

## 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: April 2025**

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.