



E-newsletter June 2009

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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<i>Corporate engagement and advocacy</i>
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Canadian tar sands – letters to oil companies

ECCR was among those consulted by Co-operative Asset Management in composing an [investors' letter](#) raising concerns about Canada's highly polluting tar sands with the oil companies involved. The letter, supported by UKSIF and by Ceres in the US, was co-signed by members of the UN Principles for Responsible Investment including ECCR corporate member CCLA Investment Management. ECCR written with corporate member Rathbone Greenbank to BP challenging its involvement in the tar sands sector. Institutional investors that have not yet done so can use and adapt either letter to make their views known to tar sands operating companies. ECCR's letter is [available on request](#).

ECCR is also encouraging concerned individuals to support this engagement. The Co-op Bank has provided a letter for people wishing to write to their pension fund, investment provider or insurer to urge them to support the investors' letter, preferably by 26 June. [Take action](#).

A [Canadian church delegation](#) organised by Kairos who visited northern Alberta in May called for 'deeper public control' and 'greater government regulation' over Canada's natural resources.

Uzbek cotton and child labour

ECCR has co-signed an investors' letter to Juan Somavia, Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), organised by the US Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and others. The letter expresses deep concerns regarding reports of the Uzbek authorities' large-scale coercion of children to harvest cotton. Companies that have instructed suppliers not to use such cotton from Uzbekistan include C&A, Gap, Levi Strauss, Marks & Spencer, Tesco and Wal-Mart. The investors' letter urges the ILO to deploy an expert observer and assessment mission as a prelude to long-term engagement with the Uzbek authorities, including multi-year monitoring. Those interested can learn more by participating in Responsible Cotton Webinars on 17 and 25 June organised by [As You Sow](#). Contact: [Dan Fibiger](#) (+1 415 391 3212 x 45).

Public inquiry on Food and Fairness

How fair is the global food system? Who are the winners and losers? Who is responsible for making it fairer? As news of hunger, obesity and bumper supermarket profits continues to assail us, the Food Ethics Council has launched an [inquiry into Food and Fairness](#) and is calling for evidence. Whether you work in farming or the food business, or simply eat their products, you can give evidence until 16 July 2009. The inquiry will hold public hearings in September, October and November, reporting in spring 2010. Contact: [Santiago Ripoll](#).

Working Group on Mining in the Philippines features in UK press report

John Vidal's report on mining, oil and indigenous peoples in the [Guardian, 13 June](#), referred to the Working Group on Mining in the Philippines and quoted Working Group Chair Clare Short and the group's latest report. ECCR is a member of the group.

ECCR reports now available online

All ECCR research reports published since 2002 are now available for [free download online](#).

Responsible and sustainable investment and banking

New Triodos social venture capital fund makes first investment

ECCR corporate member Triodos's Opportunities Fund has made its first investment, investing £320,000 in Charity Business, which provides shared services for the charity sector. Triodos believes the investment is an ideal fit with its social venture capital fund's mission to deliver social and financial returns to investors by funding the next generation of pioneering social enterprises. The fund has raised nearly £4 million from foundations and individual investors and seeks to invest between £200,000 and £750,000 in social enterprises with a proven business model. Social enterprises interested in how the fund can support their growth can visit www.triodos.co.uk or send their business plan to lookingforcapital@triodos.co.uk. Investors interested in participating in the fund can contact [Alex Connor](#) (020 7138 3215).

Triodos wins sustainable banking award

The *Financial Times* and the IFC have chosen Triodos as the winner of the sustainable bank of the year award, a title previously won by global giants including HSBC and ABN Amro. The judges said they'd had to balance the difference a big bank can make by implementing small changes against a pioneer that offers an entirely new model for the future of the beleaguered banking industry. Triodos, which only lends them to ethical businesses and charities, operates in the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Germany. Through management of three microfinance funds it lends to and invests in over 85 microfinance institutions in 38 countries across Africa, Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe. [More about the award](#).

ECCR to moderate panel at Faith in Capitalism conference, 16 June, London

Miles Litvinoff of ECCR will moderate Panel 2 'How can investors do good while making money?' at [Faith in Capitalism](#) on 16 June 2009 at the Islamic Cultural Centre London, an event co-sponsored by CCLA. Panel speakers: Adam Ognall, UKSIF; Helen Wildsmith, CCLA; Naveen Raza, consultant on Islamic finance; and Mark Campanale, Four Elements Capital.

Public meeting: Defending Migrants' Rights in East London, 16 June, London

Hackney Refugee & Migrant Support Group is hosting a public meeting to share information and build solidarity in support of migrants in East London. This will be of interest to everyone concerned about the impact of tough immigration policies and the rise of the Far Right on our diverse communities. 7– 9 pm, Tuesday 16 June 2009, Praxis Hall, Pott Street, Bethnal Green, London E2. Details: hrmsgroup@googlemail.com; tel. 07791 991416.

For charities: Mission Impossible? 18 June, London

Are your investments and corporate partnerships in line with your mission? This free EIRIS 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, 9.30 to 11.30 am, Deloitte, 3 New Street Square, London EC4A 3BT. To book a place, please contact [Andrew Jones](#) or [Victoria Woodbridge](#) (020 7840 5701).

National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW), November 2009

Planning has begun for NEIW09, which will be held this year from 8-14 November and sponsored by CCLA. NEIW will bring together advisers, charities and trusts, financial organisations, faith groups, NGOs and community groups to spread the word about green and ethical investing. For ways to get involved, visit www.neiw.org or contact [Stephanie Walker](#) at UKSIF.

Redeeming the Market? event report

A report is now available on the public meeting [Redeeming the Market?](#) held by ECCR West Midlands Group in Birmingham on 18 May 2009. ECCR West Midlands will continue to meet on a regular basis and can now invite a wider group to regular meetings. People in the area are invited to get in touch. Contact: Barbara Hayes.

Mainly for members

Churches speak together on International Development

The economic crisis may well reverse some of the development progress achieved in the past few years. Four churches responded to the Department for International Development White Paper consultation 'Eliminating World Poverty' encouraging the government to recognise the role of the church in sustaining and building communities worldwide. The joint response from the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Methodist Church, Quaker Peace & Social Witness and the United Reformed Church is available [here](#).

Members Annual Meeting, 19 November 2009, London

ECCR's Members Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday 19 November from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at Friends House, London, and will be followed by our annual Open Debate (details to follow). The

meeting will review work over the past year and consider future plans. We look forward to seeing many corporate and individual members at the meeting.

In the June *Bulletin*

ECCR's June *Bulletin* features a report of the Dublin conference on Companies, Communities and Religious Investors and articles on settlement products from the Occupied West Bank, CAFOD's dialogue with BHP Billiton on the Philippines Hallmark nickel project, and how the UK could move faster towards a low-carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable economy. Copies of the issue have been slightly delayed this month as a result of our cover redesign. Non-members can [request a sample copy](#).

The September issue of the *Bulletin* will focus on supply chain issues.

Internal programme evaluation

ECCR has undertaken an internal evaluation of its work during 2008/9. A summary evaluation report is available to members on request and will be included in reports to donor-partners. In September ECCR will begin an evaluation of its 2007-10 work programme alongside planning for the next three years. Members can contribute their thoughts and suggestions on 19 November (see below), via the evaluation questionnaire in December/January, and/or by contacting any Board or [team member](#).

Subscription renewals - appreciation

ECCR would like to thank members who have paid subscriptions into our account directly using their membership number as reference. This has helped reduce ECCR's administrative work.

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 close to 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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