

## END-OF-YEAR 2020 UPDATE

17 December 2020

*From Miles Litvinoff, PWYP UK Coordinator*

Friends and colleagues

As you [may have seen](#), yesterday the US SEC and its Trump-appointed chair voted a deficient last-minute extractive industries disclosure rule for Dodd-Frank section 1504. This “industry giveaway” rule, as our colleague Kathleen Brophy of PWYP US says, “[requires immediate action from the \[incoming\] Biden administration to ... quickly fix](#)” and to restore US credibility in the global fight against corruption. Recent [US legislation on beneficial ownership reform](#), although not yet requiring public disclosure, is a step in a better direction.

I hope this often difficult year has been kind to you and yours. PWYP UK’s work was thankfully almost entirely spared adverse effects of the Covid pandemic and its consequences, although our Nigeria partners [Policy Alert](#) had to suspend for several months their community outreach as part of our joint [#WetinWeGain](#) project. Our forthcoming joint case study report, *Transparency, Participation and Accountability in **Nigeria**: An action-research case study of the extractive industry*, is currently in design and due for co-publication with [PWYP Nigeria](#), [Stakeholder Democracy Network](#) and the [PWYP Secretariat](#) in the first quarter of 2021.

The first in our three-report series, [Transparency, Participation and Accountability in Kazakhstan](#), was co-published in English, [Russian](#) and [French](#) (including by [PCQVP France/Oxfam France](#)) in November, and we held a well-attended launch webinar (viewable [here](#)). Immediately after publication of the report, which scrutinises two major and highly dubious oil and gas projects, the Kazakh tax authorities cracked down on our lead partner in the country, Echo (whose website [www.echo.kz](#) appears to have been attacked or suspended), and other civil society organisations with trumped-up charges of tax misreporting. The PWYP Secretariat, PWYP Global Council and PWYP UK are keeping in touch with Echo to help where we can.

We will co-publish the third and last (but not least) report in the present series, *Transparency, Participation and Accountability in **Brazil***, with [IBASE](#) and the PWYP Secretariat in Portuguese, Spanish and English in late Q1 or early Q2 next year. The report focuses on Brazil’s Minas Rio iron ore mine, operated by Anglo American, and will include a mine site assessment by the [Responsible Mining Foundation](#).

Additional key activities for PWYP UK this past year have included working with the [Andrew Lees Trust UK](#) and [PCQVP Madagascar](#) to address radioactive contamination of Malagasy community waters from Rio Tinto’s QMM ilmenite mine. We await an adequate Rio Tinto response to the long-standing demand for uncontaminated local water supplies, bolstered by a new PCQVP Madagascar community survey.

On 4 December, PWYP UK was very pleased to lead a capacity-building webinar, “From Data Analysis to Action Research”, for [PWYP Lebanon’s](#) project, ably led by the [Lebanese Oil & Gas Initiative \(LOGI\)](#), of strengthening civil society engagement with the country’s emerging oil and gas sector.

Since mid-2020 PWYP UK has participated regularly in information sharing, planning and advocacy by UK members of the [Global Gas and Oil Network](#), especially to keep the UK Government under pressure to meet its Paris 1.5°C climate obligations in the run-up to [COP26](#) in Glasgow and beyond.

And we have also valued contributing to the work of the [UK Anti-Corruption Coalition](#) and the [UK EITI Civil Society Network](#) and a productive ongoing dialogue with PWYP friends and colleagues in [Australia](#), [Canada](#), [France](#), the [US](#) and other countries and at the Secretariat.

PWYP UK registered as [UK charity \(CIO\) no. 1191553](#) in September, nine months after we applied. I am very grateful to Dom Eagleton ([Global Witness](#)), Habte Hagos ([Eritrea Focus](#)), Joe Kraus ([ONE](#)), Geneviève Thériault-Lachance ([RAID](#)) and Joe Williams ([NRGI](#)) for their guidance and commitment in making this happen and for transitioning from Steering Group members to [Trustees](#), with Joe Williams as Chair and Habte Hagos as Treasurer.

There have also been disappointments this year, besides the SEC rule and repression in Kazakhstan mentioned above. I hoped PWYP UK would be close to launching its own website by now, but our funds have not stretched this far, although hopefully we will do this in the first half of 2021. Funding has not been easy to sustain, despite generous and much appreciated annual grants from the [Joffe Charitable Trust](#) (whose input into PWYP UK's strategic thinking sparked the decision to become a registered charity), the PWYP Secretariat, Global Witness, ONE and [Transparency International-UK](#). And I would have wanted to dialogue and work with more of PWYP UK's [coalition member organisations](#) this year than I have had time to do. Starting early next year, the Trustees have prioritised a strategic consultation and review involving members and other stakeholders, and this will be my personal priority as well.

As in previous years, I'm pleased share a [summary of outputs and outcomes against PWYP UK's 2020 work plan objectives](#), with links to relevant documents and resources, and [an interim work plan rolling over into 2021](#). Coalition members' comments and questions on these are welcome. PWYP UK's Trustees will keep the work plan under review as we move ahead in 2021 and will confirm PWYP UK's financial outturn statement for 2020 shortly, which I will then circulate to members.

I must also thank ONE and Joe Kraus for administering PWYP UK's funds and my consultancy contract for a further year.

From January, I am keen to be in touch with as many coalition members as possible to discuss complementary aims and objectives and potential areas of collaboration and shared value-added.

Wishing everybody a happy holiday break and a better 2021.

## Miles Litvinoff

Coordinator

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