

What to do if you think you have come across modern slavery:

Remember that modern slavery is a serious and organised crime, it is important that you follow the procedures outlined below and do not put yourself or others at risk in any way.

NEVER

- Make promises to the individual.
- Confront the person you suspect is their trafficker or controller.
- Try and get them to tell their story or take a 'formal' statement, this could jeopardise evidence and put them in danger.

ALWAYS

- Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger.
- Call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 if you want to report a suspicion or concern.
- Ring the GLAA (0800 4320 804) for advice on labour exploitation or to report suspicions.
- Ring the police (101) to report suspicions or for advice on local issues.
- Record all contact you have had with the individual and any extra information you can think of like license plate numbers.

Conclusion

As Christians we believe that all people are created in the image of God, every human being is called and cherished by God. The church has a primary responsibility in leading the effort to end modern slavery.

The Clewer initiative is a Church of England project, helping dioceses to raise awareness of modern slavery and provide support and care to victims. We believe that the tools to end modern slavery already exist within the local community and each of us has a key part to play in looking out for victims of this crime.

CHURCH WARDEN MODERN SLAVERY AWARENESS BRIEFING

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN SLAVERY

Modern Slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, servitude, forced or compulsory labour. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they can to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

In the world today there are an estimated 40 million victims of modern slavery, and in the UK the Global Slavery Index has estimated there could be 136,000 victims. The crime is very hidden and hard to estimate exact numbers.

Modern Slavery has three main elements:

Action/Movement: Human Trafficking is the movement of a person from one place to another into conditions of exploitation.

Means/Control: Using deception, coercion, force, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability.

Purpose: The purpose is ALWAYS EXPLOITATION.

**ACTION / MOVEMENT + MEANS / CONTROL + PURPOSE
= SLAVERY / HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Some of the main types of exploitation in the UK include labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, child sexual exploitation, benefit/financial fraud, debt bondage. The crime is very hidden, we may come across people who are being exploited in our day to day lives and not notice if we are not aware of the key signs.

How to spot the signs

There are several key signs which could indicate an individual is being exploited and could be a victim of modern slavery.

It is important to recognise that each victim of slavery is different, and may display some, one, or none of the following signs as it is not an exhaustive list. You may come into contact with someone and have an instinctive feeling that something is not right, despite not seeing any of the signs below.

Physical signs:

- Physical injuries that appear to be the result of an assault.
- Looking malnourished or unkempt.
- Appear withdrawn.
- Have poor hygiene.
- Wear clothes that are not suitable for work and have no protective equipment.
- Seem to have one set of clothes they wear every day.

Other signs:

- Asking for cash only payments.
- Seem dependent on drug or alcohol.
- Not know any or very little English.
- Seeming unwilling to speak/ hold conversation.
- Seeming fearful or anxious.
- Appearing to be under the control or influence of another person.
- Have no access to their identity documents.
- Have no access to a mobile phone.
- Have very few personal possessions.

Example:

You employ a cleaning company to clean the church premises. Three workers come to the church who are dropped off by their boss in the morning, they speak very little English and appear to be wearing thin unsuitable clothing despite it being the middle of winter. They do not have any protective clothing or gloves to carry out their work. You offer them a cup of tea, but they do not want to stop working and seem to avoid making eye contact with you. At the end of the day they request to be paid in cash only and are picked up by their boss in the afternoon.

How might church wardens come across Modern Slavery in their role?

Victims of modern slavery are exploited in many different ways and sectors across the UK, these are some of the key places which church wardens may come across them in their work:

- Companies that supply regular cleaners / gardeners to church premises.
- Companies found in the local directory that may be used for small jobs such as lock smiths, waste disposal, skip hire, removal companies, furniture restorers.
- Tradespeople used for basic repairs: plumbers, painters, decorators, electricians, sign makers.
- Caterers for church functions.
- Hiring companies used for functions such as extra tableware for weddings and funerals.
- Cold callers - people who knock on the door offering services such as gardening, repairs, window cleaners, gutter cleaning companies.
- Signing contracts with builders for larger building projects such as replacing church roofs or new buildings.

The Clewer Initiative has produced two online courses on safeguarding and modern slavery which provide further important information on modern slavery and how to safeguard against it in your church. These can be found at the following link, under the online courses folder: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/>



WE SEE YOU.