

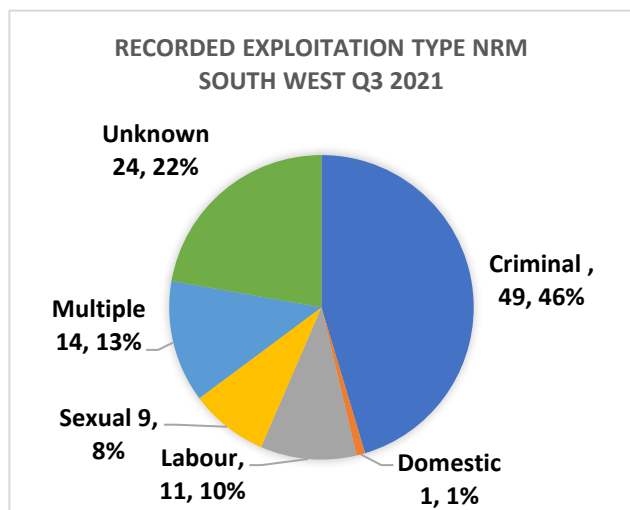
ANTI-SLAVERY PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

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.

REGIONAL DATA



There was a total of 108 [NRM](#) submission July – September 2021 in the South West.

The number of crime reports, arrests and NRM submissions dropped throughout last year, a trend that was not replicated nationally.

Survivors of Criminal Exploitation remain the most often referred to the NRM. Many victims of criminal exploitation are minors and consent is not required for them to be referred.

Of the 14 NRM where multiple forms of exploitation were recorded all involved Criminal Exploitation, 4 involved Sexual Exploitation, and 11 involved Labour Exploitation. Only 1 involved all three types of exploitation.

NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL

The [Nationality and Borders Bill](#) has passed third reading and is at committee stage at the House of Lords. It includes sections that may impact support given to survivors:

- The Bill will require survivors to identify themselves as a victim within a specific timeframe to be eligible for support.
- Foreign national survivors will be disqualified from support where they have previously been sentenced to 12 months+ for a crime either abroad or in the UK.
- The minimum recovery period (between Reasonable Grounds decision and Conclusive Grounds decision) will be reduced from 45 days to 30 days.
- Leave to remain will be granted to survivors who assist investigations or have recovery needs arising specifically from their exploitation which are not able to be met in a third country. This will remove the current policy of providing leave “to provide protection and assistance to that victim, owing to their personal situation”.

One hundred and eight anti-slavery organisations have [written to the Home Office](#) outlining concerns that the Bill will have an adverse impact on survivors and prevent opportunities to prosecute traffickers. These organisations are encouraging the public to [write to their MPs](#) to express concerns.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Having moved away from a dual competent authority assessing National Referral Mechanism applications in 2019, the Home Office in November 2021 created a new Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority that will make decisions for potential victims subject to immigration controls.

Several sector representatives have expressed concern at this move, including the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dame Sara Thornton who [wrote to the Home Secretary](#) expressing that '[t]here is significant risk that those victims of modern slavery whose cases are assessed by Immigration Enforcement will have their cases judged by considerations about their immigration status rather than their rights to protection as victims of serious crime'.

WILTSHIRE FUNDING SUCCESS

Wiltshire police have been successful in a £22k bid to develop resources aimed at improving victim engagement, including the development of NRM booklets, advice leaflets and safety cards bespoke to the local area.

Funding has also been secured to provide accommodation to potential victims who do not want to immediately enter into the NRM. Pre-NRM places of safety are recognised as best practice increasing referrals into the NRM, engagement in the criminal justice system and improving outcomes for survivors. Other areas such as the [West Midlands](#) have resourced permanent pre-NRM provisions.

UNSEEN BUSINESS SERVICES

Unseen UK provides services to support businesses and statutory organisations to ensure they are doing everything they can to be transparent and mitigate risk.

- Training for staff and company directors
- Consultancy (including gap analysis, risk assessments, audits, worker interviews, supplier support)
- Business Portal (provides access to business-related concerns reported to the National Modern Slavery Helpline)
- Unseen Business Hub (membership to include regular webinars, trends etc on modern slavery and the chance to network with likeminded businesses)

To find out more visit the [Unseen website](#).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Supporting survivors of Modern Slavery' annual report](#) - The Salvation Army

[The voice of British survivors of Modern Slavery](#) – Human Trafficking Foundation

[Promoting racial equality, diversity and inclusion: action plan for the UK Modern Slavery Sector](#) - BASNET

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

Avon & Somerset Anti-Slavery Partnership – Monday 7th February 1pm – 3pm

Swindon & Wiltshire Anti-Slavery Partnership – Tuesday 8th February – 10am – 11.30am

Regional Anti-Slavery Partnership – Wednesday 30th March 11am – 1pm

Devon & Torbay Anti-Slavery Partnership – Thursday 31st March 11am – 1pm

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What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term encompassing slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. Human smuggling is not a form of Modern Slavery, but once smuggled into the UK people may be exploited and become victims of 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 – for example in agriculture, hospitality, care sector, construction

Sexual exploitation – for example in massage parlours, residential brothels, holiday let 'pop up' brothels

Domestic servitude – in private homes for example family members, recruitment of vulnerable people

Criminal exploitation – for example county lines drug dealing, drug cultivation, forced begging, forced theft

Organ harvesting – organs removed without consent for sale on black market or for family members

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](#).