

MERCURE BELGRADE EXCELSIOR ON REGM - “TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR LABOUR EXPLOITATION, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE”

Belgrade, April 13th, 2021 – On the occasion of the Regional Expert Group Meeting: “Trafficking in Persons for Labour Exploitation, Particularly Children in South Eastern Europe”, which was held on 13-14 April 2021, organized by UNODC in collaboration with the National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Samir Rizvo, and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, Mercure Belgrade Excelsior hotel had the opportunity to share its experience and stance on the sensitive topic of sexual exploitation of children.

The Marketing Manager at Mercure Belgrade Excelsior, Mrs. Selena Djordjevic, pointed out that ACCOR group, to which the hotel belongs, is the first multinational chain of hotels that formalized its cooperation with ECPAT, and has ever since fought this kind of criminal activity in all hotels under the group’s umbrella. Through its programme called WATCH - We Act Together for Children, employees of hotels are trained to detect and prevent potential problematic situations to ensure the safety of all guests. In addition to this, another goal is also to reduce potential legal liabilities, operational risks and potential reputation damages. The common foundation all these actions is the high level of cooperation of every hotel with local authorities and civil organizations, while facing these issues is a key part of the group’s Corporate Social Responsibility Charter backed by the highest levels of management.

Mrs. Djordjevic also underlined that in 2019, after seven years of successful collaboration, the hotel opened a new chapter in its cooperation with NGO Atina, by involving employee-training and awareness raising in a common effort to enlist more engagement of industry stakeholders. Atina provided required information regarding the topic of sexual abuse of children and social integration programs for victims of trafficking, but it also trained hotel’s staff to recognize and adequately react to potentially problematic situations.

As for operational terms, Mrs. Djordjevic concluded that, with Accor and NGO Atina by its side, Mercure Belgrade Excelsior is proud for absolutely not tolerating witnessing or suspecting this problem. It is a commitment to Accor Group and to morality to be determined to combat all forms of sexual abuse of children that could occur and run campaigns to raise awareness among the guests and partners as well.

MERCURE BELGRADE EXCELSIOR NA REGM - „TRGOVINA LJUDIMA U CILJU RADNE EKSPLOATACIJE, POSEBNO DECE U JUGOISTOČNOJ EVROPI“

Beograd, 13. april 2021. – Povodom sastanka Regionalne ekspertske grupe: „Trgovina ljudima u cilju radne eksploatacije, posebno dece u jugoistočnoj Evropi“, koja je održana 13. i 14. aprila 2021. godine u organizaciji UNODC, a u saradnji sa Državnim koordinatorom za borbu protiv trgovine ljudima i ilegalne migracije Bosne i Hercegovine i Ministarstvom Evrope i spoljnih poslova Francuske, hotel Mercure Belgrade Excelsior imao je priliku da podeli svoje iskustvo i stav o osetljivoj temi seksualnog iskorišćavanja dece.

Direktor marketinga Mercure Belgrade Excelsior hotela, Selena Đorđević, istakla je da je ACCOR korporacija, kojoj hotel pripada, prvi multinacionalni lanac hotela koji je formalizovao svoju saradnju sa ECPAT-om i od tada se bori protiv ove vrste kriminalnih aktivnosti putem svih svojih hotela. Kroz program zvanim WATCH – We Act Together for Children (prev. „Delujemo zajedno za decu“), zaposleni u hotelima su obučeni da otkrivaju i sprečavaju potencijalne problematične situacije kako bi osigurali bezbednost gostiju. Pored toga, još jedan cilj je takođe smanjenje potencijalnih zakonskih obaveza, operativnih rizika i potencijalne štete po reputaciju. Zajednička osnova svih ovih akcija je visok nivo saradnje svakog hotela sa lokalnim vlastima i civilnim organizacijama, dok je suočavanje sa ovim pitanjem ključni deo Povelje o društvenoj odgovornosti Accor-a koju podržavaju najviši nivoi menadžmenta.

Gđa Đorđević je takođe podvukla da je 2019. godine, nakon sedam godina uspešne saradnje, hotel otvorio novo poglavlje u saradnji sa nevladinom organizacijom Atina, time što je uspostavljena obuka zaposlenih i podizanje svesti kroz zajednički napor da se angažuje više zainteresovanih strana u hotelskoj industriji. Atina je pružila potrebne informacije u vezi sa temom seksualnog zlostavljanja dece i programima socijalne integracije za žrtve trgovine ljudima, ali je takođe i obučila osoblje hotela da prepozna i adekvatno reaguje na potencijalno problematične situacije.

Što se tiče operativnih uslova, gđa Đorđević je zaključila da, uz Accor i NVO Atina, Mercure Belgrade Excelsior je ponosan što apsolutno ne toleriše svedočenje ili sumnju na ovaj problem. Ova tema predstavlja obavezu prema kompaniji Accor, a takođe i moralnosti, o odlučnosti u borbi protiv svih oblika seksualnog zlostavljanja maloletnih lica koji bi se mogli dogoditi i voditi kampanje za podizanje svesti, kako među gostima, tako i partnerima.