

VISION AND STRATEGY

Justice and Care exists to bring freedom to individuals and communities living in the grip of slavery, to bring all those responsible for human trafficking to justice and to spark systemic change.

The charity outworks its vision in three ways - Justice and Care's own **frontline work** in the UK, Romania and Bangladesh, through strategic joint operations with partner organisations, and through the work of its **systemic change unit**, which extracts lessons from the frontline work and translates them into ways governments and stakeholders can fight this crime at scale.

Headline achievements

March 22 - August 22

Over the last six months, our impact includes:

	21/22 H1 Total	Growth on 20/21 HY average
Saving lives:		
Victims removed from exploitation	31	-28% ↓
Survivors cared for	380	21% ↑
Survivors repatriated	85	36% ↑
Vulnerable people receiving prevention education (direct)	610	294% ↑
Prosecuting criminals:		
Accused traffickers arrested	41	-24% ↓
Prosecutions of exploiters supported	303	304% ↑
Exploiters convicted	21	2,000% ↑
Frontline professionals trained	2,048	143% ↑

Systemic change:

Key wins

- Drafted guidelines for law enforcement in Bangladesh on behalf of the government, covering victim identification and the use of foreign evidence
- Provided insights to the UK Home Office on protection of migrants who are trafficking victims and the specific needs of British National Victims
- Together with a leading university, mapped the gaps in reintegration service provision for survivors in Romania

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Over the last six months, we have seen huge growth in the number of traffickers brought to justice through our work, with 21 exploiters convicted and sentenced to jail. In every case, our team's specialist support to police investigations, or our care for survivors that enabled them to testify against their accusers, has been critical to achieving the outcome in court.

In Bangladesh, we have seen survivors make exceptional recovery progress, including clinically significant reductions in depression, anxiety and stress as a result of the psychosocial counselling we provide. In Romania, we have seen survivors protected from re-trafficking by our teams intervening to help them to identify suspicious job offers and supporting them to find safe and legitimate alternative work. In the UK, our Navigators have helped survivors of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, kidnap and labour exploitation to provide vital intelligence to police, leading to the arrest of multiple suspects.

Our dedicated ongoing support for long-term cases has begun to slow our capacity to support new investigations in the UK, resulting in an overall decrease in arrests and rescues supported this period, but at the same time an increase in convictions and in survivors achieving stable recovery and reintegration. We are exploring options for expanding our casework provision in a sustainable way to meet the volume of demand.

Beyond our immediate casework, we have worked with governments and law enforcement agencies to improve the identification and care of survivors and the prosecution of trafficking cases - from developing victim identification guidelines for all law enforcement on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, to advocating with the Romanian Government regarding raising the age of consent to prevent exploitation of children, to supporting the UK's Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority with their own Navigator and specialist training to strengthen their response to modern slavery.



Frontline work

UK

5	Victims removed from exploitation
176	Survivors cared for
4	Survivors repatriated
10	Accused traffickers arrested
13	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
13	Exploiters convicted
1,250	Frontline professionals trained

Our UKVictim Navigator programme continues to expand due to high demand from law enforcement, with three Navigators joining the team since March: a Navigator working across the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) covering five East Midlands police forces, a Navigator based with Police Scotland (funded by the Scottish Government), and a Navigator working with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA).

Our Navigators' support to prosecution cases led to 13 convictions, with several trials still pending. One survivor who was supported by our Manchester Navigator to provide testimony against her exploiters, leading to two convictions, was praised by the officer in charge: *"She was fantastic in the box and gave a clear and honest account. And I do think a lot of her strength in giving that account, her confidence, was because of the continued support [from the Navigator] going in. She never thought she was on her own."*

Navigators continue to provide holistic, wraparound care to survivors based on their individual needs, ranging from emergency accommodation, to counselling, to assistance finding employment. As a result of this tailored support, survivors are recovering - for example, 73% of survivors are reporting improved mental health outcomes and 71% have improved economic stability.

"I am broken and I think I'm becoming crazy from what has happened to me, always thinking about it. But when you visit me, I feel like a normal person. Thank you." Survivor - UK

An independent evaluation of the Victim Navigator Programme will shortly be published and shared with the Government as part of our plan to scale the programme sustainably across the UK.

Bangladesh

26	Victims removed from exploitation
168	Survivors cared for
77	Survivors repatriated
610	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
31	Accused traffickers arrested
280	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
2	Exploiters convicted
798	Frontline professionals trained

In Bangladesh, our effective casework and focused advocacy are creating a virtuous cycle of trust and opportunity to create systemic change with law enforcement and the government.

Further casework successes this period include:

- 20 accused refused bail following our petition - vital to ensure they are not able to abscond or intimidate their victims
- 36 survivors achieving significantly increased household income as a result of our help to establish income generating activities such as tea stalls and tailoring businesses - this economic empowerment is essential to preventing re-trafficking and aiding reintegration
- Zero re-trafficking of survivors in the aftercare programme
- Assessment of prevention work with 100 highly vulnerable families finding 96% retention and personalisation of trafficking risks

26 victims were rescued as a direct result of our work over the last six months, both due to our training in victim identification to border guards and our support to police investigations. These include a 15 year old girl in the process of being trafficked to India after being tricked by a man who was posing as a romantic partner. The girl, who had been working in a garment factory, was being transported by two



Romania

accomplices of her supposed boyfriend who told her that he was waiting to marry her in a different location; however, their true intention was to transport her across the border to be sold into sexual exploitation. After they were intercepted, our team supported the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) and police in positively identifying the girl as a victim of trafficking, ensuring that the two traffickers were arrested. The child has now been reunited with her family and is receiving aftercare and legal support.

We are proud to announce that, in July, **Justice and Care's Country Director for Bangladesh, Md Tariqul Islam, was named a Trafficking In Persons 'Global Hero' in the fight against human trafficking by the US State Department.** He was presented his award by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at a ceremony in Washington DC, where Tariqul spoke on behalf of the six winners. This recognition is further increasing our influence and ability to spark systemic change in Bangladesh and in the sector.

On a systemic level:

- New partnership established with Magistrates Courts - we established video-conferencing facilities to enable witnesses to testify remotely and a digital system for magistrates to record evidence to expedite the court processes. As a result, the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate ordered that all trafficking cases be referred for our input and guidance
- Creation of key national guidelines for law enforcement on behalf of the Government
- Champion Survivors supported to establish their own leadership forum, 'Joyjatri' or 'Journey to Victory', through which they are working as peer mentors, providing advice and leadership into our programmes and beginning to provide consultancy to other NGOs in the sector

Romania

36 Survivors cared for

4 Survivors repatriated

6 Exploiters convicted

In Romania, our casework grew to a total of 36 survivors supported over the last six months. Support was individually tailored to the needs of each survivor, ranging from provision of basic supplies, access to medical services, and assistance in finding employment, as well as keeping survivors engaged with ongoing police investigations in the UK.

Our Romanian Navigators are not embedded within Romanian police, but are increasingly building relationships with key law enforcement staff and prosecutors as they assist with cross-border investigations.

In a case transferred from our Met Navigators in the UK to our Romanian Navigators, our team has cared for a Romanian survivor of sexual exploitation abused in brothels in London. She returned home and with our Navigators' help, remained engaged with a prosecution of her exploiters, with the trial taking place in the UK. As a result of her ongoing engagement with the case, six members of an organised crime group pleaded guilty to charges including human trafficking, rape and controlling prostitution. The organised crime group was well established and had been controlling multiple brothels in the UK. The survivor is delighted that, due to the guilty plea, she will not need to testify in court and can begin to move forward with her life.

In response to the war in Ukraine, our Romania team worked with the National ProTect Platform we co-founded to rapidly launch a website of key information to help safeguard Ukrainian refugees at risk of trafficking - providing information about safe sources of support and the tactics used by traffickers. This information was viewed more than 750,000 times on devices at the border crossing points. Many refugees moved on quickly from Romania to other third countries, but we continue to monitor the situation at the borders where trafficking risks persist amongst the most vulnerable.



Systemic Change

Over the last six months, our International Systemic Change Unit has:

- Published a ground breaking report on 'Modern Slavery in Global Supply Chains: The State of Evidence for Key Private and Government Approaches'. This research has fed into collaborations with our Policy Unit and other NGOs to inform the planned Modern Slavery Bill in the UK, and has been picked up in other settings looking to strengthen their approach to global supply chains.
- Continued to lead the delivery of the Global Prosecutors Consortium in partnership with the McCain Institute in the US. Virtual meetings in April and June 2022 were attended by leading modern slavery and human trafficking prosecutors from 17 countries to share lessons, diagnose common issues and identify practices that strengthen and expedite the prosecution of trafficking cases.
- Continued to lead a study of convicted offenders of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Philippines which will help law enforcement, technology platforms, money transfer agencies, regulators and NGOs better understand the motivations and mechanics behind this offending, and help improve the detection, investigation and prevention of this exploitation.

Meanwhile our UK Policy Unit has:

- Worked with St Mary's University to research gaps in support for British National Victims of modern slavery, and then met with officials in the Home Office and Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities to discuss the findings ahead of a wider launch to policymakers and MPs.
- Written a detailed paper to input into the Government's proposed new Modern Slavery Bill, making key recommendations on tackling offenders, supply chains, cuckooing and support for confirmed victims. The Bill was expected in September 2022, but was delayed following the resignation of Prime Minister Boris Johnson - we are now seeking to engage the new Secretary of State and to hold a roundtable discussion with Ministers on the Bill later in the autumn.
- Participated in a number of workshops held by the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to inform new guidance implementing the Nationality and Borders Act. We also engaged with Home Office Immigration Enforcement officials on the Migrant Victims Protocol and guidance for immigration officers on victims of modern slavery.

Joint Operations

We are partnering operationally with more than 100 organisations along the trafficking routes where our casework takes place, to arrange and manage safe repatriations, secure specialist care provision for survivors and collaborate on joint advocacy projects.

We continue to provide strategic and operational guidance to two particular partner organisations that we have played a key role in shaping and supporting - 'LIFT International' in Thailand and 'Vihaan' in India. Both organisations are currently going through periods of transition - Vihaan is awaiting a decision on the renewal of their foreign funding licence and LIFT International is reviewing their future structure and leadership. We are therefore not currently investing in these organisations financially while these matters resolve, but they remain core members of our network. Both organisations continue to undertake anti-trafficking casework and more information about their operations can be found on their websites, www.liftinternational.org and www.vihaan-wms.org.



Case Study: UK

Four female British victims of sexual exploitation were supported by our Navigator in their journey to obtain justice and convict an exploiter described by police officers as *“one of the most dangerous criminals”* they had dealt with in their service. The four survivors, who were highly vulnerable due to substance abuse issues, were covertly filmed by their exploiter engaging in sexual acts for his financial gain, while through threats and coercion he also controlled them to engage in prostitution. Disturbingly, the exploiter was at the time working as a childrens’ entertainer. Using a trauma-aware approach, our Navigator supported the survivors to engage with the police and actively assist with the prosecution of their abuser. As a result of their cooperation, he was arrested and is currently facing trial on more than 40 charges. The trial is now scheduled to take place in May 2023, although one

of the survivors tragically passed away before having the opportunity to see justice done. In August, our Navigator escorted the survivors to provide their pre-recorded cross-examination evidence. The officer in charge of the case emphasised how important the Navigator’s support was in pursuing this prosecution: *“This would have been a difficult task for any investigation team regardless of who the victims were. In this case, our victims had extremely complex needs relating to substance abuse, mental health issues, homelessness, and vulnerabilities connected to their fear of attending court. In the simplest of terms: we could not have managed this without our Victim Navigator.”*

DEEP DIVE

In each of these reports, this ‘deep dive’ section will provide detailed insights into an area of our work or challenge we face - in this case the work of our Bangladesh legal team in supporting witness attendance at human trafficking trials.

More than 4,500 pending human trafficking cases are backlogged in the Bangladeshi court system. During 2020, at the Government’s request, our team undertook a detailed review of a sample of over 350 human trafficking cases pending trial to identify the key issues that were contributing to the backlog and to the extremely low rates of conviction in human trafficking cases.

Our research found that 59% of cases had been pending for more than four years. The reason for the delay in the majority (67%) of cases was that it was stuck at the trial stage where witnesses for the prosecution should be examined, but were not attending court.. In human trafficking cases, the witnesses are usually the victim themselves or their immediate family, and the success of the prosecution depends on their willingness to attend and testify.

We used interviews with more than 150 witnesses to understand why they did not attend, and found the obstacles were:

- Lack of understanding of the court proceedings and the need to attend, especially due to low literacy levels
- Lack of financial ability to attend court - including travel expenses and lost pay/earnings
- Lack of faith in the process and the likelihood of a positive outcome
- Societal stigma and concern about exposing young females to shame
- Frequent intimidation of witnesses by traffickers or their associates
- Financial and social pressure to settle cases out of court

In response, Justice and Care Bangladesh initiated a witness attendance programme in four tribunal districts, reaching out to witnesses in human trafficking cases and supporting them to attend court to give evidence. Our team hires and

trains legal case facilitators and field facilitators to approach the complainants and witnesses listed in the case dockets on behalf of the prosecutor. These facilitators explain the court proceedings and the witnesses' obligation to attend court, and provide practical help with attendance in the form of information and logistics as well as funding for travel, which is often needed for victims and complainants who live in rural areas and have long distances to travel to attend the tribunals.

"A lady who lives in Jashore was called by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court of Dhaka to give a statement about a human trafficking case. She did not know where to go, where the court location was and whom to contact. This is the level of awareness among the witnesses. It is the same for victims. The beauty of the witness attendance programme is to support the witnesses and guide them through the process." - Justice and Care Legal Case Facilitator

Since the project was initiated in August 2021, 881 witnesses have been outreached by our team and 468 have provided

testimony in court - a **105% increase in witness attendance overall** and in some tribunals, attendance has increased 15-fold, to the astonishment of judges and prosecutors. The tribunal judges in Dhaka, Khulna and Jashore, interviewed for an external evaluation of this programme, expressed their appreciation for the witness attendance programme and deemed it a crucial step to minimise the delays in the prosecution of human trafficking cases: *"The support provided by JCBD in bringing the witness to the court is indeed helping to speed up the trial."* – Tribunal Judge, Khulna

Already in the last six months alone, two traffickers were convicted and each sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and 50,000 BDT fines as a direct result of the witness attendance programme. Following this upsurge in witness attendance, as these cases progress, we anticipate a significant increase in the number of cases disposed and convicted over the coming 1-2 years.

Case study: Bangladesh

Aysha and Sharmin's story

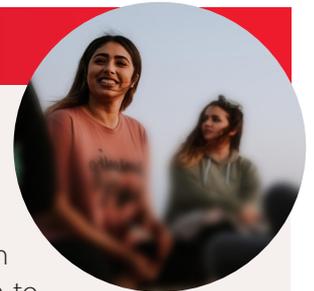
Sisters Aysha* and Sharmin* were 15 and 13 years old and working as housemaids when they were trafficked across the border by their aunt and uncle four years ago. In India, the girls suffered sexual exploitation and severe abuse at the hands of their trafficker, with one sister being beaten beyond recognition.

'Since facilitating their safe return home in June 2022, our team has provided intensive aftercare to the two sisters, who are being offered long term accommodation support as it is unsafe for them to return home. As well as addressing their immediate needs to access hygiene, clothing

and medical assistance, the sisters are receiving mental health counselling to support their long term recovery. In order to offer the sisters a path to empowerment and independence, they have been enrolled in a three month beautician training course and will be assisted to find employment upon completion.

Justice and Care helped to secure the arrest of the aunt and uncle and are now supporting the prosecution, working to secure justice for these brave survivors.

*Names and image changed to protect identity



Thank you for standing with Justice and Care in bringing freedom to those living in the grip of slavery, justice to those responsible for human trafficking and sparking systemic change.

Your support is changing lives and together we can break the grip of slavery.