



MECPATHS (Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector) is a campaign to raise awareness among hotel staff of child sex trafficking in Ireland.

Evidence shows that children under 18 are sold in the sex trade, either through prostitution or in the production of child abuse material (child pornography), and this exploitation all too often happens in hotels.

When their staff are trained to recognise the signs, hotels are in a position to alert the authorities to suspected cases of child trafficking. This kind of intervention can save a child from horrific abuse.

In cooperation with key stakeholders such as the Department of Justice and the Gardai, MECPATHS has developed a resource comprised of a power point presentation and accompanying literature to facilitate the training of hotel staff on this issue.

MECPATHS has been endorsed by the Irish Hotel Federation (IHF) and is working with hotels across Ireland to ensure that they are safe for all children.

In 2013, there were 16 reported cases of child trafficking in Ireland. Of these, 13 of the victims were Irish, 11 of whom were trafficked for sexual exploitation. The Gardai, the Department of Justice, and organisations working to support victims believe these figures to represent merely the tip of the iceberg of this criminal activity. Hotels have a vital role to play in combatting this terrible crime.

- *The global average age of girls entering prostitution is 14*
- *Sex trafficking generates about \$100 billion worldwide for criminals behind this trade*
- *Ireland has been recognised internationally as a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking*

More information:

www.ecpat.net

www.thecode.org

www.blueblindfold.gov.ie

Does Your Hotel Know? Youtube: <http://bit.ly/1KOgfcQ>

info@mecpaths.ie

 [MECPATHS](#)



APT (Act to Prevent Trafficking) is a faith-based group working to end the trafficking of humans for sexual exploitation. The members of APT have many years' experience working on issues around prostitution and sex trafficking.

An estimated 21 million people are trafficked globally, and Ireland has been identified as a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking. This is a modern form of slavery.

Approximately 80% of the victims in Ireland are trafficked into the sex industry. Human trafficking is increasingly lucrative, comparable to the illegal arms and drugs trades as one of the most profitable criminal activities in the world.

APT first began its work in December 2005. The purpose of the organisation is twofold: to raise awareness of the issue of sex trafficking; and to work in collaboration with others for the prevention of the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation. To this end, APT delivers presentations on this issue to schools, universities, and parish and community groups across the country.

Sex trafficking is not limited to cities; its victims can be found in large towns and rural villages all over Ireland. APT provides awareness-raising materials and works to encourage and support local groups to take action against trafficking in their own communities. We collaborate with our partner organisations to raise public awareness and lobby for just and effective legislation to combat the trade in humans. Internationally, we develop links with networks of religious in countries of origin of victims, as well as countries of destination. APT is an active member of RENATE, a European-wide network of organisations working in collaboration to combat human trafficking.

Pope Francis has called human trafficking a scourge and an open wound in contemporary society. APT is committed to healing this wound; to working towards a society free from slavery, in which the inherent dignity of each individual is respected and protected.

More information:

www.aptireland.org

www.ruhama.ie

www.turnofftheredlight.ie

www.renate-europe.net

www.blueblindfold.gov.ie

info@aptireland.org

