



DORSET CARE
ASSOCIATION

SHIVA
FOUNDATION

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is when an individual is tricked, coerced or forced into exploitation by others, for personal or commercial gain. It is an issue that knows no geographical boundaries, taking place across the globe, including our local communities.

In 2015 the UK Government passed the Modern Slavery Act. It was considered a milestone both domestically and across the globe, being the first piece of legislation specifically addressing modern slavery and human trafficking in the 21st century. It improved support and protection for people affected by modern slavery, empowered law enforcement to tackle these crimes, and laid out punishments for traffickers.

However, the number of individuals identified as victims of modern slavery has continued to rise year after year, both globally and in the UK. An estimated **50 million** people were living in situations of modern slavery globally in 2021 and over **16,000** people referred to UK authorities in 2022 alone. However, this number represents only the tip of the iceberg, with experts estimating the true number of victims to be as high as **100,000**.

Victims of modern slavery can be men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities and there are various forms of modern slavery. These include:

Human Trafficking

As in the United Nations Palermo Protocol, human trafficking involves three main elements:

- The Act: Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons.
- The Means: Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim-survivor.
- The Purpose: For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

Someone doesn't have to be transported across borders for human trafficking to take place. Trafficking is defined by the movement of a person, and this can happen within a single country or even within a single community.

KEY STATISTICS

- 50% of trafficking victims were trafficked into sexual exploitation and 38% for forced labour. (Source: The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC))
- 46% of trafficking victims are women, 34% are children, and 20% are men. (Source: UNODC)
- 67% of people investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons are men, and 33% women. (Source: UNODC)

CASE STUDY

Source: The Guardian

International students from India attending Greenwich, Chester and Teesside universities were brought to the UK on student visas but vanished from their courses and were found working in exploitative conditions hundreds of miles away. The students stopped attending lectures shortly after arriving in the UK. They were later found in the care sector in Wales, where they were living in squalid conditions with up to 12 people in a three bedroom flat, and were working up to 80 hours a week for far less than minimum wage. The students had just 16 hours of online training before starting to work in the care homes, and in most cases had not undergone sufficient background checks as false information was provided to the care homes by the suspected exploiters, who ran a staff agency.

FORCED LABOUR

As defined in the ILO Forced Labour Convention, forced labour is all work or services which are exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily. Almost every form of modern slavery includes some element of forced labour.

Many people who are subjected to forced labour are deceived into thinking they will be getting legitimate employment.

Forced labour exploitation is most often found in industries with informal workers and/or little regulation. These include:

- Agriculture and fishing
- Services such as hospitality and transport
- Domestic work
- Construction, mining, quarrying and brick kilns
- Manufacturing, processing and packaging
- Sex work, including sexual exploitation
- Market trading
- Illicit trades and illegal activities

KEY STATISTICS

- 49.6 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, of which 27.6 million were in forced labour.
- Of the 27.6 million people in forced labour, 17.3 million were exploited in the private sector, and 3.9 million in forced labour imposed by state.
- Women and girls account for 6 million of those in forced labour and 12% of all those in forced labour are children.

Source: Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, September 2022.



CASE STUDY

Source: Unseen

Initially promised work through an agency in her home country, Tania* found herself enslaved upon arriving in the UK. She was subjected to brutal conditions, forced to work long hours in agriculture, and endured physical and psychological abuse. Threats of arrest and imprisonment kept her compliant. After two years, she reached a breaking point and spoke out against the abuse, leading to her being abandoned in a field. However, she fell into the hands of another gang, continuing her exploitation until she finally escaped in 2017 and sought help. With the support of organisations like the Salvation Army and Unseen, Tania began her journey of recovery, finding solace in education, volunteering, and therapeutic support.

*Names and other details have been changed to protect personal identity

DEBT BONDAGE

Debt bondage, also known as bonded labour, is a form of forced labour that happens when a person is forced to work to pay off a debt. Debt bondage is the world's most widespread form of slavery. Victims of debt bondage often find themselves in a cycle of exploitation, as the terms of repayment are frequently exploitative, with high interest rates and conditions that make it difficult or impossible for them to escape the debt. In many cases, they are forced to pay off inflated fees associated with their recruitment, accommodation or food, with no control over their debt. Those affected are tricked into working for little or no pay, with most or all of the money they earn going to pay off their 'loan'.



KEY STATISTICS

- According to estimates in 2022, around one-fifth of all people in forced labour exploitation in the private economy are in situations of debt bondage. (Source: ILO, UN International Organisation of Migration (IOM) and Walk Free Foundation: Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage)

CASE STUDY

Source: The Guardian

Ismael left Indonesia in July 2022, hoping to work on a British farm for six months to save for a science degree. However, upon arrival in the UK, he discovered the picking season was nearly over, leaving him jobless with significant debts. To secure a job at a Chinese takeaway, he borrowed money from a local recruiter, totalling over £4,200. Ismael faced harsh working conditions, lived in a storage room, and struggled to meet the high repayments.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

This is the act of taking advantage of someone sexually for the purpose of personal or financial gain. It involves the use of force, coercion, manipulation, or deception to engage another person in sexual activities against their will or without their full and informed consent. Sexual exploitation can occur in various forms, including but not limited to human trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and other forms of sexual abuse.

KEY STATISTICS

- 50% of trafficking victims were trafficked into sexual exploitation (Source: The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2020)
- 67% of people trafficked for sexual exploitation are women (Source: The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) 2020)

CASE STUDY

Source: Sophie Hayes Foundation

Sophie was trafficked from the UK to Italy for sex. The person who trafficked her wasn't a stranger; he was her best friend. Sophie had known her abuser for five years. She'd met him in the north of England and spent five years building what Sophie thought to be a trusting relationship. Later, as it transpired, this was a period to groom her, to discover personal details that would later be used to trap and manipulate her.

This man seized Sophie's passport and made threats to her and her family. He forced her onto the streets in Italy to sell her body for sex. For six months, seven days a week, this was Sophie's life. A life of abuse, sexual exploitation, manipulation, sleep deprivation and starvation. In other words, not a life at all.

"Men were willing to pay me 20 to 30 euros (\$27 to \$40) for sex. Doctors, lawyers, police officers, businessmen would line up five or six deep on weekend nights at the street corner, waiting to pay for a 10- to 15-minute sexual encounter in their cars, I would hop out of one and into the next."

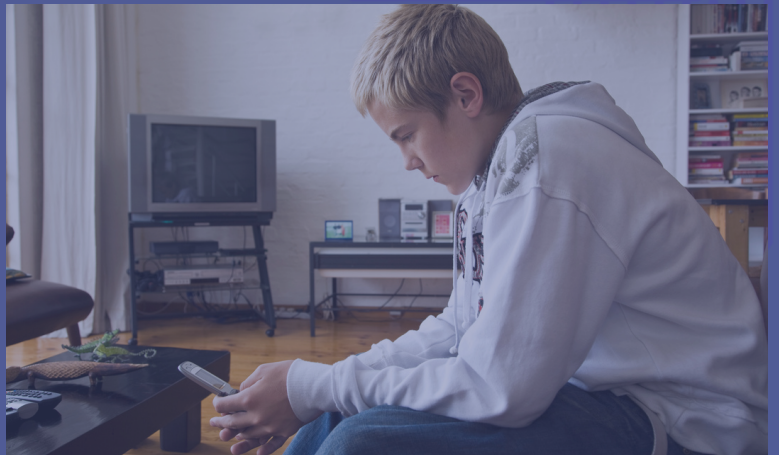
After six months of mental and physical abuse Sophie stumbled into a hospital, sick and exhausted. Here, she found the courage to call her mother. And that moment was the beginning of the end of her ordeal. The end of an indescribable time in Sophie's life and the start of recovery.

CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Criminal exploitation takes place when someone is forced, threatened and/or blackmailed into criminal activity for someone else. This could include cannabis cultivation, drug dealing, carrying weapons, stealing or shoplifting, begging, selling of counterfeit goods, or committing benefits fraud.

We have seen a significant rise in the trafficking of children into forced criminality. The most prevalent form is related to 'County Lines', where gangs coerce children into participating in the movement and sale of drugs.

People experiencing homelessness, especially young men, can be particularly at risk of criminal exploitation. Traffickers are known to exploit vulnerable individuals by approaching them in homeless shelters, food banks and soup kitchens with a view to recruiting them to carry out short term work under the guise of cash-in-hand payment. However, this can quickly become criminal work where the recruiter may use drugs and/or alcohol as a means of control over the victim.



KEY STATISTICS

- 43% of referrals of children to the UK's National Referral Mechanism in 2022 were for criminal exploitation (Source: Home Office)
- 4,000 teenagers are being criminally exploited in London alone (Source: The Children's Society)
- 46,000 children in England are thought to be involved in gangs (Source: The Children's Society)

CASE STUDY

Source: BBC News

Sosa, who came to England from Nigeria aged eight, was living in care after suffering abuse at home. When Sosa turned nine years old, he was recruited to deliver packages for the violent gang. "I had a bike and they just gave me the parcels to drop off and I picked up the cash. I was nine - I didn't ask questions, I just did the favour". Following a life-threatening encounter in Margate, Sosa sought help from social services but was dismissed as 'fantasising' and so returned to the gang for protection. Over the ten years he was forced to work for the gang he endured violence, including multiple stabbings, and became deeply entrenched in gang life. While in prison for the second time, Sosa was assessed by a psychiatrist and, after a series of tests, was found to have been groomed. Under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), he was flagged as a modern slavery victim in 2020 and put in a safe house in Manchester.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Domestic servitude refers to a form of forced labour where individuals, often in the context of a domestic setting, are subjected to work in households under conditions that amount to exploitation and lack of freedom. In domestic servitude, victims may be coerced, deceived, or forced into providing services such as housework, childcare, or other domestic tasks.

Domestic work and domestic servitude are not always slavery, and when properly regulated can be an important source of income for many people. However, when someone is working in another person's home, they may be particularly vulnerable to abuses, exploitation, and slavery, as they might be hidden from sight and lack legal protection.

Indicators domestic servitude is modern slavery may include: employers stopping workers from leaving their home; pay being low, delayed or withheld; pay being given 'in kind', in the form of food and/or accommodation; workers being subjected to violence or threats; workers' identity documents being withheld; or employers limiting workers' contact with family.



KEY STATISTICS

- 1.4 million people are experiencing domestic servitude in private homes. (Source: The International Labour Organization (ILO))
- Around four in five of all domestic workers are women and girls and it is estimated that more girls under the age of 16 work in domestic service than in any other category of child labour. (Source: The International Labour Organization (ILO))

CASE STUDY

Source: Kalayaan

Susi migrated from Qatar to the UK, where she experienced domestic servitude. Initially working as a cleaner and nanny in Qatar, she was later brought to the UK by her employers without her consent. In London, she was confined to her employer's home, had limited communication, and was not allowed any time off. After discovering her passport while cleaning, Susi found the courage to escape. Despite being recognised as a victim of trafficking in the UK's National Referral Mechanism, she was told to leave the country. The case highlights the challenges faced by individuals like Susi and raises concerns about the support systems in place for trafficked individuals.

FORCED MARRIAGE

Forced marriage is when one or both individuals either do not consent to the marriage and are forced or pressured to marry against their will. They may be threatened with physical or sexual violence or placed under emotional or psychological distress to achieve these aims. Financial abuse, for example taking someone's wages, can also be a factor. Forced marriage may be used in a range of situations, for example to gain access to a country or benefits.

KEY STATISTICS

- An estimated 22 million people were living in situations of forced marriage on any given day in 2021. This is a 6.6 million increase in the number of people living in a forced marriage between 2016 and 2021. (Source: ILO)
- Nearly two-thirds of all forced marriages, an estimated 14.2 million people, are in Asia and the Pacific. This is followed by 14.5 per cent in Africa (3.2 million) and 10.4 per cent in Europe and Central Asia (2.3 million). (Source: ILO)
- Over two-thirds of those forced to marry are female. (Source: ILO)
- Most persons who reported on the circumstances of forced marriage were forced to marry by their parents (73%) or other relatives (16%).

CASE STUDY

Source: Yahoo! Sport

At 15 years old, Sophia was taken by her family from her home in the UK to Bangladesh and was forced to marry a man twice her age. After arriving in Bangladesh, Sophia fell pregnant within months, and became depressed, lonely, and desperate to escape her situation. However, Sophia was terrified of what might happen to her if she tried to flee. Sophia said: "I had to take my personality out of my body and become a shell. It was the only way I could function because I was so petrified of being locked up and being abused." Eventually, Sophia made it back to the UK, escaped her forced marriage, and gave birth to her baby daughter.

ORGAN TRAFFICKING

Forced organ harvesting is the illegal practice of surgically removing a victim's organs against their will. It remains a particularly hidden, underground type of exploitation and seems to be greatly underreported. Organs can be taken in a number of ways:

- Trade – a victim formally or informally agrees to sell an organ, but are then cheated because they are not paid for the organ, or are paid less than the promised price
- Ailments – a vulnerable person is treated for an ailment, which may or may not exist, and the organs are removed without the victim's knowledge
- Extortion – a victim may be kidnapped from their family and organs removed without consent

KEY STATISTICS

- The global scale of forced organ harvesting remains unknown.
- In 2011, it was estimated that the illicit 'organ trade' produced illegal profits between USD 600 million and USD 1.2 billion per year. (Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)
- More than one illegal organ transaction is made every hour worldwide. (Source: The World Health Organisation)



CASE STUDY

Source: BBC News

Daniel was a 21-year-old street trader from Lagos, Nigeria, had come to the UK days earlier for what he had been told was a "life-changing opportunity". He thought he was going to get a better job. However, he was now sitting in a consulting room at the Royal Free hospital in London, speaking to doctors with his limited English, about the risks of an operation and the need for lifelong medical care. It was at that moment that Daniel realised there was no job opportunity and he had been brought to the UK to give a kidney to a stranger.

Luckily for Daniel, the doctors had become suspicious that he didn't know what was going on and feared he was being coerced. They halted the process, but Daniel was not free of his traffickers. Back in the flat he was staying in, two men came to examine him. It was then he overheard a conversation about sending him back to Nigeria to remove his kidney there.

He fled, and after two nights sleeping rough, he walked into a police station near Heathrow, triggering an investigation that would lead to the UK's first prosecution for human trafficking for organ removal.

These definitions within this document highlight the diverse and pervasive nature of modern slavery. It is important to note that a common theme through all these types of exploitation use threats, intimidation, and other tactics to instil fear into the victim and stop them from going to the authorities to report their abuse.