



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Greetings:

Through my participation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a denomination 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 make sure your hotel is protecting human rights and educating your staff on this issue.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 2.4 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.

Major hotel chains such as Wyndham, Choice, Hilton, Carlson, and Hyatt have signed on to 'The Code', to address trafficking. ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking – [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net)) has developed this program which includes a practical tool facilitating the protection of children's rights by the travel and tourism industries. By signing the Code, a hotel chain commits to developing an ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children, training hotel staff to help identify human trafficking, and partnering with government and social service agencies.

Corporations who sign the Code agree to develop a corporate policy, train staff and publicly report on their efforts but I know not all local hotels recognize this work. Customers are becoming more aware of the issue of trafficking and beginning to make choices based on how a company responds to the issue.

As the marketplace increasingly demonstrates, companies must be cognizant 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.

Should you desire further information please contact ELCA; Corporate Responsibility Program 8765 W Higgins Rd. Chicago, IL 60631. 800.638.3522.

Sincerely,