

# MODERN SLAVERY

## CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & ADULTS



**Modern Slavery is an international crime, affecting an estimated 29.8 million slaves around the world. It is a global problem that transcends age, gender and ethnicities, including here in the UK and it's important that we bring this hidden crime into the open.**

It can include victims that have been brought from overseas, and vulnerable people in the UK, being forced to illegally work against their will in many different sectors, including brothels, cannabis farms, nail bars and agriculture.

Poverty, limited opportunities at home, lack of education, unstable social and political conditions, economic imbalances and war are some of the key drivers that contribute to trafficking of victims. What's more, victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

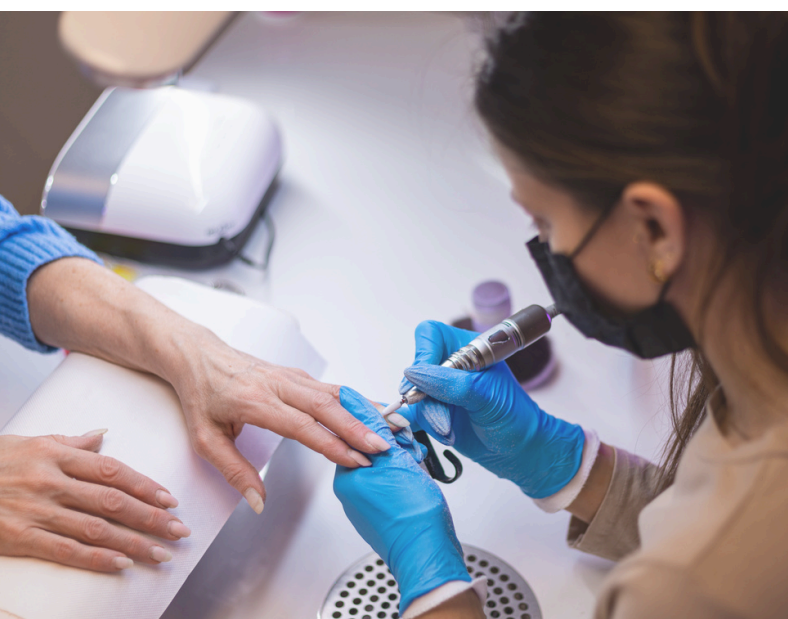
### Types of modern slavery:

- **Child trafficking** - Young people (under 18) are moved either internationally or domestically so they can be exploited.
- **Forced labour / Debt bonding** - Victims are forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to. Low wages and increased debts mean not only that they cannot ever hope to pay off the loan, but the debt may be passed down to their children.
- **Forced labour** - Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. It can happen in many sectors of our economy, from mining to tarmacking, hospitality and food packaging.
- **Sexual exploitation** - Victims are forced to perform non-consensual or abusive sexual acts against their will, such as prostitution, escort work and pornography. Whilst women and children make up the majority of victims, men can also be affected. Adults are coerced often under the threat of force, or another penalty.
- **Criminal exploitation** - Often controlled and maltreated, victims are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick pocketing against their will.
- **Domestic servitude** - Victims are forced to carry out housework and domestic chores in private households with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy often sleeping where they work.

**Signs of slavery in the UK and elsewhere are often hidden making it even harder to recognise those victims around us.**

## **Possible indicators of modern slavery:**

- Signs of **physical or psychological abuse** e.g. looking malnourished or unkempt, appearing withdrawn.
- They may 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.
- Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or **overcrowded accommodation**, and / or living and working at the same address.
- They may have **no identification documents**, have few personal possessions and always wear the **same clothes** day in day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.
- Victims have **little opportunity to move freely** and may have had their travel documents retained, e.g. passports.
- They may be dropped off / collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.
- Victims may **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.



**Your Parish Safeguarding Officer is:**