

## **Modern Slavery Bill**

### **Factsheet: Guidance about Identifying and Supporting Victims (Clause 48)**

Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime, Karen Bradley:

“It is vital that victims of modern slavery can be identified quickly and effectively to minimise their suffering and harm.

Ensuring that public authorities and all first responders have the guidance they need to help them spot the signs of modern slavery, and know what to do if they encounter someone they think is a victim, will help end the suffering of victims.

The guidance will help those on the front-line to understand their role in identifying and helping victims to access the care and support they need.”

### **Background**

The pre-legislative scrutiny Committee’s report on the draft Modern Slavery Bill recommended the inclusion of an order-making power that gives power to the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, to publish and maintain guidance on the provision of assistance and support to victims of modern slavery.

The Government looked carefully at this proposal, and has extended the pre-legislative scrutiny recommendation for statutory guidance on support for victims to also cover victim identification. A wide range of professionals across Government and the voluntary sector can come into contact with victims of modern slavery and effective training and guidance is critical to ensure the signs that someone may be a victim of modern slavery are spotted. Statutory guidance on victim identification provides an opportunity to ensure that identifying victims is given a high priority across the public sector, and that the best possible information is available to those who need to identify victims.

Access to assistance and support for victims of trafficking is clearly set out in the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. These instruments are currently implemented administratively and in guidance. However, the Home Office accepts that there is merit in making the Government’s position clear in statutory guidance.

## **What we are going to do:**

Clause 48 of the Modern Slavery Bill now contains a provision for the Secretary of State to issue guidance aimed at front-line professionals and first responders, to help in the identification of victims and to set out the provision of support and assistance to victims, in line with our international obligations. This will help to ensure that public authorities and others understand their role in identifying and supporting victims of trafficking or slavery.

## **Benefits:**

Guidance will ensure that front-line professionals, such as the police, local authorities, NHS professionals and others understand how they may encounter and identify potential victims, including the sorts of thing which can indicate that a person may be a victim of slavery or human trafficking. This will lead both to more people being identified as victims and to more people being given the help and support they need to recover.

We will work with front-line professionals to ensure that they have the right training to spot the signs of modern slavery in all of its forms and know what to do if they encounter a potential victim. We will work with the College of Policing to ensure that training for police officers on modern slavery is strengthened and expanded. We will also work with other professions, such as social workers, to encourage the inclusion of modern slavery in training for those new to the profession as well as those already in it.

## **Q&A**

### **Will the Guidance identify the differences between adult and child victims?**

Yes, the guidance will cover both children and adults. The guidance will reflect the requirements set out in the Council of Europe Convention and the EU Directive on Trafficking in Human Beings. The guidance will also signpost the services and support provided to child victims under the existing local authority child protection and safeguarding framework.

### **Slavery and Human Trafficking are constantly evolving crimes, won't the guidance become out dated?**

No, the provisions allow for the Secretary of State to revise the guidance issued, ensuring that authorities are kept abreast of the changing nature of these crimes, and the indicators that someone may be a victim.

**Home Office**  
**November 2014**