

## Modern Slavery

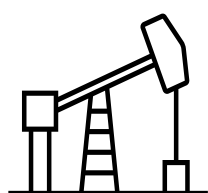
Modern slavery is an international crime that affects an estimated 29.8 million people around the world, with an estimated 13,000 people held in slavery in the UK today.

Modern slavery takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude and criminal exploitation. This crime also goes on in agriculture, construction, catering, the care sector, contract cleaning, hotels and hospitality, and in fishing, as well as being widespread within the sex industry.

It can happen to men, women or children of any age, and it's believed to be significantly under-reported, despite often happening in plain sight in public places. Victims are vulnerable and may not actually know they are being exploited. Often the person is forced or compelled to work, and they are often controlled by an 'employer', usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse, both to them and their families.

We can all help end modern slavery by being aware of what to look out for and being Professionally Curious.

<p><i>Isolation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They're rarely allowed to travel on their own</li> <li>• Appear to be under the control of others</li> <li>• Tend not to interact with other people</li> <li>• Seem unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work</li> <li>• Have relationships which don't seem right – for example, a young teenager appearing to be the boyfriend/girlfriend of a much older adult.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Restricted freedom of movement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They don't have documents that would allow them to travel – passports, ID, etc.</li> <li>• Limited opportunities to move freely</li> <li>• Few personal possessions</li> <li>• Wear the same clothes day-in day-out.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Reluctance to seek help</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoiding eye contact</li> <li>• Appearing frightened, or hesitant to talk to strangers</li> <li>• Fear of law enforcers</li> <li>• Fear of deportation</li> <li>• Unsure who to trust or where to get help</li> <li>• Fear of violence to them or their family.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Physical Appearance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs of physical or psychological abuse, such as untreated injuries, anxiety, agitation, or appearing to be withdrawn and neglected.</li> <li>• They look malnourished or unkempt.</li> <li>• Wear clothes that are unsuitable for their work.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Poor Living Conditions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation.</li> <li>• Working and living at the same address.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Unusual Travel Arrangements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They're always be dropped off at/ collected from work; and very early in the morning or late at night.</li> <li>• Children dropped off/ picked up in private cars or taxis at unusual times and in places where it isn't clear why they'd be there.</li> </ul>



### Labour Exploitation

- Signs of psychological or physical abuse
- Appearing frightened, withdrawn or confused
- They appear to not be free to move and/or are always accompanied
- They're transported to and from work, perhaps with a number of people in one vehicle

- Lack protective equipment, suitable clothing or training to safely do their job

- Lack access to their own documents, such as ID or passport; an employer may have confiscated them
- Working unusually long hours.
- They do not have a contract, are paid less than the National Minimum Wage, or not paid at all
- Forced to stay in accommodation provided by their employer; this may be overcrowded
- Afraid to accept money or payment
- Their legitimate wages may be taken by an exploiter who is outside of the business or work place

### Sexual Exploitation

- They may appear scared or intimidated
- Appearing frightened, withdrawn or confused
- They're closely guarded
- "Branded" with a tattoo indicating ownership
- Signs of physical abuse, including bruising, scarring and cigarette burns
- Are unable to keep payment and have restricted or no access to their earnings
- Have limited English vocabulary, restricted to sexualised words
- Male visitors call day and night and who only stay for a short time
- There are signs of sexual activity, such as cards and advertisements nearby
- A number of female foreign nationals living at the same address
- Sleeping at the premises where they work could indicate a brothel is operating.

### Domestic Servitude

- They're held in their employer's home and forced to carry out domestic tasks such as child care, cooking and cleaning
- Unable to leave the house on their own; their movements are monitored
- Work unusually long hours
- Don't have access to their own belongings, including things like ID or mobile phone, which can isolate them
- Employer is physically and/or verbally abusive
- They rarely interact with the family they work for
- Deprived of their own living space, food, water or medical care
- Stand out from other family members, for example because they wear poorer-quality clothes



### Criminal Exploitation

- A large group of adult or child beggars being moved daily to different locations but returned to the same one at night could indicate forced begging
- Being transported to or from the scene of a crime, including shoplifting, pick-pocketing or forced begging
- Not benefiting from money or items obtained through crimes they've been forced to commit
- Being forced to cultivate cannabis; their freedom of movement may be restricted, including being locked in a room; commonly they don't speak English, or have limited vocabulary
- Being forced or manipulated out of their home by drug dealers, who use the home as a base to sell drugs
- Some young people are forced to carry and sell drugs across county borders.

### What to do if you spot the signs - In an emergency and you suspect someone to be at immediate risk of harm call 999

Call the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline free on 08000 121 700. Its open 24/7 and totally confidential  
You can find out further information from visiting [WSAB Types of abuse](#)

**Learning from Adult Safeguarding Reviews-** A key finding from Safeguarding Adult Reviews which have undertaken by WSAB has highlighted the need for professional curiosity. This is key in identifying different types of abuse and not taking things at face value, you can find further information [here](#).