

# MODERN SLAVERY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON MODERN SLAVERY

### 1. What is Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery can take many forms including the trafficking of people<sup>1</sup>, forced labour, servitude and slavery. Children (those aged under 18) are considered victims of trafficking, whether or not they have been coerced, deceived or paid to secure their compliance. They need only have been recruited, transported, received or harboured for the purpose of exploitation. It is an international crime, affecting an estimated **45.8 million people** around the world.<sup>2</sup> It is a global problem that transcends age, gender and ethnicity. It is not an issue confined to history or an issue that only exists in certain countries. It is something that is still happening today, and it happens here in the UK.

### 2. Are there different forms of Modern Slavery?

The term Modern Slavery captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to:

- **Sexual exploitation** – This includes but is not limited to sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, forced prostitution and the abuse of children for the production of child abuse images/videos. **35%** of all reported trafficking victims in the UK are victims of sexual exploitation.<sup>3</sup>
- **Domestic servitude** – This involves a victim being forced to work in predominantly private households, usually performing domestic chores and childcare duties. Their freedom may be restricted and they may work long hours often for little or no pay, often sleeping where they work. **24%** of reported victims of domestic servitude referred to the National Referral mechanism were minors at the time of exploitation.<sup>4</sup>
- **Forced labour** – Victims may be forced to work long hours for little or no pay in poor conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. It can happen in various industries, including construction, manufacturing, laying driveways, hospitality, food packaging, agriculture, maritime and beauty (nail bars). Often victims are housed together in one dwelling. **47%** of reported victims exploited in the UK are forced into labour. **18%** of all reported forced labour victims in the UK are children – an increase of **62.5%** since 2015. **81%** of all reported victims of forced labour taking place in the UK are male.<sup>5</sup>
- **Criminal exploitation** – This can be understood as the exploitation of a person to commit a crime, such as pick-pocketing, shop-lifting, cannabis cultivation, drug trafficking and other similar activities that are subject to penalties and imply financial gain for the trafficker. In the UK in 2016, 34 potential modern slavery victims were involved in fraud or financial crime whereby perpetrators force victims to claim benefits on arrival but the money is withheld, or the victim is forced to take out loans or credit cards<sup>6</sup>. Cannabis cultivation is the highest category of criminal exploitation with **33%** of those being a minor at the time of referral, the majority being Vietnamese.<sup>7</sup>

1 Defined in Directive 2011/36/EU as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those 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 of 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. The consent of a victim of trafficking in human beings to the exploitation, whether intended or actual, shall be irrelevant where any of the means (') set forth in paragraph 1 has been used or if the victim is a child

2 Global Slavery Index

3 National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2016

4 National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2016

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- **Other forms of exploitation** – Organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

### 3. Who are the victims of Modern Slavery?

There is no typical victim of slavery – victims can be men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities and cut across the population. But it is normally more prevalent amongst the most vulnerable, and within minority or socially excluded groups. Approximately two-thirds of victims are women, and a third are men. Every fourth victim of Modern Slavery is a child. Child victims are victims of child abuse and should therefore be treated as such using existing child protection procedures and statutory protocols.

Poverty, limited opportunities at home, lack of education, unstable social and political conditions, economic imbalances and war are some of the key drivers that contribute to vulnerability to becoming victims of Modern Slavery. What's more, victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

### 4. Where do victims come from?

Potential victims have been reported from more than 100 countries of origin each year. The top five most common countries of origin for potential victims of trafficking recorded in 2013 were **United Kingdom, Vietnam, Romania, Nigeria, China**.<sup>8</sup>

### 5. How old are child victims on average?

The majority of children reported as victims of Modern Slavery are in the 16-17 year old age category, yet they can be of any age, including very young.<sup>9</sup> Many children travel without documents or are given false or forged identity documents, making it difficult to know their exact age. However, where the age of a person is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that they are a child they must be presumed a child until their age has been assessed formally.

### 6. How many victims of Modern Slavery are in the UK?

There were **3,804** potential victims of trafficking identified in 2016<sup>10</sup>. This represents a **17%** increase on 2015 referrals.<sup>11</sup> But these are just the victims we know about. Slavery's hidden nature means actual numbers are likely to be much higher. Victims are at a high risk of being re-exploited once identified, so it is important the required and appropriate support and protection is put in place immediately.

### 7. What is the Modern Slavery Campaign?

This is a UK wide campaign. The Government is determined to end Modern Slavery by raising awareness of the issue and encouraging the public, frontline workers, businesses and potential victims to call the Modern Slavery helpline **(0800 0121 700)** to report suspicion, and get advice or assistance.

The Home Office launched a national advertising campaign on the 31st of July 2014. A TV advert looking at three different types of exploitation – sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labour – demonstrates the fact that Modern Slavery has many different guises and is closer than most people think. This broad scale TV campaign has been designed to raise awareness of Modern Slavery quickly to a wide audience and encourage action by driving people to the phone helpline **(0800 0121 700)** to get advice on potential cases of Modern Slavery or to visit the website **modernslavery.co.uk** for more information.

The Home Office has worked with partners, such as charities, police and frontline staff, to develop a range resources, including a short film, infographic, posters, wallet-sized reference card, FAQs, briefing materials, social media content and press release template.

<sup>8</sup> National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2016

<sup>9</sup> UKHTC: A Strategic Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2012, August 2013

<sup>10</sup> National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2016

<sup>11</sup> National Referral Mechanism Statistics 2016

## 8. Why do we need to stop Modern Slavery?

Modern Slavery destroys lives, damages communities and has strong links with organised crime. Victims are often deceived and coerced into abusive situations that they feel they are unable to leave. It is a hidden crime – it's a complex and multi-faceted problem and we need to work together to protect and help victims.

It is all of our responsibility to ensure that criminals don't get away with it and victims receive the support they are entitled to and need<sup>12</sup>. We need to work together to continue to improve identification of victims, and to stop this horrific abuse.

## 9. What is the Modern Slavery Bill?

In June 2014, the Modern Slavery Bill was introduced in Parliament to ensure law enforcement has stronger powers, perpetrators receive suitably severe punishment and victims are better protected and supported.

Modern Slavery has not always received adequate focus from law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and this Bill aims to start making a real difference.

The Bill brings together and consolidates existing criminal legislation on trafficking and Modern Slavery, which is currently contained in three Acts of Parliament:

- Section 59a of the Sexual Offences Act 2003;
- Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004; and
- Section 71 of the Coroner's and Justice Act 2009.

It aims to give law enforcement the tools to stamp out Modern Slavery, and enhance protection for victims.

The aims of the Modern Slavery Bill are:

- Ensuring that perpetrators receive suitably severe punishments for these appalling crimes.
- Giving law enforcement stronger tools to prevent Modern Slavery.
- Creating an Anti-slavery Commissioner to drive improvements and a better coordinated response to Modern Slavery.
- Enhancing protection and support for victims of Modern Slavery.
- Closing gaps in the law to enable the police and Border Force to stop boats where slaves are suspected of being exploited.

The Government is also ramping up non-legislative action to tackle Modern Slavery including trialling child advocates to better support trafficked children and introducing specialist teams at the border to identify cases of trafficking.

## 10. What can be done to help potential victims?

Modern Slavery is complex, varied and hard to detect. However, there is a way to help bring these cruel acts to an end. Just by being aware of the signs to spot and by remaining vigilant, anyone can help to report suspicions about potential victims; the premises where victims might be held and businesses and workplaces in which victims might be forced to work.

Professionals (including the police, social workers, immigration and relevant support organisations) are working together to identify and safeguard potential victims in line with the UK's legal obligations<sup>13</sup> and should be familiar with the National Referral Mechanism, the official system of identification and assistance for potential victims of trafficking, and the rights of victims<sup>14</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> See the EU Trafficking Directive. Available: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0001:0011:EN:PDF>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism>

<sup>14</sup> See the EU Trafficking Directive. Available: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:101:0001:0011:EN:PDF>

In addition to this, in the case of children, child trafficking and exploitation is child abuse and therefore should be treated as a child protection matter, with police and local authority children's services notified immediately and existing child protection procedures followed. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 places a general duty on every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need. [Section 11](#) of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. In addition, a Local Authority has a duty, under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989, to make enquiries when 'they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child who lives, or is found, in their area is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm'.

For more information, refer to relevant statutory guidance and best practice guidance<sup>15</sup>.

**Slavery is closer than you think.** It happens all over the world including the UK. We want to encourage reporting of suspected Modern Slavery. However, it is extremely important to be aware that trafficking gangs are dangerous criminals, therefore it is vital that members of the public do not attempt to act on suspicions themselves, which may put themselves or the possible victims at risk. Instead, should you come across anyone you believe could be a victim of Modern Slavery, a property that raises suspicion, or a business you think might be using forced labour, call the helpline on **0800 0121 700** or call the police – it is the duty of trained professionals to identify victims so leave it up to them. If a child is believed to be at risk, immediately contact the police and the local authority children's services. For further information please go to [modernslavery.co.uk](https://www.modernslavery.co.uk).

<sup>15</sup> See – DfE guidance – Care of unaccompanied and trafficking children: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>;

LSCB Trafficking Guidance and Toolkit: <http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/trafficking/>; National Referral Mechanism: guidance for child first responders: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-referral-mechanism-guidance-for-child-first-responders>