



ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

OP AIDANT

Intelligence and crime reporting about Modern Slavery has significantly reduced in the South West since lockdown begun. There is an opportunity to raise awareness and increase reporting through Op Aidant, which will run 22nd June - 10th July and will focus on labour exploitation. If you have information relating to exploitation in rural settings report your concerns to your local police force.

How to report concerns:

1. Check your local force reporting mechanisms; they may have a dedicated resource for reporting exploitation, or
2. Call 101 to provide information - always call 999 if there is a threat to life, or
3. Contact a local SPOC. If you are not sure who this is, talk to your ASP representative, or
4. Call the Modern Slavery Helpline.

Remember if you work for a First Responder agency you have a duty to offer potential victims support through the National Referral Mechanism as well as report concerns to the police. See the Home Office guidance for [First Responders](#) and [non-First Responders](#).

If you are a First Responder and would like guidance on how to fulfil your statutory duty call the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700.

#COVIDSAFEGUARDING

In June NHS England will be holding a fortnight of online communications about safeguarding during the Covid-19 outbreak.

To raise awareness of Modern Slavery under lockdown and increase visibility of victims, partner organisations are encouraged to use the hashtag **#covid safeguarding** to promote awareness of safeguarding for vulnerable groups during lockdown.

RESOURCES

- The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority [monthly bulletin](#).
- The Children's Society has released guidance on [how to spot the signs](#) of child abuse and exploitation during lockdown.
- Researchers in Manchester have produced a report on initial indicators that traffickers are targeting homeless populations during lockdown. It can be accessed [here](#).
- The East Midlands Council [website](#) has a series of resources for professionals supporting vulnerable people during Covid-19.

For more resources about exploitation during Covid-19 and information about Modern Slavery the ASP website is available at www.aspartnership.org.uk/.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Some sectors are seeing shortfalls in available staff, which may encourage traffickers to target them. Agriculture, horticulture, social care, construction and food processing may especially be susceptible.
- Social distancing measures may make children more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, and they may have limited access to peer groups and school support.
- Victims of trafficking may be moved to more risky forms of exploitation as 'legitimate' placements end due to lockdown.
- Organised crime groups may move to more risky migration routes as legitimate routes are closed. Migrants similarly may use unregulated routes to travel and become vulnerable to traffickers.
- Exploiters may move to private transport such as taxis and minibuses as a means to move victims - including for County Lines drug dealing.
- Victims of trafficking may be made destitute as their 'employment' ends and be housed in hotels, where they may be further targeted by traffickers.
- Victims of trafficking are less likely to have access to healthcare, and may be unable to control their travel or living arrangements

REFRESH

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Victims of modern slavery are unable to leave their situation of exploitation, controlled by threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception.

This might be labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation or organ harvesting.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Shows signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, anxious/agitated or appear withdrawn and neglected. They may have untreated injuries.

ISOLATION Rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS Be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address.

RESTRICTED MOVEMENT Have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in and day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.

UNUSUAL TRAVEL TIMES Be dropped off/collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.

RELUCTANT TO SEEK HELP Avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family.

Victims of trafficking can access support through the National Referral Mechanism. For more information on how frontline staff can assist victims to enter the NRM visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).