

ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

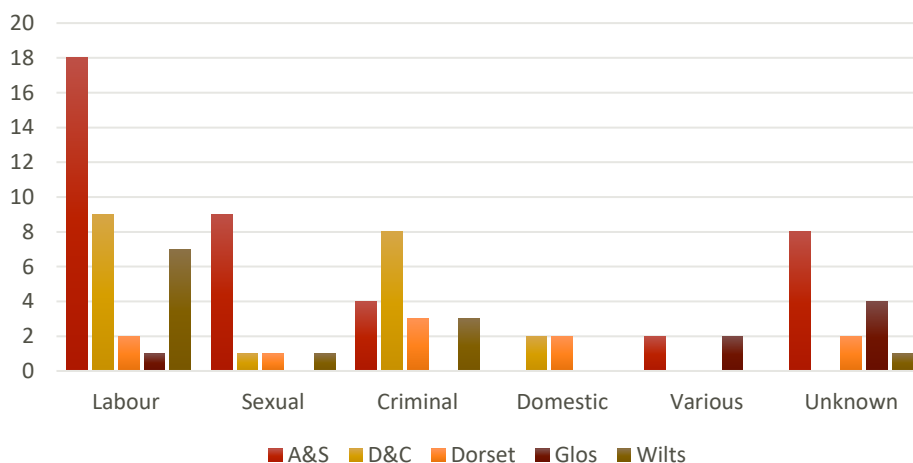
NEWSLETTER

MAY 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.

MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE 2020 REPORT

Modern Slavery Cases 2020



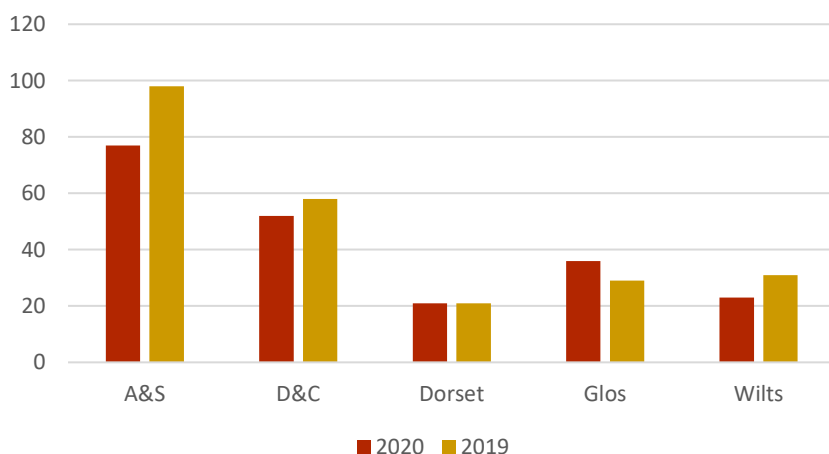
The Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline has released its [2020 annual assessment](#).

The report outlines how Modern Slavery has changed during the pandemic:

Overall, there was a drop in calls and webforms received by the Helpline, as victims became less visible during lockdown. Despite a slight decrease in the number of Modern Slavery cases and potential victims identified, this was not in line with the overall drop in calls. There was a slight increase in the number of potential victims calling the Helpline themselves.

* Note that several potential victims may be indicated per case.

Potential victims identified



Despite lockdown, calls made to the Helpline to report **sexual exploitation** rose, with **273 cases** indicating **481 potential victims**. **24%** of those indicated were **minors**.

Reports of **labour exploitation** were down, with **578 cases** indicating **1,889 potential victims**.

Domestic servitude reports remained steady compared to 2019 with **110 cases** indicating **189 potential victims**.

The Helpline takes calls relating to labour abuse and other high-risk crimes, as well as Modern Slavery. In 2020 2,654 cases were raised for non-Modern Slavery crimes.

The Helpline is a referring service and over 1,500 referrals were made to partner agencies during this period, with an additional 1,498 signposts.

VOLUNTARY RETURNS SERVICE

Where victims of trafficking wish to return to their country of birth, the UK government will assist them to do so.

The UK Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) is available to individuals who do not have leave to remain. This is now extended to all EEA nationals.

The service provides a range of services, including moving a passport to a port where an individual has bought their own ticket to return; providing support to obtain travel documentation; financial support to travel to the airport or embassy; financial support to obtain a ticket to travel; financial assistance once returned home, or 'reintegration assistance'; and medical support during the journey if required.

More information on the VRS can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily/who-can-get-help>.

Applications can be made online at <https://www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily/apply>.

REACH-IN SERVICES

On 4th January a new provision was introduced to the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract. The 'Reach-In' service is available to victims of trafficking who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision from the Single Competent Authority.

Survivors who have been provided safehousing or outreach support through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) will be able to continue to access some support once exiting NRM services.

The service is designed to allow survivors now living independently to 'reach back in' for support and signposting to other services. They will be able to contact the provider for their area to access this support.

[Unseen UK](#) is the Reach-In service provider for the South West.

Survivors must be referred into the Reach-In service to access the support, using the Salvation Army referral line **0800 808 3733**.

DUTY TO NOTIFY

What is the Duty to Notify (DtN)

The duty to notify system is in place to help build a clearer picture of how Modern Slavery occurs in the UK, and the scale of the crime.

DtN submissions are a means of informing the Home Office of cases of Modern Slavery where the victim does not want to be formally identified or to access support.

DtN cannot be submitted for children, as all children suspected to be victims of trafficking should be referred into the NRM irrespective of consent being given.

The number of DtN submissions remains low nationally, with the South West submitting only around 100 in 2020.

Who should submit a DtN

Statutory agencies have a duty to notify the Home Office if they suspect someone to be a victim of trafficking. Non-statutory first responder organisations (full list [here](#)) can also submit DtN.

If you suspect someone to be a victim of trafficking and are unsure of how to complete a DtN seek guidance from a Modern Slavery SPOC in your organisation.

It is also recommended that first responder frontline staff receive training on how to effectively complete DtN and NRM submissions. Unseen UK provides specific [training](#) for first responder staff.

How to submit a DtN

The DtN form is now online. You can access it on the [gov.uk website](#).

Provide as much detail as possible on the DtN form, being careful to outline the indicators of Modern Slavery observed.

For more information of the DtN review the [Statutory Guidance](#). Posters for the workplace are available [here](#).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[The top 20 source countries for modern slavery victims in the UK: comparative report](#) *University of Nottingham Rights Lab*

This report provides an analysis of data for the top 20 source countries of Modern Slavery victims in the UK.

[Access to work for survivors of slavery to enable independence and sustainable freedom](#) *Anti-Slavery International et al.*

[Financial investigation of Modern Slavery](#) *Anti-Slavery Commissioner*

Dame Sara Thornton has released a paper recommending the prioritisation of financial investigation of Modern Slavery to prove an offence has taken place and to compensate victims.

[Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract](#) *UK Home Office*

The Home Office has released a redacted version of the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract which details the care that survivors are entitled to once entered into the NRM.

[Group of experts on action against trafficking in human beings \(GRETA\) annual report](#) *Council of Europe*
GRETA's annual report details the impact that the pandemic has had on human trafficking and presents recommendations.

[Effectiveness of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act](#) *Modern Slavery & Human Rights Policy & Evidence Centre*

The Modern Slavery PEC has published a review the Modern Slavery Act's transparency in supply chain functions, concluding its efficacy is limited when reliant on civil society to hold businesses to account.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Distinctive or professionalised? Understanding the post-secular in faith based responses to trafficking, forced labour and slavery in the UK](#) *University of Sheffield* **13th May 12pm – 1.15pm**

The seminar presents the findings of ESRC funded research into the role that faith actors now play in the anti-trafficking sector.

[Research on mental health recovery co-created with survivors of Modern Slavery](#) *Survivor Alliance* **17th May 10am – 1pm**

Hear from researchers at University of Nottingham's Rights Lab on their initial insights from a project working with survivors on recovery from the mental health impact of Modern Slavery.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Gloucestershire Anti-Slavery Partnership – 16th June 2021 – 10am – 12pm - Webex

Avon & Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership – 10th May 2021 – 1pm – 3pm – Microsoft Teams

Regional Anti-Slavery Partnership – 10th June 2021 – 2pm – 4pm – Microsoft Teams

Dorset Anti-Slavery Partnership – 9th June 2021 – 11am – 12.30pm – Microsoft Teams

Devon & Torbay Anti-Slavery Partnership – 9th June 2021 – 10am – 12pm – Microsoft Teams

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.

Where a victim does not give consent to enter the NRM, First Responder agencies have a statutory [duty to notify](#) the government that they have identified a potential victim.

Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline **08000 121 700**

The Modern Slavery & Exploitation 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](#).