

#NOMORE | A MOTHERWELL CHESHIRE CAMPAIGN

MODERN DAY SLAVERY - SURVIVOR'S STORIES

FAITH'S STORY

Due to the sudden death of her husband Faith found herself looking for work to support her four young children. After months of searching, she was unable to procure work, she lost her home and her children needed food.

When she was offered short term work as a domestic assistant in the UK with travel expenses paid in advance, this was something she could not refuse. Heartbroken to leave her young family in Africa she consoled herself with the thought she would see them again in six short months. In the meantime she would send money back home to feed, clothe and educate them.

Arriving in the UK she was taken to a house where her passport and her personal belongings were taken from her. She was made to work long hours of washing clothes by hand, cleaning the house, cooking, looking after the children and gardening. She received no pay, was unable to leave the house unaccompanied, made to sleep on the floor of the children's bedroom, all contact with her family in Africa was refused and Faith was beaten and starved if she did not comply with the rules. The months turned into years of domestic servitude and Faith was stripped of her identity, eventually, she managed to escape and was helped by a passer-by and found refuge in a safe house.

On arrival at the safehouse, Faith was provided with one of our Welcome baskets filled with African toiletries and one of our welcome notes in her native tongue. We visited her regularly and were able to provide her with clothing and spent time talking with her. One of her strongest desires was to reconnect with her children and explain to them what had happened to her, this is something she has managed to do and they are eager to meet their Mother again.

ALICIA'S STORY

Alicia's boyfriend promised her a new life where she could earn enough money to support her ageing parents. She leapt at the chance and left her home country full of hope.

The second they arrived in Italy everything changed. Alicia was raped repeatedly by her boyfriend's friends and he eventually brought her to the UK where he took her passport, gave her a false name and shut her in a basement. Alicia was sexually abused countless times a day and when she fell pregnant her boyfriend insisted she has an abortion.

When she was taken to hospital, Alicia saw her chance to escape. She dropped her GPS-tracked phone in the laundry basket and ran to the back exit. She had no idea where she was going - she just wanted to get away.

Eventually, Alicia was helped by a passer-by and found refuge in a safe house. Here she received the medical, legal and emotional support she needed and made great progress. Her mother always told her that 'every child is a gift' and Alicia believes her baby gave her the gift of her freedom.

We have been journeying with Alicia providing her with maternity clothes, a hospital bag, clothes and equipment for her baby. We have continued to support her as she is now living in the community rebuilding her life.

Source: Their Voice

Modern Day Slavery Explained - What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It is a form of modern slavery.

Human trafficking is a crime. It does not always involve international transportation. Trafficking in the UK includes commercial, sexual and bonded labour. Trafficked people have little choice in what happens to

them and often suffer abuse due to violence and threats made against them or their families. In effect, they become commodities owned by traffickers, used for profit.

These three elements all form part of trafficking:

- The act: recruiting, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons
- The means: force, fraud, coercion, deception
- The purpose: exploitation

HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Victims include those transported around the UK into exploitative situations, those born into servitude, or those who escape a trafficker before being exploited.

Human trafficking also includes anyone who once consented to work for a trafficker or slave master or participated in a crime as a direct result of being enslaved.

Here are some myths and facts about trafficking in the UK today.

MYTH: TRAFFICKING AFFECTS FOREIGNERS

Wrong. In fact, more than a quarter of all victims of trafficking found in the UK last year were British (26%), making this the most common victim nationality, followed by Albanian (16%) and Vietnamese (8%).

British people are trafficked in many ways. These could include:

- Homeless people offered jobs that turn out to come with threats and without pay

- Teenagers groomed by gangs into criminal acts such as shoplifting
- Young people and adults coerced or manipulated to act as drug couriers or dealers
- Girls and women forced into prostitution by abusive partners or by organised criminals.

County lines are when gangs and drug dealers use children to transport and sell drugs across the country, using "county line" mobile phone numbers for different regions.

All of the above and more would involve trafficking.

MYTH: HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVOLVES CROSSING AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER

Human trafficking means moving someone by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. It is a form of modern slavery.

You don't have to cross an international border, and much trafficking takes place within countries. It could refer to county lines. It could even mean taking someone just next door.

MYTH: MOST VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ARE SMUGGLED INTO THE UK

Not true. For a start many are British. But even among those that did travel to the UK, more than half of those reported to the Modern Slavery Helpline in 2018 arrived by plane (where means of transport was known).

The most common methods of travel to the UK by potential victims (PVs) in 2018 were by plane (732 PVs); bus or coach (232 PVs); car (124 PVs); boat (63 PVs); and lorry (53 PVs)

Facts & Figures

How many men, women and children are in modern slavery across the world? Are some countries worse than others? Here are eight things you need to know about modern slavery and human trafficking.

1. In 2016, at any given time, an estimated 40.3 million people worldwide were in modern slavery, including 24.9 million in forced labour and 15.4 million people in forced marriage. 70% of these are women and girls.
2. This equates to 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people in the world.
3. 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children.
4. Of the 24.9 million victims of forced labour, 16 million people are exploited in the private sector including domestic work, construction or agriculture. 4.8 million people are victims of forced sexual exploitation, and 4 million people were in forced labour imposed by state authorities.

5. Women and girls account for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% of other sectors in other sectors of forced labour.

6. There is no typical victim of slavery. Victims are men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities and cut across the population. However, it's normally more prevalent among the most vulnerable or within minority or socially excluded groups. In 2018, the UK Modern Slavery Helpline indicated that 3,280 potential victims of modern slavery cases were men, while 1,476 were women. Child victims are victims of child abuse and should therefore be treated as such using existing child protection procedures and statutory protocols.

7. Poverty, limited opportunities at home, lack of education, unstable social and political conditions, economic imbalances and war are some of the key drivers that contribute to someone's vulnerability in becoming a victim of modern slavery. What's more, victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example, being sold on to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

8. Potential victims of human trafficking were reported from 130 different nationalities in 2018 according to the National Crime Agency's National Referral Mechanism statistics. UK, Albanian and Vietnamese nationals were the most commonly reported potential victims. 6,993 potential victims were submitted to the National Referral Mechanism in 2018, which was a 36% increase on 2017.

For further facts and figures you can use these links:

[National Referral Mechanism Statistics](#)

[Trafficking in Persons Report](#)

[United Nations Global Report](#)

[International Labour Organization](#)

[Modern Slavery Helpline 2019 Annual Assessment](#)
Spot the Signs of Modern Slavery

GENERAL INDICATORS

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, the influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work
- Relationships which don't seem right - for example a young teenager appearing to be the boyfriend/girlfriend of a much older adult

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS

- Be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address

RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF 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
- Have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents retrained, e.g. passports

UNUSUAL TRAVEL TIMES

- Be dropped off/collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night
- Unusual travel arrangements - children being dropped off/picked up in private cars/taxis at unusual times and in places where it isn't clear why they'd be there

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
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THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION:

- Individuals may show signs of psychological or physical abuse. They might appear frightened, withdrawn or confused
 - Workers may not have free movement and may always be accompanied
 - Individuals often lack protective equipment or suitable clothing and have not been trained to safely fulfil the requirements of the role
 - The person may not have access to their own documents, such as ID or their passport, with the employer having confiscated them
 - Individuals may not have a contract and may not be paid National Minimum Wage or not paid at all
 - Workers are forced to stay in accommodation provided by the employer. This accommodation could be overcrowded
 - Individuals could live on site
 - Workers could be transported to and from work, potentially with multiple people in one vehicle
 - The person might not accept money or be afraid to accept payment
 - Workers may work particularly long hours
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THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

- Sex workers may appear scared or intimidated
 - The individual may be transported to and from clients
 - Individuals may be closely guarded
 - The person may be 'branded' with a tattoo indicating ownership
 - Sex workers may show signs of physical abuse, including bruising, scarring and cigarette burns
 - The individual may be unable to keep payment and may have restricted or no access to their earnings
 - The person may have a limited English vocabulary, restricted to sexualised words
 - Multiple female foreign nationals may be living at the same address
 - The person may sleep in the premise in which they work, which could indicate a brothel is operating
 - A property might have male callers day and night who only stay for a short time
 - There may be details of sexual activity such as cards and advertisements found nearby
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THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF DOMESTIC SERVITUDE:

- The individual may be held in their employer's home and forced to carry out domestic tasks such as providing child care, cooking and cleaning
 - The individual may not be able to leave the house on their own, or their movements could be monitored
 - The person may work in excess of normal working hours
 - The individual may not have access to their own belongings, including their ID, but also items such as their mobile phone, which can isolate them
 - The employer may be abusive, both physically and verbally
 - The person may not interact often with the family they are employed by
 - The person may be deprived of their own personal living space, food, water, or medical care
 - The individual may stand out from other family members, noticeable as they may wear poorer quality clothing
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THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION:

- A large group of adult or children beggars might be moved daily to different locations but return to the same location every night. This could indicate forced begging
 - An individual might be transported to or from the scene of a crime, including shoplifting, pick-pocketing or forced begging
 - An individual may not benefit from the money or items they have obtained through the crimes they have been forced to commit
 - A person may be forced to cultivate cannabis with their freedom of movement restricted; including being locked in a room. It is common that the individual may not be able to speak English, or have a limited vocabulary
 - A vulnerable person may be forced or manipulated out of their home by drug dealers who use the home as a base to sell drugs
 - Young people may be forced to transport and sell drugs across county borders, which is known as County Lines
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THE FOLLOWING SIGNS COULD INDICATE A SITUATION OF CHILD EXPLOITATION:

- The child may have mood swings, including being angry, upset or withdrawn
- The child may show signs of inappropriate sexual behaviour
- They may be dressed inappropriately for their age
- The child may go missing at night or weekends and may not be clear about their whereabouts
- They may not attend school
- The child may have gifts, presents or expensive items which they cannot explain

Source: Unseen UK

Modern Slavery Helpline:

08000 121 700

Confidential helpline, 24 hours a day

365 days a year