

Welfare Awareness Topic: Trafficking / Modern Slavery

Overview – Human Trafficking is the movement of people by forceful, fraudulent, coercive or deceptive means, with the aim of exploiting them, and is a form of modern slavery. **Modern slavery** is the severe exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain, and encompasses slavery, human trafficking, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, descent-based slavery, and forced and early marriage. 40 million people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery worldwide, and human trafficking and modern slavery are thought to be amongst the most widespread crimes in the world.

Modern Slavery-Many victims of modern slavery work in the construction industry, agriculture, the sex industry, and in places like nail bars, car washes and cannabis farms, and many have been trafficked from overseas. People might end up trapped in modern slavery due to poverty and exclusion, pushing them to make risky decisions in search of opportunities, which might make them vulnerable to being tricked, trapped and exploited. Modern slavery takes many forms, the most common being:

Forced Labour: work or services people are forced to do against their will under threat of punishment.

Debt bondage/ bonded Labour: whereby people trapped in poverty borrow money and are forced to work to pay off the debt.

Descent-based Slavery: people are treated as property, and the 'slave' status was passed down the maternal line.

Slavery of Children: a child is exploited for someone else's gain- this can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.

Forced/ Unwanted marriage: when someone is married against their will and cannot leave.

Human trafficking is where violence, threats or coercion are used to transport, recruit or harbor people to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, labor, criminality, marriage or organ removal. Individuals can be trafficked in many ways, including: vulnerable people being offered jobs that turn out to come with threats and without pay; teenagers groomed by gangs into criminal acts such as shoplifting; young people and adults coerced or manipulated to act as drug couriers or dealers; girls and women forced into prostitution by abusive partners or organised criminals.

Article/Source / Find out more.

- [Stop the Traffik](#) and [Unseen UK](#) have more information on what human trafficking is.
- If you suspect an incident or want more advice, call the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) on 0800 0121 700, or the [Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit \(MSHTC\)](#) on 0844 778 2406.
- [The Salvation Army](#) and [Migrant Help](#) both have survivor support for adults, and advice.
- [This video](#) series outlines some of the signs to look for in modern slavery. Think about how you might try and spot the signs, or respond if you are concerned about someone?

Support

If you would like to talk to the safeguarding team about anything you have just read, we will listen without judgement and signpost you to support. If you would like to talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team then please get in touch: safeguarding@bpp.com