



Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

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Corporate engagement and advocacy

Shell Nigeria takes another step towards transparency

As Royal Dutch Shell's [Sustainability Report 2010](#) states, the company now has a [public website](#) to track its response to oil spills in the Niger Delta on a month by month basis. Greater transparency on oil spills is a key change that ECCR and its partners working in the Niger Delta have been pushing for since publishing our [report](#) in 2010. ECCR will be at Shell's AGM this year to encourage further responsiveness to community concerns about the impacts of oil-related pollution in the Delta, including the need to adopt chemical-free technology in its gas facilities, which ECCR's partner the Centre for Social and Corporate Responsibility argue currently release a strongly carcinogenic by-product.

Meanwhile, the Niger Delta Bodo community are taking Shell to court in the UK regarding the impact of a 2008 oil spill on the livelihoods of fishers and farmers – [read more](#).

Opposition to Shell ‘fracking’ project in British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver-based ForestEthics and ECCR member FairPensions have produced a briefing outlining the investment risk of a Shell project to develop coalbed methane in the Klappan, a remote part of British Columbia, Canada. Also known as the Sacred Headwaters, the region’s salmon and wildlife sustain indigenous and non-indigenous cultures and livelihoods, and it is a source of creation stories for Canada’s indigenous First Nations. Broad community opposition has resulted in a moratorium being imposed. Increasing political and public concern about the impacts of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, are considered likely to make it more difficult for social licence to be gained for this Shell project. [Full briefing](#) . ForestEthics contact: [Karen Tam Wu](#).

Urge UK companies operating in India to address caste discrimination

Caste in South Asia is a long-standing and highly discriminatory social and economic system, widespread in education, employment, landownership, and access to water, housing and justice. ECCR is encouraging members and supporters to raise concerns about caste discrimination with UK banks Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and Standard Chartered, and with Shell and Unilever, all of which operate in South Asia. Working with the Churches’ Dalit Support Group, we have posted information and resources at www.eccr.org.uk/Action-Caste. Please write to one or more of the companies listed and [let us know](#) how you get on.

FairPensions launches JustPay! Living Wage campaign

FairPensions has launched JustPay! with a campaign website at www.fairpensions.org.uk/justpay that provides briefings and updates on the company AGMs that FairPensions has attended. ECCR and members and partners including CCLA, the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the United Reformed Church have co-signed a [joint letter supporting the Living Wage](#) that has gone to FTSE100 companies. An online action tool is available at www.activateyourmoney.org whereby customers of finance companies within the FTSE100 can call on them to become Living Wage employers. FairPensions is looking for proxy shares to attend company AGMs – please contact [Louise Rouse](#) if you can provide a proxy.

Concern about UK access to justice for victims of corporate human rights abuse

The Corporate Responsibility (CORE) Coalition, which ECCR supports, is alarmed by the UK Government’s plan to introduce legislation that could mean the end to court cases in the UK involving foreign victims of UK companies. CORE and lawyers Leigh Day have produced a [briefing](#) on the government’s proposals. Lisa Nandy MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Corporate Responsibility, which includes ECCR’s Patron Lord Harries, has tabled [Early Day Motion no. 1762](#) expressing concern that the proposals ‘will have particularly devastating consequences for human rights claims against multinational corporations’. If your MP has not yet signed the EDM, you can email them [here](#) and ask them to do so.

CORE has recently published [Core Values: Why the UK needs a Commission for Business, Human Rights and the Environment](#), arguing particularly for the need to hold accountable UK companies that commit human rights abuses abroad.

ICCR urges US Fed and banks to restore public confidence in financial system

Citing widespread confidence loss in US banks, members of ECCR’s US partner the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) are engaging with banks and the US Federal Reserve to advocate steps they consider necessary to achieve ‘an open, transparent and well-regulated global financial system’. [Read more](#). ICCR’s engagement builds on its 2010 paper [Faith and Finance: Finding Common Ground to Protect the Common Good](#).

ECCR is continuing to meet with UK-listed banks to discuss the recommendations and findings of its recent report [The Banks and Society](#).

Canadian churches seek mining justice

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative and many churches in Canada held an Ecumenical Conference on Mining in Toronto from 1 to 3 May. Participants considered the impact of Canadian mining companies on communities, including Canadian First Nations, noted 'a crisis in the relationship between human beings and the environment' and committed to 'peaceful struggle for social and ecological justice'. Toronto is home to 75 per cent of the world's mining and mineral exploration companies, and Canadian stock exchanges raise 40 per cent of all mineral exploration capital worldwide. [Conference final statement](#).

Responsible and sustainable investment

ECCR welcomes Church Commissioners' interest in renewables

ECCR is very pleased to learn that as part of their sustainability-focused investments the Church of England Commissioners are looking into renewable investment opportunities 'including land-based photovoltaic arrays (solar farms), wind turbines and anaerobic digestion'. Commenting, ECCR Chair Lee Coates said: 'ECCR has been arguing for some time that church and other responsible investors should move beyond avoidance and engagement and invest more for positive impact. So we very much welcome this important step being taken by the Church Commissioners.' [Church Commissioners Annual Report 2010](#).

Events

The cost and ethics of safety, 24 May, Manchester

Miles Litvinoff of ECCR will speak on 'Health, safety and risk in the extractive industries: a human rights perspective' at this Institute of Mechanical Engineers / Safety & Reliability Society event. Intended for engineers, environmentalists, budget holders and corporate and social responsibility practitioners, the meeting will explore costs, ethical decisions and safety in high-hazard industries. 'High-profile ethical failures, not least within the financial services ... mean that professional activities are under increased scrutiny and the old assumption of trust is declining. Engineering is by no means immune to this effect,' say the organisers. One Central Park, Manchester, Tuesday 24 May, 9 am - 5.15 pm. [Further details and booking](#). ECCR members can book at the reduced IMechE members' rate.

The Living Wage and the Church, 24 May, London

A half-day workshop organised by the Church Urban Fund and Church Action on Poverty on the Living Wage and the role of the Church. London Diocesan House, Tuesday 24 May, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. [Further details](#).

St Paul's Institute, 'Corporations and Giving: Good for All' seminar series, May-July-September

In December 2010, Jeremy Hunt MP designated 2011 as the 'Year of Corporate Philanthropy'. St Paul's Institute, European Association for Philanthropy and Giving (EAPG) and New Philanthropy Capital are presenting three seminars to explore the concept of 'corporate philanthropy', showcase different approaches, share lessons and issues, and highlight successful ideas and partnerships. 31 May – Corporate Philanthropy: Myth or Reality; 18 July – Corporate Responsibility: Walking the Talk; 27 September – Good for Business: Corporate, Charity and Community Partnerships. All events take

place in the Wren Suite, St Paul's Cathedral, from 17:45 – 19:30 with a networking reception following. Space is limited and registration is essential. [More information](#) .

The Banks and Society: Ireland launch, 2 June, Dublin

ECCR member L&P Financial Trustees will host a morning conference in conjunction with Christian Aid Ireland, EcoQuakers Ireland, Trócaire and ECCR to launch [The Banks and Society: Rebuilding Trust](#), with discussion of the report's recommendations for application in an Irish context. Speakers: Miles Litvinoff, ECCR; others to be confirmed. Thursday 2 June, 9.30-1.30 plus lunch. Emmaus Retreat & Conference Centre, Swords, Co. Dublin. For details please contact [Helen Reynolds](#) (tel. +353 1 283 8788).

Operation Noah seminar 'The Climate Crisis: Why is nothing happening?' 6 June, London

A 'social, political and moral perspective on obstacles to action', led by Lynn McDonald, Professor Emerita at the University of Guelph, former member of the Canadian Parliament and director of the Climate Action Network of Canada. An Anglican, Lynn works to urge church leaders to take on the issue of climate change. Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, Monday 6 June, 6 pm. For further details and to confirm attendance contact [Natalie Hall](#) (tel. 07804 059426).

Water: the next big sustainable investment challenge? 7 June, London

EIRIS is holding a half-day conference to explore the risks and opportunities arising from water scarcity as part of a wider sustainable investment strategy. The event marks the launch of EIRIS's new global water risk criteria for responsible investors. Speakers from the UN World Water Assessment Programme, WaterAid, World Resources Institute, Robeco and EIRIS. Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, Tuesday 7 June, 1.30 pm for 2 pm start – 5 pm. [More details](#).

ECCR's 2008 comparative analysis of water consumption in the food processing and beverage industries, [Water Sustainability: Meeting the Challenge](#), is available online.

Tea Time for Change, 9 June, London

ECCR partners CAFOD and Christian Aid and other leading NGOs are hosting a mass lobby for international development at Westminster. Participants will have the opportunity to chat with their MP over a cup of tea and ask them to take a stand on global poverty. A key issue that Tea Time for Change will raise with MPs is tax and transparency: '[S]ecrecy around how companies operate means they can siphon vast amounts of money out of developing countries into tax havens. This deprives countries of much needed tax revenues that they could spend on teachers and doctors. Secrecy also means it's hard for citizens to demand that their governments use proceeds from natural resources for development.' For more information and to sign up, visit [Tea Time for Change](#).

JustShare events on aid and development – 28 June, 6 July, London

- **'Can you keep a promise? Spending 0.7% effectively on aid in the real world', 28 June**
The UK government has committed to spending 0.7% of gross national income on development aid. Is this enough? Too much? Is committing to a target level of spending sensible? How will the money be spent? Is aid effective anyway? Join Christine Allen, Director of Progressio, and Michael Green, author of *Philanthrocapitalism*, as they explore the issues. Tuesday 28 June, 1.05 pm, at St Mary-le-Bow.
- **'Good News for the Poor? Christianity and Overseas Development', 6 July**
JustShare Lecture on Christian Social & Political Thought from Loretta Minghella OBE, Director of Christian Aid. A lawyer by background, Loretta led the Financial Services Compensation Scheme

from 2004 to 2009, when it awarded over £21bn to victims of the banking/financial crisis. She joined Christian Aid in April 2010 and is passionate about addressing the structures that sustain poverty as well as its symptoms. Wednesday 6 July, 6.05 pm, at St Mary-le-Bow
All are welcome. Entrance free. Fairtrade refreshments. [Further details](#).

ECCR announcements

Welcomes and Board news

ECCR welcomes the Rt Revd Bishop Michael Doe, an individual member of ECCR, to its Board. Bishop Michael retires next month as General Secretary of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission (also an ECCR member) and was for ten years Bishop of Swindon.

We also welcome new corporate members the Churches Dalit Support Group and long-standing donor-partner EIRIS.

Media coverage

Last month the *Financial News* quoted ECCR and the Methodist Central Finance Board in the article [Churches light the path to shareholder engagement](#). This and other selected coverage of ECCR's work can be found at www.eccr.org.uk/Media.

Membership renewals and recruitment

Members will shortly receive renewal invitations for ECCR's new financial year, which starts in June. The individual membership subscription rate remains the same. We have combined corporate membership into one category, and new rates and member benefits are detailed in the mailing. Please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. 07503 931172) if you wish to discuss your subscription. Prompt renewal helps reduce our cost of sending reminders.

Please remember too that ECCR is always keen to recruit and welcome new corporate and individual members. If you know of any organisation or individual who may be interested in joining ECCR, please don't hesitate to forward them this e-newsletter and/or inform us. Membership application forms can be downloaded [here](#).

Coming soon: online donations by credit/debit card and with Gift Aid

ECCR is very grateful to all those corporate and individual members and supporters who have generously supported our work in recent years with voluntary donations. In the current challenging funding climate, your donations have made a real difference to our effectiveness. We will shortly have new arrangements to receive credit and debit card donations and Gift Aid. To donate in the meantime, please visit www.eccr.org.uk/Donate.

With all good wishes.

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ECCR's e-newsletter reaches more than 600 people in the UK, Ireland and internationally each month, with bimonthly issues published in July/August and December/January. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion. Views expressed are not necessarily those of ECCR.

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