

ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

The South West Anti-Slavery Partnership is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative network of statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations working together to eradicate Modern Slavery in Avon & Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall, Gloucestershire and Dorset. This bulletin rounds up news, policy, events and useful resources and provides a quick refresh on Modern Slavery and how to report it.

NRM TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The Home Office has launched a programme to improve the [National Referral Mechanism](#), the UK government's system for recording Modern Slavery incidence, recognising victims, and providing support to potential victims. They state the programme will 'make sure genuine victims have their cases settled promptly, receive support tailored to their needs, and are empowered to move on with their lives.'

Aims of the programme fall under three headings:

- Embedding an end-to-end needs-based approach to support
- Alternative models for decision making and support for adult victims
- Children

As part of the strand on children, the national roll out of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians will begin with areas showing high incidence of child trafficking. For more information on the progress of this programme you can sign up to the NRM reform mailing list [here](#).

HOUSING FOR VICTIMS

Representatives from Hope 4 Justice will be providing a presentation at the upcoming regional Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting on the legal frameworks that entitle victims of trafficking access to housing support pre, during and post NRM. As this will be of particular use to frontline staff we have opened the meeting up to all representatives from partner organisations. Please do share this with colleagues who might need to advocate for victims, especially local authority housing. The meeting will be held virtually. Contact h.agg@unseen.org.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[The lockdown is not new. It's worse. How Covid-19 is affecting Survivor Alliance UK Members](#)

This brief report provides insight into how lockdown is impacting victims of trafficking, with insights from the Survivor Alliance network.

[Modern Slavery risks for care workers during the Covid-19 crisis](#)

The Nottingham University Right's Lab has produced a briefing on the increased risk of Modern Slavery in the care sector during the pandemic.

[Addressing emerging human trafficking trends and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

This report from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe uses interviews with survivors and frontline workers to analyse emerging trafficking in human beings trends and dynamics and to develop a response based on empirical data to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Partnerships for freedom: Improving multi-agency collaboration on Modern Slavery](#)

Another useful document added to the Anti-Slavery Partnership Toolkit.

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY 2020

The UK Anti-Slavery Day is held on **18th October** every year, since the passing of the Anti-Slavery Day Act 2010.

Each year partners use this event to raise awareness, upskill colleagues, and recognise those working hard to eradicate trafficking.

If your organisation is planning to mark Anti-Slavery Day, or would like to discuss your ideas, get in touch with the ASP coordinator at coordinator@aspartnership.org.uk.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Andrew Wallis will be joining us as the new co-chair of the regional Anti-Slavery Partnership. Andrew is the founder and CEO of anti-trafficking organisation [Unseen UK](#), and has been a key voice in the sector for many years. He chaired the working group for the Centre for Social Justice's landmark report 'It happens here: Equipping the United Kingdom to fight Modern Slavery', now acknowledged as the catalyst behind the UK's Modern Slavery Act of 2015. We welcome Andrew and look forward to working with him.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regional Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting - 29th September - 10.30am - 12.30pm

Wiltshire Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting - 13th October - 10.30am - 12.30pm

Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting - 19th October - 10.30am - 12.30pm

If you wish to attend an ASP meeting contact your organisation's representative, or the ASP coordinator at h.agg@unseenuk.org.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

[Investigating Modern Slavery at Ports - Powers, Remits and Child Protection](#)

30th September – 2nd October

The sessions aim to: increase knowledge and understanding of each organisation's powers/roles/responsibilities when potential victims are encountered at the border. Four sessions are available to join. To register contact modern.slavery@nca.gov.uk.

[Unseen Elearning](#)

Unseen now provides CPD accredited online interactive training, including a course designed for First Responders.

[Modern Slavery Unit training](#)

The Policing Slavery website also provides online training for First Responders, which is available to all. This programme provides guidance on how to spot the signs of modern slavery, and what to do when you come across a potential victim of modern slavery.

[Brexit and the Immigration Bill](#)

If you missed the webinar on the impact of Brexit on Modern Slavery you can access the recording on the Human Trafficking Foundation's [website](#).

[Exploitation in the UK textiles industry](#)

21 September 2pm - 3.30pm

The Human Trafficking Foundation will be hosting an online forum with a focus on exploitation in the clothing factories in Leicester. It will focus on the exploitation in the clothing factories in Leicester, brought to the public's attention during the Covid-19 outbreak.

[Anti-Racism in the Modern Anti-Slavery Movement: A Survivor Alliance Webinar](#)

17 September 2020, 18.00

This seminar will explore the linkages between historical and contemporary forms of forced labour, and outline the need for anti-racism in the modern anti-slavery movement.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Some sectors are seeing shortfalls in available staff, which may encourage traffickers to target them. Agriculture, horticulture, social care, construction and food processing may especially be susceptible.
- Social distancing measures may make children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, and they may have limited access to peer groups and school support.
- Victims of trafficking may be moved to more risky forms of exploitation as 'legitimate' placements end due to lockdown.
- Organised crime groups may move to more risky migration routes as legitimate routes are closed. Migrants similarly may use unregulated routes to travel and become vulnerable to traffickers.
- Exploiters may move to private transport such as taxis and minibuses as a means to move victims - including for County Lines drug dealing.
- Victims of trafficking may be made destitute as their 'employment' ends and be housed in hotels, where they may be further targeted by traffickers.
- Victims of trafficking are less likely to have access to healthcare, and may be unable to control their travel or living arrangements.

REFRESH

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Victims of modern slavery are unable to leave their situation of exploitation, controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception.

This might be *labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation or organ harvesting*.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Shows signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, anxious/agitated or appear withdrawn and neglected. They may have untreated injuries.

ISOLATION Rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS Be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address.

RESTRICTED MOVEMENT Have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in and day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.

UNUSUAL TRAVEL TIMES Be dropped off/collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.

RELUCTANT TO SEEK HELP Avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family.

Victims of trafficking can access support through the National Referral Mechanism. For more information on how frontline staff can assist victims to enter the NRM visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

The logo for the Anti-Slavery Partnership. It features the words "ANTI-SLAVERY" and "PARTNERSHIP" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, stacked vertically. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of "PARTNERSHIP". A thick, orange-red brushstroke is drawn diagonally across the text, starting from the top right and ending at the bottom left, partially obscuring the letters.