

PRESS RELEASE

**STATEMENT BY ROBERT GAYMER-JONES,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SOFITEL WORLDWIDE**

Paris, May 16, 2011 – Sofitel's management reaffirms that its first priority is to ensure the safety of its guests and staff. Managers are at the disposal of the US authorities to aid in determining exactly what took place at the Sofitel New York last Saturday.

The claim by a member of the French parliament that the New York Sofitel's management covered up repeated acts of sexual aggression is completely untrue and slanderous.

To protect both guests and staff, Sofitel New York has implemented strict procedures and a whistle-blower hotline to allow employees to report any specific situations. These procedures have been in place for more than a year. Management is not aware of any previous cases of attempted sexual aggression.

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