



Redesign of Logo (change of wording)

Old Logo: Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector.

New Logo: Mercy Efforts for Child Protection Against Trafficking with the Hospitality Sector.

Redesign of Training Materials: The old PowerPoint presentation was completely redesigned in keeping with our branding colours and consistent messaging (drawn up in partnership with and review by the Irish Hotels Federation). The content was updated according to the most recent figures from the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit within the Department of Justice and Equality. The presentation was made more concise while thoroughly giving an overview of Human Trafficking.

Contact with Hotels: Anne Griffin, Manager of the World Family of Meetings, agreed to share the contact details with MECPATHS of all the accommodation providers for the WMOF this August. Contact was made with each of the 38 accommodation providers with an introduction to MECPATHS and an offer of making a presentation to their staff.

Presentation at Hotel Training Colleges: MECPATHS presented at the following training colleges:

- Griffith College, 30 Degree students studying International Hospitality, on April 4th.
- Shannon College of Hotel Management, Shannon, Co. Limerick, on April 9th, to over 200 students.

The Shannon College of Hotel Management have invited MECPATHS to facilitate five workshops with the Skills for Work life module in the next academic year (2018-19) with incoming first year students.

PREM Group Award: MECPATHS are extremely proud to have collaborated with PREM Group who were recognised for their tremendous efforts to help counter child sex trafficking. PREM Group, who manage over 40 hotels across Europe from city centre budget properties to serviced apartments and luxury country resorts, have been working with MECPATHS since 2017 to design a bespoke staff education programme to raise awareness on child trafficking and sexual exploitation. This education programme was rolled out earlier this month to its 500 employees in Ireland and is currently tailoring it for use across its entire collection of hotels and serviced apartments in Belgium, the UK, France and the Netherlands.

Conferences Attended:

- Dassat Conference, School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, April 12th, 2018. Mary Ryan, Ann Mara and Aisling Murray were in attendance.
- Workshop on Aviation and Hospitality's Response to Combatting Modern Slavery, April 18th, 2018, in Cardiff, Wales. JP O'Sullivan, Ann Mara, and Anthony Joseph (General Manager of Premier Suites, Bristol), who is a PREM employee, were in attendance. Huge amount of valuable contacts made with partners working against Human Trafficking within the UK Hospitality Industry. Invitation to join the UK committee of hotels against slavery.

Interviews Conducted:

- April 3rd, Soul Waves interview by Miriam Gormally: Ann and JP
- April 26th, Spirit Radio interview by Wendy Grace: Ann

Volunteer Newsletter: The first edition of the volunteer newsletter went out in March. The idea is to have a monthly communication to volunteers on trafficking related issues, prayers, reflections, MECPATHS progress and events.

Collaboration: On 18th April 2018, MECPATHS attended a press conference held by PREDA and TD Maureen O'Sullivan. PREDA foundation (People's Recovery Empowerment Development Assistance) called for support for a bill, which has been proposed by Independents for Change TD Maureen O'Sullivan. The purpose of the bill is to restrict foreign travel for convicted paedophiles.

Marketing Strategy: New marketing materials were designed and produced including flyers for hotels, posters for hotels, thank-you cards, letterhead, business cards, and email footers.

Research: In late October 2017, JP O'Sullivan joined the team to undertake MECPATHS research to underpin the work of the project, to offer a validity to our work amongst the wider community and to demonstrate the great need for our continued efforts. This research included meeting with members of the hospitality sector, Irish Social Service providers, other non-profits working in the area and International organisations whose work we can learn from. The research also included networking with other organisations who were willing and open to share their learnings and their direct experience of working with survivors of trafficking. Throughout the research, there are spotlights on the stories of survivors. These snapshots will support the readers understandings of the realities of trafficking and the implications it has on individual lives. The research concludes will key findings and recommendations for Ireland. It will be launched on May 23rd, 2018, at the Ashling Hotel, in Dublin.