

7 Minute Briefing

Modern Slavery

Report Modern Slavery

You don't need to be sure that modern slavery is taking place or fully understand the types and definitions to report your concerns. If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police

Locally you should report concerns for children to the MASH on 0300 555 2866.

Alternatively you can report concerns by calling the modern slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700 or report it [online](#).

For more information visit www.westmidlandsantislavery.org

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking. The categories listed below are not exhaustive, but cover the main types documented in the UK:

- Trafficking
- Labour Exploitation
- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic Servitude

Trafficking can be a feature of all types of exploitation.

Human trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It can be international or within the UK.

Labour exploitation

usually involves unacceptably low pay, poor working conditions or excessive wage deductions, but is not solely about this. In order to constitute modern slavery, there will also be some form of coercion meaning that victims cannot freely leave for other employment or exercise choice over their own situation.

Sexual exploitation is where female and male victims are coerced into sexually abusive situations. This includes child sexual exploitation.

Criminal exploitation

is the exploitation of a person to commit a crime for someone else's gain. This can include child criminal exploitation where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or adult into any criminal activity. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual.

Domestic Servitude

typically involves victims working in a private family home where they are ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to unbearable conditions or working hours or made to work for little or no pay.



National Referral Mechanism

is the UK's system for identifying and supporting potential victims of Modern Slavery. Details of support can be accessed via [NRM](#).

When the potential victim is a child, the local authority must be contacted. All victims, including possible or potential victims of modern slavery who are under the age of 18 must be referred to children's social care urgently under the [child protection procedures](#).

Children

Walsall children's services will work in close co-operation with the police and other agencies to offer potentially trafficked children the protection and support they require. Unlike adults, potential child victims do not need to consent to being referred into the NRM and a referral should always be made after the child is safeguarded.

Support for victims: Adults

Adult victims can access a range of support across the UK including via <https://hopeforjustice.org/> If they choose to enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). This support can include:

- safe and secure accommodation
- financial support
- physical and psychological medical care
- access to relevant information and legal advice

Spot the Signs

It can be challenging to identify a potential victim of modern slavery. Potential victims may be reluctant to come forward or may not recognise themselves as victims.

Victims may:

- believe that they must work against their will
- be unable to leave their work environment or home environment
- show signs that their movements are being controlled
- feel that they cannot leave
- show fear or anxiety
- be subjected to violence or threats of violence against themselves or against their family members and loved ones
- allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- not be in possession of their passports or other travel or identity documents, as those documents are being held by someone else