

# **TOR for Action/Research project for Opposing Trafficking volunteer**

## **Introduction**

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), a coalition of nearly 300 faith-based and values-driven institutional investors, including Mercy Investment Services have been pressing businesses to scrutinize their supply chains and operations to ensure that they are not inadvertently complicit in human rights violations, specifically, violations associated with human trafficking and modern day slavery, including child labor, forced labor and slave labor.

Today ICCR and Mercy Investment Services are calling on companies to proactively develop human rights policies that specifically address human trafficking and modern day slavery and request that these policies are integrated into business plans. They are also calling on companies to work in collaboration with other stakeholders to eradicate these human rights abuses.

MIA Opposing Trafficking working group together with Mercy Investment Services will seek to “internationalise” a campaign to stop trafficking in the hospitality industry in the countries where Mercy operates. The initiative will focus on sending letters and conducting follow up calls designed to encourage companies to sign a code of conduct against Child Sexual Exploitation (known as the Code) and develop a human rights framework, to identify risks, evaluate supply chains/recruitment practices, train staff/suppliers/vendors, build alliances with other organisations focusing on trafficking, evaluate opportunities for publicity.

## **Activities of the volunteer**

Overall objective of the research is to investigate whether and how MIA might take up the Opposing Trafficking campaign in the hospitality industry in each country where Mercy has a presence.

Specific tasks will include:

- Brief overview of the level of trafficking particularly for sexual exploitation in countries where Mercy works
- Looking at any existing campaigns in these countries to stop trafficking in the hospitality industry and opportunities for Mercy to link with other organisations to further this campaign.
- Examine any drawbacks/problems organisations have had in getting this campaign running and the strategies they have used to further it.
- Look at Mercy Investment Services and how they got the campaign going in the USA in conjunction with other organisations
- Examine whether time oriented campaigns or ongoing campaigns are most effective
- Examine the level of Mercy investment in the Hospitality industry and whether this can be utilised to encourage hotels to support the campaign

- Examine the toolkit and see what other materials are needed for each of the countries involved and whether materials developed by Mercy Investment Service are adequate.
- Explore what countries feel they need to begin a campaign (materials, direction, training etc)
- Make recommendations for taking forward the campaign.

## **Methodology**

- Literature review of extent of trafficking and existing campaigns in other countries where Mercy works.
- Telephone conversations with Opposing Trafficking working group and members of GAN to establish their commitment, needs for training, support, materials
- Telephone conversations with people involved in similar campaigns – Pat Zerega etc
- Telephone conversation with people interested in establishing a similar campaign in Ireland, Department of Justice, Ruhama. Barnardos etc.