

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Global effort to shine a light on corruption

Governments, businesses and churches across the globe are being challenged to expose and tackle corruption which is identified as one of the major contributing factors in ensuring millions of people remain trapped in poverty.

Last week in London, a coalition of Christian organisations called 'Exposed' officially launched the start of a year-long global awareness-raising campaign which aims to mobilise 100 million Christians who will practise and promote ethical and just behaviour in all spheres of life.

Micah Challenge Australia is facilitating the local expression of the global anti-corruption campaign and encouraging Christian individuals, churches and groups to 'shine the light' on corrupt tax evasion practices by multinational corporations.

"Corruption and tax evasion drain developing countries of vital revenue they need for development and reducing poverty," said John Beckett, National Coordinator of Micah Challenge Australia.

"Without adequate tax revenue, developing countries are often forced to cut essential services such as health and education and it is usually the poorest people who miss out."

Micah Challenge is encouraging individuals and groups to sign the 'shine the light' petition which urges the Australian government to support international initiatives to end tax evasion and introduce legislation requiring all corporations registered in Australia to report all payments they make and receive on a country by country basis, starting with the extractive industries.

"Requiring country by country reporting makes it harder for companies to shift their profits into tax havens, and gives citizens access to the information they need to hold their government to account for the revenue it receives," said Mr Beckett.

Micah Challenge will encourage Australian churches to be involved in a week of global prayer and action from October 14-20, 2013.

Following the week of action, an anti-corruption Global Call from millions of Christians around the world will be presented to the G20 summit of leading world economies held in Australia in 2014.

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Micah Challenge is a global movement of aid and development agencies, churches, schools, groups and individual Christians who want to influence world leaders to meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. See www.micahchallenge.org.au.

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