



Modern Slavery Victim Navigator Programme

**ThirdSector
Awards**

Winner - Breakthrough of the
Year Award, 2020

Summary

Justice and Care's Victim Navigator Programme sees specialist workers deployed in the heart of police forces in the UK to fight slavery. They are deployed with border teams and serious organised crime units. Our own research, based on police data, estimates there are more than 100,000 victims of slavery in the UK.

The Navigators are given unparalleled access to cases, with the highest security clearance, to provide specialist knowledge from the very start of investigations and provide support to victims. The programme is designed to find and help people in slavery, to rebuild their lives and to enable victims to engage with the criminal justice system - so the criminal networks

responsible are brought to justice. We currently have eight Victim Navigators; because of their impact we now want to strategically expand the programme - embedding an additional seven Navigators in key forces over the next two years.

'Justice and Care's Victim Navigator programme is helping to shape the national police response to modern slavery. It is a unique attempt to create partnership between senior police investigators and a specialist NGO, joining forces to fight against this appalling crime.'

Jenny Bristow, Detective Chief Inspector -
Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit

The Justice and Care Solution

Following extensive discussions with national police leaders, forces and leading national stakeholders, Justice and Care launched the Victim Navigator Programme in September 2018. We currently have Navigators deployed in the heart of London, Surrey, Essex, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester Police Forces, as well as Border Force UK.

Victim Navigators provide:

- **Specialist care and support:** including supporting rescues, access to counselling, legal advice, medical treatment and coordinating international repatriations
- **Tactical advice into investigations:** including shaping investigations, reopening filed cases by connecting new evidence, advising on strategy and joining the dots across forces
- **Advocacy:** acting as a trusted bridge between police and victim to increase victim engagement and drive higher conviction rates
- **Systemic change:** including training for key policing leaders and agencies, lesson sharing to shape national strategy with partners such as the National Crime Agency and Home Office

'There are many people still in the dark like I was. They are desperate to have a life, to live like other people - to have freedom. I just hope people have the power to help rescue those people.' Nina, Vietnamese Survivor of Slavery

Locations where our current Navigators are working

Glasgow

Edinburgh

West Yorkshire

Manchester

London

Essex

Surrey

Dover

Over two years of impact

The Victim Navigator programme is being independently evaluated, with an interim report demonstrating that it is already improving lives and starting to change the system. Achievements, up to June 2021, include:

- 3,762 potential modern slavery cases analysed
- Strategic advice provided to 373 modern slavery investigations
- 173 victims given intensive support
- 87% victims supported choosing to engage with police investigations, compared to 33% nationally, providing police with key evidence to improve investigations and prosecution rates
- Identifying and nurturing a local network of specialist organisations providing wraparound support to victims including charities, local authorities, Rape Crisis, Safeguarding Boards, NHS, Asylum Support services and more
- 71% victims supported reporting improved mental and emotional wellbeing and recovery
- 104 suspects arrested in cases supported by Victim Navigators, two exploiters convicted and multiple cases going to court
- Working with senior figures within each police force to identify gaps in their response to modern slavery - this includes developing training workshops, more streamlined processes for recording and notifying relevant parties about new cases, improved victim support strategies and specialist resources rolled out force-wide
- 2,067 frontline professionals trained in best practice in victim identification and care - with 97% of those trained reporting significantly improved knowledge after the session. As a direct result, more victims are rescued - one Road Policing Unit trained by the Navigator identified and intercepted four female potential victims from Eastern Europe and arrested two suspected traffickers, directly attributing this to their increased awareness following our training
- Pioneering a new partnership with Border Force UK, helping to identify and intercept victims of trafficking at the Port of Dover in Kent and across major airports across Scotland
- Internationally, supporting the safe returns of 20 survivors and several international investigations involving our other country offices and police forces in Europe



Ileana's story



Ileana arrived in the UK from Romania on her 19th birthday with three other people, on a ferry at Dover. Border Force police were suspicious and, although Ileana said everything was fine, using new protocols drawn up with Justice and Care, one of our Victim Navigators was called in to help.

She opened up to our Victim Navigator - bursting into tears and revealing she had been trafficked into sexual exploitation both in Romania and in the UK. She was terrified and vulnerable.

Her account led to two of those in the car being arrested and charged - and another victim released. Supported by our Navigator, Ileana gave key intelligence that led to the identification of others in the criminal network.

We have helped Ileana return to Romania, where we are now supporting her to rebuild her life. We are also working with the Home Office to develop a new model of safe repatriation for victims from Romania.

'The Victim Navigators are a shining example of how police and non-police can work together in an integrated fashion... Victim Navigators are able to work at a strategic and operational level; they have become 'go to' partners in tackling modern slavery and considering how to approach cases.' Interim Independent Evaluation September 2020 - St Mary's University and ADT Consulting

Future plans

A significant and strategic expansion of the Victim Navigator Programme is needed to transform policing in the UK, save more lives and increase national modern slavery convictions. With multiple police forces requesting a Navigator, we are deploying even more specialist roles in response to critical needs and gaps identified - demonstrating and evidencing what works in the fight against slavery. We have recently deployed two Navigators to the Metropolitan Police where the modern slavery caseload is exceptionally high and we are about to deploy a Navigator specialising in trafficking victims linked to organised immigration crime, based in Essex.

With eight Navigators, the Victim Navigator Programme currently costs £560k. Within two years we will have nearly doubled our national reach with 15 Navigators, costing £1.05m per year.

To fulfil this significant expansion, we need to raise an additional £490k annually over the next two years.

We are capturing learnings at every level, bringing clear lessons and recommendations to government, police and stakeholders across the UK, in order to create a nationally replicable model. We are in conversations with the Home Office and our vision is for government to roll out the Navigator Programme to every UK police force, to transform the national response to modern slavery and see an end to this appalling crime.

Partnership

We are building a group of investors who share our commitment to end modern slavery and human trafficking. For more information about how you can become involved, please contact charlotte.trefusis@justiceandcare.org