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Keeping in touch

We would love to show you how your donations are making a difference and keep you up to date on other ways you can help. We'll never sell or swap your details with anybody else. For more information see our privacy policy. Please indicate how you would like to hear from us by using the tick boxes below:

Via email Via telephone Via SMS Via post

Thank You. Please detach this form and send your donation to:

Mission to Seafarers Halifax
PO Box 27114, 844 Marginal Road
Halifax, NS B3H 4M8

email: hglenn@missiontoseafarershalifax.ca

www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca



Thank you!

**We all rely on seafarers.
With your help they have
someone they can rely on too.**

For the 1.5 million seafarers across the world, life can be lonely, dangerous, and uncertain.

Your support means we can journey with seafarers through the range of challenges they face. Whether that's by providing a SIM card so they can wish their child a happy birthday or arranging for a legal advocate to ensure months of overdue wages are paid.

Please complete the form and join us in making life better for all seafarers.



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Introduction to The Mission to Seafarers



We all rely on seafarers

We might not realise it, but we all depend on seafarers. 90% of everything we use, from food and medication to cars and household furnishings, reaches us via the sea.

Your support for The Mission to Seafarers enables us to care for the shipping industry's greatest assets: its people.

Being a seafarer is tough. Crews can spend months away working long hours with little respite or contact with home. On top of the daily pressures, the threat of piracy, shipwreck and abandonment are ever present for the men and women who serve us at sea.

In recent years, this challenging job has become even harder. Increased restrictions and lockdowns saw many

seafarers working beyond their contract end, facing months of uncertainty and further separation from loved ones.

Amid these challenges, The Mission to Seafarers has been a constant source of practical support and reassurance. Through our teams in 200 ports, we've been supporting the 1.5 million unseen keyworkers who have helped to keep the economy afloat and transport the essentials we need to survive.

‘90% of everything we use reaches us by sea.’

Mental Health

Life at sea is intense at the best of times. Long hours. High pressure. Erratic routines. Then there's the heartache of missing your child's first steps or your mother's last breath. It all takes its toll.

COVID-19 has intensified the stress on seafarers. Shore leave has been cancelled. Contracts extended indefinitely. On top of this, seafarers have been desperately worried about their families on the other side of the world.

Our port centres have always been a haven for mentally and physically exhausted seafarers. For those who can't make it into the centres, our chaplains and

ship visitors take a warm welcome and listening ear onboard. And when that's not been possible, email, social media, and WhatsApp have been a lifeline of support.

When seafarers have nowhere else to turn, your support ensures they can come to us. As trained counsellors, our chaplains are ready to respond when seafarers are at breaking point. But we don't want things to get that bad. Through our WeCare and safeTALK programmes, we're working with the shipping industry to build resilience and equip seafarers to spot signs of stress and act early.

‘The duty officer closed the door, put his back against it and wept. I hugged him and assured him he was free to show his emotion to me; that's part of my role as a ship visitor.’ Mission to Seafarers Ship Visitor, Tilbury Port



Abandoned

“A living hell” is how seafarers abandoned onboard the MT Iba described their ordeal to our Regional Director in the Middle East and South Asia. For 40 months the five crew members were stranded off the UAE coast, 28 of those without pay.

The case is shocking, but not unique. Each year, around 70 ships are abandoned by unscrupulous shipowners who have encountered financial or legal problems. They literally vanish, leaving crews unpaid and unable to get home.

Our priority is to ensure the wellbeing of these seafarers, reunite them with their families, and recover their wages. It's complex work, which involves liaising with port authorities, shipping agents, flag states and the International Transport Federation.

Throughout everything, the welfare of the crew is always our number one

priority. Your gifts ensure we can take them provisions, get them medical care, counsel them through their anxiety and anger, and offer reassurance and hope.

A crucial part of our work involves liaising with seafarers' families who are often beside themselves with worry and facing financial ruin. Though our Family Networks in the Philippines and India, we can keep families informed and provided for. Sometimes for a few weeks, often for months.

Abandonment is a cancer in the industry. Alongside our support for seafarers, we're advocating on their behalf at the International Maritime Organisation and International Labour Organisation.

‘Abandonment is a cancer in the industry.’

‘It is difficult to see a seafarer in tears, offering many thanks for the gift of a small piece of plastic - a pre-loaded SIM card,’ reported our Chaplain, South Wales Port

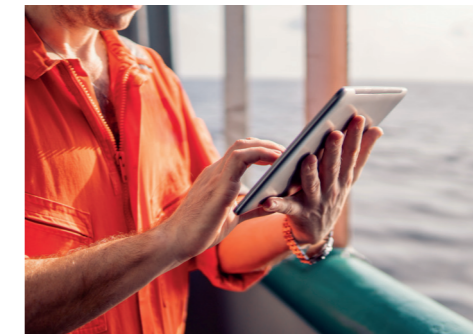
Communication

A tiny SIM card can mean so much. It may give a seafarer the chance to hear his daughter's voice and tell her he loves her for the first time in months.

Most seafarers are away for a minimum of nine months. During the pandemic, that's increased with some being at sea for well over a year. That's months of missed birthdays, anniversaries, funerals, and family celebrations. Communication is vital to keep families together.

Your generous donations mean that our team can take SIM cards on board, much to the delight of exhausted seafarers. In our port centres, seafarers clamour to top up their phones and jump on the free Wi-Fi.

If seafarers can't get to our centres to use the Wi-Fi, then we take it to them in the form of portable MiFi units. We are also working with communications suppliers, and global satellite companies, to improve the communications for seafarers out at sea.



‘If seafarers can't get to our centres to use the Wi-Fi, then we take it to them.’

Shopping

Even when they are in port, tight restrictions make even the smallest of tasks, like stocking up on toothpaste, a logistical nightmare.

If a seafarer wants to get to the shops, they need the right documentation, permission for shore leave, transportation, and enough time to get there and back – none of which is easy.

One captain told us that if they can't leave the ship, crews are at the mercy of salesmen who come on board and overcharge them. This is where we come in.

Our port centres are always stocked with essentials and, if seafarers can't get to us, we go to them. Over the years, our teams have become masters of logistics, working against the clock to get shopping to crews before they move on.

“When a ship docks, we supply the crew with portable Wi-Fi, our contact details, and the information on what shops they can buy from. Within a short time, text messages are flying our way,” explains our chaplain in New Zealand.

We've bought everything from fresh fruit and medication to musical instruments and soft toys. These items help to preserve the dignity of our seafarers, bring joy to their families, and remind them that we care.

One seafarer told us, “This might be a few items of shopping to you, but it's a lifeline to me.”

‘This might be a few items of shopping to you, but it's a lifeline to me.’ Seafarer supported by the Mission