Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is an umbrella term, encompassing human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced labour.

Someone is in slavery if they are:

* Forced to work through mental or physical threat
* Owned or controlled by an ‘employer’, usually through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse
* Dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as ‘property’
* Physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom.

Servitude is similar to slavery, in that a person is under an obligation to provide a service which is imposed on them, but there is no element of ownership.

Forced work is defined as ‘work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the person has not offered himself voluntarily’ and has been found in several different industries including manufacturing, food processing, agriculture and hospitality.

Finally, human trafficking is when men, women and children are moved and forced into exploitation. The movement could be international but also within the country, from one city to another or even just a few streets.

A person is a victim of human trafficking even if they haven’t yet been exploited but have been moved for the purposes of exploitation.

**Types of Modern Slavery**

There are several different types of exploitation that victims of modern slavery may be subjected to, and victims may experience more than one type of exploitation at the same time.

The most common forms of exploitation are:

* Sexual exploitation: victims may be forced into prostitution, pornography or lap dancing for little or no pay. They may be deprived of their freedom of movement and subjected to threats and violence.
* Labour exploitation: a victim is made to work with little or no pay and may face violence or threats. If they are foreign nationals, their passports may be confiscated by their exploiters, and they may be made to live in terrible conditions and under constant threat.
* Forced criminality: victims can be forced to participate in a range of illegal activities including pick pocketing, shop lifting, cannabis cultivation, county lines exploitation and other activities. The Modern Slavery Act provides for a defence for victims who have been forced into criminality.
* Organ harvesting: victims are trafficked for their internal organs (typically kidneys or the liver) to be harvested for transplant.
* Domestic servitude: victims work in a household where they may be ill-treated, humiliated, subjected to exhausting hours, forced to work and live under unbearable.

**Other forms of exploitation include:**

Forced marriage: where people are forced into marriage for a range of reasons including exploiting the rights conferred on them by citizenship or for domestic servitude. Financial exploitation: for example benefit fraud, where benefits are falsely claimed by perpetrators on behalf of their workers; bank accounts being opened in a victim’s name but used by perpetrators; or workers’ wages being paid directly into the exploiters own bank accounts by companies who think they are paying a worker individually.

**Possible indicators of modern slavery:**

* Physical Appearance – victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, or appear withdrawn.
* Isolation-victims 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.
* Poor living conditions- victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/or living and working at the same address.
* Few or no personal effects-victims 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 the season or their type of work.
* Restricted freedom of movement- victims have little opportunity to move freely and may have their travel documents retained e.g. passports.
* Unusual travel times- may be dropped off and collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.
* Reluctant to seek help- 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.

**Victims and Perpetrators**

Anyone can become a victim of modern slavery, and in all types of exploitation, victims can be women, men, girls or boys.

There is no single type of victim or pathway into modern slavery. However, the Home Office’s front-line staff guidance identifies certain groups as particularly vulnerable to being exploited through modern slavery

* Unaccompanied, internally displaced children
* Children accompanied by an adult who is not their relative or legal guardian
* Young girls and women
* Former victims of modern slavery or trafficking.

[What is Modern Slavery? - Ann Craft Trust](https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/what-is-modern-slavery/)

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse#psychological>