

# 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 **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

March 21 - August 21

Through our own direct work and directly funded joint operations, our impact includes:

	Direct work	+/- from 19/20	Incl. funded joint ops
<b>Saving lives:</b>			
Victims removed from exploitation	49	↑ 165%	49
Survivors cared for	473	↑ 146%	566
Survivors repatriated	22	↓ -20%	22
Vulnerable people receiving prevention education (direct)	30	↓ -96%*	88
<b>Prosecuting criminals:</b>			
Accused traffickers arrested	55	↑ 59%	55
Prosecutions of exploiters supported	164	↑ 811%	331
Exploiters convicted	1	↑ 100%	1
Frontline professionals trained	868	↑ 24%	868

\* (note pivot to indirect education during lockdowns)

### Systemic change: Key wins

- Initiated vital new research into victim care, to directly inform the UK Home Office review
- Launched a Global Prosecutors Consortium in partnership with the McCain Institute, to tackle low conviction rates internationally
- Submitted a landmark analysis of the human trafficking cases backlogged in the courts to the Government of Bangladesh, with immediate acceptance of our recommendations

## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

While the UK slowly emerged from lockdown over the last six months, our team in Bangladesh faced a difficult national surge in infections and strictly enforced lockdowns, while our partner in India also battled the aftermath of a devastating second wave of COVID-19 infections. However, pushing to remain relentless in the face of these challenges, over the last six months Justice and Care has extended our aftercare to more than 80 new victims, played a vital role in more than 130 human trafficking investigations, trained more than 800 frontline professionals to identify slavery victims and worked directly with governments and institutions internationally to drive systemic change.

### Key successes include:

- Assisting in the identification and arrest of 50 suspected exploiters, including in Bangladesh two female trafficking kingpins
- Helping more than 65% of survivors cared for in the UK to make progress in key areas of their recovery and reintegration - including safety and mental and physical health
- Despite enormous financial pressures as a result of the pandemic, re-trafficking rates of survivors we work with in Bangladesh remain at 0% - which is also the case among the families benefiting from our targeted prevention programme



## Direct work

### UK

26	Victims removed from exploitation
166	Survivors cared for
3	Survivors repatriated
39	Accused traffickers arrested
1	Prosecution of exploiter supported
1	Exploiter convicted
544	Frontline professionals trained

In the UK, our Navigators supported victims of domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation - adapting their support for the 28 different nationalities and huge range of ages and specific needs of the survivors served. The Navigators provide specialist tactical advice in investigations and support victims following their rescue. **Key outcomes this period include:**

- 94% of survivors supported this period engaging with police investigations, versus 33% nationally - providing vital evidence and intelligence to move investigations forward
- Navigators shaping force-wide practice, including being invited by the Met Police to help revise their victim care strategy, finalising force-wide guidance on modern slavery for all officers in Surrey, and brokering improved joint working between Police and the GLAA in West Yorkshire

Prosecutions and convictions have been low - multiple cases we support have been presented to the CPS for charging, but unfortunately declined due to lack of evidence or poor understanding of modern slavery cases by the prosecutors involved. As a result, we are planning a legal pilot for 21/22 to address this key weakness.

*"It was all darkness. It's like I'm coming out of a grave into life again. I hear her echoes in my ear, still trying to dominate me. But I'm fighting back. Your kindness has taught me an important lesson. That there is an alternative way to be human. And I am feeling more human again." Survivor - UK*

### Bangladesh

23	Victims removed from exploitation
307	Survivors cared for
19	Survivors repatriated
30	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
16	Accused traffickers arrested
163	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
324	Frontline professionals trained

In Bangladesh, a surge in COVID-19 infections, particularly in border districts where many of our survivors live, prompted fresh nationwide lockdowns. Our team mobilised remote and, wherever possible, in-person support to address the needs of survivors and vulnerable families, whilst also pioneering a landmark new prosecution initiative: **Key outcomes this period include:**

- More than 2,100 phone and in-person follow-ups provided to survivors to provide emotional support, advice and to manage their care - particularly crucial during the lockdowns
- Equipped and trained 'Champion Survivors' to act as peer mentors to newly repatriated survivors - with 37 survivors experiencing improved mental and emotional health as a result
- 35 women from highly vulnerable families were supported to access vocational training in tailoring and provided with sewing machines - now working successfully in small enterprises and sustaining their families economically
- 163 legal cases supported, new witness attendance programme launched to expedite court cases, and changes in attitudes, knowledge and behaviors of Special Public Prosecutors we have trained



## Romania

We recently began operational work in Romania - recruiting a Romanian Victim Navigator based in Bucharest to support and care for survivors who were exploited in the UK and have been repatriated to Romania. She is currently supporting 14 survivors, brokering access to specialist services for them like housing, health care and counselling, and seeking to keep them engaged as key witnesses in police investigations in the UK.

The National Anti-Trafficking Platform we have co-founded in Romania now unites over 20 of the most active non-profits working on MSHT in Romania. JC Romania was acknowledged with an award from 'SOCnet', a cross-government overseas network funded by the UK Home Office and FCDO, for its work in establishing this collaboration, and we recently engaged a State Advisor to support the platform, laying the foundation for our goal of formalising the Platform as a National Taskforce supported by the government.

## Joint Operations

### Thailand

- 9 **Victims removed from exploitation**
- 27 **Survivors cared for**
- 5 **Accused traffickers arrested**
- 8 **Prosecutions of exploiters supported**
- 6 **Exploiters convicted**
- 92 **Frontline professionals trained**

Our support to LIFT includes specialist advice on an operational and strategic level, and securing for them significant third party funding. With Thailand enduring fresh COVID-19 lockdowns, LIFT's field operations have been hampered; however, they have succeeded in:

Launching a new 'Modern Slavery Liaison' role based on our Victim Navigator concept and supported by our expertise. This role is embedded within the Department of Special Investigations in Thailand, and will support human trafficking investigations and secure victim care. The role will be piloted as a first-of-its-kind in Thailand over the next 12 months

- Securing justice for multiple victims in court, including compensation for a boy who was sexually exploited by a Dutch national over many years in a high-profile case
- Building more than 20 new cases through digital investigations into perpetrators of online sexual exploitation of children - a crime which has tragically skyrocketed during lockdowns

### India

- 93 **Survivors cared for**
- 167 **Prosecutions of exploiters supported**

We have worked in partnership with Vihaan in India, providing crucial bridging funding as they secure a new local donor base and share expertise. They have been able to:

- Secure multiple convictions in long-running cases, including two life sentences and substantial compensation for victims
- Undertake a large-scale emergency response during India's second wave of COVID-19, providing dry rations to thousands of vulnerable people
- Expand the Foundation skills training course for survivors, with 19 survivors recently graduating from the course and ongoing work underway in partnership with local government to expand the provision of the course throughout shelter homes in Karnataka
- Launch a new survivor platform, entitled "Voice of Survivors", empowering survivors to contribute to shared learnings, shape best practices in the anti-trafficking field, and influence law and policy



## Systemic Change

Our International Systemic Change Unit has launched a Global Prosecutors Consortium in partnership with the McCain Institute in the US, bringing together leading prosecutors from key countries across the world with experience in prosecuting human trafficking cases, to discuss the barriers to successful prosecution, share good practice and develop shared tools to strengthen and expedite the prosecution of trafficking cases. With human trafficking rates rising globally, but conviction rates falling, these efforts could not be more crucial.

Meanwhile, our UK systemic change unit is working in partnership with MPs, Members of the House of Lords and other charities to plan an amendment to the Government's new Nationality and Borders Bill. Through this and a wider political engagement plan, we are seeking to raise concerns constructively around elements of the new Bill that could adversely affect victims of modern slavery.

We also collaborated with a number of sector leaders to write an open letter to the G7 while they met in Cornwall, calling on the leaders of the G7 nations to prioritise addressing modern slavery and in particular forced

labour. In response to the letter, the conference final communique included an express renewed commitment to address forced labour and uphold human rights - and further engagement with the G7 is now taking place.

On an operational level, our commitment to systemic change has also seen:

- Justice and Care Bangladesh directly shaping the US Trafficking in Persons report for the country through advocacy and relationship building with US State Department representatives in Bangladesh
- A new emergency mobile court opened on our advice to deal with a spike in trafficking by organised crime groups in Jhenaidah district of Bangladesh
- Our Navigators invited to a roundtable with the Detective Superintendent and other leaders within the Met Police to discuss their current victim care strategy and how the force could improve - helping to shape police response to modern slavery at the highest level within the force

### Case Study: Aanshi\*

Young mum Aanshi was trafficked to India after being deceived by a neighbour and forced to work in brothels by a sex trafficking network. She was brutally tortured and exploited for five months before being rescued by police.

Justice and Care helped bring Aanshi home and reunited her with her young son. Social stigma meant reintegrating her into her community was difficult - but with a child to care for, who had faced a missing mother, Aanshi was determined not to create more change for him.

Our team have supported Aanshi, including providing life skills training and professional

counselling, as well as emergency supplies during the pandemic. We also helped her secure a Government home, under a scheme for the 'landless poor'. She moved in this summer, saying she can now live in a house with her family, something she had never dreamt of: **'I would have been on the street. Thank you Justice and Care for giving me a dignified life.'**



\*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 impact that supporting victims to engage with police is having on modern slavery investigations in the UK.

### Lack of trust

Most victims of modern slavery do not engage with police - due to fear of authority, intimidation from their exploiters, or a belief that justice will simply not be served. In the UK, just one in three victims will engage with police investigations (MSPTU data 2020).

However, with victims often the primary or only witness, their engagement is known to be critical: "Greater efforts should..be taken to ensure that victims feel supported throughout the investigative process, as their engagement and confidence in the police service is fundamental to bringing perpetrators of modern slavery to justice" - Bernie O'Reilly, Interim CEO, College of Policing.

Since the inception of our Victim Navigator Programme, independent evaluators have been monitoring the impact of the project - including on the engagement of victims with investigations. Their interim report demonstrates the groundbreaking impact of the Navigators.

They found that with Navigators' involvement, **victim engagement with the police on modern slavery not only improves, but leads to the identification of more victims and perpetrators.**

Among the more than 150 adult survivors that the Navigators have been supporting, 87% have engaged with police, 'providing intelligence or information on record, and with many going much further, including supporting prosecutions as key witnesses.



### Engagement of victims

The interim evaluation notes that 'not only did 87% of victims supported by Navigators engage with police, but the majority of these did so at the higher engagement levels - 25% of victims agreed to participate in an ABE (achieving best evidence interview) and 32% were willing to support a prosecution'. Further, victims with a Navigator improved their engagement with police over time. *"The evidence points to a strong link between Victim Navigators supporting a victim and victims being willing to engage with criminal justice processes, including taking their exploiters to court"*.

### Identifying others

Victim engagement with police has significant investigative consequences. **Victim engagement with police on 146 cases open in the last year resulted in:**

11	potential further victims identified
182	potential suspects identified
130	arrests
8	new lines of enquiry identified
6	charges
92	locations identified and 49 locations checked

'A regression analysis we conducted showed that, where a survivor was willing to support a prosecution, their engagement with police was strongly and systematically correlated with more victims being identified, more suspects being identified, more locations being checked

and more arrests - proving the vital importance of the Navigators' ability to improve victims' relationship with law enforcement.

This month, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has written to the Home Secretary and outlined her support of the Navigator Programme. She said, 'Effective support and the opportunity to build rapport with law enforcement can be crucial in maintaining the engagement of victims and survivors as witnesses through what can often be lengthy investigations. The recent evaluation of the Justice in Care victim navigator role identified that 87% of victims supported by the navigators engaged with police investigations, compared to 33% nationally. Victim testimony can be extremely powerful and hearing victims' evidence in person often brings a case alive for the jury, allowing them to fully understand the control that traffickers were able to wield on their victims.'

### Case study:

Our Met Navigators recently were involved in an operation that saw six suspected traffickers arrested and charged with various offences including modern slavery.

One of the victims our Navigators supported in this case was Daniela,\* a Romanian woman who came to London when she was just 16, having lost both her parents as a child. Highly vulnerable, she was exploited and forced to work in brothels around the capital.

Following a police raid, the support the Navigators were able to give Daniela led to her slowly beginning to engage with police. Eventually Daniela bravely shared with police vital intelligence, including the details of two other victims who

were still trapped in exploitation by the same criminal network. Our Navigator approached the second victim, who initially was too afraid to leave the brothel, but with time was supported to exit and access help, including vital medical care, as she then discovered she was five months pregnant. Our Navigator has also reached out to the third victim, who has multiple health problems and additional vulnerability due to learning difficulties. She is still building the confidence to leave the situation of exploitation, but is remaining in contact with our Navigator.



\*name changed to protect her 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.**