

A black and white photograph of a hand being washed with soap suds at a car wash. The background is a dark, textured surface with white soap suds. A hand is visible in the upper right, being washed by a spray of water and soap. The text is overlaid on a dark rectangular area in the center.

**SPOT THE  
SIGNS  
MODERN  
SLAVERY  
IS ON YOUR  
DOORSTEP**

**CAR WASHES**

**crimestoppers-uk.org**

**T: 0800 555 111**



Gangmasters &  
Labour Abuse Authority

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## SPOT THE SIGNS: MODERN SLAVERY IS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

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The mobile nature of car washes make it a very vulnerable sector to employers that seek to exploit the manual workers that are employed within it. Within the hand car wash sector, sites are often unregulated and as a result are not protected by UK law. Victims are usually newly-arrived immigrants and/or vulnerable individuals; in the south of the country victims are usually Eastern European and those in the north are usually non-EU nationals. As with all modern slaves, the threat of violence often results in them living in substandard accommodation and having their identity documents taken from them.

Victims in this field are often so keen to stay in the UK that they do not realise they are victims and so cannot access the help available to them when they need to. Listed below are some of the signs that victims may display:

- Be under the control and influence of others – sometimes are spoken for by a ‘controller’.
- Not allowed to leave the site unaccompanied.
- Live in multi-occupancy accommodation, often work at the same address.
- Have no access or control of their passport or identity documents or have false paperwork.
- Work excessively long hours over long periods for little to no wage – often having no control over their finances. Additionally they can be charged for the use of the equipment required to work.
- Be under the impression that they are bonded by debt.
- Have limited contact with their families or with people outside of their immediate environment.

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### REPORTING

You can provide information in your own language about slavery, labour exploitation and other crime types anonymously with the independent charity Crimestoppers by calling **0800 555 111** and report details online via [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

You can also report your suspicions of human trafficking, forced labour or worker exploitation and receive advice:

If you have any information about the mistreatment of workers or labour providers operating without a licence, you can contact Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) on **0800 432 0804** or [www.gla.gov.uk/report-issues](http://www.gla.gov.uk/report-issues).

The UK Modern Slavery Helpline is available 24/7 to offer confidential advice and support regarding modern slavery suspicions or concerns. Call free on **08000 121 700** or contact us online at [www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report](http://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/report).