ashanti and Barrick Gold, the sector has minimal governmental and popular democratic scrutiny, and there is considerable corruption. Many people in the gold mining areas are being made poorer, the report says. [Further details](#).

*EIRIS, Positive corporate responses to HIV/AIDS, December 2008*

South African businesses lead the way on HIV/AIDS according to new EIRIS research exploring the business response to HIV/AIDS with a focus on the largest companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. The report provides an overview of the impact of HIV/AIDS on businesses and discusses the steps taken to establish a comprehensive strategy covering awareness, prevention and treatment programmes for employees and the community at large. [Further details](#).

**An invitation to comment on ECCR's work**

All ECCR members and donor partners will receive an evaluation questionnaire from us this month. We invite you to use this to contribute to our annual programme evaluation. We would be grateful to receive completed questionnaires – and comments in any other form, including from non-members and non-partners – preferably by the end of January 2009 ahead of our Board and team evaluation meeting in early February. Comments on any aspect of our work at a later date will also be welcome.

ECCR's e-newsletter 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](#).

With all good wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

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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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