

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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Migrant Workers: Rights and Responsibilities, ECCR debate, 20 November, London - final reminder

Places are still available for members and non-members to join us for [ECCR's annual panel debate](#), chaired by Lord Harries of Pentregarth (former Bishop of Oxford). Speakers: Paul Whitehouse of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Eamon O'Hearn Large of the GMB union, Barbara Storey of S.o.S Polonia migrant workers project, and Revd David de Verny, former Ecumenical Chaplain with New Arrival Communities in Lincolnshire. Thursday 20 November 2008, 4.30 – 6.00 p.m., Friends House (Small Meeting House), Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. RSVP to [Miles Litvinoff](#), 020 8965 9682.

Members Annual Meeting, 20 November, London – final reminder

All ECCR members are warmly invited to attend the Members Annual Meeting (MAM) where ECCR's [Annual Report](#) and Accounts will be presented for discussion of our past year's work and future plans. Partners are welcome to inform us that they wish to attend as guests. The MAM takes place on Thursday 20 November, 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. - preceding the panel debate - at Friends House (Small Meeting House), London. Light refreshments available at 3.45 p.m.

Church Investors Group and ECCR issue joint statement on ways of working

After a period of dialogue, the [Church Investors Group](#) (CIG) and ECCR have issued a [joint statement](#) clarifying their respective roles in promoting corporate responsibility and ethical investment. Besides being published on both organisations' websites and circulated to members, the statement will be used as appropriate in dealings with companies to avoid confusion around identity.

ECCR's Researcher Suzanne Ismail will give a talk about water consumption issues in the food and drinks industries to the Church Investors Group on 24 November. Suzanne researched and wrote ECCR's recent report [Water Sustainability: Meeting the Challenge](#).

New CAFOD report highlights negative impacts of mining in the Philippines

ECCR donor partner CAFOD has published [Kept in the Dark](#), a new report on community divisions, alleged bribery and serious environmental problems caused by mining in Macambol in the Philippines by BHP Billiton joint venture partner AMCOR. The report's publication gained considerable media coverage. CAFOD raised its concerns at the BHP Billiton AGM last month, has called on BHP Billiton, AMCOR and the Philippine government to address the issues outlined in the report, and is urging supporters to [take action](#).

Also at the BHP Billiton AGM, ECCR Board member Frank Nally challenged the company over its greenhouse gas emissions.

Launch of the new report from the Working Group on Mining in the Philippines, of which ECCR is a member, focusing on the trade-off between the expansion of mining and food security, has been deferred to early in 2009 and will be announced shortly.

Sierra Club plans Shell shareholder resolution on Arctic operations

The US [Sierra Club](#) plans to bring a shareholders' resolution to Royal Dutch Shell's 2009 AGM, focusing on risks to shareholder value from proposed company operations in Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi seas. Sierra seek co-filers for the resolution. To request a copy of the resolution wording and supporting statement, and for further information, please contact [Mathew Kirby](#) or [Athan Manuel](#), 1 202-548-4580 / 202-716-0006.

New online portal profiles human rights lawsuits against companies

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) has launched the world's first [online portal](#) profiling human rights lawsuits against companies. The portal summarises in non-legal language over 35 cases currently and presents commentaries by experts. Cases profiled include AngloGold Ashanti - sued in South Africa over miners suffering from silicosis; BHP Billiton - sued in Australia and Papua New Guinea over mining pollution in Papua New Guinea; Chevron/Texaco - sued in Ecuador over alleged pollution damaging environment and health; Dow/Union Carbide - sued in India and the US following the Bhopal disaster; Shell - sued in the Netherlands for alleged negligence in cleaning up oil spills in Nigeria, and in the US over alleged complicity in killings of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni activists; Yahoo! - sued in the US for handing information to Chinese officials leading to detention and alleged torture of dissidents.

New Corporate Responsibility (CORE) Coalition report calls for tighter regulation

Against the backdrop of the global financial crisis, the Corporate Responsibility (CORE) Coalition, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and Rights and Accountability in Development (RAID) have published a report calling for tighter regulation of companies and financial institutions. [Fit for Purpose? A Review of the UK National Contact Point \(NCP\) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) argues for government action to provide guidance to companies operating in weak governance or conflict zones and to strengthen the human rights provision of the OECD Guidelines. The report includes contributions from Amnesty International UK, The Corner House, Global Witness, the London Mining Network and SPEAK.

Opportunities for Green Investment, 17 November, London

An [EIRIS](#) seminar for charity staff and trustees to explore opportunities and trends in environmentally responsible investment and how it can help charities to safeguard the environment for future generations by supporting green initiatives or avoiding environmentally damaging industries. The event will feature presentations from Co-operative Asset Management and Impax Group and cover issues such as: What is the state of company practice on the environment? What environmental issues can be considered in investments? What are the opportunities for investing in green sectors? How does all of this fit with fiduciary duty and the need for good financial performance? How does this work in practice? What are other charity investors doing? Monday 17 November 2008, 2.30 to 5.30 pm Wellcome Collection Conference Centre, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE. Registration and further details: [Sam Collin](#), 020 7840 5738, www.charitysri.org/events.html.

Tax Competition: How does it affect the developing world?, 25 November, London

Neville White of ECCR member CCLA will chair this [JustShare](#) debate, with speakers Richard Murphy of the Tax Justice Network, who will discuss impacts and costs of tax competition for the developing world and suggest reforms for greater transparency and fairness, and Paul Morton of the Chartered Institute of Taxation giving a personal view including why tax competition is inevitable, how appropriate competition can be desirable and how large corporates can contribute to development. There will be time for audience questions and discussion during the debate and afterwards over Fairtrade wine and soft drinks. Tuesday 25 November, 6 p.m., St Mary-le-Bow church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU.

Climate change: World Council of Churches again declares for Contraction & Convergence

On the need to develop an effective international post-2012 framework for tackling dangerous climate change, the [WCC says](#): 'Let us acknowledge that the use of the atmosphere - being a Global Commons - has to be shared equally and justly. Let us conclude therefore that we cannot let political power, the market and technology based economic competition decide on how the use of the atmosphere will be distributed. Therefore we once more point to the [Contraction and Convergence](#) model as a valuable starting point for deliberations and negotiations.'

Barbara Hayes to step down from ECCR Board

Barbara Hayes, one of ECCR's longest-standing Board members, retires from the Board on 20 November. Barbara, who is Senior Diocesan Industrial Chaplain at Birmingham International Airport, has served ECCR for many years, notably as Chair from 2001 to 2005, as a Board member, and as a key member of ECCR's Oxford Group. ECCR owes a great deal to Barbara for her knowledgeable, committed and enthusiastic work for ECCR over the years. She now plans to focus her ECCR time with our recently formed [West Midlands Group](#).

ECCR welcomes news items for its monthly e-newsletter from members and partners. Please send to [Miles Litvinoff](#).

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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