

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

In this email:

- Helen Boothroyd, ECCR's new Church and Membership Relations Officer
- AGM and open debate on Water Sustainability
- ECCR research
- Shell update
- Corporate Responsibility Coalition (CORE) initiative on the new Companies Act
- Supporting HDG Mansur janitors and US clergy
- Mining in the Philippines: report on House of Commons meeting, 17 September
- FairPensions seeks new Chair of Trustees
- ECCR presenting at 3iG Paris meeting
- New EIRIS/UKSIF Charity Project responsible investment website
- Ely Business Ethics Forum - Ethical Management & Moral Leadership

Helen Boothroyd, ECCR's new Church and Membership Relations Officer

We are delighted to welcome Helen Boothroyd, who has joined ECCR as Church and Membership Relations Officer. Helen is based in Brampton, Cumbria. Working with ECCR part-time, she will also continue as Social Responsibility Development Officer with Churches Together in Cumbria. Helen has previously worked with the Iona Community and with Manchester City Council and has considerable experience working with church leaders, denominational contacts, and ecumenical and interfaith structures. We believe Helen will be a real asset to ECCR.

Helen's ECCR role will include outreach to churches and to ECCR members. In due course she will take over administration of ECCR's membership database and systems from Binia Scherrer. Helen can be contacted at helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk, tel. +44 (0)16977 46567 and by post via the Oxford office.

AGM and open debate on Water Sustainability

Many thanks to those members and friends who attended ECCR's AGM and/or the open debate on 27 September. Minutes of the AGM will be available in due course. A report of the open debate can be downloaded from the website News page at www.eccr.org.uk/news_main.html and will also be published in the December *Bulletin*. If you have comments on either the AGM or the debate, please contact Miles Litvinoff (miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk, +44 (0)20 8965 9682).

ECCR research

ECCR will review its research strategy over the coming months, with a view to scaling up its research output during 2008. A suggestion has been made that ECCR members requiring a specific piece of research work undertaken to help inform their dialogue with companies and/or investment fund managers could contact the ECCR team, and we will see if it is possible to provide this research. If you would like to comment on ECCR's research generally, or request a specific piece of work, please contact Suzanne Ismail (suzannei@quaker.org.uk, +44 (0)20 7663 1055) or Miles Litvinoff.

A new ECCR report on water consumption in the food and beverage sectors is due for publication in late 2007 or early 2008.

Shell update

In County Mayo, Ireland, Royal Dutch Shell is reported as starting to construct its controversial gas processing plant at Ballinaboy. ECCR believes that the community tensions resulting from Shell's failure to achieve genuine understanding with local people prior to commencing the Corrib project will last for years to come. We are still willing to facilitate visits to County Mayo for institutional investors in Shell who remain concerned about impacts on local communities. Please contact Miles Litvinoff in the first instance.

ECCR has been assured by Shell that it will be invited to its next meeting with the UK responsible investor community, early in 2008.

ECCR will also contribute to a consultation meeting on the impact of extractive industries on local communities in Nigeria organised by the Dutch church-based NGO and ECCR donor Cordaid. The meeting takes place in Cameroon in late October and will include representatives of ECCR's Nigerian partner organisation the Centre for Social and Corporate Responsibility, the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Stakeholder Democracy Network, Pax Christi Netherlands and the University of Amsterdam.

Corporate Responsibility Coalition (CORE) initiative on the new Companies Act

ECCR recently co-signed an open letter to Gordon Brown initiated by CORE advocating a coherent cross-governmental agenda on corporate accountability and a permanent advisory body on business responsibility issues that would facilitate dialogue between diverse stakeholder groups and inform government policy. The letter can be read at www.corporate-responsibility.org/, along with a copy of CORE's new campaigners' guide to the Companies Act.

Supporting HDG Mansur janitors and US clergy

ECCR has been approached by representatives of the Interfaith Worker Justice organisation in Chicago, Il, to support the living wage campaign of low-paid African-American janitors in the Indianapolis offices of international property and financial management company HDG Mansur. The company has reportedly refused a number of times to meet with worker representatives or the clergy who are supporting them in their struggle for better working conditions and a living wage. ECCR has written to Mansur's chief executive and to HSBC and Deutsche Bank in London; both banks are involved in Mansur's recently launched London- (LSE-) listed Shariah-compliant real estate finance fund.

ECCR is supporting this initiative because it sees a major conflict of values between, on the one hand, the company's offering a faith-compliant investment fund and, on the other, acting towards a local workforce in a way that appears to affront their human dignity and contradict the basic principles of the world religions. A delegation of janitors and clergy are due in London to try to meet with the company and its financial backers in early November. Further information is available from Miles Litvinoff.

Mining in the Philippines: report on House of Commons meeting, 17 September

Ekklesia's report on the House of Commons meeting at which Philippine Bishops Gutierrez and Pueblos asked for help 'to stop destructive mining' in their country' is available from the ECCR website at www.eccr.org.uk/docs/0709_bishops_challenge_mining.rtf. 'It is a lie to say that poor people are being helped' by the mining, the Bishops said. The full report *Mining in the Philippines: Concerns and Conflicts* is available at www.columban.com/MininginthePhilippines_ConcernsandConflicts%5b1%5d.pdf. ECCR can provide

information on which companies and London-based banks and financial institutions are currently or potentially understood to be involved in the Philippine mining sector.

FairPensions seeks new Chair of Trustees

ECCR corporate associate member FairPensions is seeking a new Chair of Trustees. A job description and further details are available at www.fairpensions.org.uk. Closing date 31 October 2007. For more information please contact Stephen Hine (stephen.hine@eiris.org) or Alex van der Velden (alex@fairpensions.org.uk).

ECCR presenting at 3iG Paris meeting

ECCR will join a panel with ICCR and the Tri-State Coalition for Responsible Investment at the 3iG Conference on Faith-Consistent Investing in Paris on 16 November. For more information: www.3ignet.org.

New EIRIS/UKSIF Charity Project responsible investment website

ECCR partner EIRIS and UKSIF have announced the launch of their new website aiming to provide clear comprehensive guidance on how charities can invest ethically. Visit: www.charitysri.org.

Ely Business Ethics Forum - Ethical Management & Moral Leadership

Ely Cathedral is holding its third annual Business Ethics Seminar on 25th & 26th October at The Bishops Palace in Ely. The subject is Ethical Management & Moral Leadership. High profile speakers will lead the event, which will bring together people from business and the voluntary sector to explore 'ethical issues that concern everyone'. Details are available at www.cathedral.ely.anglican.org/corporate/business_ethics.html.

With all good wishes

Miles Litvinoff

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