



MODERN SLAVERY AND COVID-19: What to look out for and how to get help

Modern slavery is a harmful and hidden crime and its victims may be especially isolated and hidden from view during the COVID-19 outbreak. However, help and support is available for victims of modern slavery.

SPOT THE SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY

It can be challenging to identify a potential victim of modern slavery and potential victims may be reluctant or unable to come forward themselves. **That is why it is important for frontline staff to look out for signs of modern slavery.**

A potential victim of modern slavery may:

- Show signs that their movements are being controlled
- Show fear or anxiety
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Look malnourished, unkempt or have untreated injuries
- Not be in possession of their passports or other travel documents, as these documents are being held by someone else
- Not have control of their own money or bank accounts
- Believe they must work against their will
- Be subjected to violence or threats of violence against themselves or against family members and loved ones

HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS

- **Adults** can access a range of support across the UK if they give their consent to enter the National Referral Mechanism.
- **Children** receive support through Local Authorities. Any potential child victim must be referred to local children’s services urgently, and a referral made to the National Referral Mechanism, once the child is safeguarded.



The Modern Slavery Act 2015 [Statutory Guidance](#) gives full details of the support available and how it can be accessed.

Only First Responders can refer potential victims to support. First Responders Organisations include the police, Local Authorities, UK Visas and Immigration, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and specified non-governmental organisations (NGOs). **If you are not a First Responder, you can contact a First Responder Organisation, such as the police, or visit the QR code for a full list of organisations.**



Have you encountered someone who may be a potential victim of modern slavery? You don’t need to be sure that modern slavery is taking place or fully understand the types and definitions to report your concerns. Call the police on 101 if you suspect modern slavery, or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm. The Salvation Army’s confidential 24/7 referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 will provide advice on getting support to potential victims.



For more information on COVID-19 and modern slavery follow the QR code or visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>