



Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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Corporate engagement and advocacy

Vulnerable Migrant Workers: media coverage of ECCR's latest report

Coverage of the launch of ECCR's report *Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business* appeared in the [Church Times](#) and [Independent Catholic News](#) among other media. ECCR Researcher Sunniva Taylor was interviewed about the report by [Methodist World Radio](#) ('Hidden Corners', 29 June, 4½ mins into podcast).4½ mins into podcast).

Shell still in spotlight in Nigeria and Ireland

Amnesty International's new report [Petroleum, Pollution and Poverty in the Niger Delta](#) says that pollution from oil spills, waste dumping and gas flaring has created a human rights tragedy. The report focuses on the performance of Royal Dutch Shell operating subsidiary Shell Petroleum Development Company. Amnesty wants the government of Nigeria and Shell to clean up the oil industry and is asking people to [take action](#) by calling on incoming Shell Chief Executive Peter Voser to commit to

cleaning up Shell's operation during his first 100 days in charge.

ECCR's forthcoming case study report on Shell in the Niger Delta, researched in partnership with five civil society organisations - Centre for Social and Corporate Responsibility, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, Pro Natura International, Stakeholder Democracy Network and Trans-Border Missionaries Interface Initiative - is due for publication later this year.

North Mayo community groups have written to the Norwegian Ambassador following the [sinking of a fishing boat](#) used in protest against Shell's pipe-laying for the Corrib gas field in Ireland. Norway's Statoil is a partner in the field. Local groups have condemned the illegal boarding and sinking of the trawler and the use of force against local fishermen. They state that 'our community is under attack by an organised group ... targeting well-known opponents of the Corrib project' and are calling for independent monitors and 'proactive and unbiased policing'. Shell denies involvement in the sinking. Dublin NGO Action from Ireland has published a new booklet, [The Great Gas Giveaway: How the elites have gambled with our health and wealth](#).

Update on Lafarge / Hima Cement in Uganda

ECCR has posted on its website an [update and summary of concerns](#) about Lafarge subsidiary Hima Cement's reopening of a limestone quarry inside the high-biodiversity Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda. Background documentation and correspondence with the company are included.

Royal Bank of Scotland – judicial review and *Times* letter

Platform, People & Planet and the World Development Movement have lodged an [application for a judicial review](#) against the UK Treasury for the lack of environmental or human rights considerations in the investment framework of the Royal Bank of Scotland, now 70 per cent owned by UK taxpayers. They state that RBS has the worst record of UK banks in financing fossil fuel projects, often in sensitive regions, and the legal challenge aims to address the issue of accountability in using public money to do so. A recent report estimated that RBS has been involved in £10 billion worth of loans to coal, oil and gas companies since recapitalisation. Contact: [Kevin Smith](#) (tel. 020 7403 3738).

ECCR co-signed a [letter in the Times](#) referring to the use of public money to support investments that run against the public interest, and urging ethical banking as the way forward.

Canada's tar sands: KAIROS delegation statement

The KAIROS Ecumenical Delegation that visited Alberta to learn more about the tar sands' impacts on people and the earth has issued a [concluding statement](#) that tar sands pose complex questions requiring public discussion, independent studies on their cumulative impacts, protection of indigenous peoples' rights, and more regulation for the common good. The delegation statement urges Canada to commit to a sustainable energy policy. Both BP and Shell have operations in Canada's tar sands sector.

Opposition to Anglo American's Alaskan copper and gold project

Anglo American plans to develop a copper and gold mine, the Pebble Project, in southwest Alaska. Company projections indicate the proposed mine would be the largest in North America. Located at the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed, the mine and associated infrastructure threaten a sustainable wild salmon fishery and the Alaska Native communities who depend on it. Concerns surround the risk to water quality and quantity, critical fish habitat, community engagement and lack of transparency. Stakeholders seek UK-based SRI firms to engage Anglo American on these issues. [Further information](#). Contact: [Bonnie Gestring](#), Earthworks (tel. +1 406 549 7361).

New Christian Aid report and campaign *Poverty Over*

ECCR donor-partner Christian Aid wants to inject urgency into the debate about ending poverty. Its new report [Poverty Over](#) addresses how Christian Aid believes global poverty can be eradicated. Urgent action to combat climate change and to address international obstacles to effective taxation are two main campaign priorities. On [taxation](#) Christian Aid advocates that companies be required to declare their profits and tax bills in all countries where they operate, enabling poor countries to recover the billions of dollars they lose every year through tax dodging. The UK government has now taken up the cause of country-by-country reporting.

Responsible and sustainable investment

Investors urged to focus attention on rights of indigenous peoples

ECCR donor-partner EIRIS and Survival International are supporting a UN Principles for Responsible Investment programme to facilitate engagement between investors and companies to promote and respect the rights of the world's 370 million indigenous people. The initiative draws on EIRIS research into challenges and opportunities faced by companies operating where the rights of indigenous peoples are threatened. EIRIS's report, [Indigenous rights: risks and opportunities](#), highlights indigenous rights as a key issue for companies and investors and covers high-risk sectors mining, oil and gas, agricultural produce and forestry paper.

Trusts and foundations should think again on financial risks - EIRIS

Trusts and foundations should consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities to safeguard investment value and protect the interests of future beneficiaries, according to new EIRIS research. [Sustainable returns: The value of environmental, social and governance factors for foundation investments](#) examines why issues such as climate change and corporate governance pose financial risks and opportunities for trusts and foundations and explores the growing evidence that integration of ESG issues can enhance shareowner value. Contact: [Sam Collin](#), EIRIS Foundation Charity Project (tel. +44 (0)20 7840 5738).

New EIRIS green and ethical money website for consumers

EIRIS has launched www.yourethicalmoney.org, a website designed as a one-stop-shop for green and ethical money. Users can learn about how and where their money is invested, search for green and ethical financial products, and find out how they can help make finance more sustainable.

Events

Investing for impact in developing countries, 16 September, London

How charities can invest in developing countries for a social and financial return is the theme of this EIRIS seminar for charity investors. Speakers Dan Sidy (Delsus), Helena Viñes Fiestas (Oxfam), Marilou van Golstein Brouwers (Triodos) and Dr Alan Gillespie (International Finance Facility for Immunisation) will discuss responsible equity investing in developing countries and products such as microfinance and immunisation bonds. Wednesday 16 September 2009, 2.30 to 5.00 pm, Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. For more details or to reserve a place at this free event, please contact [Sam Collin](#) (tel. +44 (0)20 7840 5738).

Microfinance investment summit, 6-7 October, London

UKSIF the sustainable investment and finance association, of which ECCR is now a member, is supporting the [Microfinance Investment Summit](#), which will bring together international microfinance stakeholders from institutional and private investors, donors, microfinance institutions and industry experts to debate and learn. Participants at last year's conference included Credit Suisse, Grameen Foundation, Deutsche Bank and the Cooperative Bank. 6-7 October 2009, London. [Conference programme](#). Discounts available for groups and non-profit organisations. Contact: [Jackie Clements](#) (tel. +44 (0) 20 7878 6906).

National Ethical Investment Week, 8-14 November

The second [National Ethical Investment Week](#) (NEIW), a co-operative campaign promoting green and ethical investment options and involving advisers, charities and trusts, financial organisations, faith groups, NGOs and community groups, will take place from 8 to 14 November 2009. NEIW is co-ordinated by UKSIF and co-sponsored by CCLA Ltd, an ECCR corporate member.

Banks, Ethics and Sustainability: ECCR annual Open Debate, 19 November, London

The financial and banking crisis exposed unacceptable risk-taking and short-termism in the banking sector. Some believe we also face a sustainability crisis in terms of the damaging projects that our banks invest in. Are our financial institutions on the right track? This year's ECCR Open Debate, chaired by Lord Harries of Pentregath (former Bishop of Oxford), will address these concerns with panel speakers from HSBC (invited), Platform/BankTrack, Triodos Bank and the Church Investors Group. Thursday 19 November 2009, 4.30 to 6 pm, Friends House (Small Meeting House), 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. To book a place, please contact [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682).

ECCR announcements

A welcome to new members

ECCR extends a warm welcome to new corporate members Brentwood Quaker Meeting, CCLA Investment Management Ltd, the Diocese of Southwark and URC Northern Synod, and to new individual members who have recently joined. ECCR corporate members are listed at www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-36.html.

Members annual meeting, 19 November, London

ECCR's Members Annual Meeting takes place on Thursday 19 November from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at Friends House, London, followed by our 2009 Open Debate on Banks, Ethics, Sustainability. The meeting will receive ECCR's Annual Accounts and is an opportunity for members to raise issues and make suggestions to ECCR's Board and Secretariat team, to review work over the past year and to consider future plans. All members will receive an invitation and agenda in the autumn. We look forward to seeing many corporate and individual members at the meeting.

ECCR seeks a Treasurer

ECCR has a vacancy for a Treasurer to enhance its work of promoting corporate and investor responsibility. The post holder will maintain an overview of our financial affairs and help ensure our financial viability and effectiveness. The post is honorary, supported by ECCR's Administrator (finance officer). [Further details](#).

Subscription renewals - appreciation

ECCR would like to thank all those members who have set up a standing order for their annual membership renewal, and those who have paid their membership subscription for 2009/10 directly into our account using their membership number as reference. Both these renewal methods help reduce our administrative work.

June *Bulletin* now available

The June issue of ECCR's quarterly [Bulletin](#) features a report on our Dublin conference 'Companies, Communities and Religious Investors' and articles on Settlement products, CAFOD'S dialogue with BHP Billiton concerning its Philippines interests, and how the UK can make the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and more sustainable economy. The *Bulletin* is distributed free to all ECCR members.

Website monthly visits top 5,000

ECCR received 5,323 visits to www.eccr.org.uk in June, our highest ever visit numbers.

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 400 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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