



# Modern Slavery

**WEST  
MIDLANDS  
ANTI SLAVERY  
NETWORK**



## Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is a serious crime that violates human rights. Victims are forced, threatened or deceived into situations of subjugation, degradation and control which undermines their personal identity and sense of self.

- Slavery is where ownership is exercised over a person
- Servitude is the obligation to provide services, imposed by coercion threats of abuse
- Forced or compulsory labour involves any work or service that people are forced into against their will under the threat of punishment

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking.

## Human Trafficking (Palermo Protocol)

“Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include at a minimum the exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation; forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery; servitude or the removal of organs”

### In other words:

The essence of human trafficking is that the victim is coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited. A criminal offence involving a process of inter-related actions leading to exploitation.

## Human Trafficking - Key Areas

The **ACT** (what is being done) the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons

The **MEANS** (how it's achieved) threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, giving or receiving of payments or benefits

The **PURPOSE** (why it is done) to exploit or intended exploitation

*Modern Slavery* only requires elements of **MEANS** and **PURPOSE**. In cases involving under 18's there is no requirement to establish the means for modern slavery or human trafficking as minors cannot give informed consent.



## Signs & indicators of human trafficking: General indicators

- Signs of being controlled and dependent
- Fearful of police/authorities
- Fearful of the trafficker and fearful for the lives of family members
- Signs of trauma including psychological and physical
- Limited access to medical and dental care
- Fearful of telling others about their situation
- High occupancy/sparsely furnished living accommodation
- Limited freedom of movement
- Lack of local/geographical knowledge
- May not be aware they have been trafficked
- Not paid or paid very little
- Perception of being in debt to someone
- No passport or someone else is holding their passport/ID documents
- Language
- Malnourishment
- Lured into a country by false promises leading to lack of trust

## **Specific indicators for trafficking for the purposes of Sexual Exploitation**

- Movement between brothels, sometimes different cities
- Sleeping on work premises
- Limited amount of clothing and a large proportion of sexual clothing
- Subjected to abduction, assault or rape
- Someone other than the person receives payment for the services.

## **Grooming for Sexual Exploitation / Internal Sex Trafficking**

- Child going missing/truancy/secretive
- Unexplained money/presents
- Experimenting with drugs, alcohol
- Grooming/association with older males
- Social activities without any plausible explanation
- Low self-image/self-harm/eating disorder
- Seen entering or leaving vehicles with unknown adults.

## **Forced Labour**

- Withholding of wages or excessive wage reductions
- Excessive hours/overtime, few breaks
- Not having the right tools/clothing for the job
- Fabricated employment levels, no labour contract
- Poor and/or abusive working conditions
- Threat of revealing irregular immigration status to authorities.

## **Criminal Activities**

### **Cannabis Cultivation**

- Windows of property are permanently covered from the inside
- Unusual noises and pungent smells coming from the property.

## **Benefit Fraud**

- Difficult to establish/prove relationship between adult and children
- Single adult is contact for a large number of children/families
- Helped to complete benefits claim form but no money.

## Debt Bondage

Debt bondage, also known as debt slavery or bonded labour, is a person's pledge of labour or services as security for the repayment of a debt or other obligation, where there is no hope of actually repaying the debt. The services required to repay the debt as well as the duration may be undefined, traffickers will add extortionate interest to the debt to ensure the debtor has no means of ever repaying the monies perceived to be owed.

## Forced or Sham Marriage

- Status of the groom
- Lack of "courtship"
- Little or no knowledge of each other's family
- No bride's family at wedding
- No photos, reception, honeymoon.

## Domestic Servitude

- Living and working for a family in a private home
- Not eating with the rest of the family
- No private space, bedroom or proper sleeping place
- Forced to work excessive hours, on call 24 hours a day
- Never leaves the house without the employer
- Reported as criminal if attempts to escape.



## County lines

County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of 'deal line'.

They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

Perpetrators use children and young people to maximise profits and distance themselves from the criminal act of physically dealing drugs (National Crime agency, 2018). Young people do the majority of the work and take the most risk.

- use social media to make initial contact with children
- control and coerce through drug debts, grooming and coercion

## Cuckooing (taking control over the home or a younger/vulnerable person)

- Increase in people coming and leaving the property, short visits
- Increased anti-social behaviour
- Degradation of area, damage, littering
- Changes to home owner/tenants behaviour.

**Child Criminal Exploitation** is a type of child abuse where children are manipulated and coerced into committing crimes. Criminal exploitation takes many forms. County Lines exploitation, which relates to the supply and movement of drugs, is one of the most recognised.

## County Line Perpetrators may:

- target children and young people of any background, gender or ethnicity, in a range of settings
- use social media to make initial contact with children
- control and coerce through drug debts, grooming and coercion.



## The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The NRM is the national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery, ensuring survivors receive appropriate support in the UK.

### Primary functions

- Victim identification
- Respect of human rights
- Entitles care and support
- A period of reflection and recovery

Referrals into the NRM can only be made through a 'First Responder', frontline workers such the Police, Social Service, Border Force, Home Office Immigration and certain non-government organisations and charities.

The Salvation Army holds the UK contract to support victims.

If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the relevant competent authority can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim.

It is not necessary for victims of this crime to support the police in a criminal prosecution to gain access to this support but a victim can seek assistance in the future when feeling more reassured or confident to do so.

### SafePlace

The West Midlands Anti Slavery Network SafePlace programme offers pre-NRM support to potential victims of modern slavery. This service is mainly for adult male victims and provides victims with emergency accommodation. The SafePlace team works with victims to address their immediate needs until the victim is transitioned through the National Referral Mechanism or into broader community support. First responders are able to make referrals to SafePlace.

## West Midlands Anti Slavery Network

The West Midlands Anti Slavery Network unites and enables partner organisations to work in collaboration to end modern slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation.

We do this by identifying gaps in service provision, influencing change, and facilitating solutions in order to protect and advocate for the vulnerable in society.

### Concerned about Modern Slavery?

#### Report it Now

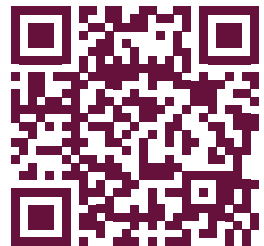
Modern Slavery Helpline

08000 121 700 24/7

**If you feel threatened or there is an immediate risk to you or another person call 999**

For more information about modern slavery including resources please visit our website by either scanning the **QR code** on the right with your smartphone or by visiting

<https://westmidlandsantislavery.org>



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Landmark 2 Snowhill, Birmingham B4 6GA  
Charity Registration Number: 1200309