

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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Corporate engagement and advocacy

ECCR and MOSOP raise concerns at Shell's AGM

ECCR arranged for the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) to be present at Shell's AGM in May 2010, where both organisations challenged the company's board about its human rights and environmental record in the Niger Delta. Shell's responses on gas flaring ('no evidence that it harms health') and grievance procedures indicate that it may still be far from operating with due diligence. ECCR's case-study report *Shell in the Niger Delta* can be [downloaded here](#).

Members of ECCR's Oxford Group spoke at Shell's AGM in support of the tar sands resolution – 11% of shareholders voted for the resolution or abstained - and about continuing concerns arising from Shell's Corrib, Ireland, gas project.

Chatham House roundtable on oil spills in the Niger Delta

Two days after Shell's AGM, ECCR and several of its partner organisations participated in a roundtable on oil spills in the Niger Delta hosted by Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs). This was a promising conversation, which concluded with broad consensus that trust and transparency are sorely needed if relations between companies, communities and state actors are to improve. We hope that the event will lead to further dialogue in Nigeria and agreement on concrete measures involving Shell and other oil companies. More information from [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682).

BP's Deepwater Horizon disaster: lessons, UK EDM, FairPensions campaign

'The Deepwater Horizon disaster may provide our last best chance to hasten the switch to sustainable energy in time to avert global ecological and economic disaster ... There are many lessons from this disaster, and we owe it to ourselves, the people and the environment that have been devastated by this event to heed and apply those lessons,' writes Alaska-based Professor Rick Steiner, conservation and sustainability consultant and member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy. [Read more](#).

A new parliamentary Early Day Motion calls on the UK Government to improve environmental risk assessment in investment by making pension funds report fully on their policy and practice regarding environmental, social and governance risks. [Read more](#). And ECCR corporate member FairPensions has launched an [online action](#) calling on Pensions Minister Steve Webb to toughen up standards for pension funds so that in future investors work with companies in their portfolios to tackle such risks.

Anglo American South African subsidiary in community dispute

Allegations about Anglo American subsidiary Anglo Platinum's misconduct of community relations in South Africa has reached ECCR from the [Bench Marks Foundation \(BMF\)](#). BMF reports 'intimidation of the community, some of whom were threatened with injury and even death' whereby an Anglo Platinum employee was instrumental in preventing a meeting of the relocated Magobading community to implement an agreement the company had entered into. The BMF urges investors holding Anglo American shares to raise concerns with the company. More details are available on the [London Mining Network website](#) and from BMF Director [John Capel](#) (tel. +27 11 832 1743, +27 82 874 2650).

London Mining Network has published an [introductory briefing on Anglo American](#).

Mining and Indigenous Peoples' consent: ECCR and partners' new project

Multinational mining companies place increasing emphasis on community engagement as part of their corporate responsibility. However, they engage with communities in an inconsistent manner and rarely comply with the standards necessary for respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, interests and well-being. Indigenous Peoples consider that Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), as embodied in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, is the minimum standard that mining companies should work to. ECCR, the Society of St Columban and other partner organisations are planning a new research and advocacy project, Making FPIC a Reality for Indigenous Communities, 2010-13: Free, Prior and Informed Consent and Mining. [Read more](#). Comments from members and others are welcome. Please contact [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682).

Amnesty International petition on Vedanta

Vedanta Resources' subsidiary companies plan to mine for bauxite in the Niyamgiri Hills, Orissa, India, considered sacred by the indigenous Dongria Kondh. The proposed mine will threaten the community's water, food, health and livelihoods. Communities in nearby Lanjigarh, whose farmlands were acquired for Vedanta's alumina refinery, are struggling to protect their livelihoods while contamination of water sources and dust emissions pose serious health risks. Vedanta plans a sixfold expansion and, Amnesty says, has failed to consult adequately with communities. Amnesty wants people to support the communities' struggle by signing a [petition](#) that it will submit at Vedanta's 2010 AGM.

Christian Aid urges country-by-country reporting for multinationals

For every US\$10 in aid that flows into poor countries, \$15 slips out through aggressive tax avoidance, says ECCR donor-partner Christian Aid. UK Secretary of State for Business Vince Cable supported measures to stop tax dodging when in opposition. Now he's in a position to make it happen. Christian Aid is asking for companies to be forced to report the profits they make - and the tax they pay - in all countries in which they operate. Country-by-country reporting will shine a light on money being removed from poor countries into rich tax havens and thereby help the developing world get a fairer deal. [Take action.](#)

'Tax the banks not ordinary people' say Transaction Tax campaigners

The UK Government announces its new budget on 22 June. If VAT rises to 20% it will raise £11bn a year but hit the public hard. A Financial Transaction ('Robin Hood') Tax on the banks could raise £20bn as part of a budget that helps not hurts the poor. Campaign organisers plan to buy advertising billboard space at Westminster Tube station so that MPs will have to walk past adverts about the Robin Hood Tax every time they go to work. They are asking people to help buy the adverts and/or email the Chancellor and their MP about the issue. [Billboard action.](#) [Chancellor/MP e-action.](#)

Major US media exposure for the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

The work of ECCR's US partner the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) has received high-profile media coverage this month. 'We come at this issue from a moral perspective, but we also come at it as investors,' says Executive Director Laura Berry in a 3 June *New York Times* article '[Investors demanding social justice](#)'. ICCR Board member Fr Seamus Finn of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate was interviewed on [PBS Nightly Business Report](#) on 7 June about the global financial crisis, faith-based concerns about impacts on the world's poorest people, and the need for regulatory reform (interview starts just over 14 minutes into the broadcast).

Film documentary on Women, Mining and Human Rights conference

In March 2010 the [Latin American Mining Monitoring Programme](#), co-ordinated by ECCR members Glevys Rondon and Diana Mills, and the Union of Latin American Women organised a conference in Guatemala on Women, Mining and Human Rights. The event aimed 'to raise awareness about the impact of mining on women, identify the risks facing women environmental and human rights defenders, and explore the gap between corporate social responsibility policy and practice in the mining industry'. Watch a 10-minute [video of the conference](#) by filmmakers Michael Watts and David McNulty.

Responsible and sustainable investment

ECCR interviewed on BBC Radio 4 Sunday

ECCR Chair Lee Coates contributed to a BBC Radio 4 *Sunday* feature on 31 May. Interviewed about church investments, Lee argued that 'It is not enough nowadays to have a simple negative policy. The churches should be showing the way towards positive investment ... Taking the environment, this means investing in companies providing climate change solutions. A simple shift towards more positive investment would be an excellent lead.'

ECCR Board members lead Trócaire meeting on business, human rights and state pension funds, 24 June, Dublin

ECCR Board members Ian Halstead (L&P Financial Trustees) and Fr Frank Nally (Working Group on Mining in the Philippines and Society of St Columban) will respectively chair and speak at a business and human rights policy roundtable in Dublin, Ireland, on 24 June, entitled 'The National Pensions Reserve Fund and the state duty to protect human rights: Learning from the policy and practice of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund'. The event, organised by ECCR corporate member and donor-partner Trócaire, will also feature speakers Eli Ane Lund of the Norwegian Government Pension Fund's Council on Ethics and Mike Williams, Head of Trócaire's International Department. More information from [Mark Cumming](#).

UK ethical investment hits record high - EIRIS

Figures released by EIRIS show that at the end of 2009 the amount of money invested in Britain's green and ethical funds open to the general public reached £9.5 billion, representing approximately three quarters of a million investors. Almost 100 green and ethical funds are now available to UK investors, up from just a couple of dozen a decade ago. EIRIS, which says that growing consumer interest in climate change, human rights, fair trade and poverty is set to drive demand for green and ethical investment, recently launched the UK's first consumer advice website dedicated to ethical finance, [YourEthicalMoney.org](#).

Events

Global Table, Wednesday lunchtimes, London

The Global Table, founded by ECCR corporate member the Christian Council for Monetary Justice, meets every Wednesday from 12 noon to 2 pm at the School of Economic Science, 11-13 Mandeville Place, London W1U 3AJ (Bond Street tube). The Table monitors and encourages activities on inclusive justice and the redesign of the economic system. A ten minute rule on initial contributions means that discussion of matters raised and other interests can have their share. People are encouraged to report in advance the essence of any matter they wish to bring to the table, and regular readers of key books, journals and sites are invited to briefly share significant findings. For further information please contact [Peter Challen](#).

Personal ethics and social responsibility in a time of change, 16 June, Bristol

Rev. Jon Doble and the ISR Team (ECCR corporate member Churches' Council for Industry & Social Responsibility) invite you to the ISR AGM and the Desmond Brown Lecture. Chair: Dr John Savage, GWE Business West; speakers: Simon Barrow, Ekklesia, and Sally Muggeridge, Industry and Parliament Trust - presentations followed by discussion and questions. ISR works to promote positive values and corporate and social responsibility. Wednesday 16 June, 6.30 pm, Leigh Court, Abbots Leigh, Bristol BS8 3RA. Space is limited. RSVP [Vena Prater](#) (tel. 0117 9557430), 162 Pennywell Road, Bristol BS5 0TX, www.ccisr.org.uk, by 1 June.

Socially responsible investment, venture capital/private equity and Islamic finance: contradiction or common ground? 16 June, London

Organised by Ethos HumanCapital in partnership with Cass Business School, this event brings together speakers from private equity, Islamic finance and responsible investment to examine commonalities and contradictions. The aim is to challenge current thinking and create debate, leading to a better, more proactively socially responsible model. Speakers: Farmida Bi, Partner in Islamic Finance, Norton Rose; Vincent Neate, Head of Private Equity, KPMG; Chris Mills, Ethical Policy Manager, The Co-operative Group. Wednesday 16 June, 6 (for 6.15 start) - 7.30 pm, Cass Business School, City University, London. [RSVP](#) or [follow this link](#).

ECCR West Midlands Group meeting, 22 June, Birmingham

ECCR West Midlands would welcome new members interested in finding out more about ECCR's work and taking part in local activity for change. The next meeting is on Tuesday 22 June at 2.00 pm at Friends of the Earth, 54-57 Allison Street, Birmingham B5 5TH. Please contact [Barbara Hayes](#) for further details (tel. 01527 875908).

Shadow banking and destructive mining: a guided tour, 26 June, London

Resulting from the banking crisis, hedge funds, derivatives and other complex financial instruments have emerged from the shadows. They have financed all manner of economic projects with real impacts on people, including destructive mining around the world. This two-mile guided tour, beginning with a one-hour indoor presentation, will look at how shadow banking finances destructive mining and at London's central role. Saturday 26 June, 12.30 - 4 pm, central London. Tour led by Nick Hildyard (Corner House) and Richard Solly (London Mining Network); research by Nick Hildyard and Roger Moody. Registration by 22 June essential. Postponed from May; people previously registered do not need to re-register. Full details and registration from [Richard Solly](#) (tel. 07929 023214).

Establishing a Green Investment Bank: challenges and opportunities, 30 June, London

Organised by Aldersgate Group and Green Alliance, supported by Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the Institution of Civil Engineers and E3G. Speakers: Bob Wigley, Chairman of the Green Investment Bank Commission (established by the Conservative Party) and Chairman of Yell Group plc; James Stewart, Chief Executive of Infrastructure UK (HM Treasury); Peter Young, Chairman of the Aldersgate Group. Wednesday 30 June, 6.15 – 8 pm, Church House, Westminster ([directions](#)). To register interest to attend this free event, please email events@aldersgategroup.org.uk.

Climate change and the City: scepticism or solutions? JustShare debate, 13 July, London

Dr Benny Peiser, Director of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, and Professor Michael Mainelli, Chair of Z/Yen, will explore whether we should dismiss climate change as an urban myth or take it seriously and harness the resources of the City to combat it. Tuesday 13 July, 1.05 pm. at All Hallows by the Tower Church, Byward Street, EC3R 5BJ. Further details from [Rachel Lindley](#) (tel. 07732 014181).

Shifting paradigms: theology and economics in the 21st century, 13-16 July 2010, Hertfordshire

Politicians and economists have called for a 'paradigm shift' in response to the credit crunch. The unprecedented circumstances of the global recession provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between theology, ethics and economics. This Modern Churchpeoples' Union conference is a contribution to that discussion. Speakers include Stephen Green, HSBC; Guy Treweek, St Peter, Hammersmith; Philip Goodchild, University of Nottingham; Catherine Cowley, Heythrop Institute;

Peter Oppenheimer, Oxford Centre of Hebrew and Jewish Studies; Tarek El Diwany, Islamic Finance; Malcolm Brown, Church of England; Michael Northcott, University of Edinburgh and Traidcraft; Valpy Fitzgerald, Oxford University; John Atherton, William Temple Foundation. Chair: Canon Edmund Newell. Tuesday 13 to Friday 16 July 2010, High Leigh Conference Centre, Herts. [Further details and booking](#).

ECCR announcements

ECCR London and South East Group launch

A new ECCR group for London and the South East was launched at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, London W1 on 19 May with a presentation by Dr Robert Howell of the Council for Socially Responsible Investment, New Zealand, on 'Rethinking ethical investment in turbulent times'. For information about the group please visit ECCR's [local groups webpage](#) or contact [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. 075 0393 1172).

ECCR embarks on new work programme

On 1 June ECCR began a new three-year work programme, the outcome of Board and Secretariat discussions and consultations with members and partners. The new programme addresses a reformulated set of [strategic objectives](#) and is organised around six major work streams and seven priority issues. [Read more](#). Further information from [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682).

Member donations and charity status

ECCR would like to thank all those members who have made additional donations when renewing their subscriptions and/or offered Gift Aid for when ECCR becomes a registered charity, which we hope will be within a few months. Further announcements will follow.

June *Bulletin* highlights positive impact investment

We are pleased to announce publication of ECCR's June *Bulletin* issue, on the theme of positive impact investment and featuring articles from UKSIF, CCLA Investment Management, Triodos Bank and Rathbone Greenbank Investments. The issue is [free to download](#). Our next issue, in September 2010, will focus on gender and corporate responsibility.

Diary date: Members' Annual Meeting, 18 November 2010

ECCR's 2010 Members' Annual Meeting (MAM) will take place on Thursday 18 November from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at Methodist Church House, central London. All members are warmly invited. As in past years, the MAM – for members and invited guests only – will be followed by ECCR's 2010 annual Open Debate, chaired by Lord Harries (former Bishop of Oxford) with a panel of invited speakers and open to the public. Details to follow.

ECCR's work needs your support – [donate online](#)

ECCR needs to increase its income if it is to maintain or grow its work on economic justice, human rights, environmental sustainability, and corporate and investor responsibility. We are grateful to all those who have given donations and grants in recent months. Every donation will help ECCR continue to make a difference. [Donate here](#).

For forthcoming **ECCR local group meetings**, please see under **Events** above.

With all good wishes.

The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility

Working for economic justice, human rights and environmental sustainability

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ECCR's e-newsletter reaches more than 550 people in the UK, Ireland and internationally each month. It is distributed midway through every month except August. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion.

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