



Greetings:

Through my relationship with the Sisters of Mercy, a congregation of women religious that has consistently spoken out against human trafficking, I have learned about the devastating human trafficking situation. As a guest of your hotel, I want to learn how your hotel is protecting human rights and educating your staff on this issue.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 2.5 million people are victims of human trafficking, including children used for forced labor, prostitution, sex tourism and sexual exploitation. Because many victims of trafficking are brought through hotels, it's critical that hotel staff learn the signs of human trafficking and that hotel management supports efforts to end human trafficking in their properties.

Many major hotels now have or are working to create an ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children, to train hotel staff to help identify human trafficking, and to partner with government and social service agencies. ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking – www.ecpat.net) has developed an industry-wide Code of Conduct (The Code), a practical tool facilitating the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourism industries. Corporations who sign the Code agree to develop a corporate policy, train staff and publicly report on their efforts. I encourage you to discuss whether your hotel has signed the Code with corporate management. Because of the Sisters of Mercy's long-term work on protecting human trafficking victims, I ask that you respond to me at the address below and to Pat Zerega, senior director of shareholder advocacy, with steps you are taking to protect human rights and educate your staff. She may be reached at Mercy Investment Services, Inc., 2039 N. Geyer Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131.

As the marketplace increasingly demonstrates, companies must be aware of and sensitive to social and ethical issues. As a customer, the moral and ethical standards a hotel embraces, as evidenced by its policies and practices, are very important to me. By taking action to eradicate human trafficking, including the sexual exploitation of children, your hotel can demonstrate your commitment to human rights. At the same time, I can feel comfortable that I am giving my business to a responsible member of our local and global community.

Sincerely,