

VISION AND STRATEGY

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

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

Headline achievements

Sep 2020 - Feb 2021

Through our direct work and joint operations, our impact includes:

	20/21 H1 Total	Growth on 19/20 HY average	
Saving lives:			
Victims removed from exploitation	74	32%	↑
Survivors cared for	437	33%	↑
Survivors repatriated	103	274%	↑
Vulnerable people receiving prevention education (direct)	483	30%	↓
Prosecuting criminals:			
Accused traffickers arrested	85	45%	↑
Prosecutions of exploiters supported	249	106%	↑
Exploiters convicted	26	205%	↑
Frontline professionals trained	941	34%	↑

Systemic change:

Key wins

- UK Government acknowledges scale of slavery may be 10 times higher than their estimates as demonstrated in our 2020 'It Still Happens Here' report
- Law regarding child exploitation cases corrected through our advocacy in Romania
- Requested by Government of Bangladesh to assist them to analyse and tackle vast backlog of human trafficking cases

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Despite the continuing pandemic, over the last six months Justice and Care repatriated record numbers of victims, facilitated the arrest of scores of exploiters, engaged UK, Romania and Bangladesh governments directly to drive systemic change and supported our partners to achieve critical convictions.

Key wins include:

- 82% of survivors supported through Justice and Care's Victim Navigator programme in the UK are supporting police investigations into their cases - compared to just 33% of survivors nationally
- First conviction of an exploiter through the UK Navigator programme, which also won a national Third Sector Breakthrough Award
- 0% re-trafficking rate amongst survivors supported in Bangladesh, and zero trafficking amongst at-risk families benefiting from the targeted prevention programme



Direct work

UK

20	Victims removed from exploitation
99	Survivors cared for
15	Survivors repatriated
37	Accused traffickers arrested
23	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
1	Exploiter convicted
367	Frontline professionals trained

In the UK, we expanded our Victim Navigator programme strategically in response to huge demand from police forces. Navigators are now deployed in Essex, Surrey, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and the Met Police, Border Force covering Dover in Kent and multiple airports in Scotland. The Navigators provide specialist tactical advice in investigations and support victims following their rescue. **Key outcomes during this period include:**

- 82% of survivors supported engaging with police investigations, versus 33% nationally
- Charges approved against 22 accused exploiters, including modern slavery, kidnap, controlling prostitution and other offences
- 20 victims rescued from car washes, cannabis farms, brothels, traveller sites and other locations
- Conviction of a trafficker in a domestic servitude case, with the victim revealing to the Navigator, *“Thank you - you gave me the courage to do this.”*
- Police forces growing in their capacity to tackle this crime type - with Surrey Police conducting their first ever Joint Investigative Team with an overseas force due to the Navigator’s support - leading to six arrests across the UK and Poland

Bangladesh

17	Victims removed from exploitation
224	Survivors cared for
86	Survivors repatriated
280	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
16	Accused traffickers arrested
73	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
448	Frontline professionals trained

In Bangladesh, the reopening of borders after the COVID-19 lockdown enabled us to resume safe returns, reuniting survivors with their families who had been stuck in limbo in shelter homes in India for prolonged periods. **Successes included:**

- 32 survivors reaching an advanced stage of recovery and reintegration - with several becoming trained peer mentors for other survivors
- 24 survivors helped to start small business, enter job placements or vocational training - with 11 already seeing more than a 30% increase in household income as a result
- Reaching over 1.3 million people with trafficking and safe migration education messages through a specially developed TV commercial in partnership with district governments in vulnerable border areas (verified via surveys and focus groups)
- Pioneering a new mechanism to enable repatriated victims to provide interviews to law enforcement via video call - with their evidence leading to multiple arrests and new investigations launched
- 17 victims rescued including six children - one being a British-Bangladeshi victim of forced child marriage
- Arrest of several trafficking network kingpins and a powerful complicit politician



Romania

Romania is a major source country for trafficking into the UK, a gateway to Europe for those being trafficked from across Asia, and is struggling with a poor and uncoordinated national response to the issue.

We have now opened a new small and strategic entity in Romania - employing one of the country's leading experts on slavery to lead the work. Already, Justice and Care Romania has begun convening a national taskforce

to combat human trafficking, helped develop a national "know before you go" website to educate would-be migrants in how to protect themselves from exploiters, and begun preparations for deploying a Victim Navigator to support returning victims repatriated from the UK.

We also began piloting casework - including repatriating a survivor and her daughter to testify in court against her exploiter, and supporting a repatriated victim to access employment.

Joint Operations

Thailand

37	Victims removed from exploitation
21	Survivors cared for
32	Accused traffickers arrested
24	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
24	Exploiters convicted
126	Frontline professionals trained

Justice and Care formally began joint operations with an elite anti-trafficking organisation in Thailand, LIFT International. The two NGOs are committed to working together, sharing expertise and collaborating on casework and international systemic change. The support from Justice and Care has expanded LIFT's reach and impact, resulting in:

- A strategic expansion of LIFT's investigative team - leading to a 47% increase in average arrests of exploiters and 16% increase in convictions achieved
- A new more holistic aftercare model co-created utilising Justice and Care's expertise
- Lessons shared from the Victim Navigator model leading to a new similar pilot being agreed between LIFT and the Thai Department of Special Investigations

Moving forward, LIFT are equipping our national teams through their specialist knowledge and experience in prosecutions, digital forensics and online-facilitated exploitation.

India

	In 20/21 Q1 (Q2 data awaited):
93	Survivors cared for
203	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
129	Prosecutions of exploiters supported

We have worked in partnership with Vihaan (formerly WMS) in India, sharing expertise and helping the charity:

- Provide specialist aftercare to survivors - with seven reaching a stable point of reintegration
- Secure local sustainable funding
- Strengthen organisational capacity - positioning for long-term health and growth



Systemic Change

Last year we formed a new Modern Slavery Policy Unit, in partnership with the Centre for Social Justice, to help ensure slavery remains clearly on the political agenda in the UK.

To mark the public launch, the Unit released a major report evidencing that there are more than 100,000 victims of slavery in the UK and making 16 recommendations to the Government on how it should be tackled. The report, "It Still Happens Here", reached an audience of more than eight million people and was welcome by the Home Secretary, who has now invited the Unit to help review the victim care system.

Among many other things, our commitment to systemic change has also seen:

- A groundbreaking prosecution partnership with Bangladesh Government, leading to us being invited to analyse the entire backlog of 4,500 trafficking cases in the country and make key recommendations for change to ensure cases are heard more quickly - findings due to be presented to government in spring 2021
- A new victim-centric multi-agency operating model being planned by the UK Home Office for Border Force in Essex, with a Justice and Care Navigator at the centre
- Correction to an error in Romanian law regarding child exploitation cases
- Guidelines distributed to all police in the state of Karnataka in India on handling child trafficking cases
- Work with the Thai Government to enact anti-grooming laws, with early progress achieved

Case Study: Julia*

Justice and Care was brought in by the Met Police to support a victim of trafficking, found as a result of an investigation into a major trafficking network spanning across the UK and into Eastern Europe - an investigation we have been closely involved in.

Having drawn alongside the woman, who had faced sexual exploitation, she opened up about the concerns she had for another victim she knew in the same situation. She was able to connect them to our Navigator too.

As a result, our Navigator was able to build trust and ensure that the second woman, Julia*, was also freed. She was in need of urgent medical help and

spent several days in hospital. There she was found to be five months pregnant.

Our Navigator has continued to support Julia - including helping her to find suitable accommodation. She has also begun to engage with police, helping to provide the evidence they need to bring the traffickers to justice.



*name changed to protect her identity



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 COVID-19 pandemic, which has framed our work over the last year.

COVID-19 led to lockdowns around the globe - some of them still in place. Borders closed, millions lost their employment or day labouring income, movements were restricted. **From a human trafficking perspective, the impact of coronavirus includes:**

- Increased vulnerability to trafficking - destitution and loss of income lead to huge new 'markets' of potential victims for traffickers. Loss of income means increased debt bondage and increased willingness to engage in the dangerous irregular migration that is exploited by traffickers
- Increase in online grooming and online sexual exploitation, particularly of children - especially as buyers are online more during lockdown and lack opportunities to access brothels
- Negative impact on the recovery of survivors - who face re-traumatisation, isolation and reduced access to services

At the start of the pandemic, we undertook rapid assessments into the impact of the lockdown on survivors and target communities, and mobilised a response designed to meet emergency needs and prevent re-trafficking and destitution:

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, we found that more than a third of survivors had lost all of their household income. With no savings, the financial impact was catastrophic, resulting in a high risk of re-trafficking.

"There was nothing to eat at home today. I was dying to think, from whom will I borrow! What to eat? I don't know what I would do without your help!" – A survivor rescued by Justice and Care, Bangladesh

We quickly established an emergency food service - ensuring that the most at-risk families received the food security they needed in a safe manner. Vulnerability for some was made even greater when a cyclone hit the country, leading to some survivors seeing their homes destroyed. We stepped in to meet this critical need and helped 21 survivors rebuild their devastated homes.

Key achievements:

- 308 survivor households and 120 highly at-risk households (more than 2,000 individuals) supported with emergency supplies - in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Romania and the UK
- Persistent proactive engagement with law enforcement partners to keep trafficking on the agenda and investigations progressing - leading to 10 arrests in Bangladesh, 28 in the UK and 23 in Thailand, plus 13 rescues in the UK and 22 in Thailand during the first period of lockdown
- 8,262 phone follow-ups conducted over six months to over 300 survivors in Bangladesh who were experiencing fear, confusion and trauma as a result of the pandemic and lockdown - providing clear health advice, emotional support and arranging emergency supplies

Case study: Jamila*

Jamila entered lockdown pregnant. With no work, no income, no savings, and therefore no way of buying food, she was forced to skip meals. She was deeply concerned about the health of her family and especially her unborn baby. We stepped in, providing socially distanced deliveries of food,

medicines and hygiene materials. She and her baby are doing well and beginning to rebuild their lives once again.



With a lockdown restricting movement and the ability of our staff to meet with survivors and raise awareness about the risks of trafficking in communities, the team had to find new ways of working.

To provide greater support to those who have recently been rescued and were re-traumatised by lockdown, we set up a peer mentoring programme - training those who are a long way forward in their recovery process, to provide support to those at the start of it. This proved a huge success for both those mentoring and mentored.

To help ensure that at risk-communities were not vulnerable to grooming by traffickers, our team developed a number of television adverts - which are being run at no cost on local public service channels, reaching an audience of over 1.3 million members of the most vulnerable communities - to raise awareness of the tactics of traffickers and how to undertake safe migration.

In the UK In the UK meanwhile, police teams were being pulled in different directions as they responded to the pandemic. Although the picture of trafficking changed, the abuse and vulnerability of victims did not.

Our Victim Navigators switched some of their support to online, but provided in-person care where necessary. This included providing support to one victim who ended up in intensive care, after being shot by his traffickers who were drunk and bored during lockdown.

The Navigators continued to provide advice into police investigations - including helping to rescue a woman who had been kept in a cellar for eight years in southeast England, supporting the arrest of five suspects in a case involving using Vietnamese victims in drug cultivation in Kent and investigation a network of brothels where trafficking victims are exploited, operated by a nationwide organised crime group.

Lockdown also saw us provide additional care to vulnerable victims as necessary and also support to one new mother, whose baby was born into freedom after her mother was rescued with the support of the team.

Elsewhere Justice and Care were also able to support emergency responses through partners, supporting victims of slavery most affected by the pandemic in Romania, India and Thailand.

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.

*name changed to protect her identity