



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

LETITIA JAMES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS

July 5, 2022

Mark Dorr
President
New York State Hospitality
And Tourism Association
1 Computer Drive South
Albany, New York 12205

Re: New York State General Business Law Chapter 20, Article 12, § 206-f

Dear Mr. Dorr

With the arrival of the summer tourism season and easing travel restrictions between the U.S. and Canada, the New York State Office of the Attorney General wants to remind New York State's lodging facilities of the central role they play in responding to and preventing human trafficking. Their impact cannot be overstated. Traffickers are especially reliant on the hospitality industry for moving, controlling, and delivering victims of commercial sex or forced labor. ECPAT-USA, service providers and law enforcement agencies report that almost every single trafficked victim with whom they come in contact had been exploited at one point in a hotel. Accordingly, we ask the New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association to encourage its members to review their obligations pursuant to General Business Law Chapter 20, Article 12, § 206-f (GBS § 206-f) and ensure their compliance with those requirements.

GBS § 206-f applies to any "lodging facility" (inn, hotel, motel, motor court or other establishment with at least five rooms providing lodging to transient guests), to post informational cards that contain only information concerning services for human trafficking victims and that prominently include the national human trafficking hotline telephone number. Informational cards must be made available in plain view in a conspicuous place and manner in the public restrooms, individual guest rooms, and near the public entrance or in another conspicuous location in clear view of the public and lodging employees where similar information is customarily displayed in such lodging facility. Informational cards made available for this purpose by the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in consultation with the New York state Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking are enclosed for your members' convenience. Tips and resources designed to inform and educate hospitality staff about human trafficking are made available by the United States Department of Homeland Security at <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.

Human trafficking is a global issue that impacts many industries and the business community at large. Lodging facilities are the first line of defense for victims. We appreciate your support in the critical fight to end modern day slavery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Faber".

Jill F. Faber

Deputy Attorney General for Regional Affairs