

Modern Slavery: 7 Minute Briefing

01 Introduction

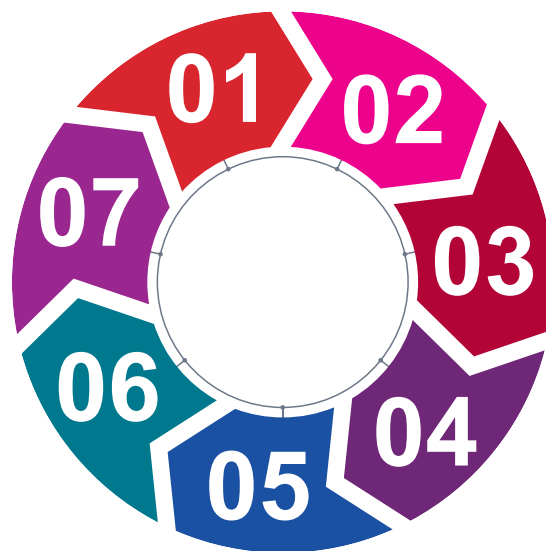
To be exploited is to be used for someone else's personal gain. Modern slavery is an umbrella term that encompasses the criminal offences of human trafficking and slavery. Modern slavery is often hidden and may take place alongside a wide range of abuses and other criminal offences. Modern slavery happens across the world and the UK. It is also happening in Slough. It can happen to people who come from the UK, or who have come here from other countries.

02 Legislation and terminology

The term Modern Slavery is defined in the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The anti-slavery commissioner has identified 17 types of modern slavery but the main types are sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting. Trafficking involves moving someone for the purpose of exploiting them, whether it is from one location to another, or from one country to another.

07 Additional resources

- Thames Valley Police - advice on modern slavery
- Home Office You Tube video
- Crimestoppers You Tube video
- Unseen UK
- Gov.uk website
- Victims First
- LGA Modern Slavery Guidance for Councils (PDF)
- Modern slavery campaign - Slough Borough Council



03 What does modern slavery look like?

Signs of slavery and exploitation are often hidden, making it hard to recognise potential victims. There is no typical victim of modern slavery. Victims can be any age, gender, ethnicity or nationality. Some victims don't understand they're being exploited and may not speak English. Whilst by no means exhaustive, this is a list of some common signs:

- poor physical appearance
- isolation
- poor living conditions, possibly linked to employment
- few or no belongings
- restricted freedom of movement
- unusual travel times
- reluctance to seek help
- being controlled by someone else.

For children:

- Is the child cared for by an adult who is not their parent or legal guardian?
- Are there a number of unrelated children found at one address?
- Children who come into contact with authorities then disappear.

06 What to do?

Do not put yourself or the person at risk. You can report concerns to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700. It does not matter if you do not have evidence, you should always report because your piece of information may help to save someone. If you think the person is at immediate risk, call 999.

There is a range of help available for people who have been victims of modern slavery. Useful free apps include:

- Unseen
- Just Good Work
- Farm Welfare
- Safe Car Wash

05 Things to consider

Human traffickers can use a variety of means to recruit, transport, receive and hide their victims such as threats or force, abduction, deception or false promises. Any consent victims have given to their treatment will be irrelevant where they have been coerced, deceived or provided with payment or benefit to achieve that consent. Children (those aged under 18) are considered victims of trafficking, whether or not they have been coerced, deceived or paid to secure their compliance. They need only have been recruited, transported, received or harboured for the purpose of exploitation.

04 Questions to ask

- Are you currently living the life you expected and were told about prior to you coming to this place/area/country?
- Do you know where your personal identity documents/passport are and are you able to get access to them?
- If you wanted to leave this job or this accommodation, would anyone try to stop you?
- Have you ever had threats made to you or your family if you do not do what you are told?
- Are you able to make contact with your family or friends when you want?