



## **MECPATH** *Catherine Dunne*

Mercy-End Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the travelling and Hospitality sector

RSHMs have signed up to support this campaign being run by the Mercy Sisters Ireland. Some training days were held throughout the country. The head of the Federation of Hotels has pledged full support and urged other members to engage with MECPATH and to sign the code of conduct. The last training day was to engage with managers and human resource personnel on the appropriate response should there be grounds for suspected child trafficking.

There are the obvious difficulties with mistakes followed by the risk of liabilities for the hotel. The general feeling was that it was safer to risk a mistake than to visualise the consequences for a trafficked child. It is accepted that hotels and guest houses are more and more used now by traffickers but control is difficult.

The MECPATH website is worth reading on the vision and contacts. Soon there will be a request to Congregations to support the campaign by requesting if a hotel has signed up to the code of conduct before engaging the services of that hotel .

# **Irish Hotels Federation adopts anti-trafficking code**