



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call the police on  
**101**

Call the Modern Slavery Helpline on  
**08000 121 700**

Some victims may not recognise themselves as a victim or want to talk to the authorities. They may be scared of their employer, or even genuinely believe that their 'boss' is looking after them.

This should NOT prevent you from reporting your concerns – your report could help the police identify a crime.



## MODERN SLAVERY

The government estimates that there are around 13,000 people in modern slavery in the UK, though the Global Slavery Index published by the Walk Free Foundation in July 2018 suggests there may be as many as 136,000.

They are extremely vulnerable men, women and children who are abused for criminal profit, often forced to live in squalor, and work long hours for little or no wages. They are stripped of their freedom and human rights, and traumatised.

Large numbers are trafficked into the UK from abroad, mainly from Vietnam, Nigeria, Romania, Albania, and Poland, but many British nationals live in slavery here too.

In 2017, a total of 5,145 potential victims of modern slavery were identified and referred for support. The largest nationality group was British citizens (819). Just under half of the adults were women. Just over 2,100 – 41% – were children.

## Modern slavery includes:

- **Forced labour** – in hand car washes, nail bars, agriculture, construction, food processing and packaging, and hotels
- **Sexual exploitation** – many women and girls are forced into sex work, often trafficked (moved) within the UK from one place to another
- **Domestic servitude** – cooking, cleaning, washing, looking after children or elderly relatives
- **Criminal exploitation** – pickpocketing, bag snatching, cannabis growing, begging, transporting drugs or money. A lot of trafficked children are used in this way.

## How does it happen?

Many adult victims from overseas are lured into their situation by the promise of a proper job. Once they arrive in the UK, they end up in debt to their 'employer', have their passports taken away and are threatened with violence against them or their family if they try to leave.

Modern slavery happens ANYWHERE – cities, towns, villages, rural areas.

Yet it is a crime that still goes largely undetected, because people are not looking out for it or don't think it happens in their area.

## What is the government doing to tackle modern slavery?

Tackling modern slavery is a priority for the government. Most of its focus is on improving transparency in business, to encourage companies to stamp out slavery in their supply chains, and on strengthening the ability of Border Force staff to detect traffickers and victims at the border.

## What are the signs?

Modern slavery can be hard to spot. There is no 'typical victim' – modern slaves can be men, women or children, of all ages and nationalities.

But there are some signals that might indicate modern slavery is being practised; either unusual goings-on at places, or unusual behaviours by people.

## Tell-tale signs that a house, flat or other dwelling could be a base for modern slavery

- The property seems too small for the numbers of people that live there
- People appear to be bundled in and out of the property by others, often during darkness
- There are bars on the windows and/or the curtains are permanently drawn
- Large numbers of young women have suddenly been moved in to the property, which then receives lots of visitors day and night
- There is CCTV at the entrance to the property
- In smaller towns or rural areas where children are sent to sell drugs, the gang will take over the house of a vulnerable person or drug addict and the child will be based there. Such properties are known as 'trap houses'

## Tell-tale signs that workers at a local business could be victims of modern slavery

- They wear unsuitable clothes for the work, or for the weather
- They seem malnourished and scruffy
- They are reluctant to make eye contact or talk to people, and allow others to answer for them
- They work long hours and seldom, if ever, have days off
- They appear fearful, uneasy or anxious, and distrustful of authorities
- They have untreated injuries
- They don't know their home or work address

**Sometimes it will be a case of acting on your instinct that something is not right. None of these indicators in isolation or combination can give you complete certainty, however you do not need to be certain to report your concerns.**