

# Modern Day Slavery

## 1. The Modern Day Slavery Act 2025

The simple definition is the *movement or recruitment by deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation*. The Act outlines in Section 1 the criminal offence of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and Section 2 covers the separate criminal offence of human trafficking.

The Anti-Slavery Commissioner role was created under the act and provision for the protection of victims also forms part of the act. This means that those victims who have been compelled to commit certain crimes, typically cannabis cultivation, begging, shoplifting and immigration offences may not be prosecuted.

## 7. Useful websites

[Support for victims and their families - Telford & Wrekin Council](#)

[National referral mechanism guidance: adult \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## 6. How to help victims

Victims may be reluctant and feel humiliated. They may be fearful of the police and threats may have been made against them and their families. You should always be patient and non-judgemental. Listen attentively and show empathy. Be professional, explain the reasons for your actions and reassure them that you are there to help.



**Are you worried about someone?  
Don't sit in silence!**

Please contact Family Connect on 01952 385385 or in an emergency call 999.

## 2. Myths

Modern Slavery should not be confused with illegal immigration or people smuggling. It doesn't have to be cross border, it can be as simple as moving someone from one room to another. Individuals may have consented to travel, and this does not mean they aren't a victim, as often they have only agreed under false pretences. Victims are often trafficked from outside of the UK but it can happen to British citizens too. It's simply not true to say if someone hasn't attempted an escape, this does not mean they aren't a victim.



## 5. Types of Exploitation and Human Trafficking

An individual may experience multiple forms of exploitation or abuse. The most common forms of exploitation include:

- Sexual exploitation (sexual abuse, forced prostitution and forms of child sexual exploitation).
- Labour exploitation (forced to work long hours for little or no pay).
- Forced criminality (compelled to commit crimes to benefit other persons).
- Domestic servitude (victims live and work in their 'employer's' household and are forced to work long hours)
- Organ harvesting (the surgical removal of parts of the body, sold for huge profits)

## 3. The Triggers

- **Economic** – victims may come from a background of poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunity and debt bondage. Many are driven to earn a better living abroad.
- **Social** – vulnerabilities may include homelessness, being uneducated, disabilities or learning difficulties, in the social care system, lack of family support or having a weak social network.
- **Political** – those who can be easy to exploit come from war, civil upheaval and social unrest. Many come to the UK for a better life.
- **Legal** – they may be fleeing from a weak judicial system, hold illegal documents or none at all and have little faith in the legal system or law enforcement agencies

## 4. The Signs

- **Anxiety** - Is the person you're speaking to visibly anxious? Are they hesitant to speak or slow to respond to questions? Are they showing signs of trauma or confusion?
- **Manner** - Do they have poor eye contact or seem withdrawn? Are they revealing feelings of worthlessness or hopelessness? Do they distrust authority figures?
- **Condition** – Do they look malnourished, exhausted or unkempt? Have they any untreated or neglected wounds? Are they poorly dressed or equipped for the job they are carrying out?
- **Environment** – Are they living in dirty or cramped accommodation? Rarely allowed to travel alone?

*These are all signs that could suggest someone is subject to modern slavery.*