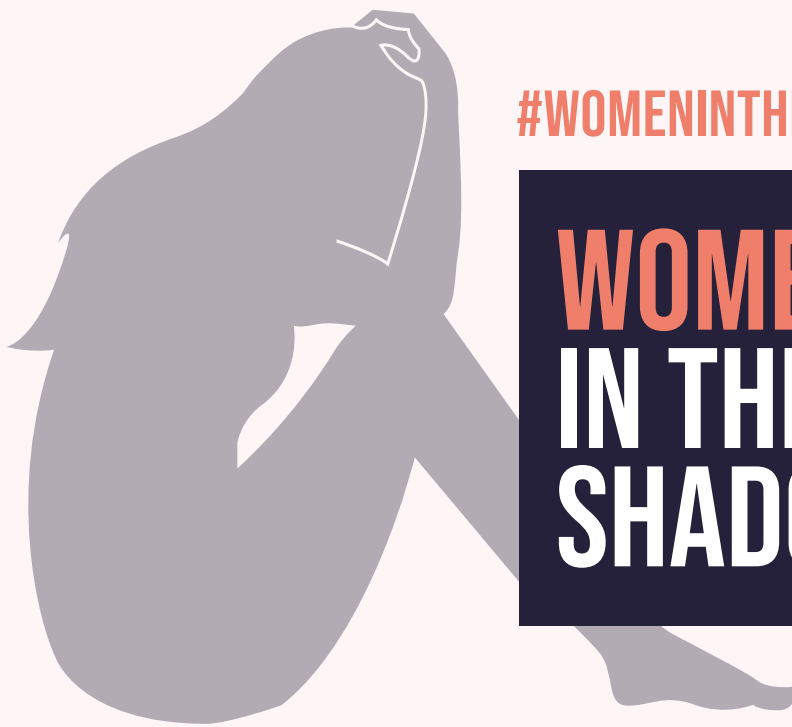




#WOMENINTHESHADOWS

WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS

FOREWORD

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

As the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, I have a UK-wide remit to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery offences and the identification of victims.

My Strategic Plan 2019-2021 outlines four priorities: improving victim care and support; supporting law enforcement and prosecution; focusing on prevention and getting value from research and innovation.

I am therefore delighted to write the foreword to The Clewer Initiative's Women in the Shadows resource which touches on many of my strategic priorities.

The films and supporting material open our eyes to the stories people are living; the framing discussions highlight how law enforcement and prosecution need the support of the wider public and invitations are made to each of us, within our communities, to learn how best to contribute to victim care and support, and to combating this most egregious of crimes.

I have met and spoken with many victims and survivors of modern slavery and when I watched the

films, I found they brought home to me afresh the horrors of modern slavery. The survivor testimonies, which are dramatised by actresses, communicate powerfully the reality of the different ways in which women get drawn into slavery and the lasting damage that is caused. The interviews with frontline workers really underline the message that modern slavery is in our midst, it is much closer than we will ever know, and we all have a part to play. It raises important questions about prevention and how organisations can work together to build the sort of communities where modern slavery cannot get a foothold. While the material is shocking and provokes some serious soul searching, it also suggests that when communities unite and begin caring for individuals, there is hope.

Modern slavery affects the most vulnerable in our society and exists very much in the shadows. I am thankful for any resource that seeks to shine a light on how criminals operate and how they can be thwarted.

Watch the films, read the supporting material, and tell a friend – everyone has a part to play in making modern slavery a thing of the past.

MODERN SLAVERY AND THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

Bishop Alastair Redfern, founder of The Clewer Initiative

For too long, in the shadows of the world's great religious, cultural and economic systems, women and girls have been overlooked and taken advantage of. 'Women in the Shadows' helps us understand better the exploitation of vulnerable women and girls in our communities.

The films explore three specific areas – sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and county lines - and invite us to gain a deeper understanding of the suffering experienced by many women and to reflect upon our possible complicity and indifference. They also remind us of the continuing vulnerability of many in our society and look at how victims can be supported to live independent lives, free from fear and abuse.

We are extremely thankful to everyone who has helped bring this material to fruition and we hope it will awaken our hearts to the suffering of others and stir us to reach out to more women in the shadows.

WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY?

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit, National Crime Agency (NCA)

The term 'modern slavery' encompasses both trafficking - the arranging or facilitating of the travel of another, whether into, out of, or within the UK, with a view to that person being exploited - and exploitation itself, which can take place both alongside and independently of trafficking.

Exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, domestic servitude, and exploitation in criminal activity, such as county lines drug supply, shoplifting and cannabis cultivation.

The vast majority of modern slavery offending is motivated by profit. Modern slavery is almost unique in that the repeat exploitation of victims generates ongoing profit for offenders, which can result in substantial financial gain.



GETTING STARTED

- When you think about modern slavery, do you picture the victims to be male or female? British or international? Young or old?
- How would you define modern slavery? Do you think it is something you find mainly in big cities, towns or the countryside?
- Why do you think women and girls are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of modern slavery and exploitation?
- Do you think there are any misconceptions or prejudices that may make us less aware of women and girls as potential victims of modern slavery?



WATCH BEGINNINGS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bb7neczlpoA>



QUESTIONS FROM THE FILM

- What struck you from the film?
- Did anything you heard surprise you?
- What inspired you?
- What questions does it leave you with?

UNDERSTANDING THE SCALE OF MODERN SLAVERY IN THE UK

April McCoig, Victims and Partnership Lead, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office

By its very nature, modern slavery is a hidden crime. The number of people in the UK who are victims of modern slavery has been subject to much debate and discussion, with estimates ranging from 10,000-13,000 ¹ to 136,000 ². What we do know is that referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK Government's framework for identifying and supporting potential victims of

modern slavery, are increasing year on year and this number is likely to be only the tip of the iceberg. Despite significant progress in the UK's response to modern slavery, these crimes continue to be seen by perpetrators as high reward and low risk.

There are still many myths and misconceptions about modern slavery, most commonly, that this isn't something that happens here. Sadly, it is, and it affects men, women and children across the UK. In 2020, there were 10,613 referrals of potential victims of modern slavery to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – 26 per cent of which were women or girls (2,752 referrals)³. Reflecting on women specifically, both sexual exploitation and domestic servitude disproportionately affect women and girls. There is also an increasing number of women who are survivors of child sexual exploitation being referred for support as victims of modern slavery as well as women and girls being criminally exploited by county lines drug dealers. Often, victims of modern slavery will be subject to multiple forms of exploitation.

Over recent years in the UK, there has been significant growth in the more informal, gig economy. We also know there can often be competition for businesses to offer and consumers to find the 'best price', whether that be for a car wash, a manicure or a takeaway meal. Yet is the human cost of this approach always fully recognised? In some cases, individuals working in the UK are not aware of their rights and may not realise they are being exploited. Raising awareness among workers can therefore be extremely important and empowering. In tackling modern slavery, there is undoubtedly a pivotal role for enforcement, for legislation and for businesses to prevent exploitation from taking place in their supply chains. However, as consumers, we also need to be more aware of where our goods and services are coming from. In addition, the role of communities as the 'eyes and ears' cannot be underestimated as whilst some potential victims will come into contact with services, many will not.

Over the past year, there have also been a number of significant changes in the external environment. The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of victims and survivors and in many ways has created new vulnerabilities. Individuals who are desperate for work may find themselves accepting exploitative working conditions thinking that it is their best or only option. In addition, on 1 January 2021, the UK left the European Union and although the Government has set out its commitment to protect individuals from exploitation and unscrupulous employers, the new Immigration System has the potential to increase vulnerability to modern slavery. It is absolutely essential that the risks are monitored and mitigated so that the most vulnerable can be protected from exploitation and abuse.



DIGGING DEEPER

Why are women disproportionately affected by modern slavery?

There is no typical victim of slavery. Victims are men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities. However, it is normally more prevalent among the most vulnerable or within minority or socially excluded groups.

Worldwide, women and girls account for **71 per cent** of the **40.3 million** people living in modern slavery. In fact, **one in every 130 females** globally is living in modern slavery.

There are many factors that contribute towards this gender imbalance. It can begin even before birth as many cultures place less value on girls. This can lead to sex selection and female infanticide. In many countries, fewer girls attend school and often have less access to medical care than boys. On top of this, laws can exacerbate, rather than protect women from modern slavery. Some laws prevent women from inheriting land and assets, conferring citizenship on their children, traveling freely, and working without their husbands' permission.

GLOBAL SNAPSHOT⁴



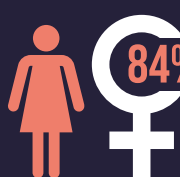
Globally, there are
122 WOMEN (aged 25-34) in
EXTREME POVERTY
for every 100 men of the same age

15 MILLION GIRLS each year will never go to school. This increases the risk of child marriage and forced labour.

Only
2 IN 5 GIRLS worldwide complete secondary school



13 MILLION GIRLS have experienced forced sex in their lifetime



Women and girls make up
84% OF ALL FORCED MARRIAGE VICTIMS

¹ Home Office [2014], 'Modern Slavery: an application of multiple systems estimation'

² Global Slavery Index [2018], 'More than 136,000 people are living in modern slavery in the United Kingdom'

³ Home Office [2020] <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2020/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2020>

⁴ Global statistics taken from Stacked Odds, a recent report by Walk Free exploring how lifelong inequality shapes women and girls' experience of modern slavery https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2020/10/09024229/Stacked-Odds_201008_FNL1_LR.pdf

WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit, NCA

Sexual exploitation involves the provision of sexual services or acts by individuals subjected to force, threats, coercion or deception designed to induce them. As with other forms of modern slavery, sexual exploitation is largely motivated by profit, with victims forced to engage in commercial sex work, but it can include exploitation by offenders, motivated by sexual gratification. Although victims can be of either sex, women and girls make up the overwhelming majority of victims of sexual exploitation both in the UK and around the world.

Victims of sexual exploitation are often advertised online via adult services websites (ASWs). These legal websites provide independent sex workers with safer models of operating, enabling them to vet clients and agree services before arranging to meet. However, ASWs provide an easy access point to a very wide market, making them attractive to offenders engaged in sexual exploitation.

Sexual exploitation takes place across the UK, and can occur in brothels, hotels, short-term lets and through on-street sex work. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on sexual exploitation throughout 2020, likely shifting offending primarily to residential properties, as the closure of hotels and short term lets limited the ability of sex workers and offenders to operate in outcall models or pop-up brothels.



WATCH ANITA'S STORY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTvO_PGj7x8



QUESTIONS FROM THE FILM

- What struck you from the film?
- Did anything you heard surprise you?
- How did Anita's story make you feel?
- What inspired you?
- What questions does it leave you with?

DID YOU KNOW?



Worldwide women and girls make up

99% OF ALL VICTIMS of forced sexual exploitation⁵



THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Alison Logier, Service Manager at Hestia

Anyone can be a victim of modern slavery and sexual exploitation. During my time working in this field, I have supported women with degrees and highly qualified careers in need of our help. One woman had a master's degree in chemical engineering. Traffickers can prey on anyone.

We often see a recurring pattern with women who have experienced sexual exploitation. More than one in three victims of sexual exploitation are from Albania. Unfortunately, my team supports many women who have been lured under false pretences and are ultimately deceived, abused and forced into prostitution by a boyfriend or fiancé.

Traffickers will often coerce their victims for months, even years, telling them they will start a new life in a different country and find employment. Eventually, the women arrive in brothels and are raped by dozens of men, with no chance of escape.

Brothels can exist on any street in the UK. They blend into the community and appear as regular houses. Often, neighbours will have no idea the house next door is operating as a brothel. Despite this, there are still signs to look for.

There may be a constant flow of different men coming and going from the house at all hours but most often at night. It can be challenging to determine who lives there. Therefore, it is quite common for these properties to be unkept or not visually in line with their surrounding neighbours.

WEEK 2 UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Women may be escorted into the property at night and leave in a car the next morning. When in public, victims tend to have someone with them, often a man, who will speak for them and always be at their side.

One example we heard recently involved a local GP and victim. A perpetrator escorted a victim to an examination room. The GP wasn't comfortable with him there so asked him to leave. This allowed the victim to talk freely and get help. Sadly, language barriers mean it isn't always easy for victims to seek help if and when they get an opportunity.

For women who have experienced sexual exploitation, their past trauma can be re-triggered at any time. Something as simple as exaggerated gesturing with your arms, stretching to get something out of reach, or shouting can cause a victim to remember the abusive behaviour of their trafficker.

These women have had their trust shattered and a large part of our work at Hestia is to rebuild this trust but it can take months.

Being able to spot the signs may feel daunting. Whilst many people may feel compelled to intervene, your safety is essential. It is always best to let law enforcement investigate. By calling the confidential Salvation Army referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 or the police on 999, you can provide details anonymously about your concerns.

If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't, and it is always worth reporting, no matter how small your concern. Help is always available.

HOW HAS COVID-19 AND REPEATED LOCKDOWNS AFFECTED VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY?

Alison Logier, Service Manager at Hestia

The last year has been heartbreakingly difficult for many of the women we support. Their resilience and personal strength continue to inspire me, but the scale of what they are dealing with every day is enormous. Being told to stay inside and concerns over how to access basic supplies are often a trigger

to past experiences of slavery and coercion for many women. We've been responding to this by providing increased emotional support and dropping off emergency food parcels.

On top of this, many of the women I work with are struggling with feelings of isolation, cut off from their support networks and opportunities to aid their recovery. Those that have children with them have often struggled to support home learning. As a team, we have been working with generous supporters to get smartphones and internet access to women so they can continue with online learning and maintain relationships. However, this is a huge job and many still do not have access to technology that we all take for granted.

The women I work with rely enormously on foodbanks and donations and very carefully budget their small allowance. However, the pandemic has meant that, at times, the only items left on shelves are very expensive. In the first lockdown, for example, we had cases of women travelling to a supermarket that didn't have nappies and then not being able to afford to pay for an additional trip to another supermarket. It's also been a much bigger task to support the many pregnant women we work with to access cots, prams and baby essentials that we normally sourced through local charities.

It is a frightening time. We know that trafficking will not stop. Economic hardship will increase the vulnerabilities of the people we support and we are concerned about the growing risk of re-exploitation. However, we also remain hopeful that the wider community will continue to work in partnership with us. Despite the pandemic, we are determined to work with survivors of modern slavery and help them to build the futures they dream of and deserve.

**SPOTLIGHT ON HESTIA**

Hestia began providing support to adults in crisis in 1970 after founder Jim Horne experienced street homelessness in London. He started a soup run for men and women living on the streets and worked with local authorities to provide accommodation. Within the year, more than 800 people were provided with a safe space to sleep at night. Since then, Hestia has grown to support almost 11,000 adults and children in crisis across London every year.

Hestia is one of the main organisations supporting victims of modern slavery in London. Working in collaboration with local authorities and other partners, it strives to ensure that everyone within its care is equipped with the tools necessary for a life beyond a crisis. <https://www.hestia.org/>



⁵ https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2020/10/09024229/Stacked-Odds_201008_FNL1_LR.pdf



GETTING STARTED

- When you think about labour exploitation, what sort of sectors come to mind?
- What do you think would be some of the signs that someone was working against their will?

WHAT IS LABOUR EXPLOITATION?

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit, NCA

Labour exploitation can take place in a number of ways. While some offenders directly control victims in the workplace, exploiting them in their own businesses for profit, or in their households and on their properties for personal gain or cost savings, others have limited links to victims' employment. In such cases, offenders control their finances and home lives, profiting through confiscation of wages and excessive charges for accommodation, arranging employment, subsistence and travel.

Victims of labour exploitation are usually made to work long hours, often in dangerous or difficult conditions, and frequently without relevant training or protective equipment. Offenders often provide and control victims' housing, and minimise costs through overcrowding properties, undertaking little or no maintenance and otherwise subjecting victims to poor living conditions. Victims tend to lead lives, isolated from colleagues and their wider communities, and have little or no unsupervised freedom or means with which to enjoy any leisure time that they are granted.

While the majority of victims of labour exploitation identified in the UK are men, women are also affected across a wide array of sectors in the UK. Overall, victims are most commonly identified in the construction and car wash industries, but women are more likely to be exploited in nail bars, or in hidden environments such as the food supply chain. During the COVID-19 pandemic when many public-facing businesses, including nail bars, were unable to open

due to trading restrictions, labour exploitation in such settings became unviable. As restrictions ease, these settings are almost certain to re-emerge as places for exploitation, and exploitation within supply chains will also continue.

Worker shortages that have come about as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the EU are also likely to increase pressures on sectors like agriculture and adult social care. Illegal working and unlicensed operators are likely to become more prevalent, and in turn, noncompliance such as national minimum wage or health and safety breaches are also likely to increase, creating an environment with an elevated risk of labour exploitation and other harms.



WATCH HANA'S STORY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zS2NB4kBRs>



QUESTIONS FROM THE FILM

- What struck you from the film?
- Did anything you heard surprise you?
- How did Hana's story make you feel?
- What inspired you?
- What questions does it leave you with?

DID YOU KNOW?



Worldwide women and girls make up

58% OF ALL FORCED LABOUR VICTIMS⁶



Worldwide women and girls make up

41% OF ALL STATE IMPOSED FORCED LABOUR VICTIMS⁷

Only **30%**
OF PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT OF SPOTTING THE SIGNS OF SLAVERY⁸



HOW CAN CRIMINALITY INFILTRATE COMPLIANT BUSINESSES?

Lysbeth Ford, Senior Partnership Prevention Officer, The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

Is low skilled migrant agency labour essential for your business? If yes, then unfortunately you are at increased risk of exploitation within the workforce.

High risk sectors include agriculture, packhouses, food production, car washes, nail bars, care homes, hospitality, textiles, recycling and the cleaning industry - all areas in which women find employment. Where low skilled migrant labour is coupled with the inability to speak the language, the chance of exploitation is even higher. In many cases, women can be deliberately targeted because they are unable

to communicate. This creates the perfect feeding ground upon which organised crime groups exploit very vulnerable individuals.

The expectation to pay a work finding fee is accepted by workers as normal practice. They are told they can pay off the debt when they start work. However, in reality, the debt never diminishes. Accommodation is promised alongside work but in fact, there is no choice where to live and workers end up paying inflated costs for sub-standard accommodation, and transport to and from work.

The reality is that criminality is present in many compliant businesses. These businesses are infiltrated and used as vehicles for exploitation. Everything the workers understands is filtered through a fellow national. Likewise, businesses depend upon the foreign speaker to communicate with the worker because he or she can speak their language.

To expectation that they have to pay extra to get a shift at work or give a bribe to someone to ensure they are kept in work becomes accepted practice.

Women are threatened, in debt, often mistrustful of authority, and unable to speak the language. These are all key reasons why the crime goes undetected. Refusal to make eye contact, their demeanour, constantly looking to another before answering or letting someone else do all the talking, not bringing much food in for lunch, appearing tired all the time, are all signs that something more serious could be going on.

Direct communication with workers is vital to help detect and eradicate modern slavery. Always use independent interpreters and never be tempted to use friends or people employed alongside the worker. By communicating regularly with your workers, you provide an opportunity for workers to tell you something is wrong. This may not happen immediately but it is important to give your employees space to speak. How do you know if workers are being paid properly if no one ever asks?

Some employers say, “I don’t know what the problem is? They are here, they are being paid, they don’t give any problems, they can leave if they want to”. This needs to be challenged. Instead, we need to be asking ourselves, “is there any vulnerability here?”

Knowing how people can be exploited and the methodology is the key to unlocking this crime and eradicating criminality in your business.

Exploitation is currently low risk for criminals because workers are reluctant to speak up and it offers huge returns for the exploiters. According to the International Labour Organization, forced labour in the private economy generates \$150 billion in illegal profits every year. It is hugely nuanced and sadly an insidious presence in many supply chains. We need to be alive to the issue and start fighting back.



DIGGING DEEPER

What are the signs to look out for?

Victims of modern slavery can be of any age, race, or gender. There is no ‘typical’ victim. However, there are physical and behavioural indicators that may mean someone is being exploited.

Appearance

- Show signs of abuse and untreated injuries.
- Appear malnourished, unkempt, withdrawn and/or neglected.
- Seem under the control or influence of others.
- Wear the same clothes every day.
- Wear no safety equipment even if their work requires it.

Accommodation

- Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation.
- Living and working at the same address.
- Appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.

Travel

- Rarely allowed to travel on their own.
- Regularly collected and dropped off early in the morning or late at night.
- In a crowded minibus with other workers.
- Have no control of their identification documents such as their passport.

Seeking help

- Reluctant to seek help and avoid eye contact.
- Appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers.
- Fear of the police, don’t know who to trust or where to get help.
- Afraid of deportation, and risk of violence to them or their family.

Sometimes, it can be the “absence” of signs that may draw your attention to a situation. If a woman never relates any personal information about her life outside work, that could be a sign that she is being held against her will. If she can’t tell you anything about her weekend plans or what she does in the evening or who her friends are, that might be cause for concern.

ACT TODAY: DOWNLOAD THE SAFE CAR WASH APP TODAY

To help you stay alert to labour exploitation, why not download The Clewer Initiative's **Safe Car Wash App**?



**Safe Car
Wash
App**

The app is designed to help identify victims of modern slavery in hand car wash businesses.

You can use the apps to flag up concerns or suspicions and contact the Modern Slavery Helpline. The apps help to identify hot spots, pursue criminal investigations and most importantly, support victims. Even if you are not sure about something, it is worth reporting your concerns. No one will get in trouble if nothing criminal is going on. For more information, visit

<https://clewer.org.uk/campaigns/safe-car-wash>



⁶ https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2020/10/09024229/Stacked-Odds_201008_FNL1_LR.pdf

⁷ https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2020/10/09024229/Stacked-Odds_201008_FNL1_LR.pdf

⁸ <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/core/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/It-Still-Happens-Here.pdf>



GETTING STARTED

- What do you know about county lines?
- What sort of children do you think get drawn into county lines?

WHAT IS COUNTY LINES?

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit, NCA

County lines involves the supply of illegal drugs from large urban areas to smaller cities, towns and provincial locations using dedicated mobile phones, known as deal lines, to take orders. Offenders frequently target children and vulnerable adults to facilitate such criminality, manipulating and coercing them into drug trafficking and distribution. Young women are sometimes specifically targeted for recruitment into exploitation in county lines because they are less likely to attract suspicion from law enforcement.

Victims coerced into county lines are often surrounded by threats and violence, either from their exploiters or rival gangs. Women and girls can also be subject to sexual violence and blackmail, with offenders sometimes using indecent images as a means of control. As a result of this control and fear, victims are likely to avoid telling others about the reality of their situation.

Demand for drugs has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning children and vulnerable adults continue to be coerced into distribution models, despite school closures altering the places in which victims are identified and recruited. Social media remains a key enabler in this, with vulnerable persons identified and offered opportunities to earn money rapidly.



WATCH GEMMA'S STORY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ls1ZfWR8E8>



QUESTIONS FROM THE FILM

- What struck you from the film?
- Did anything you heard surprise you?
- How did Gemma's story make you feel?
- What inspired you?
- What questions does it leave you with?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Children's Commissioner for England estimated



2,290
girls were
associated
with gangs



HOW IS COUNTY LINES DRUG TRAFFICKING EVOLVING?

Detective Inspector Anne Rannard, National County Lines Coordination Centre Protect Lead

As law enforcement agencies continue to tackle various elements of the county lines business model, the methods will inevitably evolve. The national lockdowns owing to COVID-19 have also impacted the way drug networks operate. For example, analysis has indicated that travel restrictions have led to longer periods of cuckooing.

We continue to see reporting around recruitment from children's care homes in some regions, especially through peers within such settings. There are more reports of debt bondage and coercion as a means of recruitment. We have seen increasing use of social media as a form of recruitment, like other online threat areas and these platforms are also used to display drug related wealth and imagery that seeks to glamorise a certain lifestyle.

Online gaming and games forums have been used to advertise drug related work to children, with young people often befriended and groomed through games 'chat' functions. Perpetrators may also access online accounts to steal or delete online credit and possessions to coerce or blackmail children. Mobile apps with GPS tracking have been used by perpetrators to track criminally exploited children's movements in drug supply chains.

The involvement of females within county lines is still massively underreported, with females often being labelled victims of child sexual exploitation, rather than victims of child criminal exploitation. Those involved in county lines are still reluctant to talk of their experiences, likely owing to the fear of violence.

Communities can play a huge part in identifying and protecting children and vulnerable adults from county lines activity. If people know how to spot the signs and how to manage or report their concerns, numerous agencies can provide interventions and support. Given the information above around the online methods of exploitation, it is really important to identify and report any concerns about the use of specific platforms; for parents and carers to have regular conversations with their children and to encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if they or a friend come across something worrying online.

Communities can assist in identifying county lines activity by reporting potential cuckooed properties. Such premises can be used as a base for storing drugs supplies, but it isn't uncommon for children involved in drug supply to stay at such properties, as they are less likely to be reported than if they were to stay in a hotel.

Communities can significantly contribute to the intelligence picture around county lines criminality. Information about the names, numbers and origins of drug dealing lines; identification and reporting of children who are unfamiliar with an area or travelling at unusual times; reporting any threats or the use

of violence, can all significantly assist the police in understanding the county lines threats within their localities and support them in responding appropriately.

We all have a part to play in protecting our young people.



DIGGING DEEPER

Breaking County Lines – training resource for churches and communities

Breaking County Lines was designed to enable churches and communities to understand and raise awareness of county lines and spot signs of its presence. It looks at ways of building resilience in our communities with an emphasis on the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Breaking County Lines is written in four modules including digital stories based on personal experience, group activities, supporting information and biblical reflections.

The modules cover: understanding county lines; detection of county lines; protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults; and building resilience.

We run online versions of the Breaking County Lines course which take place over two 2-hour sessions. The sessions make use of videos and other online resources to gain an understanding of county lines, how it operates in our communities and what we can do to respond. To find out more, email info@clewer.org.uk



GETTING STARTED

- Do you think it is possible for a victim of modern slavery to ever truly recover?
- What do you imagine are the primary needs of someone recently rescued from modern slavery?



WATCH OUT OF THE SHADOWS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXir9BlbaB8>



QUESTIONS FROM THE FILM

- What struck you from the film?
- Did anything you heard surprise you?
- How did the survivor stories make you feel?
- What inspired you?
- What questions does it leave you with?

WHAT IS THE RECOVERY PROCESS LIKE FOR VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY?

Simone Lord, Project Manager - Moving On Project, Medaille Trust

Even in the darkest of times, there is always hope. That doesn't mean that moments of hopelessness don't occur, but hope has the power to keep us going even when there seems no way out.

When women begin their journeys with us, they have usually been through things many of us would struggle to imagine. Many have lost their independence, their identity and self-worth. But we are often struck by the resilience of the women who come into our support. They are not just victims, they are survivors. For many, hope has kept them going in the darkest of times and on their recovery journey, hope is the golden thread that keeps them moving forward.

Women entering our services have a range of complex needs and we work to support them in a rounded way. These can include physical and mental health

needs, sorting their immigration status, overcoming addictions, self-esteem issues and planning for their future, amongst many others. Our aim is to work with woman as equals to support them to flourish in a life free from slavery.

Organisations like Medaille Trust help women to feel hopeful and optimistic about their futures. Our role is to help women with their recovery from every angle and an important part of this is encouraging feelings of hope and joy to return to women's lives.

Medaille Trust recently launched a 'Moving On Project', which works with women after they have left safe house provision to help them to thrive in their local communities. We want to support survivors to move on positively with their lives, providing one to one support with everything from independent living to education and employment. Community based, this project demonstrates the role of wider communities in supporting those around them to thrive. We don't know the identity or backstory of many of our neighbours but looking out for each other and being good neighbours is everyone's responsibility. Medaille Trust will continue to hold out hope for a future free from modern slavery.



DIGGING DEEPER

Exploring the complexities of trauma and whether it's possible to heal and move on.

Can a survivor forgive someone who isn't sorry? Can they forgive someone who is still perpetrating the same crimes? Can they choose to let go of the anger they feel and find the strength to move forward? How do they handle the grief and regret of a life destroyed by others? How do they learn to make choices again?

The list of those who have played a part is often endless. There are the people who have actively inflicted the abuse and there are just as many who have contributed to the pain by failing to notice the signs of suffering or provided the context into which an abuser has acted.

There are the parents who have failed to provide a loving home, the teachers who have overlooked a child, the authorities who have blamed a survivor rather than supported them and countless others who have judged or been passive.

A person trying to recover from trauma may travel through some of the following steps as they seek to discover how to feel safe:

- grieving
- reflecting on some root causes of the events
- choosing to forgive
- seeking to establish justice.

Women can remain vulnerable and fragile for the rest of their lives and any journey towards recovery is challenging and complex - full of twists and turns, progress, setbacks and many dark days.

The hope is that the trauma becomes integrated into the new self and the individual can live as freely as possible but this doesn't always happen and sometimes victims are repeatedly targeted and exploited.

The role of professionals is vital in helping victims begin to move away from the trauma and start to live with their past. It can be daunting for an untrained person to think about how they can support a victim of modern slavery as they recover but the place of ordinary, unconditional, dependable friendship surrounding a survivor with support and a feeling of safety is just as vital as the professional.



DID YOU KNOW?

1 IN 4

victims of modern slavery are children⁶



In the UK in 2018,

A THIRD OF CASES

reported to the UK Modern Slavery Helpline were women

Caroline Virgo

In creating this resource, we wanted to look deep beneath the surface of the issue of modern slavery and explore the many facets involved – from how people first fall prey to the perpetrators and the different situations they may find themselves in, to the impacts of trauma and the challenges of recovery.

The resulting material is detailed and, in places, difficult and disturbing. We know from those who have already used some of it that they found it both moving and at times overwhelming but the most common questions at the end were ‘what can we do?’ and ‘how can we help?’

The action you can take or ways you can get involved will depend on your circumstances - whether you are an individual, the leader of a community group or project or working for an organisation affected by or involved in a particular aspect of modern slavery.

You may find that a specific topic such as county lines or labour exploitation is particularly relevant to your community or situation and choose to focus on that. Alternatively, you may be motivated to support female victims or to galvanise your community to look at ways of building resilient and supportive networks.

We’ve listed some ideas below to help you think about things you can do but, remember, it’s OK to start small. Every action, however small, can make a difference and if it helps just one person it could turn their life around.

WHAT CAN I DO RIGHT NOW TO HELP?

- **Build a coalition** – can you identify people or groups in your community who care about the issue of modern slavery too? How can you bring them together to brainstorm further action? Find out more about working in communities at <https://clewer.org.uk/what-we-do/working-in-communities> or contact us for support info@clewer.org.uk
- Find out about local victim support projects in your area and ways you might be able to support them.
- **Spread the word** – can you start telling others about women and exploitation? Where could you display a ‘Spot the Signs’ poster? Who could you tell about The Clewer Initiative’s apps or Women in the Shadows films? Can you start sharing our messages on your social channels?
- **Attend or run a course** – are you volunteering at a local social action project? Are you on the frontline meeting people in your area? Would you be interested in running or attending a modern slavery awareness raising or safeguarding training course for people in your community? We have a range of courses, some of which we can help you run if you are leading a group. For more details visit <https://clewer.org.uk/training-and-events>
- **Start noticing the people around you and asking questions** – if you don’t know what signs to look out for or questions to ask, why not attend one of our general awareness raising sessions?
- Visit <https://www.clewer.org.uk> to see a range of brilliant resources to help raise awareness of modern slavery and equip the local community to get involved. This includes training courses, posters and leaflets in many different languages, interactive apps and films.



WHO TO CONTACT

What to do and who to contact if you spot the signs or are worried that someone might be trapped in modern slavery.

As with other crimes, it is important you report any suspicions of modern slavery to the police. Do not attempt to intervene yourself, as you may put yourself and those around you – including the potential victim – in danger.

If there is an emergency and someone is in immediate danger, call **999**.

If you would like to report any non-emergency suspicious activity in your local area then call your local police on **101** or go to your local police station.

If you need advice or support on modern slavery, please call the Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700**. It operates 24 hour a day, 365 days a year.

For the confidential Salvation Army referral helpline call **0800 808 3733**.

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Film participants:

Jen Baines, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority
www.gla.gov.uk

Louise Hulland, author and modern slavery campaigner
www.louisehulland.com

Sister Lynda Dearlove, women@thewell www.watw.org.uk

Rosie Hopley, Beloved www.beloved.org.uk

Karen Anstiss, Caritas Bakhita House

www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/bakhita-house.php

Alison Logier, Hestia www.hestia.org

Shayne Tyler, Fresca Group www.frescagroup.co.uk

Clive Davies, Chief Superintendent, East Surrey Division,
www.surrey.police.uk

Jackie Mouradian, Mosaic Creative www.mosaiccreative.co.uk

Bishop Alastair Redfern www.clewer.org.uk

Contributors to this resource:

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM – Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
<https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/>

The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit, National Crime Agency (NCA) <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>

April McCoig, Victims and Partnership Lead, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office

<https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/>

Alison Logier, Service Manager, Hestia

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

Lysbeth Ford, Senior Partnership Prevention Officer, The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) (retired from GLAA August 2021)

<https://www.gla.gov.uk/>

Detective Inspector Anne Rannard, National County Lines Coordination Centre Protect lead

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/drug-trafficking/county-lines>

Simone Lord, Project Manager - Moving On Project, Medaille Trust

<https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/>

Bishop Alastair Redfern

<https://www.clewer.org.uk>

Behind the scenes:

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⁹ Unseen <https://www.unseenuk.org/modern-slavery/facts-and-figures#:~:text=In%202018%2C%20the%20UK%20Modern,men%2C%20while%201%2C476%20were%20women.>