

Spotting the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking

We all have a part to play in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. Victims are often hidden in plain sight, but with your help we can see victims identified and rescued, breaking the grip of this crime. While no two victims experience exploitation in the exact same way, here are some of the common signs and patterns to look for:

Spotting the signs



Living conditions

- Lives in unclean, cramped or overcrowded accommodation
- Lives and is employed at the same location
- Does not have many / any personal possessions



Isolated

- Rarely allowed to travel on their own
- Seems under the control or influence of others
- Rarely interacts with or appears unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or place of employment
- Has relationships that are not typical e.g. a boyfriend/girlfriend who is much older



Appearance

- Has indications of physical or psychological abuse
- Has untreated injuries
- Looks unkempt, malnourished or untidy
- Appears anxious/agitated or withdrawn and neglected
- Always wears the same clothes and/or the clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their type of employment
- May be engaged in substance misuse, such as alcohol and drugs



Restricted movement/unusual travel times

- Has no official identification documents
- Has little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents retained, e.g. passports
- Is dropped off/collected for work either very early or late at night on a regular basis
- Has unusual travel arrangements - children being dropped off/picked up in private cars/taxis at strange times and in unusual places



Reluctant to seek help

- Avoids eye contact, appears frightened
- Is hesitant to talk to strangers
- Fears police/people in authority for many reasons
- Does not know who to trust or where to get help
- Fears deportation
- Fears of violence to them or their family
- Has limited English language skills

Types of exploitation



Domestic servitude signs

- Held in their employer's home and forced to carry out domestic tasks such as providing childcare, cooking and cleaning
- Does not leave the house on their own, or their movements are monitored
- Works in excess of normal working hours
- Does not have access to their own belongings, including their ID, but also items such as their mobile phone, – this can isolate them
- Has an abusive employer (both physically and/or verbally)
- Does not interact very often with the family they are employed by
- Deprived of their own personal living space, food, water, or medical care
- Stands out from other family members ie. may wear poorer quality clothing



Sexual exploitation signs

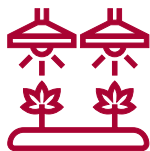
- Those selling sex may appear scared or intimidated and may show signs of physical abuse, including bruising, scarring and cigarette burns
- Transported to and from clients
- Closely guarded
- 'Branded' with a tattoo indicating ownership
- Has restricted or no access to their earnings
- Has limited English vocabulary, restricted to sexualised words
- Lives at the same address as multiple other people with similar circumstances
- Sleeping in the premises in which they work, which could indicate a brothel is in operation
- Males visit their property during the day and night and only stay for a short time
- Details of sexual activity such as cards and advertisements are found nearby



Labour exploitation signs

- Shows signs of psychological or physical abuse.
- Appears frightened, withdrawn or confused
- Does not have free movement at work and is always accompanied
- Lacks protective equipment or suitable clothing for work
- Has not been trained to safely fulfil the requirements of the role
- Does not have access to their own documents, such as ID or their passport, with the employer having confiscated them
- Has no employment contract and is not being paid the National Minimum Wage or is not paid at all
- Is forced to stay in accommodation provided by the employer – this accommodation could be overcrowded
- Lives on site
- Is transported to and from work, potentially with multiple people in one vehicle
- Is not willing to accept money or is afraid to accept payment
- Works particularly long hours

If you believe a person is being trafficked and is in immediate danger, you should call 999



Criminal exploitation signs

- Transported to or from the scene of a crime, including shoplifting, pick-pocketing or forced begging. Forced begging looks like a large group of adult or child beggars being moved daily to different locations, but are returned to the same location every night
- Do not benefit from the money or items they have obtained through the crimes they have been forced to commit
- Forced to cultivate cannabis with their freedom of movement restricted, including being locked in a room
- Do not speak English or have a limited vocabulary
- Forced or manipulated out of their home by drug dealers who use the home as a base to sell drugs
- Young people may be forced to transport and sell drugs across county borders, which is known as County Lines



Child exploitation signs

- Has mood swings, including being angry, upset or withdrawn
- Shows signs of inappropriate sexual behaviour
- Dresses inappropriately for their age
- Goes missing at night or weekends and may not be clear about their whereabouts
- Has poor or no school attendance
- Has gifts, presents or expensive items that they cannot explain



Raising a concern

If you are concerned about a potential victim of modern slavery or human trafficking, or a situation that is potentially exploitative:

Call the **Modern Slavery Helpline**
0800 121 700
or submit a report online
modernslaveryhelpline.org/report

If you believe a person is being trafficked and is in immediate danger, you should call **999**

Report the crime to **Crimestoppers**
0800 555 111
an independent charity that give people the power to speak up and stop crime, 100% anonymously

You can also report suspicions of trafficking by calling **101**
or visiting your local police station

Our work

Justice & Care helps rescue victims of slavery and human trafficking. We empower them to rebuild their lives. We work with the police to pursue and dismantle criminal networks and bring perpetrators to justice. We secure communities at risk from traffickers and spark systemic change. To learn more about our work, get involved and help support us, visit justiceandcare.org