

ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020

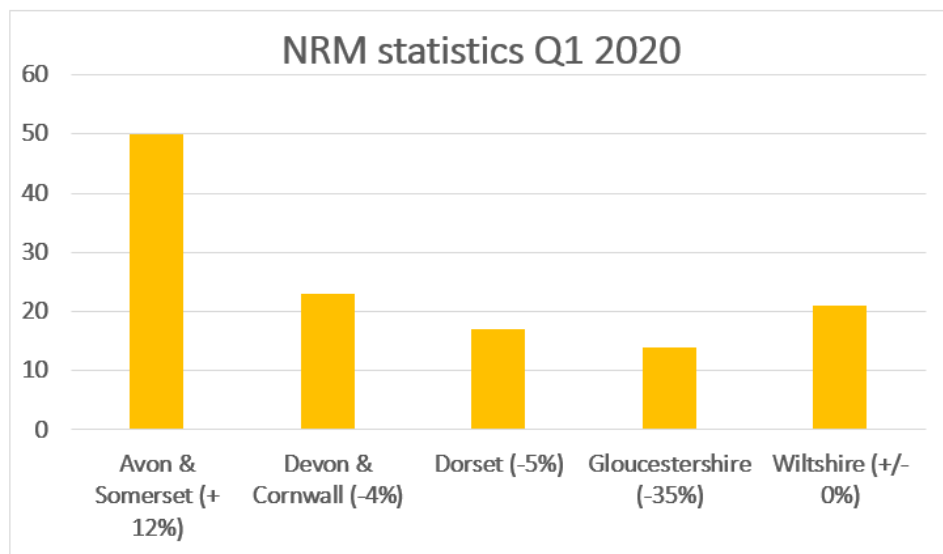
NRM STATISTICS

National referral mechanism statistics for January - March are now available [online](#). Most areas in the South West recorded fewer referrals than the previous quarter, which reflects national trends.

In the UK there was 2,871 referrals, 1,237 of which were under 18. The most common victim nationality was British (603), followed by Vietnamese (83), Albanian (68), and Eritrean (53).

Adults were most likely to be subject to labour exploitation, whilst minors were most often exploited for criminal activity.

Across both age categories, males remain more likely to be exploited than women.



*Number of children and adults entered into the National Referral Mechanism.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Brexit and Modern Slavery: impacts on the UK's legal frameworks for workers in supply chains](#)

This report from the Nottingham University Right's Lab provides recommendations on how to relieve pressure on worker's rights as legal protections are lost.

[Missing Home: providing safety to trafficked children](#)

Unseen UK piloted a home for trafficked children to prevent the high rate of MISPA cases in this cohort. The report makes recommendations on partner training, policy changes, and good practice and will be of particular interest to police and local authorities.

[Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline annual assessment](#)

The Modern Slavery Helpline has released a report on data collected in 2019. The Helpline identified 4,739 potential victims last year, and the report details the demographic information of these cases.

[Improving our response to Modern Slavery and exploitation: supporting Chinese women](#)

Rahab, Caritas bakitas House, and Tamar have joint-authored a report on effectively supporting trafficked Chinese women.

HOMELESSNESS

[Project TILI](#) is a multi-agency project which will be collecting data over the next year on modern slavery and homelessness. TILI is looking for agencies who are interested in receiving and using the insights from this data, with no commitment or contribution associated.

Contact the ASP coordinator at coordinator@aspartnership.org.uk to express an interest in receiving this data.

VICTIM CARE

Accommodation

The Home Office announce on 6th April that survivors of MSHT would not be moved on from NRM support due to Covid-19. This is due to be reviewed at the end of June. Whilst it has been welcomed that survivors would continue to have access to housing and support during this time, several in the sector have raised concerns that move on support services may become overwhelmed when this policy comes to an end.

Legal Aid

Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) is campaigning to stop the new legal aid rules that threaten access to justice for slavery survivors. Under the new rules, many legal aid immigration representatives will not be able to afford to take on complex trafficking cases. You can find out more information about the impact of the rules to trafficking victims [here](#) and by watching this [short clip](#).

Impact of Covid-19

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery conducted a rapid inquiry to better understand how the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the picture of modern slavery in the UK and the experiences of survivors and support services. You can read the recommendations and evidence submitted [here](#).

Victim Care Contract

The Victim Care Contract has been awarded again to The Salvation Army. They will act as the prime contractor to provide the services potential victims receive when entering the National Referral Mechanism. Sub-contractors such as [Unseen](#), [Medaille Trust](#) and [BCHA](#) deliver the VCC through safe housing and outreach support in the South West.

COMMUNICATIONS

Look out this week and next (22nd June - 10th July) for increased social media activity educating and raising awareness about Modern Slavery and exploitation in agriculture.

The GLAA, Crimestoppers, NCA, NHS and local police forces will be promoting heightened attention to this sector to increase frontline and public reporting of potential exploitation.

Follow @aspartnership1 on Twitter and look out for #covidsafeguarding.

EVENTS AND TRAINING

IASC conference

Thursday 2nd July 4pm - 5pm.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton will launch the IASC review *Preparing for impact: How we can overcome barriers and cultivate a culture of collaboration, understanding and respect to achieve impact on survivor support*. The event will be held via Zoom.

To register contact Shelley.Perera@iasc.independent.gov.uk.

Brexit, workers and Modern Slavery: Insections, impacts and ways forward

Nottingham University Rights lab

Monday 6th July 11am - 12.30pm.

This online event will consider the impact of Brexit on existing legal frameworks and other factors that affect vulnerability to exploitation in the UK. It will then focus on the way forward to ensure that the UK maintains and strengthens measures to tackle modern slavery by 1) protecting workers and 2) supporting responsible business conduct.

Register free on [Eventbrite](#).

As some of you may know, we are very sorry to be saying goodbye to our regional co-chair, Kate Garbers. Kate has been the director of Unseen and a driving force behind anti-slavery activity in the South West for the past 12 years.

A message from Kate....

As I step down from my day-to-day Directorship role at Unseen I am also going to be stepping away from my Chair-ship with the Regional ASP and wanted to use the newsletter as a chance to say 'Goodbye' and 'Thank you'.

I am proud to have been the catalyst behind the ASP as we know it today and writing this has given me the opportunity to reflect on how the partnership formed and the support of individuals and organisations that have assisted us get it to where it is today.

A few memories if I may that I think show the development and the progress that has been made and the part you have all played:

- 2008 - The first Anti-Trafficking Partnership meeting (prior to the Modern Slavery Act and slavery terminology) some eight years ago in a cold church hall with Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol City Council, The Bridge and Unseen.
- 2009 - Developing a local Bristol based partnership and expanding this to the whole of Avon and Somerset.
- 2012 - Securing funding for the Coordinator role to ensure the partnership had clear focus and direction of travel
- 2015 - Regional Organised Crime Unit funding that allowed us to develop partnership boards in each of the force areas in the South West and start the process of having both a local and regional understanding of the issue.
- 2017 - Five fully functioning local boards feeding into a Regional Partnership
- 2018 – Regional ASP Event

I am proud of all the partnership has achieved to date and will watch with interest about what comes next. I understand for many agencies represented you have dedicated time, energy and resource to the partnership. Your attendance at meetings and your championing of the cause in your own organisations often comes as a result of your passion for the topic and a strong sense of wanting to do what is right rather than a statutory obligation. I know this is not always an easy sell to the powers that be but I am incredibly grateful that you have fought for this and ask that you continue to do so – the only chance we have of tackling slavery and supporting those caught in it is by working together.

Having Founded Unseen and been involved for the last 12 years this has not been an easy decision to make or one I have taken lightly, but it is the right time. I am not moving on to another organisation but taking some time to reflect on all that has been achieved and considering what is next. I know I will be spending time writing a book about slavery as well as doing some consultancy for Unseen, so you may still see me around! I am certainly still passionate about this sector and want to make sure I put the last 12 years of learning and knowledge to good use.

I think the quote below captures the work of the partnership since its inception, some ten years ago, long may it continue.

Partnership is not a posture but a process - a continuous process that grows stronger each year as we devote ourselves to common tasks J.F.Kennedy

Please do drop me an email on my Unseen address (kate@unseenuk.org) if you would like to stay in touch and I will send you my new contact details.

Thanks all

Kate

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).