

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is abuse or exploitation which can take many forms and includes domestic servitude and forced labour. This means that a person is forced to work with little or no pay, usually doing domestic duties or childcare duties.

Often there are threats of physical violence to them or to their families. Modern slavery also includes criminal exploitation – which means making people commit crimes. Sexual exploitation, forced marriage and illegal adoption, are also forms of exploitation.

Modern forms of modern slavery

1. **Forced labour** - any work or services which people are forced to do against their will under the threat of some form punishment.
2. **Debt bondage** - the world's most widespread form of slavery, when people borrow some money and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.
3. **Human trafficking** - involves people being transported into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion. Purpose of exploitation can range from forced prostitution and forced labour to forced marriage and forced organ removal.
4. **Descent-based slavery** – where people are born into slavery due to belonging to a 'slave class', caste or a group. A child of a mother in slavery is automatically enslaved too.
5. **Child slavery** – defined as the delivery of a child by its parents or a guardian to someone else for the purpose of exploitation. Child slavery can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.
6. **Forced marriage** – when someone is married against their will and cannot leave the marriage. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.
7. **The exploitation of migrant workers** in conditions amounting to slavery

Modern slavery covers a lot of issues which can be hard to detect, but it's important to be aware that this sort of abuse happens.

Some common signs include:

- Someone else is holding the person's legal documents, such as their passport
- Having old or serious untreated injuries and being vague about how they happened
- Appearing hungry or ill or lacking in personal hygiene
- Having very few clothes or possessions
- Being inconsistent with details, such as their address.
- Looking round for someone else to answer questions for them; or
- Seeming worried about 'the authorities' or a debt

Report it and get support:

If you think modern slavery is happening, tell someone as soon as you think it's safe to. This could be about a victim, a suspect, or a particular business or place. You will always be taken seriously, and protection and support is available.

You can report modern slavery to the metropolitan police [online crime reporting service](#).

Or call 101 at any time. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service on 18001 101.

If you suspect someone is in immediate danger, call 999 now.

To report a suspicion or get advice you can contact the Modern Slavery Helpline confidentially on 08000 121 700.

If you want to remain anonymous you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Support Networks and useful websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery-bill>

<https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

