

GUIDANCE +

AWARENESS

FOR COMMUNITIES
AND PARISHES

HANDBOOK ONE

**“Be leaders of thought,
leaders of action, leaders of
joy, leaders of hope, leaders
in the construction of a
better world.”**

Pope Francis

CONTENTS

Foreword	3	Samples of Letters to Statutory Agencies and Businesses	24
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	6		
1. Background	6	A) Example letter for Chief Superintendent/Chief Constable/Police and Crime Commissioner	24
2. The Aim of this Guidance and Awareness Handbook	8	B) Example Letter to Member of Parliament	26
3. Historical Context, Human Rights, and Legal Instruments	12	C) Example Letter for Council Leader	27
4. Communities and Development versus Modern Slavery	14		
5. Scenarios – Prevention in the Community	16		
A) Agriculture	18		
B) Nail Bars	18		
C) Hand Car Washes	18		
D) Premises Offering Sexual Services	18		
6. Actions for Prevention and Accountability	20		
7. Conclusion	22		



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FOREWORD

In 2014 Pope Francis asked that I take forward the work of the Santa Marta Group as an important mission for the Catholic Church across the world. He told me that our aim, as Santa Marta, is to act as a catalyst for leaders and communities to prevent human trafficking. This is essential work to help restore freedom and dignity to the 50 million people trafficked every year and to protect vulnerable people from falling into the hands of criminal gangs. Organised criminal gangs make a profit of \$236bn a year in this evil trade in human beings. This is a great challenge for our age. This crime against humanity damages individuals and communities everywhere, for these victims of modern slavery and human trafficking are not remote; they are in our midst, in our local communities here in the UK.

You are part of this endeavour. Individuals and local communities can change events through what you do and what you demand is done by the police, government agencies and businesses in your neighbourhood. I appeal to all of you to take up this challenge. These resources, prepared by the Santa Marta Group, will inform you about modern slavery and human trafficking and show what you can do to bring about the changes that will end this evil trade and help to restore freedom and dignity to so many of our brothers and sisters.

With my thanks and blessing,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

President of the Santa Marta Group



WHO TO CONTACT:

The Santa Marta Group model promotes the engagement of local communities with their statutory agencies to develop trusted partnerships.

- If you suspect modern slavery or human trafficking is occurring and someone is at risk, call the police on **999**. Remember, if for some reason you cannot speak openly when calling **999**, after the call is answered, press **55**, and the police will know you have difficulties speaking aloud.
- If you want to report information of suspected modern slavery or human trafficking, call the police on **101** or **contact the police online**.
- If you wish to report anonymously, call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or fill out the anonymous online form at: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/pre-form>. This is a guaranteed anonymous network.
- Forced labour or workplace exploitation can be reported to the Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority on **0800 432 0804**.

Modern slavery and human trafficking are serious crimes, and to comply with international law, government and statutory agencies are mandated to support victims, prevent these crimes, and pursue the perpetrators.

This Guidance and Awareness Handbook is accompanied by a 50-minute educational video. The video commences with some background to the Santa Marta Group and the Pope's speech at the launch of the Santa Marta Group in 2014.

The video provides the background on cases of trafficking for labour exploitation, sex trafficking, domestic servitude and how supply chains of products we buy are connected to child and forced labour in Africa, Europe and Asia.

In preparation for the video, delegates should have writing material to take notes for the discussion sessions following each scenario.

This handbook contains examples of letters communities can consider sending to local leaders. This proposal is also contained in the video.

At the conclusion of the video is a short presentation by Cardinal Vincent Nichols asking for your support in recognising the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita.

It is encouraged that this video and the associated materials are disseminated across the community to promote awareness and prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Please feel free to make your own copies of the materials or you can request the package, including the sample letters, in electronic format from enquiries@santamartagroup.org.

Santa Marta Group hopes this handbook, the video, and future productions are useful in raising your awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking and in making your community a place where this crime cannot flourish.

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1 BACKGROUND

THESE GUIDANCE AND AWARENESS HANDBOOKS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE COMMUNITIES AND PARISHES WITH INFORMATION AND IDEAS OF HOW THEY CAN BECOME INVOLVED IN THE PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

By the 21st century, the trading of children, women, and men for modern slavery and human trafficking should have ended. Yet, it continues to increase and become more lucrative year after year. It will take strong moral leadership to turn the tide on the societal norms that allow this crime to prosper.

Pope Francis describes modern slavery as **“a crime against humanity”** and the profits it generates as **“blood money”**. The Santa Marta Group as a catalyst works with its partners to prevent these crimes, restore dignity to the people who suffer at the hands of criminals, and provide access to justice. Prevention can only be achieved if it is integrated within communities and through removing the main reason for trafficking - the financial benefits criminals enjoy.

There will be three separate handbooks produced, covering:

Handbook and input 1

How communities and parishes can act as a catalyst and partner to the statutory agencies that have a duty to prevent and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking

Handbook and input 2

Assistance in the community or parish – reaching out

Handbook and input 3

Continuing commitment

Handbook 1 will be published in November 2023, Handbook 2 in July 2024, and Handbook 3 in November 2024. These materials will be supported by in-person events or audio-visual programmes produced by Santa Marta Group Group and in-person or online events.

Established in 2014, the Santa Marta Group obtained its name from the Pope's residence at the Vatican, 'Casa Santa Marta', where delegates are invited to stay at during the Rome Conference.

Santa Marta Group's 3-year+ plan outlines six priorities to end human trafficking and modern slavery.

These priorities will provide the impetus to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 (SDGs) to eradicate Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

“Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.”

These commitments, made by all UN member states in 2015, are to ensure a better world for all by 2030. The Goals have only seven years remaining. It will take national and local governments, communities, police and law enforcement, healthcare, businesses, and faith groups working together to deliver these global promises. The Santa Marta Group wants to see UN SDG 8.7 promoted.

At the 2023 UN General Assembly it was recognised that despite many recent global challenges, the SDGs are far behind where they should be. The UN Secretary-General emphasised that every community should contribute to achieving these goals, as they are relevant to all communities. He stated for the SDGs to succeed it would need:

“Local Action, embedding the policies, budgets, institution and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SANTA MARTA GROUP'S 3-YEAR+ SIX PRIORITIES PLAN

- 1 GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT & BUSINESS CULTURE**
Changing the culture so governments and businesses ensure all procurement and supply chains are slave-free.
- 2 TAINTED MONEY**
Stopping criminal tainted money – a commitment that no-one should profit from human trafficking and modern slavery.
- 3 DIGITAL SPACE TO BE GOVERNED BY LAW**
Legislation to be introduced and enforced so all digital media become responsible technologies that uphold human dignity.
- 4 INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS**
Revising and enforcing international legal agreements and commitments so they are relevant for today's world.
- 5 INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
Ensuring all international institutions use their platforms to fight human trafficking and promote human dignity.
- 6 MORAL COMPASS**
Resetting the moral compass so that human trafficking is seen for what it is and eradicating slavery becomes a priority for all.

2

THE AIM OF THIS GUIDANCE AND AWARENESS

TURNING THE TIDE ON SOCIETAL NORMS THAT HAVE ALLOWED THIS CRIME TO PROSPER CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY WORKING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The test should be, do we have systems in place in our community to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking?

“The money obtained by human traffickers from their dirty, under handed business is blood money. I’m not exaggerating: It’s blood money.”

Pope Francis, 2020



Pope Francis described the criminal profits generated by human trafficking as “**blood money**”. These monies flow unimpeded, making trafficking one of the most lucrative illicit enterprises globally, estimated to be worth over US\$236 billion¹ annually.

In the UK, a car wash, brothel, or nail bar using trafficked people can generate hundreds of thousands of pounds per year. Parish and community members may be unwittingly contributing to this criminality. What are the local measures in place to make sure this is not the case?

The Santa Marta Group strategy aims to influence and change the current paradigm of impunity and profit to one of justice for victims and no profit for criminals. Human dignity is a right for all. Restoring the dignity of the 49.6 million children, women, and men who suffer at the hands of traffickers starts within a community.

¹ This figure is based on the 2024 ILO Report: *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*



HIGHLIGHTS
2023

MORE PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY...

On any given day in 2021 there were...

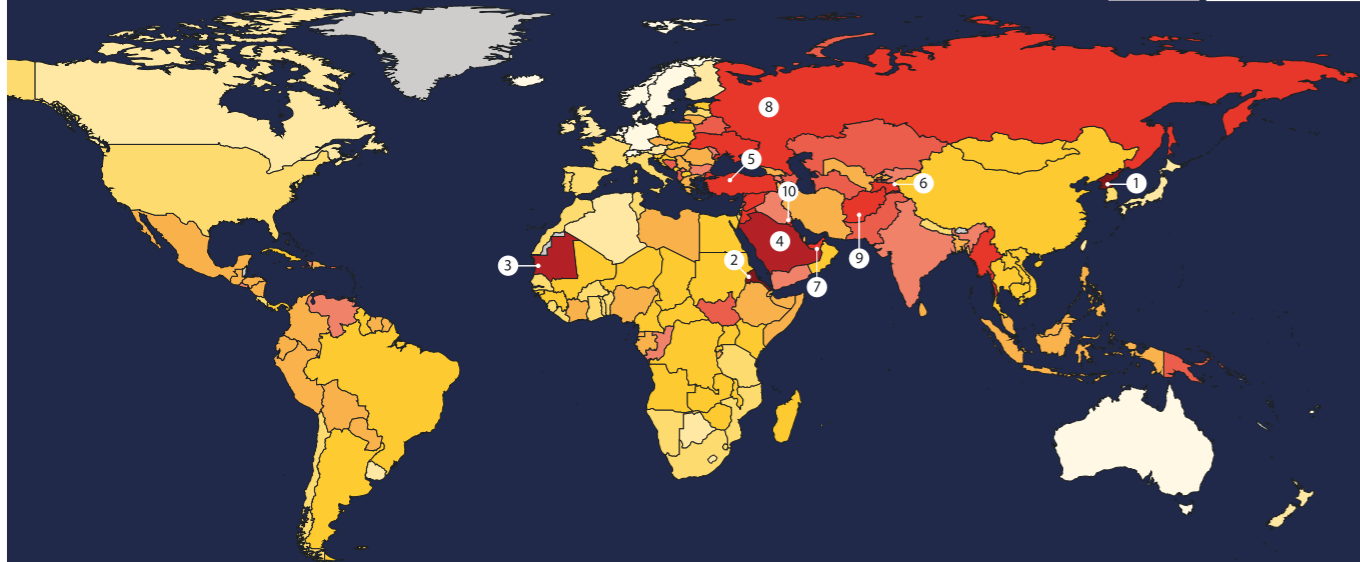
10
MILLION
increase since the 2018 index

50
MILLION
PEOPLE
living in modern slavery

28
MILLION
In
FORCED
LABOUR

22
MILLION
In
FORCED
MARRIAGE

12
MILLION
CHILDREN



Prevalence of modern slavery



Highest prevalence

- 1 North Korea
- 2 Eritrea
- 3 Mauritania
- 4 Saudi Arabia
- 5 Türkiye
- 6 Tajikistan
- 7 United Arab Emirates
- 8 Russia
- 9 Afghanistan
- 10 Kuwait

Lowest prevalence

- 160 Switzerland
- 159 Norway
- 158 Germany
- 157 Netherlands
- 156 Sweden
- 155 Denmark
- 154 Belgium
- 153 Ireland
- 152 Japan
- 151 Finland

Credit: Global Slavery Index Australia



The Santa Marta Group believes the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG8.7, can be enhanced by creating environments where modern slavery and human trafficking is factored out by positive proactive prevention. The first step is modern slavery and human trafficking must be seen for what they truly are - serious and financially lucrative crimes of exploitation. Acknowledging this can be a step to understanding the measures needed to counter it.

The fight to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking will continue beyond 2030, and Santa Marta Group is committed to negotiating for its inclusion in the next iteration of UN global goals. This may seem very high-level and detached from local communities, but in a democracy it is people who influence the priorities.

Communities and parishes have a pivotal role in the prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking in their locality. Creating a network of communities and parishes that act as a catalyst to encourage and hold to account their statutory services and agencies to prioritise human trafficking and implement effective policies will send a strong message that these crimes will not go unchallenged. At the centre of all activity must be restoring the human dignity of those most affected, the victims and survivors, as well as protecting those at risk of future exploitation.

Santa Marta Group recognises trust and respect between agencies and organisations is crucial. While there will be competing demands, communities and parishes can influence how their statutory agencies implement prevention and responses to modern slavery and human trafficking. In the UK, modern slavery and human trafficking are crimes that can involve violence, coercion, deception, and exploitation.

These crimes hold a maximum term of life imprisonment, demonstrating the seriousness of this offence. Additionally, the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides many powers including reparation to a victim, orders to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking, a statutory defence for victims of trafficking, business transparency reporting, and strict proceeds of crime conditions.

There are many ways statutory agencies can integrate prevention policies to stop modern slavery and human trafficking. Santa Marta Group, in its role as a catalyst, encourages your community or parish to increase awareness of modern slavery and human trafficking by asking questions of your locally elected and appointed officials. The purpose is to help and encourage the agencies with a statutory duty, who may be morally obliged to promote prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking and to provide effective victim

3

HISTORICAL CONTEXT, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

SINCE THE 19TH CENTURY ERA OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVERY ABOLITIONIST, MANY INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC LAWS AND INSTRUMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO PREVENT SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING, YET THIS CRIME CONTINUES TO GROW

These laws go back to 1927 with the Slavery Convention and the 1930 International Labour Organisation Forced Labour Convention. Other key measures include:



The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Article 4 introducing a duty on a member nation to prevent and respond to slavery and forced labour. This is an inalienable right and cannot be varied even during war or in times of emergency.

In 2015, The UK passed the Modern Slavery Act, which covers the offences of human trafficking, slavery, servitude, and forced labour. Modern Slavery is an umbrella term used to explain the different elements and crimes associated with human trafficking.

Measures introduced in the Act included:

- Life sentences
- Extra-territorial enforcement powers
- Reparation for victims from assets seized from perpetrators
- Risk and prevention orders (to prevent offending)
- Special measures for victims in court
- A statutory defence for victims who commit a crime as a consequence of being trafficked
- Transparency in business and supply chains
- High sea powers – allowing offenders at sea to be apprehended
- Creating a lifestyle offence-allowing police to confiscated criminal assets

Despite the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, eight years on there remain problems with implementation. For example:

1. Risk orders have not been used to their true potential.
2. In Section 54 of the Act, transparency requires companies trading over £36 million a year to submit an annual modern slavery report published on their website. Reporting can be superficial.

3. Section 45, the non-punishment principle, has been used in the UK. But it remains poorly understood and often stigmatised by politicians and the media as a 'get out of jail free card.'

We hope this guidance and awareness will nurture practical ideas for what can be done by a community or parish to prevent and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking.

Modern slavery and human trafficking are serious crimes against an individual and a blatant disregard for human rights. In the UK, the maximum penalty for modern slavery is life imprisonment, and the courts can impose a prevention order on an offender post-release, from a term of imprisonment imposed by any jurisdiction. Police and law enforcement have the powers to confiscate proceeds of crime and claim wealth that criminals cannot prove came from legitimate income sources. Risk orders can be applied for by police where credible information is available that an identified individual is planning or involved in human trafficking. Put together, these measures place the UK at the forefront of preventing and responding to modern slavery and human trafficking. However, implementation of the legislation and policies into the daily activities of statutory agencies has been patchy.

The Santa Marta Group believes this guidance and awareness will provide information and suggestions on how communities and parishes can act as a catalyst to encourage prevention and responses to modern slavery and human trafficking that are integrated within local structures and services.



4 COMMUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT VERSUS MODERN SLAVERY

OECD NATIONS CONTRIBUTE CIRCA US\$187 BILLION ANNUALLY TO DELIVER GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING DELIVERING THE SDGS

Human trafficking generates a conservative US\$236 billion each year globally in proceeds of crime, significantly detracting from the world's delivery of development. Communities and parishes can play a role in changing this paradigm, working to diminish criminal opportunities and money through prevention, and by creating places where these crimes are not tolerated.



Encouraging change within statutory agencies may seem very ambitious, but it was the workers in the cotton mills of Manchester in 1863 who played a pivotal role in assisting US President Lincoln in ending slavery in the Southern States of the US. Workers in Manchester refused to accept cotton picked by slaves in the Confederate Army. President Lincoln wrote to the people of Manchester in January 1863, declaring their heroism had **“not been surpassed in any age or in any country.”** In this letter, he also announced the start of a perpetual friendship between the USA and the UK.

In Belfast, the refusal of the people to trade in sugar harvested by slaves during the shameful period of Trans-Atlantic Slavery added to the pressure on Parliament to outlaw slavery.



There has been a long-standing view that victims do not trust the authorities and are reluctant or refuse to engage with statutory authorities. This has become synonymous with responses to modern slavery and human trafficking. Preconceived notions or rhetoric can hamper victim identification, the levels of support available, and effective prevention. Communities and parishes can promote the positive role of statutory agencies through trust and by encouraging implementation of local policies.

International Human Trafficking Instruments are, to varying degrees, incorporated within UK national policy. The Council of Europe Convention for Human Trafficking recommends a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victim identification and support. This was introduced by the UK in 2010. However, currently the NRM operates in isolation from other measures available to victims of serious crimes. For example, Criminal Injuries Compensation (CICA) can be used for sexual or physical abuse, mental illness, and loss of earnings. Some solicitors act pro bono for victims to claim CICA. However, many victims may be denied the opportunity to make compensation claims due to NRM deficiencies or non-reporting.

It is also widely accepted that victims with immigration problems do not report their trafficking to the UK authorities for fear of deportation, only reporting their trafficking after many months or even years.

This makes victims' claim more difficult to confirm and easily disputed by the Home Office. Sadly, the Government has now issued new rules, effectively making it even more difficult for victims with undocumented or irregular immigration status to receive access to the NRM.

The NRM is meant to encourage victims to come forward. There is a positive duty on the State to identify victims of human trafficking and investigate crimes proactively. Both international and UK legislation stipulates that once exploitation has occurred, consent is irrelevant for the crime to be committed. Understanding laws, victim identification, and the support available is essential at community and parish levels.

Most modern slavery and human trafficking activities focus on the events after a crime has occurred — post- exploitation. These measures must continue, but far more should and can be done to prevent these crimes from occurring in the first place. The root causes of modern slavery and human trafficking are complex. This should not deter a community from encouraging local measures to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking. The Santa Marta Group model is built on relationships and trust between partners. Ending this crime requires collaboration on prevention and leadership from statutory and non- statutory partners. If decisions are made remotely from a community, they are less likely to be successful.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead -
American Cultural Anthropologist

5 PREVENTION

DEFINITION OF PREVENTION: METHODS OR ACTIVITIES THAT SEEK TO REDUCE OR DETER SPECIFIC OR PREDICTABLE PROBLEMS, PROTECT WELL-BEING, OR PROMOTE DESIRED OUTCOMES OR BEHAVIOURS

This definition provides the basis for what a prevention policy for modern slavery and human trafficking should contain and achieve.



Communities and parishes can encourage actions to make it difficult or impossible for traffickers to operate and prosper in their locality. While each community may be different, there are common actions that can prevent modern slavery and human trafficking:

- Understand the definitions and powers of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 in a community setting
- Gain some knowledge of the international instruments
- Identify potential risks of trafficking in your community – keep it simple
- Identify partners who have a duty to prevent crime and provide victim support
- Communicate the risks you perceive to partners' leadership: political, police, local authorities, health services & business to mention some
- Request a time frame for responses by each organisation – these are considered freedom of information requests
- Continue to call for prevention from all partners, even if things seem to be going well

Prevention requires different elements to respond to events, i.e. the difference between fire prevention and firefighting. These are distinct activities, with firefighting delivered by one organisation, the fire service, while fire prevention is the responsibility of many, including individual members of a community. The police have a duty to investigate trafficking but prevention is a responsibility for all of us.

Experience from incidents of modern slavery and human trafficking has revealed venues or circumstances where exploitation is more likely to occur, such as car washes. This does not mean it will always be present in these venues. Incorporating prevention where exploitation is more likely to occur will act as a barrier to counter criminal enterprises, and will allow legitimate businesses to flourish. Communities can enhance prevention by encouraging local statutory partners to introduce prevention measures and monitor at-risk venues or industries.

When it is suspected modern slavery is present, the Santa Marta Group would suggest the best course of action a community should take is to inform the authorities, just as with any other serious crime. However, this will be easier if a trust-based partnership has been established.

When prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking becomes the 'norm' at the local level, this crime will begin to reduce, getting closer to eradication.

SCENARIO – PREVENTION IN THE COMMUNITY

A rural town has a busy high street, agricultural farming, a hospital with an Accident and Emergency Department, several bars and restaurants, nail bars, and two car washes. One car wash is automated at a petrol station, the other a hand wash service in a makeshift building on council property. The town enjoys a well-ordered, successful nighttime economy at several bars and restaurants. It has a well-known and trusted local taxi service.

It is also known that sexual services are sold out of three flats in the town centre, which are advertised on the internet and in a local paper. The adverts refer to women from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. The Asian women are referred to in a suggestive, highly disrespectful, and gendered manner.

Crime prevention is maintaining standards or behaviours that prevent certain activities from occurring. When thinking of prevention, it is important to keep in mind not just how the activity itself can be prevented but what the opportunities for intervention are to disincentivise the likelihood of offending. Wilful blindness or ignorance are never an excuse, and once a risk is identified, it should be mitigated.

In this scenario, the following businesses or activities have previously been venues of modern slavery or human trafficking:

- Agriculture
- Nail bars
- Hand car washes
- Premises offering sexual "services"

Once the risk venues are identified, a community should note any obvious risks and engage with the relevant agencies that have a duty to prevent crime. In this scenario, it may include the Gangmaster Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), the police, Customs and Excise, or the local authority, including Health and Safety, Fire Service, or Environmental Agency.

NHS research has shown many victims use their primary healthcare services.

Indicators can be conditions of the work premises, appearance of workers, transport methods used, overcrowded workers residences, lack of health and safety equipment, excessive workplace injuries,

or numerous other irregularities that appear contrary to a good and safe place of work.

It is not up to the community to gather evidence, but some issues may be in clear sight of the public, while others may be more discreet. The presence of modern slavery or human trafficking in a community is an illness. Measures should be introduced to prevent and cure the illness and end exploitation.

Examining scenarios in more detail:

A) Agriculture:

Indicators of exploitation might be workers appearing dishevelled and exhausted. They may work excessively long hours, live in overcrowded multioccupancy accommodation, and have visible injuries (hands, face, etc., limping). They may often visit accident and emergency units, with no explanation of their injuries.

B) Nail Bars:

There are many occasions where nail bars employ trafficked women.

Many nail bars are properly managed and adhere to regulations. Conversely, some criminal gangs have set up salons in many cities and towns where trafficked people are exploited. Preventing exploitation at these venues should be a priority for statutory agencies. They have many opportunities to gather intelligence to identify crimes via records and data, such as National Insurance, Inland Revenue, insurance, business taxes, health and safety and fire certificates, etc.

C) Hand Car Washes:

Indicators might include unrealistically cheap prices, excessive numbers of staff, the absence of health and safety equipment (gloves, boots, waterproof overalls), onsite sleeping accommodation, poor maintenance, no environmental cleaning or recycling of water, unsafe or unsuitable electrical supply, or signs of injuries to workers (hands, face) due to use of washing chemicals. Preventing exploitation at these venues should be a priority for statutory agencies, as they have many opportunities to gather intelligence to identify crimes.

There have been cases where communities, reputable traders, or even the authorities, including police, have used car washes where exploitation may have occurred. Local business or statutory agency may be unwittingly supporting modern slavery and human trafficking. Car washes, including the ones that exploit, rely on business from a local community. Therefore, local authorities should provide their communities with an assurance of the integrity of businesses, particularly those that have a higher propensity to be associated with modern slavery and human trafficking. The UK Car Wash Association has reported that illicit car washes generate in the region of £1.5 billion per annum in criminal asset.

In addition to the exploitation of people, they cause damage to the environment, breach many regulations such as health and safety and avoid paying taxes.

D) Sexual Exploitation

Offences associated with selling sex are complex. In most circumstances in the UK, it is not an offence for an individual to be providing services in prostitution. However, a person under the age of 18 cannot sell sexual services of any kind. If this is identified, it is child abuse and must be dealt with as a matter of urgency by statutory organisations.

Offences related to the sale of sex in addition to trafficking are:

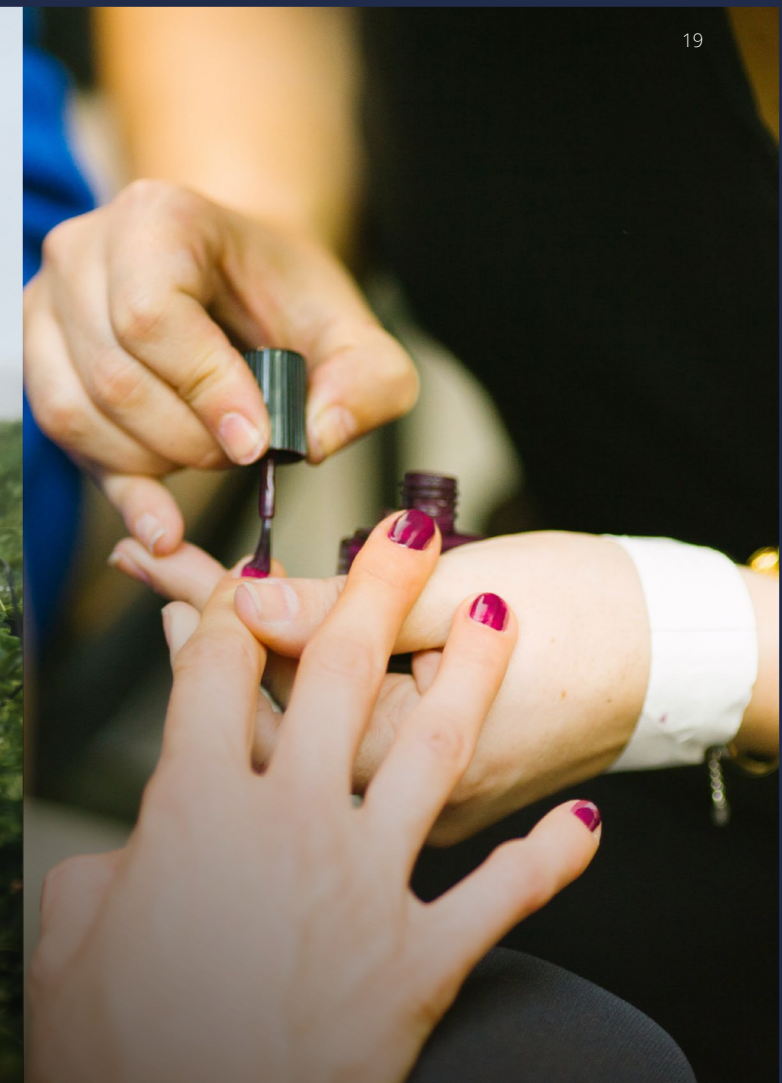
- Loitering or offering sexual services in a public place or street
- Managing a brothel (a place where two or more offer sexual services for gain)
- Controlling sexual exploitation for gain
- Purchasing sexual services, even unwittingly, from a trafficked person

All these circumstances apply equally to women and men.

The advertising of sexual services is not illegal in the UK but can be if it is for criminal activity, for example advertising a brothel. This could amount to aiding and abetting an offence or money laundering.

Some advertising platforms earn many hundreds of thousands of pounds in advertising sexual services. Yet little is done to identify where these proceeds come from. In the USA, the Government took positive action against such platforms, seized assets, and prosecuted the executives of the businesses.

Taxi drivers have previously unwittingly, or even knowingly, provided transport for 'clients'/exploiters to brothels or to move victims between venues, including hotels. Local authorities regulate taxi drivers, and motor insurance policies can become void if a vehicle is knowingly used to assist a criminal purpose. Hotels that allow sexual exploitation enable serious crime.



6 ACTIONS FOR PREVENTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY



THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREVENTION

The local authority should ensure workers are paid the minimum wage and are free from any conditions imposed by their employer, such as restricting their place of residence. Each worker should have an individual bank account, and employers should conduct routine checks to examine the welfare of workers. While the employment of overseas workers has declined since the UK left the EU, there remain many migrant workers in the UK.

Local authorities should be aware of those employed on a Gangmaster Licence and should ensure that provisions are in place for the protection of workers, especially those who might be at risk. In some local authorities, monitoring multiple occupancy residential premises has proven an excellent way to monitor risks.

Operation 'Fort' in the Midlands revealed that 400 workers were exploited in the agricultural sector while criminal recruitment agencies made millions. This overt abuse should not be allowed to reoccur.

Migrant workers often attend church or faith services. These can become places for sharing information on rights and entitlements as a worker in the UK.

Local authorities and police should be aware of the numbers of nail bars in their area and how many staff they employ. The Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority has a remit to monitor and govern exploitation across most industries and labour markets. There have been calls for regulation of the nail bar industry. Doncaster Local Authority with Habia has introduced a voluntary Code of Practice for nail bars. This covers a safe customer and worker environment. This model, if adhered to, will indicate a well-run business and reduce the likelihood of exploitation of staff. Communities and parishes should consider asking relevant authorities and leaders if the nail bars in their locality operate within the law, are safe, and contribute to taxes and rates.

Hand-car washes proliferate the UK, with an estimated 7,000 that operate without proper governance. Not every hand car wash will have modern slavery or human trafficking present, however many do have the potential for exploitation. In addition to crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking, many risk harm to their staff, breaches of environmental protection, ignore building regulations, create fire hazards, operate without insurance, fail to pay taxes, and commit serious health and safety breaches.

Communities and parishes should ask their local agencies and elected officials if the hand-car washes in their locality operate in compliance with regulations. Human trafficking legislation states consent is irrelevant once the exploitation has occurred. Therefore, even where a person believes their circumstances are better than they had in their own country or they are ambivalent about their exploitation, they are still a victim. Just as you cannot consent to serious assault, you cannot consent to being trafficked.

Legislation exists allowing police to close brothels. The Closure Order powers are intended to target those premises that could be considered 'high risk' and where there is evidence of exploitative or coercive practices or the involvement of children.

Laws are also available to prosecute those who buy sexual "services" from a trafficked person, even unwittingly.

Nail bars have featured in many operations for modern slavery and human trafficking. Both nail bars and car washes have gone unnoticed for many years before a victim has come forward. The long-term unabated presence of these premises can mean the public feels these must be lawful, otherwise action would have been taken.

This shows where communities and parishes can focus the activities and attentions of statutory agencies that have a duty for crime prevention and protection of victims.

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference."

Nelson Mandela

7 CONCLUSION

MODERN SLAVERY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED ACROSS THE UK

In a London car wash, a victim died from electrocution. In the Midlands, victims had to have footwear surgically removed due to the burning effects of chemicals.



In cases of sexual exploitation, women have been forced to have sex with over 15 men a day.

Modern slavery and human trafficking are serious crimes involving a person or persons who deliberately dupe, coerce, exploit vulnerabilities, use or threaten violence, abuse a position of authority, or harass another person to make them work, provide sexual services, commit a crime, give up a human organ, or provide services of any kind for the benefit of a third party.

Implementing prevention will take time and requires patience and determination. Prevention should be integrated within the everyday work of statutory agencies.

However, dates such as St. Josephine Bakhita's feast day, European anti-trafficking day, and UN Day Against Slavery can be highlighted by communities and parishes, as they bring public and political attention to the continual presence of modern slavery and human trafficking.

This guidance and awareness is an aid, a template to becoming a 'catalyst' for communities and parishes to promote human dignity through the prevention of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Every act to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking is a beacon of light. By shining a light on this exploitation, communities and parishes can turn the tide, creating safer places and preventing exploitation of some of the most vulnerable in our society. It is important to remember- actions speak louder than words. You can be the catalyst to encourage the agencies and elected leaders in your community to act to prevent this scourge.

St Josephine Bakhita Feast Day - 8th February

European Anti-trafficking Day - 18th October

UN Anti-trafficking Day - 30th July

UN Antislavery Day - 2nd December

EXAMPLES OF LETTERS TO STATUTORY AGENCIES AND BUSINESSES

A) Example Letter for Chief Superintendent/Chief Constable/Police and Crime Commissioner

Dear _____

I am writing to you on behalf of members of _____ Parish (or other) to inform you of our concern about Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in the UK and locally.

We seek reassurance our community has measures in place to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking. It is also important local people know what these crimes look like.

As you will know, multilateral bodies such as the UNODC, ILO, Council of Europe, and the OSCE have international instruments and guidance for dealing with these serious crimes and human rights abuses. (OSCE Guidance Handbook: https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/0/493981_0.pdf).

We understand the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides legislation to prosecute offenders for offences of human trafficking and forced labour. It also provides measures such as risk orders, prevention orders, a statutory defence in certain situations, reparation orders, and transparency in supply chains.

The UN-endorsed global estimates reveal there are currently 49.9 million people in modern slavery. In 2022, almost 17,000 potential victims were referred to the United Kingdom's NRM. On average, it takes almost two years for decisions to be made confirming or declining status as a victim. In some cases, it takes more than three or four years for a decision. We believe this is unacceptable and would not be tolerated in any other crime type. Most reported crimes have decisions made within hours.

We would like to be assured that there is a policy-led approach to prevent and respond to modern slavery and human trafficking that is implemented locally. From our perspective, this should include at a minimum:

- Guidance for police officers and police staff on submissions to the National Referral Mechanism.
- Investigation standards and management oversight.
- Understanding the statutory defence and when it should be used i.e., 'County Lines,' cannabis cultivation or other forced or coerced criminality (Section 45 and schedule 4 of the Act).
- Procedures and guidance for obtaining risk orders with the necessary application documents.

- Integrated training of all police officers and front-line police staff from recruitment to PIP level three and command teams.
- A prevention strategy.
- Guidance of Use of Closure Orders (Under the Sexual Offences Act 2003) to target those premises that could be considered 'high risk' and where there is evidence of exploitative or coercive practice or the involvement of children.
- Measures for online trafficking and advertising.

Optional:

Our community has hand car washes, nail bars, and brothels that may potentially involve exploitation. Due to the lengthy periods that some of these have been in business, it might be presumed they operate within the law. These are not hidden premises and are in plain sight. We feel sure that if a restaurant, takeaway food outlet, or licenced premise opened in our community without adhering to relevant laws and regulations, it would be subject to closure or sanctions or both.

We ask for confirmation that overt businesses are not involved in trafficking related crime, the exploitation of workers, or any other breaches of regulations such as environmental, health and safety, duty evasion, or fire risks.

An example of good practice is in Doncaster where the local authority has worked with a non-government organisation to introduce a code of practice for nail bars. In England, the Local Government Association has introduced a guidance for what local councils can do to prevent and respond to modern slavery (<https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/council-guide-tackling-modern-slavery>).

Within our community/parish we have _____ (hand car wash, nail bar etc).

An example of the overall impact of unregulated work is that the GLAA and Carwash Association estimates there are circa 7,000 hand-car washes across England and Wales. Each can generate over £200,000, a total annual income of circa £1.4 billion. They often employ vulnerable workers at risk of exploitation. Each carwash employs six to ten workers with frequent staff changes. In the words of the GLAA these are 'cash cows.'

Can we be provided with the following materials:

1. The local modern slavery policy and details of who manages its implementation.
2. Details of any risk orders that have been obtained by _____ police since 2015.
3. Details of Closure Orders under the Sexual Offences Act obtained by _____ police since January 2021.
4. For the past 30 months (1st Jan 2021 to current date), can we be provided with numbers of NRM referrals made in _____ police area, including how many are awaiting a decision for conclusive grounds, how many have been declined reasonable or conclusive grounds?
5. Could we know how many of these crimes occurred in _____ Borough (or appropriate).

We are determined to prevent modern slavery in _____ and look forward to working with our local partners to prevent these crimes and ensure that should it occur, the response is commensurate to the seriousness of these crimes.

B) Example Letter to Member of Parliament

Dear _____,

I am writing to you as a constituent and on behalf of _____ community/parish.

As you will know, the UK was seen as a global leader in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking with the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This Act brought a raft of measures to prosecute offenders, support victims, prevent crimes of modern slavery, and increase business accountability.

I attach a letter to (Chef Superintendent/Chief Constable/PCC).

We are very concerned that modern slavery crimes do not receive the attention needed to prevent offences and support victims once they are identified. The average time for a decision by the Home Office that a person is a victim of modern slavery is almost two years and often much longer. This would not be tolerated for any other crime.

We would like to ask you the following questions:

1. Why is it taking the Home Office so long to make decisions of status for victims of a serious crime that holds life imprisonment?
2. Will you request the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister to conduct a review of the time taken for a decision to be made? Included in this should be why the Home Office is making decisions regarding these crimes. There is no other crime where the decision of victims' status is made by the Home Office.
3. How many risk orders have been issued in the UK and in our county since they were introduced by the Modern Slavery Act 2015?
4. With over 7,000 hand-car washes across England and Wales, each capable of a turnover of over £200,000 per annum, is the Government receiving taxes and duties from these establishments? The total estimated income of these premises is £1.4 billion, and they can increase demand on local authorities and services.
5. The Modern Slavery transparency section requirement under section 54 was a positive move. What is the current status of the commitments in the 2022 Queens Speech where the Government proposed reform of section 54?
6. Former Health Secretary, Savid Javid, promised legislation for transparency in the NHS supply chain following the identification cases of child labour in products purchased for use by health staff. With Victoria Adams MP as the new Health Secretary, who formerly led the Modern Slavery portfolio, can you inquire if she will revisit this legislation?
7. Is the UK still discussing modern slavery at the UN Security Council due to its nexus with terrorism and other organised crime?
8. As the Prime Minister when the Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Ascent, will the Foreign Secretary be including this agenda within his portfolio?

We believe modern slavery should not exist anywhere in the UK or globally. It will take determined leadership and commitment to eradicate its existence and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. We will play our part to achieve SDG8.7 in _____ but it is crucial that the UK Parliament plays its part by ensuring this issue receives political will and commitment commensurate to the risks this crime presents to individuals, communities, and national and international security.

C) Example Letter for Council Leader

Dear _____

I am writing to you on behalf of members of _____ Parish (or other) to inform you of our concern about Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

We seek reassurance our community has measures in place to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking. It is also important local people know what these crimes look like and who can respond within our community.

As you will know, multilateral bodies such as the UNODC, ILO, Council of Europe, and the OSCE have international instruments and guidance for dealing with these serious crimes and human rights abuses. (OSCE Guidance: https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/2/0/493981_0.pdf).

Modern Slavery is also a target included in the UN Sustainable Goals (SDGs), and at this year's UN General Assembly all countries recommitted to do as much as possible to achieving these goals by 2030. The UN Secretary General highlighted the importance of these goals being integrated into policies at community level in all countries.

As we understand, the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides legislation to prosecute offenders for offences of human trafficking and forced labour. It also provides measures such as risk orders, prevention orders, a statutory defence in certain situations, reparation orders, and transparency in supply chains.

We would request we be advised of the policy-led approach of our local authority and ask that we be provided with any local authority policy document covering the following areas:

- Guidance for local authority officials on submissions to the National Referral Mechanism.
- Integrated training for relevant staff.
- A local authority prevention strategy.
- Measures to address online trafficking and advertising.
- Local government policy on procurement and supply chain transparency.
- Accountability and oversight of National Referral Mechanism submissions.
- Children's services and 'County Lines'.

We would ask for details of NRM submission for the past 30 months (1st Jan 2021 to current date) by _____ Local Authority to include how many are awaiting a decision for conclusive grounds, and how many have been declined reasonable or conclusive grounds.

The Local Government Association guidance to modern slavery and human trafficking provides many recommendations when dealing with these crimes. Is this adopted by our local authority?

We are determined to prevent modern slavery in _____, and look forward to working with our local partners to prevent these crimes and ensure that when they occur the response is commensurate to the seriousness of these crimes.



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