

7 Minute Briefing

Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery

RNOH Safeguarding Children Team

What is it?

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The simple definition is the movement or recruitment by deception or coercion for the purpose of exploitation. Human trafficking and modern slavery are thought to be amongst the most widespread crimes in the world. Trafficking is carried out by organised gangs and individual adults or agents. Any person transported for exploitative reasons is considered to be a trafficking victim, whether or not they have been forced or deceived. Most people are trafficked for financial gain (including payment from or to a child's parents or family members). In most cases, the trafficker also receives payment from those wanting to exploit.

How does human trafficking relate to slavery?

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Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is an extreme form of labour exploitation where women, men and children are recruited or obtained and then forced to labour against their will through force, fraud or coercion. Trafficking victims are often lured by false promises of decent jobs and better lives.

What to do?

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If a disclosure is made to you or you are worried about someone being a victim of human trafficking or modern slavery please initially consult with the Safeguarding Children Team to discuss what action and procedure you should follow. Contact us on: 020 8909 5337

If you think someone may be at risk of immediate harm phone 999.

Barriers to disclosure:

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Language, lack of trust in authorities, involvement in criminal activity, fear of repercussions, unaware help is available, isolation, always accompanied by a trafficker, unaware they are a victim, immigration status, feel they are better off than in their previous situation, controlled movement, self-blame, stigma.

Signs

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There are a number of signs that are common across all types of exploitation.

Physical Appearance (bruises, untreated injuries, malnourished/unkept, inappropriate clothing, agitated, anxious/withdrawn)

Restricted Freedom (unable to move freely/dependent on another for travel, food and/or money, communication controlled, no identification/travel documents, vague or unclear about their address)

Isolation (fearful/distrustful with strangers/authority figures, limited access to family/friends, language barriers)

Work (vague/unclear about job, concerned they are in debt to another person for accommodation/travel, work excessive hours but has very little money)



Types of exploitation and human trafficking

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An individual may experience multiple forms of exploitation or abuse. The most common forms of exploitation include:

- **Sexual exploitation** (sexual abuse, forced prostitution and forms of child sexual exploitation).
- **Labour exploitation** (forced to work long hours for little or no pay).
- **Forced criminality** (compelled to commit crimes to benefit other persons).
- **Domestic servitude** (victims live and work in their 'employer's' household and are forced to work long hours)
- **Organ harvesting** (the surgical removal of parts of the body, sold for huge profits)

Why it matters

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Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude, and inhumane treatment. Identifying trafficking is the first step to stopping it. Understanding the signs to look out for could help the most vulnerable people within your community. Human trafficking and modern slavery do not discriminate; they affect men, women and children of all ages.