



Mission in
London's
Economy

Church Urban Fund



Unemployment and the future of work

Westminster Central Hall, London
11am – 4pm, Tuesday 17 November 2009



- Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury
- David Coats, Director of Policy, The Work Foundation
- Rt Rev Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark
- Husna Ahmad, Chief Executive, Faith Regen Foundation
- Roland Sewall, Salvation Army Employment Plus UK

“Underneath these subjects of Unemployment and the Future of Work lie despair, waste of God-given talents, contempt, hiding the eyes from the pain of brothers and sisters.” Rt Rev David Sheppard, Chairman, Enquiry into Unemployment and the Future of Work, 1997

In the face of the current unprecedented economic crisis, it is important for faith communities to reflect on the many challenges that we are now faced with – and which are likely to have profound impacts on families, communities, jobs, housing, financial services and wider economies.

Faith communities have rich resources to draw on – not least the succession of commissions and reports on society and economy, from *Faith in the City* and *Unemployment and the Future of Work* through to *The Common Good* and *Faithful Cities*. What insights can we gain from revisiting this work – and how much does the new situation require new thinking?

‘To follow (the Word made flesh) ...in the months ahead will mean...asking repeatedly what is asked of us locally to care for those who bear the heaviest burdens in the wake of our economic crisis – without waiting for the magical solution let alone the return of good times.’ Archbishop of Canterbury’s Christmas Sermon 2008

This is one of seven roundtable events being organised across the country, with the support and involvement of the main Christian denominations, to explore the impact of the crisis in relation to a specific issue and/or region.

The London hearing/roundtable event will bring together 50-60 people of faith engaged at all levels within the churches and other faith communities, in responding to the economic crisis – and in particular to examine the following questions:

- What impact is the recession having on unemployment and future working patterns?
- What implications does this have for those directly affected?
- What implications does it have for Government welfare to work policy?
- What positive contribution can faith communities play in the crisis?

Partners

The event is co-sponsored by Church Action on Poverty, Church Urban Fund, Mission in London's Economy, London Churches Group and Faith Regen Foundation.

Outputs

The event will be written up, documenting key issues and recommendations. Reports will be circulated through partners' regional networks and used to inform the production of one of a series of Just Church study/action booklets for use by local churches nationally.

Outline programme

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| 10.30am | Registration and refreshments |
| 11.00am | Welcome: Rt Rev Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark (chair) |
| 11.10am | Voices from the edge: Unemployment and work |
| 11.40am | Keynote speech - Reflections on unemployment and the future of work:
David Coats, The Work Foundation |
| 12.40pm | Lunch |
| 1.30pm | Government response: Stephen Timms MP |
| 2.10pm | Practical responses (participatory workshop options - tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green New Deal• Employment, training and job creation• Building hope, unlocking potential and realising worth in young people |
| 3.20pm | Closing plenary and final panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Husna Ahmad, Faith Regen Foundation• Roland Sewall, Salvation Army Employment Plus UK |
| 3.50pm | Close |

Booking arrangements

The cost of attending the event (including lunch) is £20 (£5 unwaged). To book your place, please return the attached booking form, and payment, to: Janet Ashton, Church Action on Poverty, Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester, M1 1JQ Tel: 0161 236 9321, Fax: 0161 237 5359 Email: info@church-poverty.org.uk

Booking form: Unemployment and the Future of Work: 17 November 2009

I would like to book a place at the Unemployment and the Future of Work event.

Name

Organisation

Address

Email

Dietary requirements

Any other special needs

I enclose a payment of £20 (£5 unwaged) (delete as applicable)

Please invoice me for £20 (£5 unwaged) (delete as applicable)

Return to: janeta@church-poverty.org.uk, or to CAP, Central Buildings, Oldham St, M1 1JQ