



**Dear ECCR members, partners and friends**

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*Corporate engagement and advocacy*

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

ECCR's new research report, *Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business*, is published this month. The report provides an overview of issues affecting migrant workers employed in Britain and Ireland and comparative analysis of the policy and practice towards migrant workers of nine major food production, manufacture and retail (supermarket) companies.

Members and partners will receive a printed copy of the full report (corporates) or executive summary (individuals) shortly, along with action guides for investors and churches. The report and action guides will also be available for download from 18 May at [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk).

Mark Mansley of report sponsors Rathbone Greenbank Investments will chair a [launch event](#) on Thursday 28 May, 5.00 to 6.30 pm, at Rathbone Brothers, 159 New Bond Street, London W1S 2UD. Speakers: Antonia Bance, Oxfam GB; Sunniva Taylor, ECCR; Paul Whitehouse, Gangmasters Licensing Authority. To book, please contact Helen Boothroyd ([helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk](mailto:helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk), tel. 01325 580028) or Miles Litvinoff ([miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk](mailto:miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk), 020 8965 9682).

### **Submission on mining in the Philippines to the Joint Committee on Human Rights**

ECCR and its partners in the Working Group on Mining in the Philippines made a joint submission in response to the UK parliamentary committee's call for evidence on business and human rights. The submission focuses on the threat to human rights, particularly the human right to food, posed by existing and proposed mining by global companies in the Philippines, based on the Working Group's recent publication [Philippines: Mining or Food?](#). The submission, which will shortly be available on ECCR's website, can be downloaded from [Philippine Indigenous Peoples Links](#) (PIPLinks).

### **Royal Dutch Shell Corrib dispute continues - call for observers**

Twenty-six Goldman International Environmental Prize recipients have written to the President and Prime Minister of Ireland to express concern about recent developments in County Mayo, where peaceful community protests have met with violence. Following physical attacks on [Goldman Prize recipient protestor Willie Corduff](#), Archbishop Desmond Tutu has also issued a [statement of concern](#). Vincent McGrath, chair of community group Pobal Chill Chomáin, has written to the [Irish Times](#) questioning the legal status of Shell's current project works and urging Shell, Statoil, Marathon and the Irish Government to work for an agreed solution to the conflict.

Volunteers are sought to join independent observer teams providing 'objective and first-hand assessment' of the policing of protests and to record Garda (police) actions against protestors that are 'improper, unjustified or unwise'. If interested please contact Sr Majella McCarron, Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles, Ardfoyle, Ballintemple, Cork, Ireland (majella\_mccarron@yahoo.co.uk, +353 (0)87 6283835).

### **Shell Nigeria: trial in US and gas flaring campaign**

In the case of *Wiwa v Shell*, a US judge has denied Shell's motion to dismiss the lawsuit over the 1995 execution of Nigerian activists, reports the [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#). A joint initiative of Friends of the Earth, Oil Change International and Platform/Remember Saro-Wiwa is launching an international week of action, 19-26 May, against Shell's 40 years of gas flaring, including an [email action](#) addressed to Shell's outgoing CEO, Jeroen van der Veer. Further details from Ben Amunwa ([ben@remembersarowiwa.com](mailto:ben@remembersarowiwa.com), +44 (0)20 7357 0055).

### **New CORE report on UK companies' human rights abuses overseas**

A new report from the Corporate Responsibility (CORE) Coalition and the London School of Economics, [The Reality of Rights: Barriers to accessing remedies when business operates beyond borders](#), finds that in cases of alleged human rights violations, political, social and economic obstacles have often led to victims not receiving adequate redress. Based on examples from Kenya, India, Bangladesh, Georgia and Nigeria, the report proposes a new UK Commission on Business, Human Rights and the Environment to provide guidance to companies and act as a forum for hearing and resolving allegations of infringements. More information from Hannah Ellis ([hannah.ellis@corporate-responsibility.org](mailto:hannah.ellis@corporate-responsibility.org), +44 (0)20 7566 1601).

### **Tacking youth unemployment in the UK – Exwin Collection on work-related issues**

'The problem of youth unemployment must be tackled, recession or no recession,' writes John Cridland, deputy director-general of the CBI, in the latest magazine from the Edinburgh-based [Exwin Collection](#), edited by ECCR member Ro Pengelly. Other features in this issue focus on the work of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, the concept of social return on investment, and good practice in addressing workplace needs of people with disabilities and long-term health problems.

## *Responsible investment*

### **FairPensions report reveals gaps in funds' risk management and accountability**

[\*Investor Responsibility?\*](#), a new report from ECCR corporate member FairPensions, shows that UK pension funds are acknowledging the potential of environmental, social or corporate governance (ESG) issues to affect the value of investments but many still lack strategies to manage these risks. The research includes a 'league table' of the UK's 30 largest pension funds, almost half of which do not disclose their largest investments. FairPensions is also releasing a 'self-assessment' survey of questions for pension fund members to ask their funds. More details from Duncan Exley (duncan@fairpensions.org.uk, 020 7403 7806).

### **Financial institutions fail to manage environmental, social and governance risks, EIRIS finds**

Research from EIRIS finds only a quarter of companies are adequately managing their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks. [\*At risk? - How companies manage ESG issues at board level\*](#) focuses on 2,200 companies listed on the FTSE All-World Developed Index to track progress on managing ESG risk issues over a three year period to 2008. By incorporating ESG criteria into their investment decision-making and ownership practices, EIRIS argues, investors can directly influence companies to improve their sustainability performance. Companies not already doing this are at risk of incurring significant costs.

## *Events*

### **Companies, Communities and Religious Investors: Dublin conference report**

Following the well-attended conference co-organised in Dublin in March by ECCR and seven other church- and faith-based bodies, a full [conference report](#) is now available online, along with conference presentations. A shorter report will appear in the June issue of ECCR's *Bulletin*.

### **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, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX (opposite Moor Street Station). For more information please contact Barbara Hayes (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 5.00 pm, in London. The event will explore environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities for investors. Organised by ECCR donor-partner the EIRIS Foundation and chaired by the Friends Provident Foundation, with expert speakers from the investment community. To book a place please contact Sam Collin (sam.collin@eiris.org, 020 7840 5738).

***Mission Impossible?*** - a free event for charities to 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. Places are limited. Please contact Victoria Woodbridge (victoria@eiris.org, 020 7840 5701).

### **Churches' Refugee Network Conference, 6 June, London**

[From Asylum ... to Sanctuary - restoring wholeness: refugee journeys to social integration](#) is the theme of a conference organised by the Churches Refugee Network and the Migrants Resource Centre. The event will explore new ideas, good practice and contacts and include music, worship and a photo exhibition. Saturday 6 June, 10.30 am to 4 pm, Holy Apostles Hall, Cumberland Street, London SW1V 4LY. Bookings and further details: Wendy Cooper (wendy.cooper@urc.org.uk, 020 7916 8632).

### **Empowering Women: The Oikocredit Experience, 11 June, Amersfoort, Netherlands**

Across the world, many women lack access to education, property and financial services. As a consequence, women also make up the vast majority of the world's poor. Microfinance programmes providing credit to women contribute to poverty alleviation and have a positive impact on the living conditions of women, their households and their community. At [Oikocredit's symposium](#), national and international speakers on development and microfinance will present their visions on women's empowerment. Oikocredit UK is an ECCR corporate member.

### **Faith in Capitalism, 3iG (International Interfaith Investors Group), 16 June, London**

'Making money and stewarding it responsibly' is the theme of this [3iG](#) event for financial representatives of faith institutions and investment management professionals. Presentations will include a keynote address and panel discussions on what faith tells us about responsible investing and how investors can do good while making money. Event sponsors are the Three Faiths Forum, the London Central Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre, and the Fortune Group. Tuesday 16 June, 09.30 to 12.30, Islamic Cultural Centre, Central Mosque, Regents Park, London. Registration details are available from Imogen Banks (imogenbanks@imprintevents.com, +44 (0)1892 822128). ECCR is a 3iG associate member.

*Mainly for members*

### **New corporate and Board members**

ECCR is very pleased to welcome two new corporate members: the Apostolic Pastoral Association (full member) and Triodos Bank (associate member).

A warm welcome also to four new Board members: Ian Halstead of L&P Financial Trustees; Rev. Angela Overton-Benge of the Industrial Mission Association; individual associate member Rev. David de Verny; and Victoria Woodbridge of EIRIS.

### **Taking action on climate change**

ECCR corporate member Quaker Peace & Social Witness has produced a pack for people to learn more about, reflect on and take action on climate change. [Responding to climate change](#) is a set of six briefings providing information on the causes, impacts and consequences of climate change; some of the proposed ways of managing it; the current international negotiations; and reflection points. Printed copies are available from Sunniva Taylor (sunnivat@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1047).

### **Membership renewals**

Members will shortly receive an invitation to renew for 2009/10. We very much hope you will want to continue supporting ECCR and being involved in our work. A prompt response will help us keep down the cost of sending reminders.

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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