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Tackling modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation in the homelessness sector.

This handbook explains what slavery looks like in the homeless community, what to watch out for and what you can do about it.

We hope that this will help you to provide better support to your service users by preventing the crime and by supporting victims in your workplace.

Who is this handbook for?

We believe that everyone should read this handbook – and we have kept it small so that you can keep it in your work bag or desk drawer.

This handbook was, however, specifically created for staff who work in the homelessness sector, particularly frontline workers, managers and volunteers. People who are engaged in support services for homeless people can be vital eyes and ears in detecting this crime.

In addition, by identifying a survivor and engaging with First Responders, you are facilitating the person's access to support, such as a recovery and reflection period of at least 30 days, safe accommodation and material assistance, legal advice, medical and psychological services, compensation and/or safe repatriation and return.

Use this handbook to understand the types of exploitation that homeless people are exposed to. By knowing what to look for, and how to get support, frontline workers can save lives.

Modern slavery is one of the greatest evils in our world – and it is happening here in the UK: it targets the most vulnerable in our society and seeks to use them as commodities from which to make profit.

Modern slavery encompasses sexual exploitation, forced labour, child slavery, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage, organ harvesting and human trafficking. It can affect men, women and children, from abroad or from the UK. Victims are forced to work against their will on farms and building sites, in factories, restaurants, nail bars, car washes, brothels, massage parlours and private homes. Traffickers and exploiters use coercion and deception to keep control over their victims.

Human trafficking is a specific crime, under which people are moved for the purpose of exploitation. In addition to moving people within a town or between regions of a country, it can involve international organised crime, where victims are recruited and trafficked between countries.

Exploitation, which is illegal under UK and international law, is a multi-billion dollar industry.

www.passage.org.uk info@passage.org.uk telephone 020 7592 1850

Sexual exploitation is any abuse of vulnerability for sexual purposes.

Grooming is often used to gain a vulnerable person's trust. Exploiters become their victims' "best friend", "best lover", "best manager", "best drug dealer". The victim believes the love is genuine.

A person can be physically and/or psychologically forced into sexual activity, but they can also be sex workers who are exploited and forced to pay high sums to landlords and "managers".

Anja's story

Anja is from Latvia. She was thrilled when her cousin's friend offered her a job as a nanny in Ireland, and she accepted immediately.

She travelled with the friend to Dublin, but when she arrived she was immediately taken to a private house where he seized her passport and told her she owed him the money for the flight.

Anja was found and rescued only after being forced to work as a prostitute to clear her debt.



Courtesy: Turn off the Red Light (TORL)

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Forced labour refers to situations in which a person is coerced to work through the use of violence and/or psychological intimidation, such as accumulated debt, retention of ID, or threats of denunciation to the immigration authorities.

Forced labour occurs throughout the UK, often in low-skilled, low-wage jobs where labour standards and workers are unregulated, unlicensed or unenforced.

Typical sectors: agriculture, food processing and packaging, construction, tarmacking and paving, hotels, cleaning services, manufacturing (sweatshops).

Michael's story

Michael was sleeping rough when a man approached him to offer him a job at his farm. He told Michael he would take care of him and pay him £80 a day. Michael accepted the offer and got in the car. He was made to work 16 hours a day, unpaid, for 13 years and had only two days off.



Courtesy: Gwent Police

His ID was taken away and he lived in appalling conditions: first in a rat-infested shed, then in a squalid caravan with no access to a bathroom, no soap and no toothbrush. He ate only leftovers.

Eventually, Michael was identified by the police who set him free.

If you are a worker or employer who needs advice, visit The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) at www.gla.org.uk or call 0800 4325 0804.

Child slavery involves a person under the age of 18 being exploited. Children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation because they can be easily controlled by adults. They can be boys or girls, British, or foreign nationals.

In the UK, children have been found to be victims of all forms of slavery, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and criminality, domestic servitude and organ harvesting.

All children working in the sex trade are victims of child abuse and sexual exploitation – there is no such thing as legal child prostitution.

Jess's story

Jess was only 14 when she started dating Chris, who was 30. He told her that if she truly loved him she would sleep with him, so she did.

Then he forced her to sleep with his friends.

Soon he was driving her across the country to sleep with unknown men. He would threaten and abuse her and she felt trapped. It wasn't until she was 18 that she managed to run away and find help.

Courtesy: NWG Network



Nicu's story

Nicu was just nine when he was trafficked to the UK from Romania by a gang who had approached his family with the promise of work.

Nicu was forced to pickpocket, and steal money from people at cashpoints, and was beaten if he didn't bring enough home. He was constantly scared and anxious.

Courtesy: ECPAT UK

If you are a minor and think that you, or your friends, need help, call the **Childline, 0800 1111**.
If you are concerned about a minor, call the **NSPCC, 0808 800 5000**.

www.passage.org.uk info@passage.org.uk telephone 020 7592 1850

Forced criminality is where a person is forced into criminal activity for another's gain.

Common forms in the UK are cannabis cultivation, drug dealing, benefit fraud, theft, begging, and the selling of counterfeit goods.

People forced into criminality are often afraid to go to the authorities for fear that they will end up in trouble or even in prison.

Hung's story

Hung was smuggled into the UK from Vietnam for \$25,000, which his family was told he could repay when he started a job. When he arrived, however, he was immediately put to work growing cannabis in a house with covered windows.



He was locked in the house for three months and, when he eventually asked about his wages, he was beaten and threatened.

Then the police raided the house and Hung was arrested – he was scared and didn't understand the interview process. It was not until he had spent a year in juvenile detention that the Home Office confirmed that he was a victim of human trafficking and he was released.

- Gangs that exploit children and vulnerable adults to move drugs and money to and from urban areas, and to sell drugs in suburban and coastal areas.

Domestic servitude is a form of modern slavery

where domestic workers – often maids, housekeepers, cleaners, nannies, or those caring for the elderly, ill and infirm – are forced to work for little or no pay, with restricted freedom and often with an element of sexual abuse.

Migrant domestic workers with tied visas are particularly vulnerable because their right to stay in the UK can be withdrawn by their employer. If they run away, they are likely to be deported.

Because domestic servitude occurs in private houses, it is one of the most invisible forms of modern slavery.

Georgina's story

Georgina is from a country in West Africa. At the age of 11, already working as a nanny for a couple, she was told she would be coming to the UK with them.

When they arrived, she was verbally and physically abused and was not allowed to leave the house for two years, after which she was allowed to take the children to and from school.

When Georgina began to get sick she felt she had to escape. She went to the local park and asked someone for help.

The couple who forced her into servitude were each sentenced to 18 months in prison.



Courtesy: ECPAT UK

If you are a migrant domestic worker who needs advice on employment and your immigration status, visit Kalayaan at www.kalayaan.org.uk, or call 020 7243 2942.

www.passage.org.uk info@passage.org.uk telephone 020 7592 1850

Forced marriage is where one or both people do not consent to it, and pressure and/or abuse is used.

The pressure can be physical (such as threats, and physical or sexual violence), emotional or psychological (for example, bringing shame to the family), and financial (taking away wages or allowances).

Sham marriage

A sham marriage or civil partnership is one in which one party hopes to gain an immigration advantage.

People can be trafficked and forced to enter into a sham marriage.

Tara's story

When Tara was 16 she was told by her family that she was to marry a man of 40, from India. At first she refused, then family pressure increased until she finally accepted. She got married by phone, but when her family told her she had to go to live in India, she told her school teacher, who reported it to the police.

She was placed in a refuge for her own safety, but her family kept up the pressure until she went back home. She was locked in her room and abused until she had a nervous breakdown and was taken to hospital. There, she told the doctors to contact the police and was taken from her family to a place of safety.



Courtesy: Forced Marriage Unit

The Home Office has a Forced Marriage Unit (FMU), which supports victims as well as supporting frontline workers who are dealing with cases. Overseas, consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

If you need help or advice, in confidence, call the FMU Helpline, 020 7008 0151.

www.passage.org.uk info@passage.org.uk telephone 020 7592 1850

Organ harvesting is a form of modern slavery that is on the increase across the world, with some cases being reported in the UK. It involves the illegal removal of internal organs for transplant with or without the donor's consent.

Victims may be manipulated or coerced into giving up an organ, such as a kidney or an eye; may be lured to sell an organ without full medical information or may be persuaded that they need an operation and the organ is removed without their knowledge.

The victim/donor may initially be trafficked or smuggled to another country under the false pretence of a job, which commonly fails to materialise. The recruiter will then suggest the sale of an organ as the only means for the victim to repay travel and accommodation costs.

The victim may be coerced or forced to go through with the transplant quickly, in case they change their mind. Their "handler" will make sure the victim has the surgery by driving them to the clinic, by making up cover stories for medics, and by providing fraudulent signed consents and declarations. The victim is generally put on a flight home within days of the surgery.

Payment is often not made until the surgery has been completed and, even then, the promised amount is not paid. In addition, there is the likelihood of medical complications as a result of proper transplant procedures not being followed.

Victims of modern slavery

are likely to suffer from mental health problems, depression and anxiety, to have physical injuries, to be addicted to alcohol or drugs, and have a higher risk of HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted diseases.

Often victims are exploited in more than one way. Benefit fraud, in particular, frequently overlaps with other forms of exploitation.

The trafficking experience destroys a person's belief that they can have control over their own actions or decisions.

Victims

- Have often been promised a better life, easy cash, or a better job.
- Think their life is better than it was before.
- Are too scared to talk (immigration status, criminal activities).
- Might have been given a prepared story by their exploiters.
- Have difficulties in recalling their experiences.
- Feel loyalty and gratitude to their exploiters/traffickers.
- Don't see themselves as victims, but think their situation is the result of a poor decision.
- Believe their situation is temporary (to pay a debt, support their families).

It is vital to be vigilant in and around day centres, night shelters and soup runs.

Traffickers are clever and use a range of tactics to get what they want. They may frequently change their approach to targeting victims.

It is important for frontline agencies to be alert and, by identifying and reacting to these changes quickly, make it as difficult as possible for traffickers to continue to operate.

Indicators

- People who have not been seen using your services before and who are reluctant to speak to staff.
- They may be well dressed, seem to be very friendly with other clients, and speak their languages.
- They have smartphones.
- They may recruit people on that day – and show them to a van.
- They may arrange an alternative time and place (for example, a bus stop) to be collected.

What to do

- ***Never engage with these individuals.*** Speak to your manager.
- Ask the clients for information: what was said to them, what was offered, what arrangements were made.
- Inform your colleagues and encourage vigilance.
- Call the police if there is imminent danger.

In 2015, the Modern Slavery Act – a ground-breaking piece of legislation in the fight against trafficking and modern slavery – received Royal Assent in England and Wales.

- The Modern Slavery Act puts the onus on statutory bodies to act on slavery wherever they find it – if you work for the police, a local authority or the NHS, you must report slavery if you suspect it.
- The Act requires businesses to ensure that there is no slavery in their supply chains, even those that extend outside the UK. All businesses with a turnover of more than £36 million must produce an annual Modern Slavery Statement and display it on their websites.
- The Act clarifies offences for those who engage in trafficking and exploitation.
- It also created an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to oversee anti-slavery work in the UK and beyond.
- The Modern Slavery Act introduced special measures for the protection of victims, including civil legal aid in relation to immigration and employment; victims' compensation; statutory defence of victims who are coerced to commit offences; independent child advocates; the obligation to refer minors, even without their consent; and, in order to receive immediate assistance, the obligation to consider a minor of uncertain age to be a child.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's official system under which potential victims of modern slavery are identified, assessed and supported.

A first responder refers a potential victim to the Competent Authorities (CA) by filling out the relevant NRM form found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms.

When a referral is received, the CA have five days to decide if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person is a victim of modern slavery.

If a positive decision is reached, the person is entitled to a 45-day reflection and recovery period while a final, conclusive, decision is reached. Adults are free to decide whether to collaborate with police investigations. Many victims are, however, subject to unseen pressures from their controllers.

A negative decision means that the person has to leave support within 48 hours, although they can appeal against the decision or make a claim for asylum.

Current NRM reforms include: digitalisation of the system; places of safety where victims can stay for up to three days before deciding if they want to enter the NRM; extending the move-on period for confirmed victims from 14 days to 45 days and, for those confirmed not to be a victim, from 48 hours to 14 days.

Referral by first responder

Consideration of referral by the CA

Reasonable-grounds decision (five days*)

Yes

45-day recovery and reflection period*
(Support Contract)

Conclusive-grounds decision

Yes

Access to:

- health services and benefits
- labour market, vocational training, education
- assistance to return home to EU/EAA

Exit time from support:
14 days

Access to:

- health services and benefits
- labour market, vocational training, education
- assistance to return home

Exit time from support:
14 days

Access to:

- health services and asylum support
- assistance to return home

Exit time from support:
14 days

- No access to services
 - Access to assistance
- Exit time from support:
48 hours*

** Time estimates may vary depending on the case*

Given the wrong circumstances, we all have the potential to become homeless.

The Passage, which provides services that prevent and end homelessness, operates in London and Brighton, and also works on a national and international level in the areas of modern slavery and street homelessness.

We run the UK's largest Resource Centre for homeless people. In addition to food, showers and clothing, we give access to housing advice, health care, training and employment services. We also provide outreach services, homelessness preventions schemes and accommodation projects.

Since it was established, The Passage has helped more than 120,000 people end their homelessness.

It costs more than £5 million a year to run The Passage, less than 30% of which is funded by statutory grants. To meet the remaining 70% we depend on voluntary contributions. Every gift, no matter how small, helps us to enable homeless people to regain their self-respect and to have hope for the future.

- Visit our donate page at www.passage.org.uk/donate.
- Call the fundraising team on 020 7592 1856.
- Your generosity makes our work possible. We focus resources where they are most needed; for every £1 spent, 95 pence goes directly to frontline services.

Volunteers help in every part of our organisation. To find out about volunteering, please contact us at volunteering@passage.org.uk



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CHURCH AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMBATTING MODERN SLAVERY

Human

Trafficking

Foundation

Helplines

If you have suspicions about modern slavery in your community, call one of the numbers below. Your information could be the vital piece of the jigsaw that results in a victim being freed or a perpetrator being prosecuted.

Silence is how slavery thrives; speaking out will help to end it. If you're in a situation you can't get out of and you need help, these helplines can support you.

Emergency 999

Police 101

Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

The Salvation Army 0300 303 8151

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

GLAA 0800 432 0804

NSPCC 0808 800 5000

First responders

National Crime Agency (NCA)

Police forces

UK Border Force

Home Office

Immigration and Visas (UKVI)

Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

Local Authorities

Health and Social Care Trusts (Northern Ireland)

The Salvation Army

Migrant Help

Medaille Trust

Kalayaan

Barnardo's

Unseen

TARA Project (Scotland)

NSPCC (CTAC)

BAWSO

New Pathways

Refugee Council