

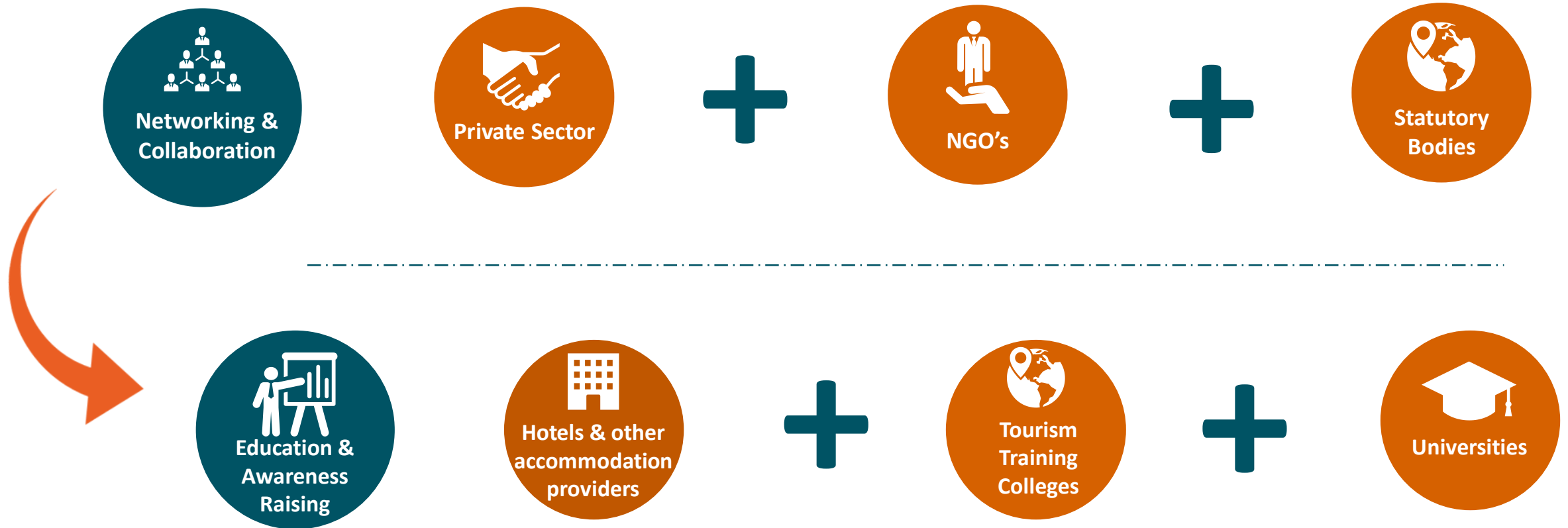


MECPATHS

MERCY EFFORTS FOR
CHILD PROTECTION
AGAINST TRAFFICKING
WITH THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR



How MECPATHS Engages



MECPATHS works with input and support from An Garda Síochána, the Department of Justice, and other organisations with expertise in this area.

An Overview of MECPATHS Partnerships



sexual violence centre cork



City of Sanctuary

The Gleneagle
GROUP



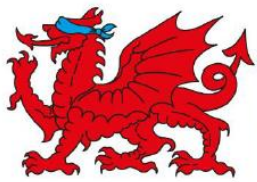
PREM
GROUP

RIU

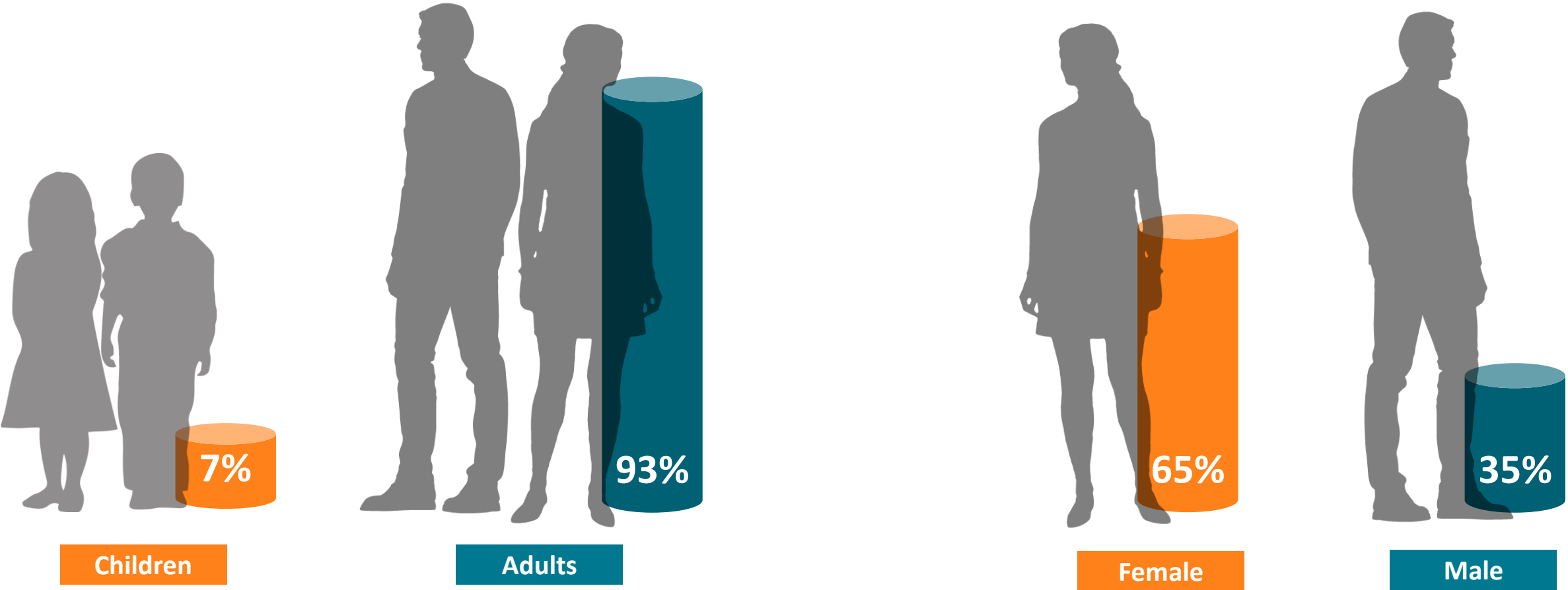
HOTELS & RESORTS



JURYS
INN

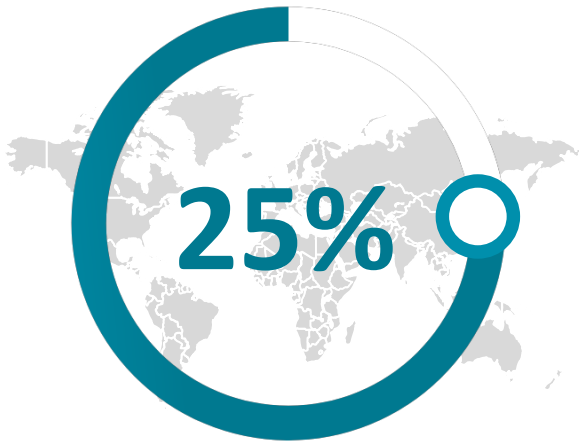


Victims of Trafficking by Age and Gender



(Source: Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Department of Justice and Equality)

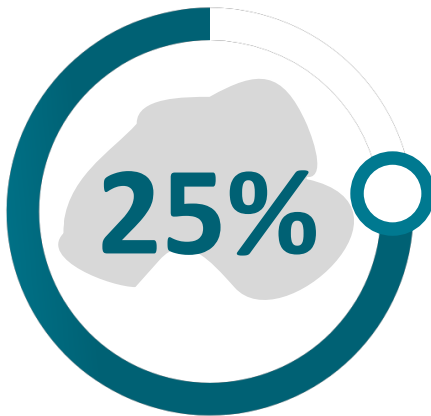
Comparison of Child Trafficking Statistics



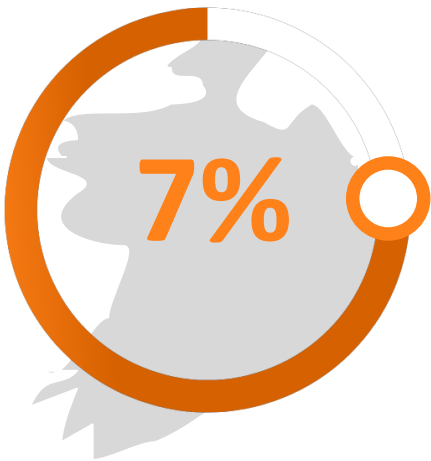
Globally



United Kingdom



Northern Ireland



Republic Of Ireland

(Sources: Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Department of Justice and Equality and www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk)

How Does Child Trafficking Intersect with the Hospitality Industry?



Traffickers can seek to take advantage of the **privacy** and **anonymity** of hotels.

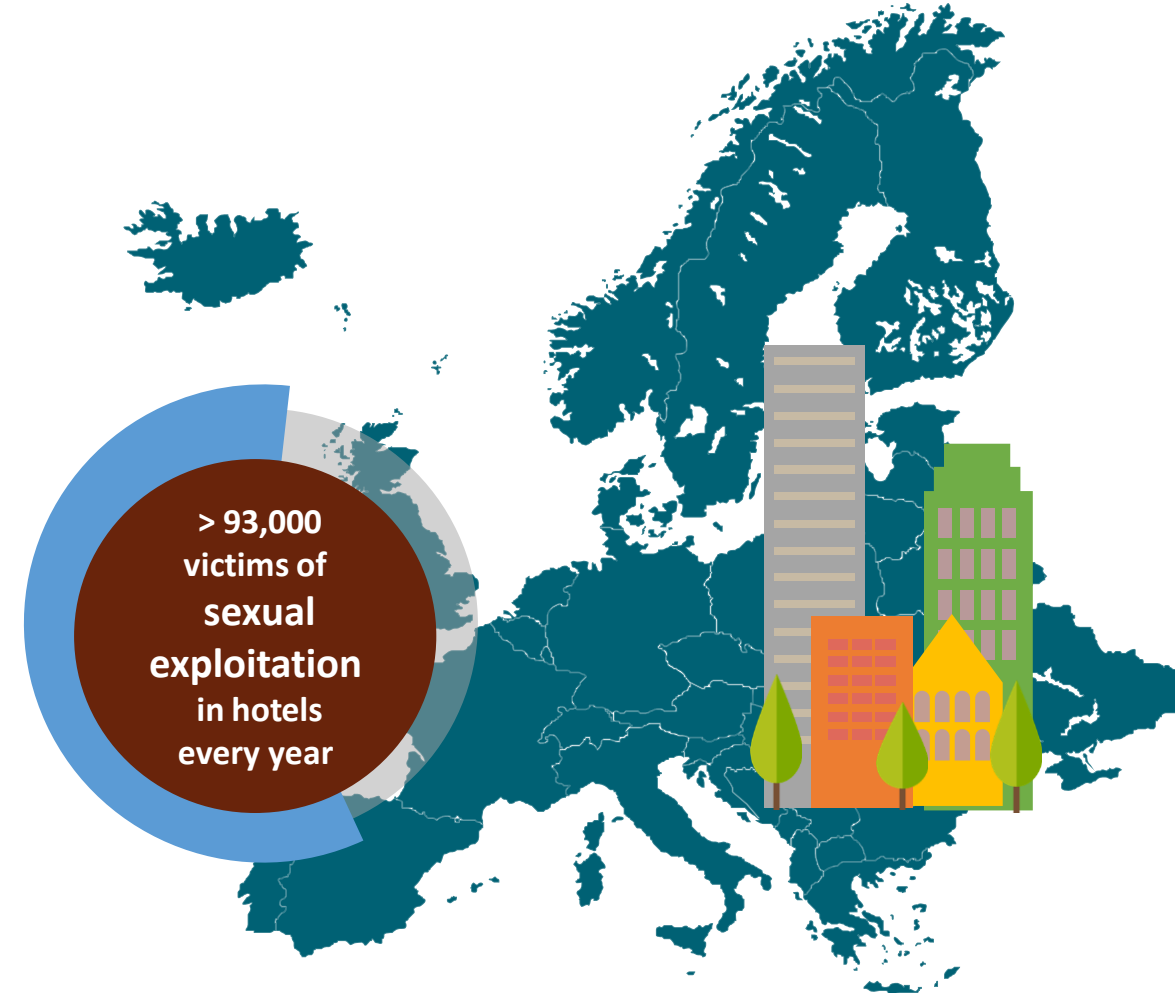
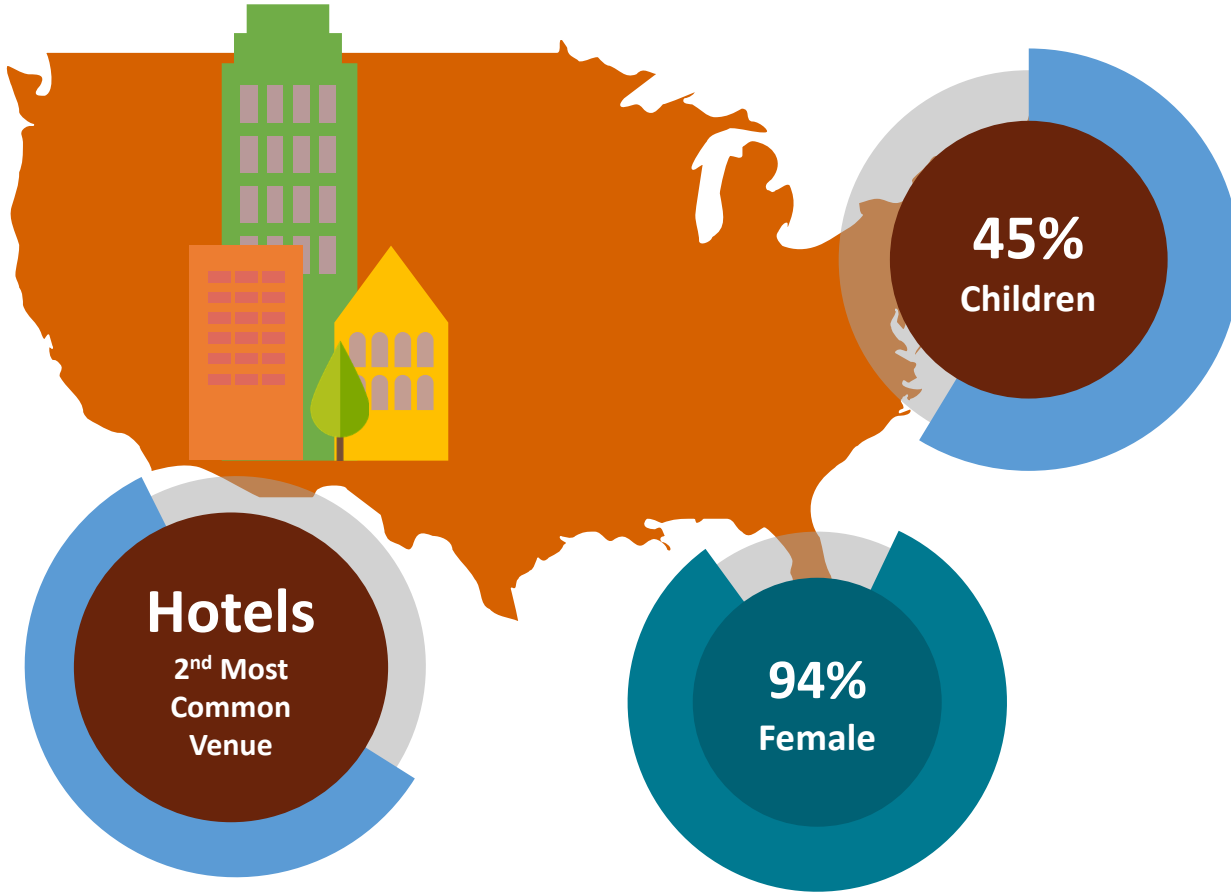
Hotel Staff are among those **frontline professionals** likely to encounter a victim of child trafficking.

Hotels are in no way responsible but have part to play in its prevention.

'Eyes and ears on the ground'

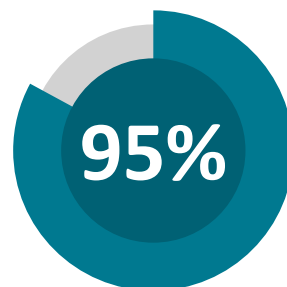


Research Conducted

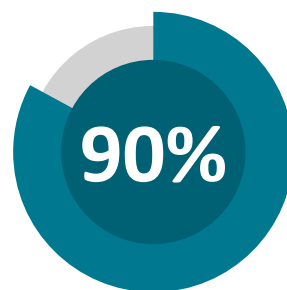


Source: USA - Polaris Project 2015 (2007-2015) & Europe - COMBAT Study 2016 (2014-2016)

MECPATHS Research: with the Irish Hospitality Industry



Of respondents believe trafficking of children takes place in **other countries** with lower incomes and high levels of poverty.



Of respondents were **unaware of their responsibility** to report any act of suspected harm against a child to the Gardaí, under 'Children First' policy.

Regulatory Requirements?



Section 2(1) of the Criminal Justice (Withholding of Information on Offences against Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

Makes it an **offence for a person who knows or believes that a scheduled offence has been committed by another person against a child** to fail – without reasonable excuse – to disclose information, which may be of material assistance in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a perpetrator of that offence, **to An Garda Síochána**.



Section 3 of the Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act 1998 (as amended) ("1998 Act")

Protects from civil liability persons reporting opinions to appropriate persons regarding certain instances of child abuse, unless it is proved that the person making the report has not acted **reasonably and in good faith** in forming that opinion and communicating it to the appropriate person. Employees are also afforded protection from penalisation under the 1998 Act; again, provided that they acted reasonably and in good faith in forming/communicating the opinion.

How can the Irish Hospitality Industry Respond?



Partner with MECPATHS

Join Growing Network of Irish Hotels & Hotel Groups working to Prevent Child Trafficking

Become an Anti-Child Trafficking Champion



Promote Zero-Tolerance

Empower Management & Staff To be able to Identify Indicators (include in staff induction training)

Develop Procedures for Reporting

Housekeeping and Room Service Indicators



Room is rented hourly.



Refusal of cleaning services for multiple successive days.



Excessive foot travel to and from a room by non-registered guests at unusual hours.



Constant use of “do not disturb” sign, despite frequent visitors to the room.



Minors left alone in room for a prolonged period of time.



Excessive amounts of cash in a room.



Excessive requests for additional towels, new sheets and restocking of fridge.



Non-registered guests loitering in hallways and private guest areas, or monitoring the area.



Presence of unusual amount of computers, mobile phones, credit card machines, or other technology.



Large amounts of alcohol or presence of drugs in rooms where children are present.

Please Note: These indicators MAY suggest that a person is a potential victim of trafficking. It is important to bear in mind that the presence of one of these signs does not necessarily indicate a case of sex trafficking, nor is this in anyway an exhaustive list of indicators. Staff should be vigilant of situations in which MULTIPLE indicators are present.

How Should You Respond?



How our Training Works



**Learn About Child Trafficking
In Ireland**

**Minimum 25 Persons
for Classroom Learning
(45 minutes, including Q&A)**

No Cost attached



Overview of Human Trafficking

**Classroom Style (Presentation /
workshop) or E-Learning**

**Learn How to Identify Indicators
and Respond**

**Enhances Corporate Social
Responsibility Efforts**

**Join other Global Hospitality Brands
In Preventing Child Trafficking**

Contact MECPATHS



Info@MECPATHS.ie



@MECPATHS



MECPATHS.ie

Charity number: 20023843