

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern Slavery is real and it exists in the UK, but it can be hard to spot or understand.

Modern Slavery is a crime, it is when a person is forced to provide their labour, without freedoms that we expect in the UK.

Many people are targeted when they are leaving their countries in times of hardship, through war or displacement. Don't let this be you.

Often individuals are restricted in their movements and have little or no personal freedom. They often have most of their earnings withheld as payment for living costs or for their journey to the UK. It is not unusual to have their identity document confiscated as well. Their lives can descend into fear, debt and drudgery in exhausting ill-paid dangerous work. There are often threats of violence and where escape is impossible and people are forbidden and denied the usual freedoms expected of individuals living in the United Kingdom.

Modern slavery is on the increase, you may know someone who is a victim, but be unaware that this is modern slavery. Many victims are working in the construction industry, agriculture or in the sex industry, or in places like nail bars, car washes, sometimes children are also found working in all of these areas as well as in sexual slavery.

HOW TO SPOT THE SIGNS

[Watch this video to help you spot some of the signs](#)

People can often present with fear and anxiety and may not have the correct equipment or appropriate clothes to do their job, they may not appear to have many clothes, and this may be an indicator that they are being exploited and a criminal offence is being committed. Many people will demonstrate signs of stress and fear and may become undernourished, unkempt or maybe withdrawn.

Often individuals are right in front of us and we have not noticed that they are being exploited. We just have to be curious; do they look well fed? Do they have the correct clothes for the work they do? Do they engage well with you or are they fearful when they talk to you? Is their employer preventing them from talking to you?

If they are someone you know, can they discuss freely what they do, do they have free time, can you visit their home?

If you suspect someone of being a victim of modern slavery, please call the number below. If you are worried about a job you have been offered and it seems too good to be true, call the number below. It is confidential, so you can speak openly about your concerns.

Call the **MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE on 08000 121 700** if you are worried about someone. This line is confidential.

