Greetings,

Recently I have learned about the devastating situation of child trafficking for sexual exploitation in Ireland. Any movement of a child / teenager (under 18) across national borders, or *within* Ireland, for the purposes of sexual exploitation constitutes child trafficking.

Since traffickers are known to use hotels as venues for exploitation, the ethical standards of hotels I use, together with relevant child protection policies and practices, are very important to me. I would like to give my business to a hotel that acts as a responsible member of our local and global community.

The MECPATHS Campaign (**M**ercy **E**fforts to **C**ounter **C**hild **P**rostitution **A**nd **T**rafficking in the **H**ospitality **S**ector), endorsed by the Irish Hotel Federation (IHF), is working with many hotels across Ireland to create an ethical policy and practice against the sexual exploitation of children. They offer free awareness-raising training sessions for hotel staff to assist them in identifying child trafficking in hotels. For further information on free training for hotel staff contact [info@mecpaths.ie](mailto:info@mecpaths.ie)

Awareness of sexual exploitation is particularly important in light of the recent legislation criminalising the purchase of sex. In this new context, any prostitution happening on your premises is now a crime. The Irish state recognises prostitution as a form of violence and exploitation. Not only is it crucial that your hotel plays an active role in preventing sex trafficking of children, you also have a valuable contribution to make in combating all forms of exploitation in the sex trade.

I would appreciate hearing from you with an indication of how your hotel is alert to and working to prevent child trafficking.

Yours Sincerely,