

## Social Responsibility Bulletin - 29 July 2009

### **Protecting Life - Opposing Assisted Suicide**

The Church of England website has published a new easy-to-read section '[Protecting Life - Opposing Assisted Suicide](#)'. It summarises quickly and simply the Church's position in the assisted suicide debate, listing key principles behind its position, offering a short guide to terms used in the debate, and providing a downloadable powerpoint file of key points for use in churches.

### **Justice for World Poor - Archbishop Responds to White Paper**

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, welcomed the launch of the Government White Paper, "Building our Common Future", which commits additional support for the world's poorest people affected by conflict, climate change and the global economic crisis. The DFID White Paper recognises the "unique contribution of faith groups" in delivering development on the ground, in providing advocacy leadership and in connecting communities in the UK and overseas: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/whitepaper/building-our-common-future.pdf> There will be a Building Our Common Future's launch at Warwick University by Ed Balls on 20 July.

### **What is an acceptable living standard in Britain?**

In 2008, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published the first 'minimum income standard for Britain', based on research that determined what members of the public thought people need to achieve a socially acceptable standard of living. Updated to take into account changing economic circumstances, the new report calculates that a single person in Britain now needs to earn at least £13,900 a year gross, in order to afford a basic but acceptable standard of living. A couple with two children need to earn £27,600. Asking members of the public about their attitude to essentials in the light of the recession, suggests that people continue to believe that a minimum standard of living should allow people in Britain not just to survive, but to play a full part in society. The report can be viewed at <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/minimum-income-2009>

### **The Region - Why it matters now**

The West Midlands Regional Assembly oversees regional planning, and so the latest public consultation called the WMRSS Phase 3 is important because it asks - what kind of rural services are required; what scale of new housing provision is needed; what gaps in culture sports and tourism provision services need to be met; how environmental issues are to be addressed, etc. To give your views reply to the following questionnaire by 14<sup>th</sup> August: <http://www.wmra.gov.uk/>

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