



## Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation

### U.N. anti-trafficking correspondence campaign, World Tourism Day, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

RENATE responses to the following two questions, posed by Siobhan O'Neill, International Tourism Partnership (ITP) Communications Manager & Editor of [Green Hotelier](http://www.greenhotelier.com). ([www.tourismpartnership.org](http://www.tourismpartnership.org) [www.greenhotelier.org](http://www.greenhotelier.org) [www.youthcareerinitiative.org](http://www.youthcareerinitiative.org) ).

#### 1. Why do you think this campaign is important?

Every human person is gifted with God-given dignity and freedom. The vision of RENATE seeks to create a world where every person has '*life in all its fullness*' (as promised by Jesus in the gospel of John 10:10.) Its mission is to eradicate any injustice that negates that gift of dignity, freedom and fullness of life, in particular the injustices perpetuated by human trafficking – which is an enslavement of the person.

With that vision and mission, RENATE is called to respond to this crime against humanity that desecrates the dignity of the human person. Members work in collaboration with many other organisations that are committed to eradicating human trafficking at every level. This includes campaigning.

RENATE strives:

- to develop **awareness raising** activities against human trafficking and against the growing demand within all levels of society in Europe, and to use all forms of modern technology and communications in this work
- **networking and sharing** resources, skills and knowledge to support the members in their daily work and to build capacity for this task
- to **research and implement** actions against the growing demand for such abuse in the countries of origin and destination.

The human cost of trafficking is incalculable. It cuts across regional, national and international jurisdictions, involving illicit trade and organised crime. RENATE believes it is a human rights issue with a global, geographic scope, impacting upon a diverse range of matters and systems such as human rights, immigration, logistics, population growth, travel, tourism, cultures, border and customs patrols, trans-national crime and corruption,

agriculture, oceans, construction work and manufacturing, domestic work, revenue systems, healthcare systems, financial institutions, law enforcement agencies, Information and Communication Technologies, NGOs, governmental agencies, businesses and civil societies, to name but a few.

RENATE endorses the U.N. anti-trafficking correspondence campaign for World Tourism Day, that offers the following;

- Possibilities for outreach and advocacy initiatives.
- Awareness raising potential.
- Enhance prevention of human trafficking and exploitation.
- An opportunity to address corporate policies.
- Ignite a spark of action that will run throughout both the hotel and airline industries.
- Help break the chains of human trafficking and assist survivors.
- Promote the sharing of best practice.
- Progress public/private collaborations which would work to prevent human trafficking.
- Create proactivity amongst the sector, so as to help survivors of human trafficking, who need employment skills and training.
- Help tap into corporate social responsibility efforts, whereby companies are affirmed publicly for their ethical commitment to an anti-human trafficking stance.
- Help maximise the “multiplier effect” amongst direct competitors in the travel and tourism sectors, thereby creating a win: win situation.
- At a purely mercenary level, the campaign can frame human trafficking as a risk to business. It will alert management to issues of security and reputational enhancement for their respective hotel chain or airline.

## **2. Why do you think hotels and airlines need to be aware of their responsibilities regarding human Trafficking?**

There are two primary factors driving the increase in human trafficking; high profits and low risk. An apparent responsibility lies in the fact that *“As one of the world’s largest industries - 9.5% of global GDP and 266 million jobs-travel and tourism has a tremendous ability to influence the global dialogue on Human Trafficking.”* (The World Travel and Tourism Council. <http://www.wttc.org/> ).

As one of the world’s largest industries, there is a moral imperative to attend to the working conditions of employees and the importance of preventative strategies. There is an importance of a company-wide culture - in both the hotel and airline sectors- of dialogue and participation, in order to encourage identification and prevention of human trafficking. The private sector has a great capacity to train employees and raise awareness amongst its workforce as to the potential for human trafficking in their midst. All too often, we hear people saying “I simply did not know.”

The creation of “teamwork” amongst both sectors can go a long way towards prevention as well as disruption of trafficking networks and break the human trafficking supply chain. There is a possibility to strengthen coalitions and inter-communications between the hospitality sector and the transport sectors, in the belief that shared knowledge and information will help create cultures of transparency.

It is hoped the U.N. anti-trafficking correspondence campaign for World Tourism Day may instigate a thorough review of companies’ internal policies, with a view to addressing each hotel and airline’s anti-human trafficking efforts and ultimately prevent trafficking and exploitation.

The hotel and airline sector can build upon existing Codes of Practice such as the “Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism,” a global initiative devised by the Carlson Companies and subscribed to by Hilton Hotels World Wide, Travel Lodges and countless others within the tourism and transport sectors.

End.

Prepared by;

Imelda Poole, IBVM, President RENATE.

Patricia Mulhall, CSB, RENATE Board Member.

Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications Person.