



Information Workshops

MECPATHS was represented at the Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage where a workshop on the work of MECPATHS was delivered. Throughout the week, we had opportunity to meet with the pilgrims, to inform them, informally about our work and to help deliver the mission of MECPATHS to the college and university students who were in attendance.

MECPATHS has continued to reach out directly to each of the congregational provinces, most recently through an information presentation in the southern province, September 3rd.

Five workshops are being facilitated at Shannon College of Hotel Management in line with the MECPATHS' strategic plan 2018-2021. These workshops aim to increase the awareness of trainees who are entering the workforce as hotel managers.

MECPATHS was present at The World Meeting of Families. The presence included a 3-day information stand, the distribution of materials and ongoing networking. The event was successful in terms of raising the profile of MECPATHS and included the distribution of 1700 information flyers. MECPATHS connected with Cardinal Vincent Nichols and presented him with information on the project. Cardinal Nichols has since been in direct communication with the team to commend MECPATHS on their efforts and also to ensure MECPATHS will liaise with Santa Marta in the future as a connected member. A follow-on meeting was held in Dublin with a Santa Marta Director to explore a working partnership. During The WMOF, MECPATHS hosted a joint workshop with APT with an attendance of approx. 700 people. A great opportunity to elevate MECPATHS profile and to share information on Human Trafficking with the attendees. A number of new connections were made at the workshop and follow-up with each of these was undertaken in the days following the meetings.

Report Launched

"Child Trafficking: Hospitality Sector voices respond to an International Challenge – a study," was officially launched on Thursday, September 6th 2018, at the Ashling Hotel, in Dublin. It was a hugely successful evening with over 75 people in attendance including Paul Gunning (Principal Officer of the DOJ's Anti Human-Trafficking Unit), Claire McKeon (Garda, HTICU), and Michael Healy (President of Mary Immaculate College). Two musicians played as people arrived and mingled. The evening opened with the introduction of Kevin Hyland OBE, who then delivered a presentation on Human Trafficking. The report was compiled by JP O' Sullivan of MECPATHS who followed with an impassioned talk about why our focus on raising awareness around child trafficking is of such paramount importance. Sarah Marr, Marketing Director of PREM Hotel Group and close working partner of MECPATHS closed the evening with an interesting perspective on why the work of MECPATHS is so crucial to the Hospitality Sector.

Media

Many interviews and newspaper articles followed from the publication of this research including interviews on LFMFM, Radio Maria on Sept. 18th, 96FM on September 17th, and RTE Radio One with Sharon Coleman, on September 16th. Print publications covering the launch included The Irish Catholic, The Irish Examiner, The Echo, The Clondalkin News, The Irish Times and a number of regional outlets.

Network

On September 7th, a meeting with Santa Marta Group took place to explore possibilities for collaboration. Following initiatives by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW), the Santa Marta Group was developed by the CBCEW and first met in Rome during April 2014 when police chiefs and Catholic bishops came together, in the presence of Pope Francis, to sign an historic declaration, committing themselves to a partnership to eliminate human trafficking. Named after the home of Pope Francis, in which the members stayed, the Group now has members in over 35 countries. Through a series of conferences, the Bishops' Conference has brought together the heads of national and international police and law enforcement agencies along with international organisations to look at how they can work with the Church to help victims of modern slavery.

A meeting has been scheduled for October 18th with the Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan to introduce him to the work of MECPATHS and explore ways of working together, going forward.

IBEC Networks (Irish Business and Employers Federation) have initiated a relationship with MECPATHS to engage and educate their members. The relationship will develop in the following manner:

- 1) ezine article for November to reach 2900 members.
- 2) A Webinar series to all of membership.
- 3) IBEC to host face to face meetings with the senior management of hotel groups and MECPATHS in their offices. The members IBEC would like to focus on engaging are: Dalata, TIFCO, Clarion, Hilton and Clayton Groups plus others in membership.

Upcoming Events

Eurochrie Conference, Dublin, November 7th-9th: MECPATHS will co-facilitate a workshop on anti-human trafficking for the hospitality sector.

Anti-Trafficking Conference, UCC, December 3rd 2018. MECPATHS has been selected to present alongside The AHTU, A survivor of Child Trafficking and Dr. Ruth Murray.