

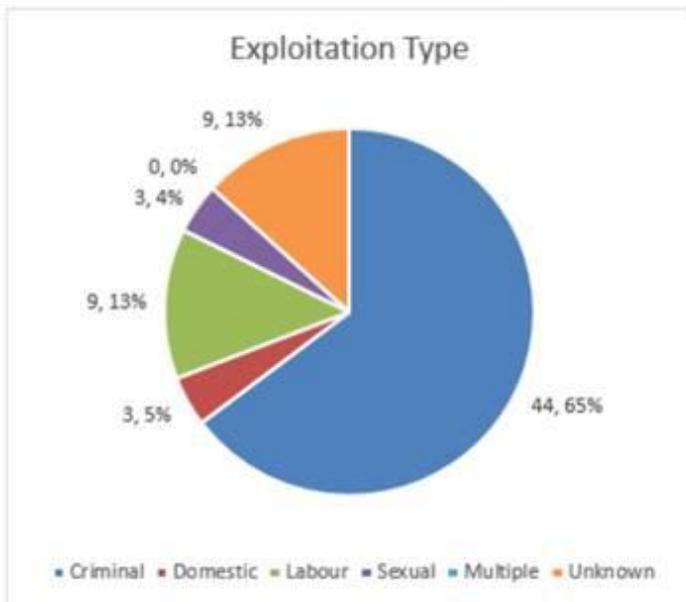
ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

The South West Anti-Slavery Partnership is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative network of statutory, non-statutory and third sector organisations working together to eradicate Modern Slavery in Avon & Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon & Cornwall, Gloucestershire, and Dorset. This bulletin rounds up news, policy, events and useful resources and provides a quick refresh on Modern Slavery and how to report it.

NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM



In the last quarter of 2020, **criminal exploitation** remained the **most prevalent** form of Modern Slavery recorded in NRM applications.

Labour exploitation was the second most recorded, accounting for **9 %**.

There has been a proportional rise of **domestic servitude** NRM referrals submitted, with this exploitation type now matching those submitted for **sexual exploitation**.

9% of NRM were recorded as an **unknown exploitation** type.

This data shows a marked change in the type of referrals being made in the last quarter, which may reflect either the changing nature of MSHT during Covid-19, or a reduction of visibility of some forms – such as sexual exploitation.

* This data may be incomplete or subject to change

PARTNER SELF-ASSESSMENT

The ASP has developed a self-assessment tool for partners wishing to benchmark their response to Modern Slavery. The guidance document, which is available on the [ASP website](#), provides a checklist of processes to put in place to improve an organisation's internal operations. These follow five themes of Recognition, Inter-agency communication, Victim support and services, Prosecution, and Disruption.

HOME OFFICE UPDATE

An update from the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit (full statement available [here](#)):

As part of the Home Office's regular engagement with The Salvation Army (TSA), the holder of the Victim Care Contract for victims of modern slavery, it has come to our attention that there are some instances of cases being sent to TSA by other First Responder Organisations (FRO) in expectation that TSA will then make the referral into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the individual in question. As a reminder for all...First Responders are members of staff at [FROs](#) who have a responsibility for discharging one or more of the functions of the FRO and who have been trained to discharge those functions. One of the key functions of an FRO is to refer victims into the NRM to ensure they receive the right level of support as quickly as possible. As such, **where a First Responder suspects that an individual may be a potential victim of modern slavery, the FRO has a responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the SCA via the digital referral form found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-modern-slavery-as-a-first-responder>.**

MODERN SLAVERY PATHWAYS

There are several Modern Slavery pathways available to support your organisation to develop a Modern Slavery protocol. The University of Nottingham has compiled notable versions, which are available [here](#).

Of particular note, the Human Trafficking Foundation [pathway](#) for local authorities and [NRM process guide](#) provides in-depth step by step guidance.

This page also has other useful resources, such as [NRM guides for potential victims](#) (available in [several languages](#)).

UPCOMING EVENTS

[‘The voice of British survivors of human trafficking’](#) *Human Trafficking Foundation* **25th January 11am – 1pm**

This online forum is being held in partnership with two British survivors and in response to evidence that British survivors struggle to be identified and then face significant obstacles in receiving adequate support, both in the NRM and outside of it.

[‘National Enforcement Powers Guide launch’](#) *Human Trafficking Foundation* **29th January 10am – 11am**

This event will introduce the national enforcement powers guide produced by the National Network of Coordinator’s Forum and Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit. It will place the guide in context against recent events in Leicester, and how the guide can be utilised operationally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[“‘Taking back control of our borders?’ The impact on Modern Slavery’](#) *Human Trafficking Foundation*

This report highlights the risk as the UK is set to lose access to alerts and tip-offs from continental police and intelligence agencies at the end of the year.

[‘Child trafficking in the UK 2020: a snapshot’](#) *ECPAT UK*

ECPAT UK’s latest snapshot report on child trafficking provides an overview of the issues affecting children in the UK. Compiling the latest statistics and policy developments, the report highlights never seen before data on immigration outcomes for child victims, secured from Freedom of Information Act requests.

[‘Operation Fort – what businesses should learn from the UK’s largest anti-slavery prosecution’](#) *IASC*

This review provided by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner explores the response from fifteen large UK companies to the discovery of Modern Slavery in their supply chains following Op Fort.

[‘Underground lives: adult victims of criminal exploitation’](#) *Hestia*

This article places a spotlight on adult victims of criminal exploitation, which is often overshadowed by child criminal exploitation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

If you are interested in attending an Anti-Slavery Partnership meeting contact coordinator@aspartnership.org.uk

Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership - Thursday 21st January 10am – 11.30am

Avon & Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership - Wednesday 3rd February 1pm – 3pm

Regional Anti-Slavery Partnership – Tuesday 2nd March 2pm – 4pm

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.

There are five forms of exploitation:

Labour exploitation

Sexual exploitation

Domestic servitude

Criminal exploitation

Organ harvesting

Victim presentation

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.

Statutory duties

First responder organisations have a statutory duty to identify and offer support to victims of Modern Slavery. The list of First Responder organisations can be found [here](#), and includes all **local authorities** and **police forces**. Statutory guidance is available [here](#).

Victims of trafficking are entitled to support through the National Referral Mechanism. For more information on how frontline staff can assist victims to enter the NRM visit gov.uk.

Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

The modern slavery helpline is open 24/7 and anyone can call anonymously. Frontline staff can call to ask for advice, the public can call to report their concerns, and victims of Modern Slavery can call to ask for support.

Information and questions can also be submitted through secure webform at [Modern Slavery Helpline](#).