



Decade of Dignity: A Strategic Vision for Eradicating Modern Slavery in the UK

April 2026



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About the report

This report has been produced by a consortium of leading anti-slavery organisations that have come together to produce a joint strategic vision for the UK Government's fight against modern slavery in the UK. It focuses on key interconnected priority areas that we believe are foundational to moving the UK forward to achieve meaningful progress in the fight against this crime. However, we recognise that in the longer term, a holistic vision and strategy on modern slavery requires a whole society and whole of government approach that makes tackling this issue everyone's business with a strong focus on holistic prevention before the harm is done, including early intervention, and after it is done.

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Contributors:

Anti-Slavery International
 Action for Children
 Alliance for Youth Justice
 Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG)
 Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit (ATLEU)
 Catch22
 ECPAT UK
 Experts with Lived Experience
 Focus on Labour Exploitation
 Hestia
 Hope for Justice
 Human Trafficking Foundation
 Justice & Care
 NWG Network
 The Anti-Slavery Collective
 The Children's Society
 The Salvation Army
 The Snowdrop Project
 Unseen

Signatories:

AFRUCA Safeguarding Children
 BASNET (UK BME Anti Slavery Network)
 Bawso
 Caritas Bakhita House
 Ella's
 Helen Bamber Foundation
 Hope at Home
 Latin American Women's Rights Service
 Palm Cove Society
 Shpresa Programme
 Sophie Hayes Foundation
 The Medaille Trust
 The Passage

Contributors



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Executive Summary

Modern slavery is a profound violation of human rights and a serious economic crime that undermines the rule of law and the integrity of our economy. Despite the landmark Modern Slavery Act 2015, the UK's response has faltered. A lack of a strategic approach to prevention, ineffective business regulation, fragmented policing,

siloeed safeguarding and support systems, and harmful immigration policies have created a low-risk, high-reward environment for perpetrators, as has been the case for years. It has left survivors with restricted access to the protection and long-term support they are entitled to under international obligations.

The status quo is untenable; it fails victims, emboldens criminals, and tarnishes the UK's reputation as a global leader in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT). This document presents a strategic vision for the next decade supported by a roadmap to place the United Kingdom at the forefront of the global fight to eradicate modern slavery. Our vision for 2036 is of a UK that has a dual approach: tackling the root vulnerabilities, drivers and causes of MSHT and responding appropriately when it occurs. A UK where criminal networks are consistently dismantled, where businesses are held accountable for exploitation in their supply chains, where every exploited child is safeguarded, and where all survivors are heard, protected and supported towards a life of dignity and sustainable recovery.

This strategic vision focuses on four key priorities which make it realistic and attainable with the right level of leadership and prioritisation. It provides a clear, evidence-based, and phased roadmap for action over the next decade, focusing on leveraging existing resources and efforts of government departments. It focuses on four of the key interconnecting priorities¹, which should be underpinned by ethical and meaningful inclusion of those with lived experience:

Priority One: Building a New Legislative Foundation for Corporate Accountability

We call for the introduction of a new, standalone **"Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence and Forced Labour Act"** within two years. This Act will replace the ineffective Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 with legally binding obligations, including mandatory human rights due diligence, a ban on goods tainted by forced labour, and upgraded transparency reporting with substantial penalties for non-compliance. As the UK seeks stable growth, higher productivity, and renewed global competitiveness, eliminating human rights abuses and forced labour from supply chains is not only a moral imperative but an economic necessity.

Priority Two: Dismantling Criminal Networks Through a Strengthened Justice Response

We urge the government to treat modern slavery as a core policing priority and a serious economic crime that impacts national security. This requires sustained investment in specialist MSHT teams, financial investigators, and advanced data analytics. By embedding a trauma-informed approach, enhancing civil remedies, providing specialist support throughout the criminal justice journey, for example, by providing access to Victim Navigators, and strengthening police-CPS collaboration, we can reverse the high-reward, low-risk calculus for traffickers and ensure victims receive justice.

Priority Three: Ensuring a Dignified Life and Sustainable Recovery for All Survivors

A survivor-centric support system is fundamental to breaking the cycle of exploitation. We call for systemic reform to create a safeguarding-led infrastructure, provide needs-based, long-term support, and remove legal and policy barriers to recovery. This includes repealing harmful immigration legislation and guaranteeing survivors have access to safe accommodation, legal advice, compensation, and a pathway to settlement that enables effective recovery and reintegration, reducing the risks of re-exploitation.

Priority Four: A Coherent National Strategy for Child Exploitation

We advocate for the creation of a cross-government UK-wide Child Exploitation Strategy to end the current fragmented and siloeed response. This strategy must establish a unified framework, align existing policies, and be grounded in children's rights. It will ensure every child at risk is identified early and protected through consistent safeguarding processes, regardless of their location, immigration status, or the type of exploitation they face.

Longer term, a strategic approach must place emphasis on a holistic prevention approach with a greater priority on tackling the root causes, vulnerabilities and drivers of MSHT. This takes a local, national and international approach, tackling harm before it occurs and enabling intervention as early as possible afterwards, in addition to tackling the issue after the harm is done. This includes, but is not limited to, investment in international development; multi-lateral and bilateral approaches to tackling MSHT; protection of all workers regardless of immigration status, ensuring access to remedies and recourse to public funds and addressing existing recommendations to reduce risks of MSHT for migrant workers, particularly those on short-term visas. Survivors, children, young people,

families and communities can play crucial roles as agents of change who can often be best placed to fight MSHT if they are equipped to prevent it, recognise and respond to it.²

Meaningful and Ethical Survivor Inclusion for a Sustainable Strategic Response

To ensure the UK's 2036 vision remains grounded, the proposed strategic vision mandates that meaningful and ethical survivor inclusion is the cornerstone of all policy design, implementation, and evaluation. By placing survivors and communities at the heart of the strategy as key experts, this approach ensures lived experience is the foundation that drives and informs every strategic pillar. From informing the development of MHRDD legislation to refining the tools used to "go after the money", driving the shift from a restrictive, immigration-led response to a trauma-informed safeguarding model.

This survivor-centric perspective is essential for achieving a high return on investment (ROI); by directly addressing the needs of those protected, such as through the provision of independent advocacy e.g. access to Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSAs)³ and Victim Navigators⁴, culturally appropriate therapy, and the right to work, the system will effectively break the cycle of re-trafficking and reduces the long-term economic burden of exploitation. Ultimately, prioritising the voices of those who have experienced exploitation and communities at risk is the only way to improve the efficiency of the justice system and ensure that every intervention is both humane and rights based.

As a consortium of leading anti-slavery organisations, we stand ready to partner across multiple sectors, with the Government and people with lived experience to implement this agenda and build a future free from exploitation. The time for renewed leadership is now.

² The Human Trafficking Research Initiative. (April 2024). Human Trafficking Prevention: Improving Interventions to Combat Forced Labor and Human Trafficking.

Oram, S. et al. (November 2020). Public Health Approach to Modern Slavery – Opportunities and Challenges.

Scottish Government. (June 2025). Preventing human trafficking and exploitation: evidence review.

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Such, E. et al. (June 2025). Preventing Adult Sexual and Labor Exploitation in the UK: Findings from a Participatory Evidence Synthesis of What Does or Could Work.

³ Independent Modern Slavery Advocacy: the IMSA Model

⁴ Modern Slavery Victim Navigator Programme

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) are a profound assault on human dignity and a fundamental violation of human rights. Yet, they are also serious economic crimes, a parasitic enterprise that thrives in the shadows of legitimate commerce, undermines the rule of law, and distorts fair competition. The UK's initial leadership with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 was a commendable step, but as exploitation evolves, we must build on this foundation to ensure its longevity. A critical lack of political leadership, government enforcement, conflated narrative with illegal immigration, and an over-reliance on voluntary corporate disclosure have undermined its effectiveness, allowing exploitation to persist within our communities and supply chains.

This moment presents a critical opportunity for the UK to reclaim its role as a global leader in the fight against MSHT. By leveraging its significant soft power and committing to a robust, coherent national strategy that pulls on data insights, analytics and lived experience perspectives, the UK can set a new international standard for tackling this serious human rights violation and crime, continuing to show thought leadership and vision. This is not merely a moral imperative but a sound economic one. The return on investment is clear: every pound spent on prevention, robust enforcement, and comprehensive survivor support yields significant returns.⁵

A holistic approach to prevention, addressing harm before it occurs and enabling intervention as early as possible afterwards, reduces the immense human toll and long-term costs of exploitation to our health care and justice systems, while empowering survivors to recover and, if they are willing and able to, contribute their skills and resilience to our economy and society. Failing to act decisively allows criminal networks to flourish, creating unsafe communities and risking the UK becoming a destination for goods tainted by forced labour.

This document outlines a strategic vision focused on certain key priority areas that work to move the UK forward in eradicating modern slavery from our society. It is built upon four core priorities that, together, create a mutually reinforcing framework for change. It is also underpinned by a vision for learned and lived experiences to be embedded at its heart, recognising the critical role that those with lived experience play in developing effective responses.⁶

We will detail the urgent need for a new legislative foundation for corporate accountability, a strengthened criminal justice response to dismantle criminal networks, a unified national strategy on child exploitation, and a rights-based system of support that ensures a life of dignity and sustainable recovery for every survivor. For this strategic vision to have a long-term impact, we strive for cross-departmental governance at the national and local levels.

⁵ Unseen. (October 2025). The Economic Cost of Modern Slavery: Policing.

⁶ See Appendix 1.

Introduction: A Call for Renewed Leadership

Robust, Whole-of-Government Infrastructure and Governance

Tackling MSHT is complex, requiring a whole-of-government, whole systems and whole-of-society approach. To widen the focus from enforcement to prevention, early intervention and recovery requires a whole-of-government approach where every area of government understands its role and responsibility to prevent exploitation, identify and safeguard victims, ensure effective perpetrator accountability and partnership working. This means embedding responses in a cross-government and cross-departmental approach in policies, strategies and action at local, national and international level.

To achieve this, we call on the Government to:

- Establish an interministerial and cross-departmental governance, coordination and accountability structure at local, national and international levels with a clear accountability mechanism and corresponding strategy and action plan.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of each government department and ensure that these are reflected in relevant legislation, policy strategies and action plans.
- Put in place a clear monitoring, evaluation and learning framework for the strategy and its action plan, as well as produce an annual report for transparency and accountability.
- Consult ethically and meaningfully all relevant government and non-governmental agencies, especially people with lived experience as a central aspect of governance and accountability.
- Strengthen the role of local authority modern slavery coordinators and local multi-agency partnerships to prevent and respond to MSHT and exploitation and break down siloed working between different agencies, recognising that MSHT is often part of poly-criminality.

Robust corporate accountability is not only a moral imperative but a cornerstone of a fair, resilient, growing and sustainable UK economy. The current legislative framework is failing to prevent British consumers and businesses from being complicit in forced labour, both in the UK and overseas. To truly eradicate exploitation from supply chains, foster a level playing field for responsible businesses, and protect the UK market from goods made with forced labour, a new and powerful legislative foundation is essential. The 7th Periodic review of the UK by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights included concluding observations to update the National Action Plan on business and human rights and a legislative framework for mandatory due diligence.⁷

The Problem: An Ineffective Tool

Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which requires businesses to publish an annual statement on the steps they are taking to address modern slavery, has proven to be an ineffective tool. Its core weakness lies in its voluntary disclosure model, which prioritises reporting on process over demonstrating meaningful action. Critically, the lack of government enforcement has meant that there are no meaningful consequences for non-compliance, superficial reporting, or a complete failure to engage. This has created a system of tokenistic compliance rather than a genuine driver of change.

The Vision for 2036: A New Legislative Mandate

Our core proposal is the introduction of a new, standalone “Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence and Forced Labour Ban Act” within the next two years.⁸ This legislation will move the UK beyond voluntary statements and create legally binding obligations for businesses to proactively prevent, mitigate, and remediate human rights abuses in their operations and supply chains. Such legislation would also strengthen prevention. Business actions to prevent and remediate harms that arise in their supply chains would help reduce the prevalence of exploitation over time as root causes are further illuminated and solutions are tested.

Adopting a “failure to prevent” model with a robust statutory defence will deliver the regulatory certainty needed to attract long-term investment, boost productivity, and level the playing field for ethical businesses. Without domestic legislation, the UK may be forced to adopt de facto EU standards via the Windsor Framework. Designing a UK-specific version based on international principles (UNGP/OECD) will ensure British firms remain competitive globally.

Priority One: Building a New Legislative Foundation for Corporate Accountability



⁷ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. 7th Periodic Review of the UK (2025).

⁸ This proposal is based on the model legislation developed by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner in partnership with Omnia LLP, Unseen, and Forward Global. See full report here: Strengthening the UK's Forced Labour and Human Rights Legislative Framework, December 2025

The Three Pillars of Reform

The proposed Act will be built on three critical and interconnected pillars:

- 1. Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence (MHRDD).** This would create a legally binding duty for companies to conduct due diligence, aligning the UK with leading international standards. Legislation will be based on a “failure to prevent” criminal offence for serious human rights harms, modelled after the **UK Bribery Act 2010** and the **Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023**. A company would be criminally liable if a serious human rights harm occurred within its operations or business relationships. The key features of this comprehensive, risk-based and proportionate process are:
 - **Mandatory proactive identification and assessment** of actual and potential human rights impacts across businesses’ entire operations and global supply chains.
 - **Due diligence defence:** Businesses can avoid liability if they can prove they conducted “reasonable” due diligence to identify and mitigate risks.
 - **Scope and threshold:** The regime would apply to companies with an annual turnover of £36 million or more, consistent with current Modern Slavery Act thresholds.
 - **Proportionality for small and medium enterprises:** The scale of action expected must reflect an enterprise’s size, influence, and resources, protecting smaller firms from unnecessary burdens.
 - **Integration of findings:** Businesses should integrate and act upon findings to prevent and mitigate harm, embedding human rights policies on issues such as recruitment fees, living wages, and responsible purchasing.
 - **Provision of or cooperation in remediation** for adverse impacts businesses have caused or contributed to, using a person-centred approach that prioritises support and justice for victims/survivors, aiding sustainable recovery and reducing risks of re-exploitation.
 - **Transparent communication** by businesses about how impacts are being addressed, engaging meaningfully with workers and affected stakeholders throughout the process.
- 2. Forced and Child Labour Bans:** The Act will introduce robust tariff legislation to prevent goods tainted by forced and child labour from entering or leaving the UK market. This will include a presumptive clause for specific high-risk sectors and countries, placing the burden of proof on importers to demonstrate their supply chains are clean. This will empower agencies like the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Border Force to inspect, seize, and enforce import bans on goods suspected of being made with forced labour.

3. Upgraded Transparency Reporting: The Act will replace the current voluntary disclosure model with a mandatory and enforceable reporting regime. Key requirements will include:

- **Substantial penalties for non-compliance**, such as fines calculated as a percentage of worldwide turnover and the possibility of director disqualification.
- **A mandatory duty to report all identified instances of modern slavery** each year, fostering a culture where identifying risk is seen as a sign of robust due diligence.
- Requirements for **detailed supply chain mapping** to achieve transparency down to the lowest tier (e.g. raw material extraction).
- The creation of a **public, searchable central registry** for all statements, extending reporting obligations to public sector bodies and financial institutions.

This new legislative framework will equip the UK with the tools to hold corporations accountable, drive meaningful change and strengthen the UK economy, driving growth. A strengthened labour enforcement, civil and criminal justice response is therefore essential to enforce these new standards and pursue the perpetrators who profit from exploitation, as well as to provide remediation for survivors.

Priority Two: Dismantling Criminal Networks Through a Strengthened Justice Response



Modern slavery is a serious economic crime driven by financial gain. For too long, perpetrators have operated in a low-risk, high-reward environment, profiting from the exploitation of vulnerable people with little fear of prosecution. This reality undermines the rule of law and allows criminal enterprises to flourish. To reverse this dynamic, the Government must

make preventing perpetration, disruption, prosecuting perpetrators and seizing their assets a core policing priority, backed by decisive action and strategic investment in the criminal justice system.

The Problem: A Fragmented and Under-Resourced Response

Despite the legal framework provided by the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the use of Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders and the number of prosecutions and convictions remain disproportionately low compared to the scale of victimisation.⁹ In recent years, policing efforts have become fragmented and deprioritised amid competing demands.¹⁰ Funding has declined, specialist knowledge has been diluted, and victims face significant barriers to justice, often due to restrictive immigration policies that erode trust in law enforcement.

The Vision for 2036: Trauma-Informed Justice and Disrupted Networks

Our vision is for a UK in which criminal networks involved in modern slavery are consistently disrupted and dismantled; where victims of exploitation and witnesses are identified, safeguarded and supported through trauma-informed justice processes, rather than criminalised for offences they were compelled to commit because of their exploitation. A UK where law and wider enforcement bodies treat exploitation as a core priority embedded in its culture, training, and accountability structures.

Key Outcomes and Strategies

Achieving this vision over the next 5-10 years requires focusing on four long-term outcomes:

- **Specialist Capability and Consistent Practice:** Ensuring all law and wider enforcement agencies have the dedicated expertise, training, and national frameworks needed to prevent perpetration, disrupt offenders and investigate these complex crimes effectively. Approaches should be agile to reflect the changing landscape of exploitation, including the use of technology (e.g. AI) and hybrid threats. This includes developing robust legislation and compliance frameworks, as well as effective offender management systems at every stage of the justice journey.

- **Integrated Financial Disruption Strategies:** Routinely using financial intelligence and asset recovery tools to disrupt and dismantle the business model of MSHT, adequately resource responses and provide compensation for victims. This includes ringfencing of funds obtained through non-prosecution asset recovery, freezing and forfeiture and confiscation orders. Establish a system where the government seizes a percentage of suspended bank accounts currently storing millions of pounds, which could be reinvested in financial investigations.
- **Trauma-Informed Justice Response:** Embedding a person-centred approach across the justice system to increase victim identification and survivor engagement, build trust, and ensure safeguarding and wellbeing are prioritised.
- **Strengthened Cross-Agency and International Collaboration:** Building seamless cooperation between financial institutions and wider businesses, police, prosecutors, NGOs, and international partners to tackle cross-border trafficking networks. This also includes strengthening bilateral agreements and broader accountability mechanisms including the role of labour enforcement and civil justice.

Solution: Foundational Investments

To build a strong foundation for this reform, immediate investment is required in the following areas:

- **Specialist Teams, Training and Financial Resources:** Investment in dedicated MSHT teams at a police force or regional level, alongside financial investigative resources and in-depth modern slavery and trauma-informed training. A crucial first step is resourcing and training more Financial Intelligence Officers to ensure financial evidence is gathered and used from the outset of an investigation.
- **Technology and Data Analytics:** Investment in advanced data analytics and investigative tools, such as the Police National Database (PND) and Tackling Organised Exploitation programme (TOEX), to enhance case building and enable the early detection and systematic dismantling of networks of harm.
- **Specialist Support for Victims to Engage with Criminal Justice:** Ensuring every police force incorporates continuity and consistency in case management and trauma-informed communication with victims as a key part of the full investigation and criminal justice process, building on obligations laid out in the Victims Code.¹¹ For example, through the provision of access to a Victim Navigator and/or wider support services to enable more victims to engage with the criminal justice system. Victim Navigators also contribute to building trauma informed knowledge into the criminal justice system by providing strategic advice to live investigations and training for law enforcement.

⁹ Heys, A. (2025). Barriers to Prosecutions and Convictions under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

¹⁰ IASC. (2025). Policing Response to Modern Slavery: How Has It Changed in the Last 10 Years?

¹¹ Ministry of Justice, November 2020, Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales. Consultation is ongoing for an updated Victims Code at time of writing.

- **Police-CPS Collaboration:** Developing regional collaboration models between the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and police forces to facilitate joint case strategies and early advice from the beginning of an investigation, leading to stronger prosecutions. This should include building evidence of culpability and harm to strengthen sentences that reflect the harm done.
- **Police, Prison & Probation Services:** Developing an effective approach to offender management that reduces risks of reoffending, including approaches to restorative justice and support for alpha victims¹². Many alpha victims have valuable insight that could help improve intelligence and law enforcement efforts to dismantle criminal networks, but removing their right to protection and recovery erodes trust and removes available evidence needed for large-scale prosecutions.¹³

These crucial investments can be funded, in part, by targeting the illicit profits of traffickers. We propose ring-fencing funds obtained through civil and criminal asset recovery, forfeiture, and confiscation orders for reinvestment in enforcement and victim support alongside the compensation of victims. The need for a more aggressive financial investigation strategy is stark: according to the Home Office, a mere £854,000 of modern slavery-related proceeds of crime were recovered in the financial year ending March 2024, equating to 0.4% of total recoveries under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002.¹⁴ This represents a tiny fraction of the profits generated by this crime and is a missed opportunity to fund the fight against it.¹⁵

Solution: Need for Legislative Reform

New legislation is needed to strengthen and extend the use of Modern Slavery Prevention and Risk Orders (and use of other ancillary orders) nationally and internationally, based on existing recommendations.¹⁶ However, legislation is only as good as its implementation. Rolling out existing training resources and guidance on the application of all relevant ancillary orders and crime disruption tactics to enhance the operational capacity of those with enforcement powers is a necessary first step, alongside developing a system to monitor implementation of these orders to ensure relevant agencies are made aware of them. Furthermore, to build a stronger approach to offender management (including reducing risks of re-offending), it is important to improve frameworks for multi-agency partnerships as well as strengthen the role of HM Prison and Probation Service, building on their existing work in this area.

¹² Some victims may present as suspects but are alpha victims. College of Policing, August 2024. Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Authorised Professional Practice: Consultation. P.15

¹³ HM Prison and Probation Service and HM Prison Service (2023). Modern slavery guidance: guidance for foreign and British nationals in adult prisons, covering remand and sentenced prisoners.

¹⁴ Home Office. (2024). Asset recovery statistical bulletin: financial years ending 2019 to 2024. Annex A. Modern Slavery Data.

¹⁵ Unseen: The Economic Cost of Modern Slavery: Policing

¹⁶ IASC. (2022). The use of modern slavery risk and prevention orders; Home Office. (2022). Child exploitation disruption toolkit; Justice & Care. (2024). A renewed vision for the fight against modern slavery in the UK: A programme for Government.

Solution: Improve Knowledge and Awareness Across the Board

Knowledge and awareness across all law enforcement agencies are fundamental to a consistent criminal justice response. As a starting point, the government must mandate modern slavery training in initial police recruit programmes (minimum 2–3 days) and continued professional development (CPD), alongside increasing modern slavery awareness, role and responsibilities to prevent and respond to MSHT within relevant portfolios among statutory and non-statutory partners, e.g. neighbourhood policing teams, community safety partnerships, business improvement districts, in addition to specialist MSHT partnerships. Increased awareness of and engagement with existing resources and tools, such as the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT) for modern slavery cases, is a welcome step forward.

Solution: Make Modern Slavery a Policing Priority

All these actions must be underpinned by clear communication from the government reinforcing the duty to identify victims and investigate all modern slavery cases, including pursuing all reasonable lines of enquiry where exploitation is suspected and underlining that the public interest is best served by prosecuting Modern Slavery Act (MSA) offences, and lesser charges (e.g. controlling prostitution) should only be considered when evidential difficulties preclude the charging of MSA offences.

Protecting victims within and outside the justice system is paramount - a principle that requires urgency to meet the specific and complex needs of exploited adults and children to ensure they are appropriately identified, safeguarded and supported rather than criminalised. This also requires a long-term approach to victim/witness protection.

Priority Three: Ensuring a Dignified Life and Sustainable Recovery for All Survivors

A robust, survivor-centric support system is not a luxury or an optional extra; it is fundamental to breaking the cycle of exploitation. When survivors receive consistent support and are empowered with long-term independent advocacy, they can rebuild their lives, contribute to society, be less vulnerable to

re-trafficking and better able to engage with the justice system and strengthen the evidence base for prosecution. The current system in the UK fails to meet this standard. It is often inadequate, short-term, and dominated by processes that create barriers to recovery, undermining both justice and human dignity.

The Problem: A System Failing Survivors

The challenges facing adult survivors are systemic and interconnected. They can be summarised in three key failings:

- The framework is not led by safeguarding principles and the long-term needs of survivors.
- Survivors cannot access the long-term support they are entitled to under international law (ECAT¹⁷ and ECHR¹⁸), including safe housing, mental health care, and legal advice that creates an environment for sustainable recovery.
- The conflation of modern slavery with immigration enforcement objectives has created a culture of disbelief and erected legislative barriers to protection, making it harder for foreign national victims to be identified and supported.

The Vision for 2036: A Commitment to Dignity and Recovery

Our vision for a United Kingdom in which all victims of modern slavery and exploitation are heard, protected and supported towards sustainable recovery and a life of dignity. Central to this vision is the principle of meaningful and ethical survivor inclusion.¹⁹ Survivors, as the key experts on their own experiences, must be integral to the design, implementation, and evaluation of every aspect of the UK's anti-slavery response.

A Framework for Systemic Reform

To achieve this vision, we propose a series of solutions designed to address each of the core challenges:

Solution: A Needs-Based, Holistic Support Model

Support for adult survivors must be reformed to be based on long-term, holistic, individual needs focused on empowerment and safety as they

reintegrate into society and local communities. This requires investment in multi-agency partnerships that bring together health, social care, education and the voluntary sector or through the provision of specialist roles to help reduce barriers created by complex systems with varying thresholds of eligibility. This includes providing access to accredited independent advocates to ensure recovery continues beyond the NRM such as Independent Modern Slavery Advocates.²⁰ Guaranteed access to long-term, culturally appropriate therapeutic support, and a commitment to delivering support that meets the established Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards²¹ and outcomes like the Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set (MSCOS)²² will not only prove beneficial to survivor recovery but also strengthen the trust in authorities and encourage disclosure by those who fear repercussions or not being believed.

Solution: Removing Barriers to Recovery

Legislative and policy amendments are essential to ensure survivors can access their entitlements under ECAT, including but not limited to Articles 12 – 14. Key reforms must include:

- **Access to safe accommodation**, with survivors given priority need status in housing legislation and remove requirements to have a local connection (as is the case for Domestic Abuse victims).
- **Access to long term independent advocacy and support**, as well as **legal advice and representation without means-testing** for all victims of modern slavery and exploitation.
- **Access to compensation** through the creation in law of a civil remedy of trafficking and modern slavery and reform of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) to recognise modern slavery as a crime of violence and remove the two-year time limit for applications for survivors of these crimes.
- **Protection from detention** and non-punishment for offences committed as a direct consequence of exploitation.
- **Economic empowerment** through access to employment support and financial literacy programmes.
- **Leave to remain for 5 years for confirmed victims** with a pathway to settlement for foreign national victims, granting them access to public funds and the right to work.
- **Reform the first responder position** to include mandatory training for all first responders and improve general understanding of modern slavery and human trafficking amongst frontline professionals with responsibilities for safeguarding potential victims. Provide resources and broaden the scope of available independent NGO first responders to reduce a 'post-code lottery' for greater accessibility and reduced stigma in referrals.

¹⁷ Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

¹⁸ European Convention on Human Rights

¹⁹ See Appendix 1 for more details.

²⁰ Independent Modern Slavery Advocacy: The IMSA Model

²¹ Human Trafficking Foundation, et al. (2025). Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards.

²² Paphitis, S. et al. (2023). Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set.

- **Develop a transparent monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning framework for adult support** to ensure it is effective in enabling recovery, access to justice and reducing risks of re-trafficking.

Solution: De-conflating Modern Slavery from Immigration

The UK must dismantle the policy framework that treats non-UK national survivors of trafficking as an immigration issue first and victims of crime second. This requires the explicit repeal of harmful immigration legislation, specifically Sections 58-65 and 68-69 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and Sections 29 and 59 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023, which restrict survivors' rights and ability to access support and build mechanisms for safe reporting.

The systems designed to protect children from exploitation in the UK are dangerously fragmented. Sectoral silos, inconsistent definitions, and a patchwork of unaligned strategies mean that children are falling through the gaps.²³ This disjointed approach fails to recognise the overlapping realities of child exploitation, where a child may be simultaneously a victim of criminal, sexual, and labour exploitation and puts them at severe risk.²⁴ A unified, cross-government national strategy on child exploitation is essential to provide the consistent and effective safeguarding that every child deserves.

Priority Four: A Coherent Cross-Governmental Strategy for Child Exploitation

The Problem: A System of Silos and Gaps

Currently, definitions of child exploitation vary across legislation, policy, and practice. Responses are driven by departmental remits rather than the lived experiences of children.²⁵ While strategies exist for issues like Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), Serious Violence, Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and Modern Slavery, they are not integrated. A coherent cross-governmental strategy for child exploitation is essential to align the responsibilities and responses of the Home Office, Department for Education, Ministry of Justice, Department of Health and Social Care, devolved administrations and local government, ensuring that prevention, safeguarding and children's rights are integrated across all systems that affect children. As a result, children remain at risk with continuing safeguarding failures and poor long-term outcomes for child victims.

The Vision for 2036: A Unified Shield for Every Child

Our vision is for a UK in which every child experiencing or at risk of exploitation is identified before the harm is done and/or early, protected through consistent and rights-based safeguarding processes, and supported to recover, regardless of where they live or the form of exploitation they face; where policy and practice work in harmony, sharing a coherent approach that centres on children's rights. This vision includes a commitment to a safeguarding-first response, continuous support for survivors up to the age of 25 in line with leaving care services, and an unequivocal guarantee that a child's immigration status will never be a barrier to their safety and protection.

Solution: A UK-wide Child Exploitation Strategy

To achieve this vision, the UK Government must develop a cross-government UK-wide child exploitation strategy founded on six core actions:

²³ ECPAT UK. (2025). More than Words how definitions impact on the UK's response to child trafficking and exploitation. Action for Children. (2024). The Jay Review of Criminally Exploited Children.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Dunhill et al. (2020). Responses to Child Victims of Modern Slavery in the United Kingdom: A Children's Rights Perspective.



- **Establish a Unified National Framework and Shared Definitions:** Create a single, overarching statutory definition of child exploitation, aligned with international obligations like the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT) and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), that applies consistently across all four UK nations.
- **Align and Integrate Existing Strategies:** Explicitly connect, update and provide coherence between existing strategies (e.g., VAWG, CSA) to prevent duplication and ensure responses are based on need, not structural boundaries.
- **Establish Measurable Indicators and Accountability Mechanisms:** Define clear national outcomes such as reductions in re-exploitation; increased National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decisions for children; reduced missing episodes; improved multi-agency assessments, and establish minimum datasets for consistent data recording, and mandate annual public reporting to parliament to ensure transparent oversight.
- **Strengthen Early Identification and Prevention:** Implement a whole-system integrated approach that addresses structural drivers of exploitation, such as poverty, racism, gendered violence, unsafe migration, insecure immigration status, and digital risk, schools, health services, social care, and the justice system. This should also recognise that the active citizenship of children and young people, families and communities in identifying their own challenges and solutions plays a critical role in increasing resilience and reducing risks of children and young people falling prey to predatory exploiters.
- **Empower a Skilled, Confident Child Protection Workforce:** Introduce a minimum national training standard and strengthen the core curriculum for health and social care qualifications to include appropriate prevention, identification and response approaches for modern slavery and wider forms of exploitation. A shared competency framework should underpin recruitment, continued professional development, and inspection regimes. Introduce a shared competency framework for all professionals working with children to ensure they can recognise and respond to all forms of exploitation.
- **Embed Children's Rights, Participation, and Lived Experience:** Ground the entire strategy in the UNCRC and ECAT, ensuring that children's views and experiences directly shape policy, service delivery, monitoring, evaluation and learning. This includes resourcing youth participation and ensuring practice is trauma-informed, culturally competent and accessible.

Foundational Short-Term Reforms

To build momentum and uphold children's rights immediately, the following critical actions are needed:

- Align legal definitions of child exploitation with international standards.
- Reform domestic primary legislation to reflect these standards and remove ambiguity in how exploitation is defined and operationalised across the UK.
- Establish a statutory definition of child exploitation to guide victim identification and safeguarding, encompassing all forms of exploitation and recognising their overlapping nature.
- Align immigration functions with child protection principles, including the creation of a child-specific form of immigration leave grounded in the child's best interests, with at least five years' leave to remain and a clear route to settlement.
- Roll out and strengthen the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) Service, ensuring all unaccompanied children and child victims across the UK receive one-to-one support in line with leaving-care entitlements.
- Ensure continuity of support for young survivors as they turn 18 and transition to adult support services, including independent advocacy for young survivors to navigate instability caused by immigration status, trauma and missed education.
- Ensure lawful age determinations with the best interest of the child at heart, and safe accommodation in all cases where there is reason to believe a child may be a victim of trafficking.
- Expand the National Referral Mechanism Devolving Child Decision-Making Pilot Programme to all child victims across the UK, ensuring decisions are made locally by safeguarding professionals who know the child's context across the UK.
- Collate and publish necessary data to monitor the implementation of commitments, track disparities, and identify gaps.
- Implement the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) recommendation to create a Cabinet Minister for Children to drive cross-government accountability.

The specific focus on the complex needs of exploited children highlights a universal principle: the absolute necessity of a dignified, rights-based support system for all survivors of modern slavery.

Conclusion: A Partnership for the Future

The challenge of modern slavery is complex, but it is not insurmountable. The moral and economic imperatives for decisive action are undeniable. To allow exploitation to continue unchecked is to fail the most vulnerable, reward criminality, and accept a stain on our national conscience and our economy. This strategic vision provides a comprehensive, credible, and achievable plan for the United Kingdom to reclaim its leadership in the global fight for human dignity.

Our four-pillar strategy, built on robust corporate accountability, a strengthened justice response, a unified shield for children, and a dignified path to recovery for all survivors, offers a holistic framework for systemic change. It moves beyond reactive measures to dismantle the systems that enable it and places the rights and needs of survivors at the very centre of our national response. Our consolidated roadmap brings all four of these strategic priorities together into a coherent plan of action.²⁶

This is a long-term commitment requiring sustained political will, cross-departmental collaboration, and strategic investment. As a consortium of organisations with years of experience and expertise, and an unwavering dedication to this cause, we formally state our readiness to partner across sectors, with His Majesty's Government and people with lived experience to make this vision a reality. Together, we can build an exploitation-free future and ensure the next decade is one defined by dignity for all.

²⁶ See Appendix 2 for more detail.

This appendix provides the detailed framework for embedding lived experience at the heart of future government strategy and policy making. While survivor insights are interwoven throughout the four main chapters, this roadmap outlines the specific structural changes, legislative requirements, and cross-departmental actions necessary to move from “after the fact” consultation to meaningful co-production.

Appendix 1. Embedding Lived Experience - Roadmap

Problem Statement

Without the relevant preparation and oversight, survivor engagement becomes tokenistic, fragmented, and exclusionary. Survivors who wish to inform policy face significant systemic barriers, including restrictive immigration rules that prevent the Right to Work, complex remuneration systems that threaten essential benefit payments, and a lack of culturally appropriate, trauma-informed accessibility in government consultations. Furthermore, engagement often occurs after policies have been designed, leading to ineffective outcomes, increased government costs, and frequent judicial reviews. Without a statutory duty to include lived experience, survivor insight remains an underutilised resource in the fight against serious and economic crime.

Vision 2036

By 2036, lived and learned experience will be fully embedded in the design of modern slavery policy across all of government. Consultation and co-production take place in a meaningful, trauma-informed manner that values survivor insight as professional expertise. Survivors are equitably remunerated without facing financial or legal penalties, and a cross-departmental culture exists where inclusive participation fosters transparency, long-term impact, and the constant improvement of the UK's anti-slavery response.

Strategic Outcomes

- **Systemic integration:** Ensure active and intentional involvement of lived experience in policy design from the outset, supported by adequate resourcing and accountability mechanisms.
- **Economic Independence:** Survivors have a clear right to work and access to professional pathways, moving beyond being subjects of research to being colleagues in policymaking.
- **Financial Security:** A harmonised cross-government framework ensures that ad hoc remuneration for consultancy work does not negatively impact access to essential state support i.e. legal aid eligibility, Universal Credit, or tax brackets.
- **Lived experience embedded into EDI commitments** by requiring the systematic use of feedback from individuals with lived experience to strengthen systems and address unconscious bias and intersectional barriers to inclusion.

Implementation Framework: Barriers and Solutions

1. Economic Empowerment and Remuneration

To treat survivors as experts, the government must remove the financial risks associated with participation.

- **The Right to Work:** The Home Office should add lived experience co-production and inclusion work to the Skilled Worker Visa: Temporary Shortage list to ensure those without status can contribute their expertise legally.
- **Remuneration Protections:** HMRC and DWP must collaborate to produce clear guidance on payment parameters to prevent unintentional consequences that might result in loss of essential state support or alternating tax brackets.
- **Standardised Pay:** Organisations must ensure comparable consultancy rates and covering all expenses, such as childcare and travel, when involving lived experience consultants.

2. Cross-Government Capability

The multi-faceted nature of modern slavery requires a response that transcends the Home Office.

- **Inter-Departmental Panels:** Regular, scheduled meetings should be held between lived experience groups and representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Education (DfE), and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- **Accessibility Reform:** Government consultations must move away from overly formal, academic language. Resources must be factored in early for support provider time, translation, and extended deadlines to ensure diverse voices are heard.
- **Feedback Loops:** To maintain trust, government departments must implement formal “feedback loops” that explain what actions were taken based on survivor input and, crucially, provide the rationale when recommendations were not adopted.

3. Professional Pathways and Education

A life of dignity requires a bridge from recovery to professional employment.

- **Career Pathways:** The government should implement tiered accessibility models and “lived experience confident” schemes in recruitment. This includes reserving internships for survivors and removing unnecessary educational barriers for those whose schooling was interrupted by exploitation.
- **Skill Development:** Resource allocation is required for “readiness” support, including training in public speaking, professional conduct, and digital literacy.

Key Resources for Implementation

To ensure best practice, the government should utilise existing tools such as the MS PEC Lived Experience Toolkit²⁷ and the HTF Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards²⁸. These frameworks provide the technical and ethical foundation for transitioning to a model where lived experience is the primary driver of the UK’s 2036 vision.

The following table reorganises the strategic asks for the lived experience roadmap, categorised by the specific government departments responsible for their implementation and the associated delivery timeline.

Strategic Asks for Lived Experience by Department

Key ■ Government Department

■ Timeline - Immediate - Short Term - Medium Term - Long Term

■ Strategic Ask and Activity

Home Office (MSU, UKVI, and Immigration)

I	Factor costs for childcare, travel, and language barriers into all early-stage budgetary planning for engagement with lived experience consultants. Implement transparent feedback loops to explain what actions were taken (or not taken) following survivor input.
ST	Add lived experience co-production and inclusion work to the Skilled Worker Visa: Temporary Shortage list to allow survivors without the right to work to contribute. Provide ongoing inclusion opportunities in policy co-design with adequate remuneration.
MT	Conduct reviews into how much recommendations from the government-commissioned research on lived experience is being translated into changes in Home Office practice.

DWP, HMRC, and Ministry of Justice (Legal Aid)

ST	Launch a joint cross-government project to produce public guidance on remuneration parameters. This must ensure ad hoc payments do not negatively impact legal aid eligibility, Universal Credit, or tax brackets.
MT	Review the DBS application process to make it more trauma-informed and accessible for vulnerable people seeking work or volunteer opportunities.

²⁷ MSPEC, April 2025. 12 Principles of Professional Engagement of Lived Experience

²⁸ HTF, October 2025. Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards

DHSC and Department for Education (DfE)

ST	Establish a formal commitment to utilise lived experience voices to shape the health and education response to exploitation. Ensure practitioners working with children are trained to meet them where they are emotionally and physically for better engagement.
MT	Hold panel discussions with sector experts and lived experience groups before any specific guidance changes related to MSHT are implemented in these departments.

Cabinet Office and All Government Departments

I	Provide mandatory training on safeguarding, trauma-informed practice, and EDI to all professionals involved in inclusion. Remove operational barriers such as academic paywalls and complex language in consultations.
ST	Commit to regular, scheduled cross-governmental meetings between representatives from the anti-slavery sector and people with lived experience. Implement standardised pay using comparable consultancy rates as a minimum.
MT	Re-allocate resources from internal government research departments to front-line NGOs and the IASC to facilitate more meaningful engagement.
LT	Ensure active and intentional involvement of lived experience in policy design from the outset, supported by adequate resourcing and accountability mechanisms.

Implementation Note

This departmental breakdown ensures accountability across the whole of government. As noted in the sources, no single department can cover everything because modern slavery survivors experience a multitude of challenges that require a unified focus. By categorising these asks, the UK can move away from “after the fact” inclusion and toward a system where survivor insight is a professionalised and protected component of the national strategy.

Turning this strategic vision into reality requires a practical, phased plan of action. The following roadmap synthesises the recommendations from all four strategic priorities into a single, cohesive timeline. It sequences immediate imperatives, foundational reforms, and long-term goals underpinned by data analytics, best practice expertise in modern slavery response and lived experience voices to ensure momentum is built and sustained over the next decade, transforming the UK’s response to modern slavery from the ground up.

Appendix 2. A Unified Roadmap: A Decade of Determined Action

Business and Finance Sector – Priority One
Criminal Justice – Priority Two
Adult Victim Support – Priority Three
Child trafficking and exploitation – Priority Four
Prevention
Governance

Acronyms:

CCS: Crown Commercial Service	FCA: Financial Conduct Authority
CPS: Crown Prosecution Service	FCDO: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
DBT: Department for Business and Trade	HMRC: His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs
DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	HO: Home Office
DfE: Department for Education	MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
DHSC: Department for Health and Social Care	MOJ: Ministry of Justice
DWP: Department for Work and Pensions	NCA: National Crime Agency
	PM: Prime Minister

Immediate Imperatives (Now)

Publish the findings and recommendations of the Responsible Business Conduct Review. DBT
Formally acknowledge that S.54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015’s effectiveness is hindered due to a lack of government enforcement. HO and DBT
Treat modern slavery as a serious economic crime, proactively using the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) for financial investigations and seizure of tainted goods, as well as strengthening the role of the

Regional Asset Recovery Teams. **HO, Police Forces, CPS, FCA, HMRC**

Reinforce the duty to investigate all modern slavery cases and prioritise MSA offences over lesser charges. **HO, CPS**

Develop and implement a national investigative framework with embedded safeguarding protocols. **HO, Police Forces**

Resource and professionalise the First Responder role through high-quality training. **HO**

Maintain funding for the Modern Slavery Fund with a continued focus on international projects, especially prevention programmes, and sharing learning of what works to prevent MSHT. **HO, FCDO**

Appointing a new Special Envoy on Modern Slavery to spearhead the fight against modern slavery with international partners. **FCDO**

Review and prioritise existing policy recommendations²⁹ on the UK's approach to immigration (including asylum and refugees, vulnerable migrant workers, e.g. on short-term visas) through the lens of prevention and protection, including a commitment to secure reporting. **HO**

Ensure that a human rights focus, including on modern slavery and exploitation is included within international trade negotiations and trade deals. **FCDO, DBT, HO**

Foundational Reforms (First Year)

Introduce the standalone "Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence and Forced Labour Bill" into Parliament. **DBT, Treasury, PM**

Mandate human rights due diligence as a requirement for all central government suppliers, starting with high-risk sectors. **Cabinet Office, CCS**

Launch a National Business & Modern Slavery Intelligence Hub to analyse data on high-risk sectors. **DBT**

Begin investment in dedicated MSHT teams, financial investigators (including training for more Financial Intelligence Officers), and advanced data analytics tools for police forces. **HO, Police Forces, NCA**

²⁹ Kalayaan. Ending the Abuse of Migrant Domestic Workers.; Labour Migration – FLEX various including seasonal workers visa; Fishing experts in consensus: Loophole used by migrant fishers must be replaced with fishing visa – FLEX; Unseen (2023). Who Cares? report; Hope for Justice (2024). Hostility for survivors, Impunity for Traffickers. We also note the concluding observations of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the seventh periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland see in particular paragraphs 27 and 35.

Provide key enforcement bodies (NCA, Border Force) with sufficient powers to detect and prevent goods linked to forced labour from entering the UK. **HO, DBT**

Form a joint Financial Sector Taskforce to share intelligence and develop common due diligence tools. **DBT, HO, Treasury, HMRC**

Introduce legislation to strengthen and extend the use of Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders (STPOs/STROs) including monitoring capabilities. **HO**

Repeal harmful immigration legislation, including Sections 58-65 and 68-69 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and Sections 29 and 59 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023. **HO**

Resource local authorities to appoint anti-slavery coordinators to build capacity among stakeholders including across multi-agency partnerships to prevent, identify and respond to modern slavery locally. **HO, MHCLG and Combined Authorities**

Resource statutory agencies with specialist expertise in identifying and responding to MSHT risks and safeguarding adults at risk. **MHCLG, DHSC**

Align immigration functions with child protection and establish a child victim-specific form of immigration leave in children's best interests, offering a minimum of 5 years leave to remain with a route to settlement. **HO**

Establish a cross-government UK-wide child exploitation strategy with a unified framework and shared definitions. **HO, DfE, Cabinet Office**

Align immigration functions with child protection and establish a child victim-specific form of immigration leave in children's best interests, offering a minimum of 5 years leave to remain with a route to settlement. **HO**

Ensure the presumption of age in all cases where it is suspected that a child is a victim of trafficking. **HO**

Ensure child victims are never criminalised for offences committed because of their exploitation. **HO, CPS, Police Forces**

Align legal definitions of child exploitation with international standards and establish a statutory definition in domestic law. **Moj, DfE, HO**

Guarantee continuity of support for young survivors as they turn 18 including access to an independent advocate/ICTG. **HO, Moj**

Re-establish commitment to leading global efforts to tackle the root vulnerabilities and drivers of modern slavery and exploitation through international development and diplomacy. **HO, FCDO**

Promote the importance of tackling modern slavery and exploitation in its engagement with countries and in multi-lateral forums including by ensuring that SDG 8.7 is included in high level political declarations especially where it crosscuts with other areas such as peace and security and climate change. **FCDO**

Increase engagement with countries on bilateral agreements designed to cooperate on MSHT including preventing exploitation. **FCDO**

Re-establish commitment to return overseas development assistance to 0.7% of GNI once fiscal conditions allow. **FCDO**

Re-establish an interministerial working group to coordinate a cross-departmental response at international, national level and at a strategic level within local authorities, and resume publication of the annual modern slavery report. **HO, Cabinet Office**

Conduct a mapping process of the existing responsibilities of all national and local government departments agencies and strategies to make recommendations on a new governance, coordination and partnership framework with an increased focus on primary prevention and early intervention. This includes identifying roles and responsibilities across national and local government and ensure preventing and responding to MSHT is included in relevant national and local strategies. **Cabinet Office**

Strengthening Implementation (2-3 Years)

Ensure the full and rigorous enforcement of the new "Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence and Forced Labour Act". **Office for Responsible Business Conduct**

Develop Anti-Slavery ESG Standards and require financial institutions to integrate forced labour exposure into FCA-regulated reporting. **DBT, DEFRA**

Introduce tax relief or procurement preferences to incentivise ethical investment and "slave-free" portfolios. **Treasury**

Launch a Business Innovation Fund to support ethical tech and survivor-led remediation models. **DBT, HO**

Mandate and support accessible, confidential reporting mechanisms for workers in supply chains. **DBT**

Transition to a sustainable public procurement model that prioritises social and environmental metrics. **CCS, Government Procurement**

Ensure each police force has access to a Victim Navigator to support victims throughout the entire criminal justice journey. **HO, MoJ**

Develop regional collaboration models between the CPS and police forces for early-stage case development. **CPS and Police Forces, NCA**

Invest in development and use of advanced data analytics and investigative tools to enhance intelligence building. **HO, Police Forces**

Increase judicial awareness and training on modern slavery offences, trauma informed responses, including Prevention and Risk orders. **MoJ**

Ensure survivors have access to long-term specialist independent advocacy and recovery support which is culturally appropriate and integrated with other services. **HO**

Grant non-means tested legal aid to survivors of trafficking and modern slavery (in line with domestic abuse victims). **MoJ**

Amend legislation so that survivors of trafficking and modern slavery are considered in priority need for housing and are not required to meet the local connection test (in line with domestic abuse victims). **HO, MHCLG**

Grant confirmed foreign national victims 5 years' leave to remain with a pathway to settlement. **HO**

Establish a transparent monitoring, evaluation, learning and accountability framework for adult survivor support. **HO**

Establish a civil remedy of trafficking and modern slavery in law for modern slavery compensation claims. **MoJ**

Reform the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) to recognise modern slavery, human trafficking and exploitation as crimes of violence and remove the two-year time limit for applications for survivors of these crimes. **MoJ**

Complete rollout and strengthen the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship (ICTG) service across the UK, extending it to all unaccompanied children and child victims up to the age of 25 in line with leaving care services. **HO**

Expand the NRM Devolving Child Decision-Making Pilot Programme nationwide. **HO**

Implement the IICSA recommendation to create a Cabinet Minister for Children. **PM**

Broadening Impact (3-5 Years)

Work with international partners to harmonise legislative frameworks and create a global level playing field on import bans. [FCDO](#), [DBT](#)

Systematically promote and support worker-driven social responsibility models and the right to collective bargaining in supply chains. [DBT](#)

Mandate the publication of annual, independently verified reports on corporate anti-slavery efforts. [DBT](#)

Create a system to ring-fence funds from asset recovery for victim reparations and reinvestment into enforcement. [HO](#)

Reform adult support to be based on long-term individual needs with access to long-term independent advocacy, meeting standards like the MSCOS. This includes complete roll out of accredited Independent Modern Slavery Advocates Model. [HO](#), [MHCLG](#), [Moj](#)

Facilitate economic empowerment for survivors with access to employment support and programmes to improve financial literacy and enable access to safe work. [DWP](#)

Provide a minimum core package of support in line with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT) for children referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), independent of their status as looked-after children. [HO](#)

Ensure responses to child victims are focused on safeguarding and aligned and integrated across health, social care, education, criminal justice, and immigration. [HO](#)

Reduced prevalence of MSHT (5-10 Years)

Achieve a demonstrable and substantial reduction in the prevalence of forced labour in the UK and its supply chains. [HO](#), [DBT](#), [Police Forces](#)

Ensure human rights and ethical practices are fully integrated as a foundational principle of all business conduct, not just a compliance exercise. [DBT](#)

Achieve full supply chain transparency and mapping down to the lowest tier by 2035. [DBT](#)

Ensure law, policy, and practice avoid punishing survivors whose trauma presents a barrier to engagement. [HO](#)

Establish a continuous cycle of identification, remediation, and policy improvement. [HO](#)

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