

ECCR

*The Ecumenical Council
for Corporate Responsibility*

Annual Report 2006 - 2007

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly,

love mercy and

walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6, 1-8

*ECCR works to promote corporate responsibility
in the Church, and in companies, in response to
the Church's mission to work for*

- justice in and through economic structures and*
- responsible stewardship of the earth's resources.*

Chair's comments

In 2006/7 ECCR reviewed its mission and strategy and embarked on a new work programme. With a clearer mission statement and objectives, as printed on the back cover of this Annual Report, we hope to perform more effectively. The essence of what we do will, however, remain unchanged as we follow the calling of our faith to work for economic justice.

We mourn the passing of Juliet Peck, who died in January 2007. Juliet's contribution to ECCR, and her personal bravery, will be sadly missed.

Rev. Crispin White, who did so much to build up ECCR in earlier years, has relinquished his ties with us. We wish him the very best.

We have strengthened ECCR's Board with the election of Sr Denise Boyle, Matt Crossman and Charlotte Osborn. I would like to welcome each of them. Three Board vacancies remain for representatives of full member organisations, and I would encourage any full corporate member not represented to consider making a nomination.

I would also like to welcome Rosalie Squires as ECCR's new Treasurer and to thank Rosalie's employers, Gotham Erskine, for making this possible.

ECCR's appreciation is also due to Rev. Raymond Singh for his valuable work as Vice-Chair, to Stan Lee for taking on the role of Company Secretary, and to Rev. Stephen Hazlett for his brief but much valued period of service on the Board. We wish Stephen every future success.

We are grateful to the Methodist Central Finance Board for our continuing use of its Bonhill Street offices for meetings and as our registered address; similarly to the Religious Society of Friends for our use of facilities at Friends House and the Friends Meeting House in Oxford.

More thanks are due to Bridget Walker, who ably facilitated ECCR's strategic review in 2006/7; to Clive Gillam, who served as our accountant until last year; to all my colleagues on the Board for their time and commitment; to ECCR's hard-working freelance team; to our valued donors and partner organisations; and not least to our corporate and individual members – both active and otherwise – without whom ECCR could not function as it does.

Lee Coates

Research, Publishing and Corporate Engagement

In June 2006 ECCR published *Rio Tinto - Revisiting the Principles* on the mining multinational's operations and impacts, including case studies and a response from the company. The launch was noted in the *Church Times*, and the report was cited in a BBC World television interview with the Rio Tinto chairman.

ECCR was later contacted on behalf of Madagascan residents who considered that one of Rio Tinto's subsidiaries was failing to take full account of community concerns. We investigated the matter and undertook a dialogue with the company that we believe may have contributed to improved community relations. ECCR members also engaged with the company.

In October we published *The Bench Marks: A User's Guide* to help members and others use the *Bench Marks* to assess and report on company behaviour.

Dialogue with Royal Dutch Shell and contacts with representatives of communities affected by its operations continue. The Oxford Group met Shell senior managers in September 2006 to discuss Corrib (Ireland), and in March 2007 ECCR representatives visited and reported on the gas project.

At Shell's AGM in May 2007 we requested information for shareholders on estimated costs of performance problems. With our Nigerian partners the Centre for Social and Corporate Responsibility we met with Shell's Social Responsibility Committee in early June.

ECCR Board member Fr Frank Nally co-authored the 2006 fact-finding mission report *Mining in the Philippines – Concerns and Conflicts*. We helped disseminate the report and raise awareness of the issues and risks during 2007. Members and partners requested additional copies, raised concerns with companies involved, or indicated that they would consider doing so.

Our research with the Bench Marks Foundation continues into mining company BHP Billiton's corporate responsibility policy and practice in South Africa. Work also began on ECCR's next full research report on water consumption among food and beverage companies.

Membership, Meetings and Communications

ECCR held its AGM in September 2006 at Methodist Church House, followed by a well-attended open debate, *Flying in the Face of Climate Change?* An excellent panel of speakers led an informed audience in a stimulating discussion on aviation and the environment.

In early 2007 we organised a meeting in the English Midlands on corporate responsibility, shareholder engagement and working in local groups, and we led workshops at the Ecumenical World Development Consultation and at SPEAK's 'Soundcheck 07' weekend.

ECCR consulted with members and other stakeholders during the year, both to inform our strategic review and programme planning, and to 'map' approaches to ethical investment, extractive industries and other sectors. The consultation helped us clarify our strategic purpose and prepare a new work programme for 2007-10.

Four quarterly *Bulletin* issues were published, along with monthly e-newsletters. Media coverage in the *Church Times* included a report on the open debate and an article on faith-based investment. We chose a web company to develop ECCR's new website and investigated possibilities for a new small London office.

International Partnerships and Projects

In October 2006 ECCR co-organised with two Prague-based partners an EU-funded Workshop on Churches, Civil Society, Multinational Companies and Corporate Responsibility in Central and Eastern Europe. Church and civil society delegates devoted two days to discussing environmental, social and governance issues facing the CEE region and approaches to shareholder engagement. A workshop report was published, and partners and participants are seeking further opportunities for collaboration.

We continued to participate in the European Faith-based Extractives Shareholder Engagement Network, initiated by the CIDSE Catholic development alliance. The network aims to support faith-based investors' work with communities affected by extractive industries. ECCR helped CIDSE and partners prepare an appeal on the impacts on human development of oil, mining and logging, launched at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya.

We maintained contact with our main *Bench Marks* partners: the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (USA), Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, the Christian Centre for Socially Responsible Investment (Australia) and the Bench Marks Foundation of Southern Africa (BeFSA, South Africa).

People

The Board

Lee Coates (Chair)
Rev. Raymond Singh
(Vice-Chair)
Stan Lee
(Co. Secretary from Feb. 2007)
Sr Denise Boyle*
Matt Crossman*
Rev. Stephen Hazlett*
Barbara Hayes
Stephen Hucklesby
Fr Frank Nally
Sr Daphne Norden
Charlotte E. Osborn*
Juliet Peck (died Jan. 2007)
Rev. Daniel Otieno-Ndale

Ethical Investors Group
United Reformed Church

Religious Society of Friends

St Patrick's Missionary Society
Rathbone Greenbank Investments
Industrial Mission Association
Individual associate member
Methodist Church
Society of St Columban
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries
Industrial Mission Association
Individual associate member
Baptist Union

Treasurer: David Cooke* (Co. Secretary to Feb. 2007), Rosalie Squires*

Accountant: Clive Gillam FCA*

Freelance team: James Cooper (Webmaster), Suzanne Ismail (Research), Miles Litvinoff (Co-ordination), Binia Scherrer (Administration).

* Joined or left during the year.

Finance

We are grateful for funding during 2006/7 from CAFOD, Christian Aid, Cordaid (Netherlands), the EIRIS Foundation, the European Union, the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, St Patrick's Missionary Society (Ireland) and Trócaire (Ireland). ECCR's financial and reporting year runs from 1 June to 31 May. Full accounts can be obtained at the AGM on 27 September 2007 and on request.

Membership

Full members

CCLA Investment Management Ltd (Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group)
Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Christian Aid
Diocese of Oxford
Industrial Mission Association
Missionary Society of St Columban
Religious Society of Friends
Sisters of Notre Dame
Society of the Daughters of the Holy Ghost
Society of the Holy Child Jesus
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (Medical Mission Sisters)
Traidcraft Exchange
United Reformed Church
Worcestershire Industrial Mission

Corporate associate members

Archbishops' Council of the Church of England
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Cenacle Sisters
Christ Church, Bexleyheath
Christian Ethical Investment Group
The Church of Scotland
The Church in Wales
Churches' Council for Industry & Social Responsibility (ISR)
Churches in the Economy (CITE), North Lincs
Conference of Religious
Congregation of Jesus Charitable Trust
Diocese of Hallam
Dominican Sisters
E. Capital Partners (Italy)
ECCR Oxford Group
Ethical Investors UK Ltd
FairPensions
Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood
Gaeia Partnership
Holy Trinity Church, Cookham
IBEX (Churches Working with the Economy - Central South Coast)
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (USA)
L & P Financial Trustees (Ireland)
Lancaster Diocesan Faith and Justice Commission
La Sainte Union Sisters Justice Team

La Sainte Union, Provincialate
Lincolnshire Chaplaincy Services
The Methodist Church
Oxford Diocesan Board for Social Responsibility
Philip J Milton & Company
Rathbone Greenbank Investments
St Patrick's Missionary Society (Ireland)
School Sisters of Notre Dame
School Sisters of Notre Dame (Italy)
Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary
Sisters of Christian Instruction (St Gildas)
Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux
Sisters of Marie Auxiliatrice
Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles (Ireland)
Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy
Sisters of St Joseph of Peace
Sisters of Marie Madeleine Postel
Society of Jesus
South Yorkshire Workplace Chaplaincy
Student Christian Movement
Telford Christian Council
United Reformed Church, Wessex Synod
United Reformed Church, West Midlands Synod
Uniting Church in Australia
West Midlands Churches Further Education Council
Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance

ECCR also has 57 individual associate members.

ECCR's mission statement:

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility works for justice in and through economic structures and for responsible stewardship of the earth and its resources.

ECCR contributes to the Kingdom-oriented mission of the British and Irish churches to establish wholeness in society.

ECCR's work reflects the principles that faith communities and their members have a responsibility to:

- encourage companies to adopt and maintain the highest standards of corporate responsibility in all aspects of their business, and express concern when they do not;
- uphold these same high standards through responsible investment and use of their own resources.

ECCR's strategic objectives:

1. To influence the policies and practice of companies, particularly those based in Britain and Ireland.
2. To work with others to develop international co-operation in the corporate responsibility and responsible investment movements.
3. To foster corporate responsibility and responsible investment within the economic life of the church through education and awareness raising.
4. To strengthen ECCR's own membership and organisational base.

ECCR encourages the way of dialogue with companies and their workforces, and with communities and groups affected by companies' operations, wherever possible.

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