

Organisations / NGO's in which I participate:-

1. Ruhama – this is one of the NGO's with which I have longest association. It provides free confidential services and support for women affected by prostitution and trafficking. Through these services it provides case worker support; counselling; personal development courses; computer and English language lessons; holistic therapies and much more. It has both employed and voluntary staff.
2. I have been a volunteer worker with the Outreach Service for four years. We use a specially adapted van, recognised and known by the women on the street. We offer them a listening ear, support and information on available services. Frequently this is just a “little respite” from a “harassing client” or from the cold as we offer a hot chocolate, a cup of tea or soup and friendly chat before they return “to the street” again.

Now as a befriender I accompany women to hospital appointments or visit them in hospital, accompany them to court hearings or to meetings with Gardaí (police) or to interviews for courses and jobs and sometimes shopping! At times I provide emergency accommodation and have met some very frightened and apprehensive young women who are often dazed at what has happened and at what might lie ahead. It is very heartening to meet some of them again, months later as ‘rehabilitated’ young women through the services and care of Ruhama.

More information: www.ruhama.ie

APT: Act to Prevent Trafficking.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is that of a world in which all persons are respected, valued and given the dignity which is theirs by right; a world where no one seeks to exploit or to enslave another human being for the purpose of sexual exploration.

As already mentioned in my profile I am a co-founder of APT – I spend much time in presentations about our work and in raising awareness of the prevention of trafficking in educational settings with young people but also in community settings, e.g. St. Vincent de Paul, ICA (Irish Countrywomen's Association), the Soroptomist's, Past Pupils Association and many more.

Presently I am organising the presentation of Diablo – a riveting drama on prostitution and trafficking, produced and written by Patricia Downey. Patricia is the director of the Belfast Theatre Company – “Spanner in the Works” which produces hard hitting, controversial theatre on topics that matter to the ordinary citizen. The play, at the invitation of APT and MECPATHS will tour in the week of European Anti Human Trafficking to Dublin, Limerick,

Tralee, Athlone, and Kildare. The audience will be mainly university and technical college students with the general public also invited.

For further information visit www.aptireland.org

MECPATHS: Mercy Efforts to Counter Child Prostitution and Trafficking in the Hospitality Sector

At present I am co-ordinator of the Mercy project MECPATHS. With the campaign manager Ruth Kilcullen we organise and train co-workers (Mercy Sisters) on the origins and background of the campaign; on what is best practice in meeting hotel managers and public relations officers of the Hotel Federation and Hotel groups. Together we have developed a PowerPoint programme for hotel staff on 'How to recognise the signs of trafficking' and the protocol to be followed should there be a suspected case of trafficking. Our co-workers are trained in its use and presentation to staff. We continue to work with Gardaí (Police) ECPAT- UK, as we organise conferences and develop the programme. We are very pleased with our latest partnership with "Real Stars" in Sweden who run a similar campaign in hotels.

(See enclosure).

More information, see info@mecpaths.ie

TORL (Turn Off The Red Light)

Since its initiation I have been a member of TORL, (Turn Off The Red Light) an alliance of NGO's; Irish civil society organisations, unions and individuals who have come together to raise public awareness about the harm of prostitution and trafficking. The campaign is calling on the Irish Government to introduce legislation to end the exploitation of women, men and children in the sex industry. It strongly supports and advocates for the enactment and implementation of the Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences) Bill 2015, now on its way through the Dail.

Learn more: www.turnofftheredlight.ie