UK MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE
AND RESOURCE CENTRE

GETTING INFORMATION, ADVICE AND HELP

MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE
08000 121 700
WHO IS THIS LEAFLET FOR?

This leaflet provides information and advice about the Modern Slavery Helpline for:

- people who think they may be a victim of modern slavery;
- those who want to report suspicions or concerns;
- statutory agencies who may come into contact with potential victims (police, local authorities, NHS); and
- businesses who want help and advice about tackling modern slavery in their organisation and supply chains.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

The Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre is a confidential 24/7 service for anyone wanting to speak to a trained adviser about modern slavery. If you want help or advice contact our advisers who can signpost you to relevant services, provide information and advice or refer potential victims for Government-funded help and support.
WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

Modern slavery is a serious crime where people are exploited, abused and treated as a commodity. It encompasses slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking.

Victims can be any age, gender, nationality or ethnicity and may be subjected to more than one form of slavery or exploitation. Because modern slavery is a hidden crime it is often difficult to detect and victims may not come forward because of fear of violence or repercussions.

In the UK, the National Referral Mechanism helps to identify victims of modern slavery and refers them to organisations who can provide help, advice and support. Potential victims of modern slavery are entitled to a minimum period of 45 days to help them reflect on, and recover from their ordeal.
MODERN SLAVERY MYTHS

It only happens to women and girls

Not so – more and more victims coming forward for help and support are men who are subjected to labour exploitation.

Most modern slavery is sexual exploitation

Labour exploitation is now much more evident than it has been previously.

People can just leave if they want to

Many victims face threats of violence towards themselves or their families which means they are too scared to leave. Some are told they owe their exploiter money to repay them for getting them a job or helping them get into the country.

Modern slavery only happens in illegal trades

Modern slavery can happen anywhere, and particularly in legitimate businesses with long and complex supply chains.

CHILD VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

Children (those aged under 18) are considered victims of modern slavery regardless of whether they have been coerced, deceived or paid to secure their compliance. Slavery and trafficking is child abuse and should be treated as a child protection matter, with police and local authority children’s services notified immediately, and existing child protection procedures followed. The Children Act 1989 places a general duty of care on all local authorities to protect and safeguard children.
IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF MODERN SLAVERY
YOU HAVE RIGHTS

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT EMOTIONAL, MEDICAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT WHICH COULD INCLUDE: TEMPORARY SAFE ACCOMMODATION; HELP TO COPE WITH YOUR EXPERIENCE; ACCESS TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; AND INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE.
CONTACT US

If you think you are a victim

Call the confidential helpline on 08000 121 700 and speak to someone who can help you. We can help you speak to the right organisations so that you can get support and advice about what to do next. We will also arrange a referral if you want to be referred into the National Referral Mechanism to seek temporary safe accommodation and other support on offer.

If you are a statutory agency

If you want advice or information about how to deal with a potential issue of modern slavery, call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700. We can offer assistance and support to help safeguard and protect anyone you think may be a victim of slavery.

If you want to report a suspicion

If you think that you may have seen something suspicious and want to report it but don’t want to talk to the police, call us on 08000 121 700. If you don’t want to give your details, that is fine. We will take the details of what you have seen and why you are concerned and pass them on to the police.

If you are a business

If you are concerned about a potential modern slavery issue, contact us, in confidence to discuss. We can provide practical information and advice about what to do next. Look at www.modernslaveryhelpline.org for more information or go to www.tiscreport.org.
INDICATORS OF MODERN SLAVERY

**Behaviour** – withdrawn, scared, not willing to talk

**Appearance** – unkempt, malnourished, few possessions, health concerns

**Work** — inappropriate clothing for job, long hours, little or no pay

**Fear of authorities** — doesn’t want to speak to police or authorities

**Debt bondage** — in debt to, or dependent on someone else

**Accommodation** — overcrowded, poorly maintained, blacked-out windows

**Lack of control** — no ID, no access to bank account, work transport provided

**Lack of freedom** — unable to move freely, unwilling or scared to leave

**Children** — alone, not related to adult carer, inappropriate clothing/behaviour.

ABOUT US

**Unseen is an award-winning charity** working towards a world without slavery. We do this by supporting survivors and vulnerable people, better equipping stakeholders and influencing society through systemic change.

We strive to maintain our values of: collaboration, honour, ambition, dynamic, and insightful. They are at the heart of everything we do, guiding our decisions, delivering results and shaping the way we work with others to offer safety, hope and choice to survivors of slavery.
CALL 08000 121 700

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 999
OR 101 IF YOUR CALL IS NON-URGENT
ALTERNATIVELY TO REPORT A CRIME ANONYMOUSLY
CALL CRIMESTOPPERS ON 0800 555 111

For more information visit www.modernslaveryhelpline.org
Contact us at info.mshelpline@unseenuk.org or 0303 123 1140

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