

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

June 2023

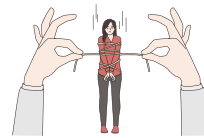


ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

'Modern Slavery' is in fact an umbrella term that encompasses:

- Slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour
- Human trafficking



Types of exploitation

Forced or compulsory labour

Human beings are forced to work under the threat of violence and for little or no pay. Or people that are compelled to work in order to repay a debt and are unable to leave until the debt is repaid. It is the most common form of enslavement in the world



Forced criminality

Forced criminality is understood as the exploitation of a person to commit activities that may include:

- pick-pocketing
- shop-lifting
- drug trafficking or cultivation
- begging
- benefit fraud and/or other types of fraud
- sham marriage
- other similar activities which are subject to penalties and imply financial gain.

Sexual exploitation

Women, men or children that are forced into the commercial sex industry and held against their will by force, fraud or coercion. The majority of female victims of trafficking identified in the UK are exploited through prostitution. Many are beaten, raped and abused. They may go abroad based on false promises of good jobs and economic opportunities, often out of ambition to earn money and make a better life for their children or family

Domestic Servitude

Domestic servitude often involves people working in a household where they are:

- ill treated
- humiliated
- subjected to exhausting working hours
- forced to live and work under unbearable conditions
- forced to work for little or no pay

The problems of domestic workers held in servitude are made worse by the fact it is often very difficult for them to leave their employers and seek help. Abusive employers create physical and psychological obstacles by, for example, instilling fear in the domestic slave by threatening them, or their relatives, with further abuse or deportation, or by withholding their passport.

Removal of organs (organ harvesting)

This type of trafficking involves exploiting people by removing their internal organs, which are used for transplant. Traffickers can force or deceive their victims into giving up an organ. Organs commonly traded are kidneys and liver, but any organ that cannot regenerate and can be removed and re-used could be the subject of this illegal trade.



Modern Slavery Act 2015 uses the following definitions:

- Slavery is where ownership is exercised over a person
- Servitude involves the obligation to provide services imposed by coercion
- Forced or compulsory labour involves work or service extracted from any person under the menace of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily
- Human trafficking concerns arranging or facilitating the travel of another with a view to exploiting them

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. Individuals who are recognised as potential victims of modern slavery through the NRM have access to specialist-tailored support for a period of at least 30 days while their case is considered, which may include:

- access to relevant legal advice
- accommodation
- protection
- independent emotional and practical help



National picture

- 16,938 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM in 2022, 33% up on 2021
- 52% of referrals were for potential victims who claimed exploitation as adults, whilst 43% claimed exploitation as children. The remaining are unknown.
- For adult potential victims, labour exploitation was most reported, whereas child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation.
- In 2022, 2,281 County Lines referrals were flagged, accounting for 13% of all referrals received in the year. The majority (75%; 1,710) of these referrals were for male children.

Local picture

- Between March 22 and Feb 23 there have been 224 referrals to the NRM in Humberside. This is a 18% increase over the previous 12 months. Of these referrals 32% were from Hull, 16% were from ER, 8% were from N Lincs and 14% NEL.
- Criminal exploitation of adults and children remains the most prevalent crime, making up 51% of all offences.
- Forced labour was the second most common crime type making up 16%.
- Sexual exploitation was third most common making up 11%.
- NRM referrals in the last 12 months show almost 4 out of 5 victims are male (79%), which is a slight decrease on last year (81%).
- In the last 12 months the majority of victims from NRM referrals were aged 17 years which was also the case for 2021 and 2022.
- For the last 2 years, the majority of victims have been within the 14-17 years age bracket.

Support, resources and further information:

DID YOU KNOW: Nail Bars Are Havens For Modern Slavery?

In 2016, more beauty and grooming salons opened in the UK than any other independent business. However, nail bars are places where we may spot signs of slavery and labour exploitation.

Investigation visits from partners in law enforcement, statutory agencies and the voluntary sector have uncovered businesses in which slavery and exploitation may be occurring. Exploiters and traffickers often keep their victims (sometimes child slaves) isolated from the community in which they work in order to exert control over them or use the business to launder drug money. One of these visits led to the UK's first successful prosecution of modern slavery involving minors in Bath, where two people were jailed after forcing children trafficked from Vietnam to work in nail bars.

Victims may:

- Have restricted freedom
- Depend on their employer for work, transport and accommodation without any choice
- Be unable to communicate freely with others
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Work excessively long hours over long periods
- Not be dressed adequately for the work they do: for example, they may lack protective equipment or warm clothing
- Wear the same clothes each day

The possibility of licensing these establishments is being explored by some local authorities as a preventative measure.



The Safe Car Wash App

The Safe Car Wash app is a new tool that will enable the largest community intelligence gathering exercise ever attempted in the UK

Download the free app. When you are using a hand car wash, simply open the app and complete a short survey about the washing conditions of the car wash.

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/campaigns/safe-car-wash>

The Unseen App

The Unseen App makes reporting to the Modern Day Slavery Helpline even easier. The App provides a simple guide to recognizing the signs of modern day slavery and reporting concerns in confidence to free more victims of slavery. The app was developed for Unseen by the Helpline's founding partner BT and can be found by searching 'UnseenUK' in app stores.

KEY REMINDERS

- The Contextual Safeguarding Priorities for SMC are Neglect and Mental Health and Wellbeing

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Andy Turner

Deputy DSLs (DDSL): Rosa Flanagan/Amy Wiles

