



Safe in East Sussex

In Focus: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

April 2018

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Modern Slavery is a priority for the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership as one of the areas of high risk due to the severe and long-term impact that it has upon the vulnerable, the high level of public expectation and the need for a multi-agency response to tackling it effectively.

Modern Slavery is a type of abuse within the Care Act 2014 that provides the statutory footing for adult safeguarding responses. The Partnership is working in collaboration with the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board and Local Safeguarding Children's Board to ensure that information is effectively shared in order to protect vulnerable adults and children from harm.

Within the Sussex Police Force Strategic Assessment Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Organised Immigration crime was assessed as high risk and therefore remains on the Sussex Police Control Strategy to ensure a focus on enhancing understanding and improving the multi-agency response to the issue.

This Newsletter outlines some of the work and developments taking place across the UK and East Sussex to integrate efforts in tackling this crime.

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Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Report 2018

In September 2017, The Evening Standard and The Independent, in partnership with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, launched a three-month special investigation into the issue of modern slavery. This report along with the key findings was presented at the Santa Marta conference in Rome in February and to other relevant anti-modern slavery stakeholders.



Modern slavery is a crime of economic opportunity. It represents organised crime at its most efficient. The Home Office estimates that there are at least 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the United Kingdom today, while the National Crime Agency has suggested the total is now in the tens of thousands.

These victims are only part of a larger global problem. A lack of global coordination has made it easier for traffickers to turn to new vulnerable populations whenever we address slavery in a specific location, resulting in the possibility of displacing the problem rather than addressing it.

Some key points of the report:

- While resources and expertise are available, they are not at present held by any one sector. A holistic approach is needed that works with both the public and private sectors and integrates efforts across law enforcement, business engagement and survivor care.
- Victims and survivors of this terrible crime are highly vulnerable and have extremely complex needs, with no two cases being the same. Victims may have been trafficked across borders without knowing where they are.

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- They will likely be unfamiliar with the local context, have suffered unimaginable physical and psychological abuse and be under the control of their exploiter. However, there are also many British victims and a third of all modern slavery victims are children.
- In October the Home Office announced improvements and changes that will ensure victims are supported immediately after being rescued, improved decision making on the status of the individual, greater data collection and more long-term support.
- All consumers, all members of the public have a role in the fight against modern slavery. While authorities have a duty to ensure as many as possible are equipped to spot the signs, it is up to individuals to remain diligent about noticing and reporting it.
- Research conducted by the Co-op in 2017 suggested that 4 out of 10 people in the UK were not sure what modern slavery was. A third of those who had heard of slavery did not believe it happened in their own city or town.

Local Churches, faith groups, Councillors and other neighbourhood organisations, in being the 'Eyes and Ears' of identifying potential survivors and possible slavery, are key.

To read the report in full please click on this link

<http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1203/evening-standard-modern-slavery-report.pdf>

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Understanding what Human Trafficking is

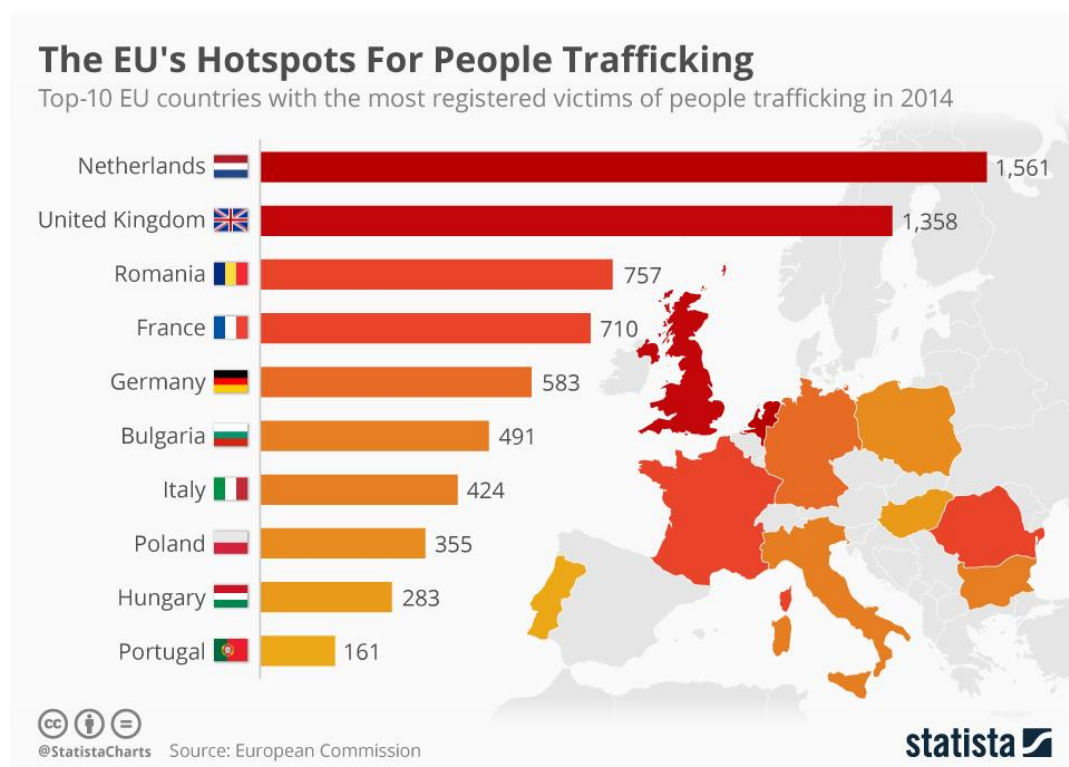
The United Nations defines **human trafficking** as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, or coercion) for an improper purpose including forced labour or sexual exploitation.

In other words, trafficking is a process of enslaving people, coercing them into a situation with no way out, and exploiting them.

Smuggling or trafficking?

People often confuse human trafficking and people smuggling. People smuggling is the illegal movement of people across international borders for a fee. On arrival, the smuggled person is free.

Human trafficking is different. The trafficker is moving a person for exploitation. There is no need to cross an international border. Human trafficking occurs at a national level, or even within one community.



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Understanding what Modern Slavery is

Modern slavery is an umbrella term

It encompasses the offences of human trafficking and slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, as set out in the different anti-slavery legislation in place in the four UK countries (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). Modern slavery frequently involves multiple victims, offenders and places, and it is often hidden and involves or takes place alongside a wide range of abuses and other criminal offences.



Victims of modern slavery are unable to leave their situation of exploitation, controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception. Slavery violates human rights, denying people of their right to life, freedom and security.

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- forced to work – through coercion, or mental or physical threat;
- owned or controlled by an 'employer', through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse;
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as 'property';
- physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

The crime is usually made up of a series of different events, often taking place in different countries, frequently involving multiple victims and offenders, who may be involved at different times. Modern slavery crimes often consist of three stages: recruitment, exploitation and usually but not always transportation.



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Labour Exploitation

There are a number of indicators of forced labour. Not all of them will apply in every case but one or a combination of these suggests a person is a potential victim. The indicators include:

- Not be in possession of their passport/ID
- Have their movements controlled
- Depend on employer for transport/homes
- Have no access to shops and medical care



The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority protect all workers in the UK from exploitation.

Licensing—The GLAA operates a licensing scheme to regulate businesses that provide temporary workers into the UK fresh produce sector - these are also known as gangmasters.

Activities requiring a licence from the GLAA are: Agriculture, horticulture, shellfish gathering plus any associated processing and packaging. Operating as a gangmaster without a licence is a criminal offence.

They check that licence holders meet the GLAA licensing standards, which cover issues such as health and safety of workers, pay and transport. We also ensure that tax, National Insurance and VAT regulations are met.

Enforcement - They investigate all instances of labour market abuse including forced labour, human trafficking and Modern Slavery offences in England and Wales.

Workers trafficked into the UK and subjected to forced labour often display tell-tale signs - acknowledged indicators of exploitation



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In 2017 the GLAA published their first three year plan which sets out how they will tackle labour exploitation and modern slavery across the UK economy. Their single over-arching aim is '***working in partnership to protect vulnerable and exploited workers.***'

The plan describes how they will focus on three specific areas of work to achieve this:

- Prevent workers from being exploited for their labour;
- Protect workers and potential victims so making them less vulnerable to being exploited for their labour; and
- Pursue relentlessly, disrupting and prosecuting those who engage in the exploitation of workers.

<http://www.gla.gov.uk/whats-new/our-plan-to-tackle-labour-exploitation/>



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Domestic Servitude

Domestic servitude can be especially difficult to detect, as traffickers frequently use calculated tactics to keep victims isolated and intimidated.

An estimated 21 million people globally are employed as forced labour. Many of those workers end up in domestic servitude. Working in various roles, including as housekeepers, nannies and cooks, they are often housed with their employers, unable to leave because of debts incurred for their travel and because their identity papers are withheld by their employers.



‘Servitude’ means an obligation to provide a service that is imposed by the use of coercion.

Servitude is an ‘aggravated’ form of forced or compulsory labour. The fundamental difference between servitude and forced or compulsory labour is in the victim feeling that their condition is permanent and that the situation is unlikely to change.

There were 422 potential victims of Domestic Servitude referred in 2015 -336 of these were female (NCA statistics)

Further reading: [Domestic Servitude Factsheet](#)

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Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is the most common form of modern slavery reported by potential victims in the UK and involves any non-consensual or abusive sexual acts performed without a victim's permission. This includes prostitution, escort work and pornography. Women, men and children of both sexes can be victims. Many will have been deceived with promises of a better life and then controlled through violence and abuse. It is also possible to exploit a person who consensually engages in providing sexual services.

Vulnerable women are being sexually exploited on an industrial scale in “pop-up brothels” run by trafficking gangs, according to a report.

The brothels, often set up in residential properties using short-term leases, allow gangs to keep a step ahead of police and retain control over the women, the all-party parliamentary group on prostitution and the global sex trade has said.

The APPG has called for the UK to follow the lead of other European countries by criminalising people who pay for sex, but decriminalising the selling of sex, in an attempt to cut demand.

“rental landlords, online booking companies and hotel sites all indirectly profit from the practice, as exploiters take advantage of poor safeguards to hire new sites for pop-ups.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/21/sexual-exploitation-uk-women-pop-up-brothels-report>

The majority of female victims of modern slavery identified in the UK are exploited through prostitution. Some are sold to ‘guardians’, others answer to advertisements offering legitimate work or to advertisements within the sex industry. Many are tricked into paying to come to this country with promises of a better life. Even if they know that they are going to work in the sex industry, none are aware of the extent to which they will be exploited.

Victims of sex trafficking are often moved from one place to another and may often be found working on the streets or places that offer sex such as massage parlours, saunas, strip clubs, adult bookshops and bars. Sex workers and young females, whether British or foreign nationals, are the most vulnerable groups.

In the first three months of this year 292 women claimed they had been victims of sexual exploitation and of these 112 were trafficked from Albania (NCA)

Further reading: [Sexual Exploitation Factsheet](#)

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Criminal Exploitation

Is the exploitation of a person to commit a crime, such as pick-pocketing, shop-lifting, cannabis cultivation, drug trafficking and other similar activities that are subject to penalties and imply financial gain for the trafficker. In the UK in 2016, 34 potential modern slavery victims were also involved in fraud or financial crime whereby perpetrators force victims to claim benefits on arrival but the money is withheld, or the victim is forced to take out loans or credit cards. Cannabis cultivation was the highest category of criminal exploitation with 33% of those being a child at the time of referral, the majority being Vietnamese.

There are various forms of criminal exploitation:-

Forced gang-related criminality



Victims are forced to undertake gang related criminal activities, most commonly relating to drug networks. Victims are often children who are forced by gangs to transport drugs and money to and from urban areas to suburban areas and market and coastal towns.

Forced labour in illegal activities

Victims are forced to provide labour to offenders for illegal purposes. The most common example is victims forced to cultivate cannabis in private residences.

Forced acquisitive crime

Victims are forced by offenders to carry out acquisitive crimes such as shoplifting and pickpocketing. Offenders may provide food and accommodation to victims but rarely pay them.

Forced begging



Victims are transported by offenders to locations to beg on the streets for money, which is then taken by offenders. Victims are often children vulnerable adults.

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Trafficking for forced sham marriage

Traffickers transport EU national victims to the UK and sell these victims to an exploiter in a one-off transaction. Exploiters marry victims to gain immigration advantages and often sexually abuse them.

Financial fraud (including benefit fraud)

Victims are exploited financially; most commonly their identity documents are taken and used to claim benefits. This type often occurs alongside other types.

Young people and students are particularly vulnerable to financial fraud as fraudsters know they are often short of cash. Criminals may approach them with what looks like a genuine job offer, asking them to receive money into their bank account and transfer it onto someone else, keeping some of the cash for themselves.

2017 figures show a dramatic rise in money mule fraud over the last five years, with cases involving 18 to 24 year olds more than doubling since 2013.

<https://www.financialfraudaction.org.uk/news/2017/11/27/new-data-reveals-stark-increase-in-young-people-acting-as-money-mules/>

Don't Be Fooled is a partnership between FFA UK (Financial Fraud Action) and Cifas(UK's leading fraud prevention service, managing the largest confirmed fraud database in the country) - It aims to inform students and young people about the risks of giving out their bank details, and deter them from becoming money mules.

What is a money mule?

Watch this animation to find out more about money mules.



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Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Network

Modern Slavery is a priority for the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership as one of the areas as high risk due to the severe and long-term impact that it has upon the vulnerable, the high level of public expectation and the need for a multi-agency response to tackling it effectively.

The Sussex Modern Slavery Network is a framework for bringing together all the organisations across Sussex that are committed towards tackling modern slavery, prosecuting perpetrators and assisting the victims.

Developments this year include:

- Establishing links with National and Regional networks such as the Human Trafficking Foundation National Modern Slavery Co-ordinators Network, the Police and Crime Commissioner national network on Modern Slavery, and the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration in order to learn more about best practice and to gain a more holistic view of work around modern slavery.
- Developing a multi-agency audit tool that can be used across Sussex by all three Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards to assess whether the needs of adults with care and support needs, who are known or suspected to be victims of modern slavery are appropriately addressed.
- Exploring the possibility of developing consistency in the training products being used across Sussex.
- Assisting with the development of the role of the Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Co-ordinator. The new role of modern slavery delivery manager, funded by the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is dedicated to working with multi-agency partners to better understand the complexities and the scale of modern slavery and human trafficking across Sussex – and to seek to provide the right level of interventions and service to the victims of this emerging crime.

Some of these developments are described in more detail on the following pages:



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Richard Lancashire has been appointed into this new role to help tackle human trafficking and modern slavery in Sussex. The post, which is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, is based within Sussex Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit and will be dedicated to working with multi agency partners to better understand the complexities and the scale of modern slavery and human trafficking across Sussex and to seek to provide the right level of interventions and service to the victims of this emerging crime

Some of the key elements of the post are to:

- Assist the Police leads to deliver against the National Strategic Plan, Regional Action plan and Force plan for Modern Slavery.
- Work to address issues identified by the various inspectorate bodies and prepare for future requirements.
- Represent Sussex Police at Regional and National Modern Slavery events.
- Work directly with Law enforcement agencies, public authorities, NGOs and the 3rd sector in respect of information sharing, interoperability and driving operational activity.
- Work with, promote and assist Modern Slavery partnerships to help deliver against the Pan Sussex Modern Slavery delivery plan
- Carry out additional Modern Slavery tasks as directed by the force leads.
- Design and implement the delivery of training and awareness material.
- Work with academic groups to evaluate and assist with emerging modern
 - slavery issues.

Samantha Williams, from East Sussex County Council, who chairs the Sussex Modern Slavery Network welcomed the new role, adding: “***The creation of this post by the Police & Crime Commissioner is a really positive step for Sussex and shows the importance we place on responding effectively to modern slavery and human trafficking. The post will play a key role in delivering greater awareness of the issues and ensuring better victim identification and support, along with more effective prosecution of offenders.***”

<https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/news/new-role-to-fight-modern-slavery-to-be-funded-by-sussex-pcc/>

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East Sussex Modern Slavery Audit



This multi-agency audit was initiated following discussion in the Pan Sussex Modern Slavery Network. It was agreed that a multi-agency audit would be conducted by all three Sussex Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) to assess whether the needs of adults with care and support needs who are known or suspected to be victims of modern slavery are appropriately addressed. East Sussex SAB conducted its audit in February and reviewed four cases of suspected Modern Slavery, including cases involving suspected forced drug dealing, human trafficking and sexual exploitation and possible financial exploitation/benefit fraud.

What is working well?

- ✓ Good joint working by agencies to quickly address immediate risk
- ✓ In one case a non-statutory safeguarding enquiry was successfully used to manage risk
- ✓ Good examples of client involvement in safeguarding plans
- ✓ Appropriate referrals made and good support provided in relation to substance misuse
- ✓ Good provision of translation services where required
- ✓ Good professional curiosity by staff

What can we improve?

- Information about modern slavery for staff and the public at strategic locations including leaflets in other languages.
- Training for staff in all relevant agencies.
- Awareness of the statutory reporting mechanisms (NRM/MS1) in relation to Modern Slavery.
- Information sharing between SAB partner agencies.

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Laurie Church - Stop the Traffic Community Coordinator Hastings & Rother



Hastings and Rother recently launched a multi-agency partnership called '**Discovery**' which aims to expose and identify organised crime groups across the local area in which modern slavery and/or human trafficking is an integral part.

"Since Discovery's official launch in December 2017, I have been working as the Modern Slavery Community Coordinator, employed by Stop the Traffik, a global organisation which aims to prevent and raise awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking through intelligence led prevention, and resilience building in communities".

"Stop the Traffik work with 24 other partners involved with Discovery. The purpose of such a collaborative approach is to effectively identify potential victims and safeguard as many victims of modern slavery through the NRM process, but to also identify gaps of support provision for those not wanting to enter the government support system".



To learn more about Stop the Traffik, visit <https://www.stopthetraffik.org>

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“As part of my role as the coordinator I am working towards sharing the local picture of modern slavery and human trafficking across Hastings & Rother’s voluntary and community organisations, with the aim to give the third sector an insight and input into the work of Discovery. We have recently held our first modern slavery forum, which we plan to continue on a quarterly basis. With a range of organisations in attendance from the third sector, we were able start discussing some of the challenges that organisations face and what is being identified in their own client groups.”

“I also aim to raise awareness amongst the local community, including professionals, schools, local groups and NHS, to enable people to spot the signs and in time increase victim identification. I hope to work closely with organisations to build resilience with hard to reach groups and vulnerable communities and work collaboratively to strategically deliver awareness sessions and devise resources”.



“Finally I hope to build upon and coordinate the provision of community support and disseminate information of existing services that victims can connect in with locally, and consolidate resources regarding victim support information.”

If you would like more information regarding Discovery or have any questions please contact Laurie on 07970175696 or

Laurie.church@stopthetraffik.org

Five arrests in Hastings multi-agency modern slavery investigation

Police and partners in Hastings have taken action against alleged modern slavery in an operation which has found at least eight people believed to be victims of labour exploitation.



The operation is the biggest and most complex of its kind so far in Sussex.

On Friday (18 May) officers executed search warrants and made five arrests at two residential addresses, one in St Leonards and one in Hastings, as part of an investigation into alleged modern slavery involving provision of workers from Eastern Europe to care homes in East Sussex and Kent.

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/news/five-arrests-in-hastings-multi-agency-modern-slavery-investigation/>

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Modern Slavery Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Training

Partners from the SAB, LSCB, Safer East Sussex Team and East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups are working together to develop half day multi agency Modern Slavery training events which will be delivered in October leading up to Anti-Slavery Day which is held on the 18th of October each year.



These will be in depth training sessions aimed at building knowledge within the workforce across East Sussex. Key individuals will be identified who will then become advisors on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking for key agencies and teams who are working on the front line supporting and working with children and adults.

The role will include:

- Completing a half day training session on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking including how the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) process works.
- Disseminating and sharing briefing documents and resources to colleagues/staff teams.
- Helping colleagues who may not routinely come across modern slavery recognise the signs and respond so that more victims get help and perpetrators are brought to justice.
- Guiding staff on how to complete an NRM referral or MS1, if they do not give consent, when appropriate.
- Providing information and guidance to staff on local support services and agencies within East Sussex who are actively involved in supporting victims. Support is available to potential victims even if they have 'no recourse to public funds'.



More information will be provided on this training offer over the next few months.

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Modern Slavery Communications Resource

This booklet has been produced by the Safer East Sussex Team and provides a one stop shop of some good sources of information available freely to share and distribute within your own organisations and with the wider public to continue raising awareness of this crime. Please click on the image below to download this resource.



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Modern Slavery Signs

Listed below are some of the signs that might indicate modern slavery. This is not a conclusive list. If you have any concerns about an individual or a situation read the help and advice section on the next page.



Identifying victims:

- Is the victim in possession of a passport, identification or travel documents? Are these documents in possession of someone else?
- Does the victim act as if they were instructed or coached by someone else? Do they allow others to speak for them when spoken to directly?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job? Was their transport paid for by facilitators, whom they must pay back through providing services?
- Does the victim receive little or no payment for their work? Is someone else in control of their earnings?
- Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
- Is the victim under the impression they are bonded by debt, or in a situation of dependence?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?
- Can the victim freely contact friends or family? Do they have limited social interaction or contact with people outside their immediate environment?



An Introduction to Modern Slavery Awareness e-Learning is available and can be viewed here:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/toolkits/ms/story.html>

Help and Advice



How to report modern slavery

If you think you or someone you know is a victim of modern slavery, you can [report it online](#) or call us on 101 (always call 999 in an emergency).

You can also report it in person at [your local police station](#).

Advice for victims

If you think you are a victim of modern slavery please seek help. You can contact the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700.

They can assist you to understand what help is available including information, advice and ways to access support. The Modern Slavery Helpline is confidential, but, if you don't want to give your name, you don't have to.



Further information can be found here:

<https://sussex.police.uk/media/7397/english.pdf>

For information in different languages please see the links available under the 'Help for victims in various languages' section of this page:

<https://sussex.police.uk/advice/protect-yourself-and-others/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking/>

Visit the [Modern Slavery Helpline website](#) for more information.



The Salvation Army can also help. Call their 24 hour helpline: 0300 3038151 or visit: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking

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