

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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ECCR annual open debate: Migrant Workers in the Economy, 20 November, central London

Migrant workers now make up a significant proportion of the UK workforce but remain one of the most vulnerable, and often abused, groups of workers. What are their rights and what responsibilities does our society have towards them? ECCR's panel debate, chaired by ECCR's Patron, Lord Harries of Pentregarth (former Bishop of Oxford), features 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 the 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. All are welcome. RSVP Miles Litvinoff, miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk, 020 8965 9682. Online details at www.eccr.org.uk/Article111.html. Please help us promote this event by displaying the attached flyer in your church or organisation and forwarding it to your contacts.

ECCR Annual Report and Members Annual Meeting, 20 November

ECCR's new-look Annual Report 2007/8 is due to be mailed to members and partners later this week, along with notice and agenda for the Members Annual Meeting, to be held on Thursday 20 November from 2.30 to 3.30 at Friends House (Small Meeting House), London. All members welcome; partners may attend as guests. The Annual Report is available online at www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-39.html. The latest Annual Accounts will be posted on the same page when available.

Making it happen: implementing the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, EIRIS seminar, 31 October, London

Just over two years after the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) were launched, the initiative has garnered support of over 360 institutions representing more than US\$15 trillion in assets. The UN PRI, an investor initiative in partnership with UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, was designed to align the goals of the institutional investor and sustainable development objectives of the United Nations. What can asset owners and managers do to embed the idea of sustainability into investment management and encourage better corporate environmental, social and governance practices? Speakers: Donald MacDonald, Chair, UN PRI; Georg Kell, Executive Director, UN Global Compact; James Gifford, Executive Director, UN PRI; Colin Melvin, CEO, Hermes Equity Ownership

Services. During the seminar EIRIS will present findings from its 2008 report on the state of CSR. Friday 31 October 2008, 08.30 am -12.00, Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL. Admission free. Registration and further details: Sam Collin, sam.collin@eiris.org, 020 7840 5738.

Opportunities for Green Investment, EIRIS seminar, 17 November, London

A 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, sam.collin@eiris.org, 020 7840 5738, www.charitysri.org/events.html.

ICCR statement on the financial market failure

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a coalition of nearly 300 mainly US faith-based institutional investors, representing over \$100 billion in invested capital, has issued a statement on the current credit and financial crisis. Spokesperson Rev. Seamus Finn, OMI, said: 'Had the prescient advice of faith-based investors been heeded, every evidence suggests that it would have prevented, or at the very least diminished, the impact of this meltdown ... ICCR will continue to engage the remaining corporations in the financial sector around the core issues that flow from their mission to build a more just and sustainable world for people everywhere.' The full statement can be read at www.iccr.org/news/press_releases/2008/pr_financialcrisis09.26.08.htm.

New report on Canadian oil/tar sands from PLATFORM and Greenpeace

Under the boreal forest of northern Alberta lie the Canadian tar sands - a mix of bitumen, sand and clay whose exploitation is set to sharply increase the chance of passing a climate change tipping-point. Shell and BP have ramped up investment in the tar sands sector, and calls are growing for the shareholders of these companies to halt expansion. *BP and Shell: Rising Risks in Tar Sands Investments*, a new report by Greenpeace and PLATFORM, endorsed by The Co-operative Group, the Carbon Disclosure Project, Henderson Global Investors, EIRIS, FairPensions, Rathbone Greenbank and ECCR, is available at <http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/canada/en/documents-and-links/publications/bp-and-shell-rising-risks-in.pdf>.

Aldersgate Group letter to Gordon Brown on mandatory carbon reporting

ECCR was a co-signatory of a letter to PM Gordon Brown from the Aldersgate Group urging inclusion of a mandatory carbon reporting standard in the Climate Change Bill. The letter can be read at <http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2008/10/13/GordonBrownLetter.doc.pdf>.

Faith, Values and Business, 4 October, Manchester – brief report

Faith, Values and Business, ECCR's public meeting in Manchester on 4 October, heard from a range of excellent speakers including corporate members Gaeia Partnership, Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission, Oikocredit and Traidcraft Exchange on the challenge to businesses and investors of taking greater responsibility for impacts on communities and the environment through policy and practice, and exploring options for values-based, mission-related and social investment. For a more detailed report please see www.eccr.org.uk/News-article-sid-109.html.

ECCR would like to increase awareness of its work, and of the issues around corporate and investor responsibility, within the church community. We would be delighted to provide a speaker for regional or local meetings and events. If any group or organisation that you are involved with would be interested in a visiting ECCR speaker, please contact Helen Boothroyd, Church and Membership Relations Officer: helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk, 01325 580028.

Impacts of mining on women: short film from the Philippines

Friends of the Earth Philippines has produced a short film about the experiences of Southern women affected by large-scale mining projects, recorded at a civil society conference held in December 2007. The film can be watched at www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCRoIUc6xy4.

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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