WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR?

The UN uses the terms modern slavery, human trafficking & forced labour to refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception and/or abuse of power. It is thought to claim around 40.3 million victims worldwide. Some examples of this abuse include:

**Sexual Exploitation:** A person is abused in a sexual manner. This can be through forced prostitution; forced marriage; rape; and forced pornography (including online through smartphones and webcams).

**Debt Bondage:** A person is forced to work in order to pay off a debt. They work for little or no pay, with no control over their debt and with little to no realistic chance of paying the debt off. In some cases this debt is transferred from one generation to the next.

**Forced Labour:** A person is forced to work against their will. If they do not work, they are threatened or punished. Often they are not paid, or paid very little.

**Human Trafficking:** A person is recruited, kept or transported into a situation of abuse. Victims may be physically abused, lied to or threatened. Victims are often also forced to work against their will. Victims are often promised a better life in another country or state for them or their children.

**Domestic Servitude:** A person is abused in their role as a domestic worker in someone’s house or property. They may be prevented from leaving the house; may not be paid; experience violence or threats; have their identity documents taken; have no or little contact with their family; and/or forced to work.

CONTACT YOUR MP

UNDERSTANDING MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED LABOUR

AND HOW TO STOP IT
There are a number of ways in which you can help in the fight against modern slavery, human trafficking and forced labour:

- **Learn to spot the signs** of these issues. If you suspect that someone may be a victim, alert the authorities.
- **Educate your local community** about this issue and how it can affect them. Knowledge is power - if people are aware, they can better protect themselves. You can do this by speaking to your family and friends, or by organising a larger meeting for your whole community.
- **Engage your local faith, business and political leaders** on the issue. Talk about what has already been done to tackle this problem and what further steps should be taken. You will be stronger if you work together.
- **Engage with charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** on the issue. They often have the skills and expertise needed to tackle the problem directly.
- **Make sure that you and your community welcome back and support people who have been victims.** If they were forced to do illegal and immoral work, you must remember that this was not their fault. Their freedom was taken from them and they did everything they could just to survive.
- **Set up a group of community representatives on this issue.** Your group could meet regularly to monitor the well-being of the community, as well as represent the community by working with charities, politicians and other relevant groups or individuals.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR**

**PHYSICAL SIGNS**

- **Physical marks** They have marks on their body (burns, bruises, cuts) that show they might be physically abused.
- **Fearful, timid or submissive** They're afraid of speaking to anyone, especially authority figures.
- **Lack of formal ID** They don't have any form of identification (ID or passport) or they say someone else has their ID/passport.
- **Substance abuse** They abuse some form of substance such as drugs or alcohol.
- **Lack of freedom** They have a limited freedom of movement.

**Symptoms of being trafficked**

- **Someone always nearby** There is always someone near them and they seem afraid of that person. This could be their trafficker.
- **Unsure of surroundings** They're afraid to talk about where they live or don't seem to know their surroundings very well.
- **Different transportation** You often see them getting in and out of different vehicles.

**SPOT THE SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR?**

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**WORK WITH YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Your Member of Parliament’s job is to represent you and your community. By working together to fight these abuses, you can improve the lives of many people. You can do this by:

- **Asking your Member of Parliament to discuss the issue in Parliament.** This will encourage other politicians to act and fight against these abuses.
- **Requesting your Member of Parliament to talk to your community.** As a leader, they will be respected and listened to on the issue.
- **Informing your Member of Parliament of any local victims or incidents.** They can help to solve the issue and gather more support from other politicians and organisations.
- **Setting up an interest group with your Member of Parliament.** This group can include charities, businesses, other politicians and members of your community. Together you can discuss how to best protect the community.