



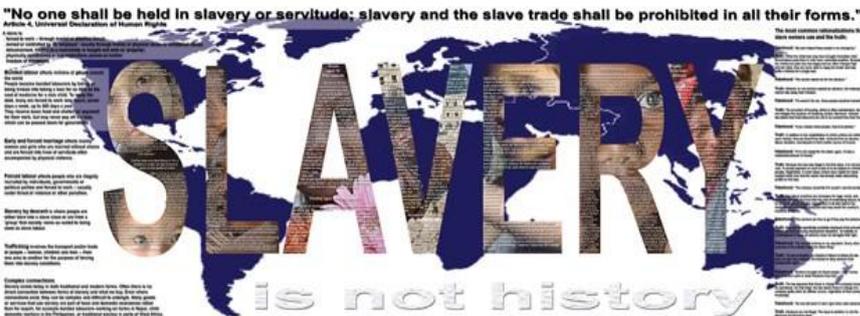
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# Supplying slaves to fill demand .....

Article from the *Metro* Weds 13 November 2013, page 14

**Home secretary Theresa May recently called for an end to modern-day slavery.**

Slavery didn't end in the 19th century. The reality is that it continues to thrive. Last month, the first ever Global Slavery Index revealed there [are 29.8m people living as slaves in 162 countries](#). Britain is not immune to the problem and even though it is ranked 160th on the list, there are still more than 4,000 slaves here, an estimate that the index judges to be conservative. The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) identified more than 2,000 potential victims of human trafficking in Britain last year.



Slavery can be found in brothels, households (domestic servitude), drug farms, nail bars, building sites and factories [across Britain](#). It's such a pressing issue both domestically and internationally – the US State Department believes human trafficking is the second largest illicit trade on the

planet after drugs – that the government here is introducing legislation early next year to tackle the problem.

Charities working with victims of human trafficking see the forthcoming Modern Slavery Act as pivotal in raising awareness of the complexities of human trafficking, ensuring proper support for victims and deterring traffickers through tougher sentences and asset-stripping.



***'The way to understand trafficking is it's an illicit trade run by smart, illegal business people, looking for low risk and high returns – they are not restricted by the law or borders and the commodity they are buying and selling is people'***

## Disturbing Facts:

- There are 29.8m people living in modern slavery worldwide: India 13.9m; China 2.9m and Pakistan 2.1m are the worst offenders.
- The value of illicit human trafficking is \$32bn per year.
- 2,255 potential victims of human trafficking were identified in Britain last year (549 were children).
- In 2012 there were 13 convictions for human trafficking and forced labour recorded in England and Wales.
- Human trafficking victims in Britain came from: Romania, Poland, Nigeria, Vietnam, Hungary, Albania, Slovakia, Britain, Lithuania and Philippines. There are up to 4,600 people enslaved in Britain.

### **(MECPATH) Mercy-End Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector**

*Catherine Dunne*



*The Young Slave sculpture,*

*Michelangelo c.1525*

The Mercy Sisters in Ireland have invited all congregations to support their campaign to end Child Prostitution and Trafficking in Hotels. The campaign was initiated by Mercy International and considerable success has been achieved in USA where they have extended the campaign to include airlines. We, SHMs have responded and I have been asked to be the liaison person. The sexual exploitation of children is a worldwide problem. Approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.

In 1998 ECPATH (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking) liaised with Scandinavian tour operators and World Tourism to draw up a code of conduct against Child prostitution and sexual exploitation in Tourism.

A poster for the DC Stop Modern Slavery Walk. It features a black and white photograph of a young boy's face. The text on the poster includes: '2.2 MILLION CHILDREN ARE SOLD INTO THE SLAVE TRADE EVERY YEAR.', 'TAKE ACTION', 'DC Stop Modern Slavery Walk', 'Saturday, October 22, 2011 - National Mall', 'Speakers | Live Music | Resource Fair', 'REGISTER TODAY', 'For more info and to sign up, go to: http://walk.stopmodernslavery.org', '@ dcsms / # smswalk', 'facebook.com/dcsms', and 'Report a Human Trafficking Tip at 1.888.3737.888'. There is also a logo for 'Stop Modern Slavery' with a red handprint.

### **GOAL of the CODE:**

**To provide awareness, tools and support to the hotel and tourism industry, to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.** [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org).

**OBJECTIVE:** Hotels, airlines, tour operators and their umbrella organizations are encouraged to endorse *The CODE*: by committing themselves to implement the following six principles:

1. To establish a corporate ethical policy against commercial, sexual exploitation of children.
2. To train their personnel in the country of origin and in travel destinations.
3. To introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of the sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to travellers through catalogues, brochures, posters, in-flight films, ticket-slips, websites and other means.
5. To provide information to local "key persons" at destinations.
6. To submit an annual report.

### **Success to date:**

The code has 1,289 signatories in 47 countries including the Hilton Chain of Hotels, Delta Airlines, Air France and Tomas Cook Travel group. In Ireland the campaign is led by Denise Boyle FMDM and Mary Ryan RSM. Let us support them in prayer as it is a very courageous move.

APT, (Act to Prevent Trafficking) supports the campaign by sponsoring a part time staff member. Denise and Mary held a very successful training day for the Mercy regional leaders and volunteers with speakers from various relevant bodies.

In early November both went to Rome for the workshop set up at the request of Pope Francis. Pope Francis came to meet all the participants after the workshop, the highlight of the event for them as Denise and Mary were the only people from Ireland.

### **A few points from the workshop speakers:**

The fight against Human Trafficking calls for global leadership. (Thankfully Pope Francis has demonstrated this already.)

Human Trafficking needs economic will and a strong challenge to the double standards of capitalism.

Human Trafficking is fast becoming the most lucrative illegal 'industry' globally.

Sisters were affirmed as the modern day prophets in their efforts against Human Trafficking.

