

**JUSTICE
& CARE**

Modern Slavery Victim Navigator Programme

**ThirdSector
Awards**

Winner - Breakthrough of the
Year Award, 2020



Winner - Stop Slavery
Innovation Award, 2022

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 12 Victim Navigators; because of their impact we are exploring how to work with government to scale the model nationally over the coming 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 Surrey, Essex, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Glasgow and the Metropolitan Police Forces, as well as an East Midlands regional and a national Navigator.

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

West Yorkshire

Manchester

East Midlands

London

Essex

Surrey

Dover

Over three 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 March 2022, include:

- 6,223 potential modern slavery cases analysed
- Strategic advice provided to 466 modern slavery investigations
- 280 victims given intensive support
- 86% victims supported choosing to engage with police investigations, compared to an estimated 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
- 69% victims supported reporting improved mental and emotional wellbeing and recovery
- 146 suspects arrested with the support of Victim Navigators
- 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
- 3,592 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
- Internationally, supporting the repatriation of 23 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

The Victim Navigator Programme is transforming policing in the UK, with 12 Navigators currently supporting survivors. 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 to save more lives and increase national modern slavery convictions.

As we expand and grow the programme beyond our pilot forces, we are seeking partners who can support us in raising an additional £400k to deliver the programme and help transform the fight against slavery.

Our frontline and policy team collaborate closely and, as a result, we are seeing high level political

engagement and interest in the Navigator Programme. The Home Office is considering a pilot 'testing a new approach which would involve embedding specialist workers within police forces to support victims and law enforcement officers on investigations' and have commissioned our team to review UK victim care.

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, Head of Philanthropy and Corporate Partnerships: charlotte.trefusis@justiceandcare.org