

## 57. Child Abuse: Modern Slavery

### Modern slavery

Modern slavery takes many forms encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking.

### Defining modern slavery

Modern slavery is where offenders - known as slave drivers or traffickers - coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. Slave drivers or traffickers may sexually exploit children, force them to work for little or no pay and/or force them to commit criminal activities.

**The cross-government strategy to approach fighting modern slavery in the UK and internationally focuses on 4 areas based on the 'four Ps' structure:**

#### The 4 Ps

- **Pursue:** Prosecute and disrupt the activities of those responsible for modern slavery
- **Prevent:** Prevent people from engaging in modern slavery
- **Protect:** Protect vulnerable people from exploitation by raising awareness and helping to increase resilience against modern slavery
- **Prepare:** Improve victim identification and provide them with better support and protection.

### Modern slavery is broken down into the following four categories:

- A. Labour exploitation.
- B. Domestic servitude.
- C. Sexual exploitation.
- D. Criminal exploitation.

### The above four categories are further sub-divided into the following 17 areas:

#### A. Labour exploitation...

1. **Exploited for multiple purposes in isolated environments:** This is where a person is exploited for labour in an isolated location. This may even be on the offenders' property and normally in squalid conditions. This person will be subjected to repeated abuse and rarely paid.
2. **Work for offenders:** This is where a person is forced to work directly for offenders on sites - or businesses that the offender controls (can be known as a gangmaster) - for little or no pay.
3. **Work for someone other than offenders:** This is where a person is employed legitimately by an employer unrelated to the offender, however, the offender will have control of their bank account and will take most, if not all of their wages.

#### B. Domestic servitude...

4. **Exploitation by partner:** This is where a person is forced to undertake household chores for their partner and partners relatives. If the person is married to the offender, it may have been an arranged or forced marriage.
5. **Exploitation by relatives:** This is where a person lives with family and extended family and is exploited for household chores and childcare. Children are very often the victims of this form of exploitation.
6. **Exploitation by a person not related:** This is where the person is living with strangers and are forced to undertake household chores. Normally they will also be confined to the house.

#### C. Sexual exploitation...

7. **Child sexual exploitation - group exploitation:** This is where the child is sexually exploited by groups of offenders. This is normally for personal gratification, but can also be for forced sex work - in fixed or changing locations. Offenders will often transport the child to different locations to abuse them.

## Child Abuse: Modern Slavery continued...

8. **Child sexual exploitation - single exploiter:** This is where the child is sexually exploited by an individual. They will groom the child and then use them for sexual exploitation.
9. **Forced sex work in fixed location:** This is where the person is trafficked and exploited in an established location for sex work **e.g.** brothels and massage parlours.
10. **Forced sex work in changing location:** This is where a person is forced into sex work and where the location changes. Normally advertised online and will be found at locations that include streets, clients' residence, hotels and pop-up brothels.
11. **Trafficking for personal gratification:** This is where a person is trafficked to a residential site that is controlled by the offender - and where the offender sexually exploits the person for their own gratification.

### D. Criminal exploitation:

12. **Forced gang-related criminality:** This is where a person is forced to undertake gang related criminal activities. It is very often children that are exploited and who are forced by gangs to transport drugs and money.
13. **Forced labour in illegal activities:** This is where a person is forced to provide labour to offenders. This will be for illegal purposes and the most common example is where they are forced to cultivate cannabis in a private residence.
14. **Forced acquisitive crime:** This is where a person is forced to carry out crimes such as shoplifting and pickpocketing. They may be provided with food and accommodation, but would rarely be paid.
15. **Forced begging:** This is where a person is transported to locations to beg on streets for money, which is then taken by the offender. This type of exploitation is very often committed against children or adults at risk.
16. **Trafficking for forced sham marriage:** This is where traffickers transport EU nationals to the UK and sell them to an exploiter. The exploiters will then marry the victims to gain immigration advantages and often sexually abuse them.
17. **Financial fraud (including benefit fraud):** This is where a person is exploited financially and most commonly their identity documents are taken and used to claim benefits.

### The law on modern slavery

The **Modern Slavery Act 2015** has consolidated all current offences relating to trafficking and slavery as detailed above. Modern slavery is a hidden crime, usually made up of a series of different events, often taking place in different countries - and frequently involving multiple victims and offenders - who may be involved at different times. **These crimes of modern slavery often consist of three distinct stages:**

1. **Recruitment.**
2. **Exploitation.**
3. **Transportation.**

The complexity of this crime is recognised in the **Palermo Protocol** on human trafficking, which is a key piece of international anti-trafficking legislation. **This protocol identifies three elements of human trafficking as the:**

- **Act** of human trafficking - which includes the recruitment of victims
- **Means** - which is referring to the ways in which offenders carry out the act of human trafficking **e.g.** through force, abuse of power and/or coercion
- **Purpose** - this element of human trafficking being the way in which victims are exploited.

**If a child makes a disclosure, or there are suspicions of an act of modern slavery, ACT staff should immediately speak to the organisation's DSO. If a child is in immediate danger, then the police should be called immediately on 999.**

All concerns or reports relating to Modern Slavery will be dealt with by using ACT's Procedure for Responding to Signs or Suspicions of Abuse in the Safeguarding Handbook.

**Reviewed & Updated: September 2022**

ACT will review this **Child Abuse: Modern Slavery** and best practice at least annually. In addition, more frequent reviews will be undertaken following a change in safeguarding legislation; following the implementation of a new activity or service which involves contact with children and/or adults at risk; following a safeguarding incident within the CCO (or one which directly concerns or affects the CCO); and/or following a significant organisational change.

## 85. Adults at Risk Abuse: Modern Slavery

### Modern slavery

Modern Slavery is an international crime, it can include victims that have been brought from overseas, as well as other vulnerable people in the UK. Slave Masters and Traffickers will deceive, coerce and force adults into a life of abuse, callous treatment and slavery.

### Definition of modern slavery

Modern slavery is the **exploitation of people** who have been **forced, deceived, or coerced** into a life of **labour** and **servitude**. Modern Slavery is linked to **Human Trafficking**, but not all victims of modern slavery will have necessarily been trafficked.

The **Modern Slavery** and **Human Trafficking** network is often made up of the following structure:

1. Recruiters.
2. Transporters/Traffickers.
3. Exploiters.

**The people that are most at risk of Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking are those with mental health, alcohol and/or drug related issues as well as the homeless and people with disabilities.**

### Examples of enslavement

Although not intended to be an exhaustive list, examples of enslavement can include the following:

- **Forced Labour** | This is the most common form of slavery and is where a person **is forced to work against their will** or to **provide a service whilst under a threat of punishment**.

An example of some of the types of workplaces that this may be found in are domestic work, sex trade, nail bars, car washes, construction, restaurants, bogus or legal charity collections, drug supply (cannabis factories) & clothing manufacturers (sweatshops).

- **Domestic Servitude** | This is a form of **forced labour relating to domestic workers** such as **servants, maids, housekeepers** and/or **nannies**.

Victims are often not allowed to leave the home, but when they are then their movements are controlled or restricted.

- **Bonded Labour - also known as Peonage or Debt Bondage** | This is where the person is **tricked/trapped** or **working for little or no pay** and/or their **labour is being demanded** as means of **repayment for a loan**.
- **Forced Criminality** | This is where the victim is forced into various **criminal enterprises** - e.g. working in cannabis factories.

Victims of forced criminality may also have been provided with false identities and documents, which only serves to make what life they do have even more difficult - as not having legal documents only further raise the suspicions of the authorities.

- **Sexual Exploitation** | This is where (**usually females**) victims are recruited and brought to the UK by potential 'boyfriends' or 'befrienders' with the aim to **force them into prostitution, escort work** and/or pornography.

Often victims that are being sexually exploited also find themselves in a 'debt bondage' situation - as they have been forced into the sex trade to pay back their travel and living costs.

- **Cyber Slavery** | This is where the perpetrators will **entrap their victims using social media**. The perpetrator will form a 'friendship' with the victim **via webcam, email, text, WhatsApp** or **chat sites**.

The victims are then groomed with the promise of work or a 'better life' and deceived into providing sexual images of themselves - that will then be used to blackmail or exploit them for sex.

## Adults at Risk Abuse: Modern Slavery continued...

- **Descent Based Slavery** | This is where the victim is **born into a group** referred to as a '**slave class**' - and therefore the status of '**slave**' has been passed from mother to child.

Whilst it is very unlikely that you would come across this form of modern slavery in the UK, it is possible that you encounter people - who have come to the UK from a country where this is more prevalent - and who have been a victim or a perpetrator.

- **Slavery in Supply Chains** | The use of forced labour **within the supply chain for everyday products**.

This type of slavery can be found at various stages of the supply chain - e.g. production, distribution, marketing and retail.

### Possible indicators of modern slavery may include:

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<b>Indicators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation; and/or living and working at the same address</li><li>▪ Isolation from the community and/or seeming under the control or influence of others</li><li>▪ Fear of law enforcers</li><li>▪ Always wearing the same clothes</li><li>▪ Lack of personal items and/or identification documents</li><li>▪ Avoidance of eye contact, appearing frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers</li><li>▪ Signs of physical or emotional abuse</li><li>▪ Appearing to be malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn.</li></ul>

### Supporting for victims of modern slavery

A leaflet outlining the support available for victims of modern slavery - available in 11 foreign languages - is available from the following link:

[Click Here for Support with Modern Slavery](#)

If you think someone is in **immediate danger** call **999**. If there is no immediate threat you can call the **Modern Slavery Helpline** on **0800 0121 700**.

**Reviewed & Updated: September 2022**

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