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**INVESTORS COMMEND AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR EFFORTS TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN**

*Members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility applaud American for its leadership in adopting ECPAT's Code of Conduct (The Code) and encourage other carriers to follow suit.*

**NEW YORK, NY, TUESDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2017** – After long-term engagement with management on company human rights policies, ICCR members and American Airlines shareholders were heartened by the company's commitment this week to adopt [The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism \(The Code\)](#). Pledging to train its employees on ways to identify and report suspected incidents of human trafficking, American has taken an important step in safeguarding children from the dangers of trafficking.

It is estimated that human trafficking, also known as modern day slavery, impacts over 27 million people annually, and as many as 2 million children. Kidnapped and often transported across international borders for the purposes of forced labor, the commercial sex trade, or both, human trafficking is estimated to be a \$150 billion dollar business worldwide.

Said Pat Zerega of Mercy Investment Services who led the investor engagement with American on this issue, *"If properly trained to spot this crime, employees in the transportation industry can be on the front lines of the fight to end human trafficking. In formally adopting the ECPAT Code, American has acknowledged its corporate responsibility to protect human rights in its business operations and, more specifically, the power it has as a change agent on trafficking. As investors who care deeply about human trafficking risks in corporate supply chains, we are pleased to see the company step out on this issue."*

Adoption of the ECPAT Code commits a company to train its staff to spot potential trafficking abuses and to report suspected cases to the authorities, provide educational information to its passengers on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and to report annually on the company's implementation of The Code. To date, American is the second U.S. carrier along with Delta Airlines to become a signatory to The Code.

In a [statement](#) yesterday, American's Chairman and CEO Doug Parker said, ***"As the world's largest airline, we have a unique role to play in combatting this terrible practice. American has a training program in place for flight attendants, and later this year we will be updating our pilot and airport team member training to include human trafficking awareness and prevention."***

Said Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ, *Coordinator of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for the Congregation of Bon Secours*, ***"We have heard many accounts of flight attendants and other airline personnel encountering suspected trafficking victims and, as a result of their reporting, these abuses have thankfully been thwarted. We want to commend American Airlines for showing leadership on the scourge of human trafficking by adopting The Code, and for setting a powerful example other U.S. carriers should follow."***

#### **About the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)**

Celebrating its 46th year, ICCR is the pioneer coalition of shareholder advocates who view the management of their investments as a catalyst for social change. Its 300 member organizations comprise faith communities, socially responsible asset managers, unions, pensions, NGOs and other socially responsible investors with combined assets of over \$200 billion. ICCR members engage hundreds of corporations annually in an effort to foster greater corporate accountability. [www.iccr.org](http://www.iccr.org)

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