

Message from the Chairman

We are very glad that you are showing interest in leading ECCR as it enters a new phase of growth. There are a number of organisations trying to help ensure that companies behave responsibly. We exist because the churches, religious orders, individuals and some asset owners and managers believe that ECCR has a unique role to play in these debates. We bring to the debate our faith in Christ and the Biblical call to be responsible stewards of the earth. We believe companies have an important role to play in our economies and that in producing a return for their shareholders they must also care for the sustainability of the natural world, the people involved in their enterprises and the communities in which they operate.

For 28 years we have been a voice for Christians from a wide range of churches on issues of corporate responsibility and ethical investment. We have developed benchmarks against which to assess corporate behaviour, campaigned for better banking regulation, and offered contributions to governmental consultations on company regulation and governance. We have explored the environmental and human rights implications of several specific corporate activities. For example, we are known for work around Shell's activities in the Niger Delta. Our ground-breaking report on hotels, sex-trafficking and London 2012 drew attention to trafficking issues associated with the London Olympics and led companies in the sector to institute special training schemes to identify and help trafficked people. We appreciate the need to connect congregational Christians with these issues and have launched our Ethical Money Churches programme to educate and engage local groups and, in the future, to support them in their activism. We are excited by the potential that lies in creating an informed and active network.

Speaking truth to power has always been a part of the prophetic role of Christians. We are seeking somebody who can help Christians do that with respect to the commercial world. People of faith are consumers and often also owners of assets – pension funds, savings, ISAs etc. How we buy, what we invest in, what votes we cast at annual general meetings, all influence corporate behaviour and the world we live in. We want somebody who passionately believes people can make a difference and is willing to try and help Christians understand what their faith calls them to do with the powers and responsibilities they have.

We are looking for enthusiasm and the ability to articulate complex issues clearly and inspire people from many different traditions. After wide consultation, our board has adopted an ambitious strategy, and we have received the backing of those who have been part of ECCR for the past two decades and a substantial grant to start the process of implementing the strategy. If you have the skills and energy, the experience and the will to try and do that, we look forward to hearing from you. We know ECCR can make a difference; we hope you believe you can and that together we will move mountains.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Christopher Stockwell