

FACTS ABOUT MODERN SLAVERY



MEDAILLE TRUST
REFUGEE AND FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is a crime. Victims are forced to work long hours in bad conditions with little or no pay. The threat of violence traps them further.

Modern slavery could be happening in your community. Today it doesn't look like people bound in chains. It looks like domestic and construction workers. It looks like nail bars and brothels. It looks like car washes and fruit pickers.

The numbers

- **40.3 million** people are estimated to be trapped in some form of modern slavery in the world today
- **136,000** victims are estimated to be in the UK
- **6,993** potential victims were found in the UK in 2018.

Statistics are taken from the Global Slavery Index and the National Crime Agency (UK).

Their stories

Ahn* was trafficked from Asia across Europe. He was forced to work in factories, live in squalor and was beaten on the head for talking to others. In the UK, Ahn was locked into a house to tend a cannabis farm. His only contact was with "the boss" who gave him water and noodles twice a day. After a police raid and a drawn-out legal case, Ahn finally came to a Medaille Trust safe house where he was able to rebuild his life.

Mary* was promised a new life in the UK. But she was tricked – her Albanian traffickers forced her into prostitution with two to three men every night. Mary fell pregnant but was still forced to have sex with multiple men right up to her escape – within weeks of her due date. Mary found help and was transferred to a Medaille Trust safe house where both she and her baby were able to receive the support and care they needed.

**Names changed for privacy*

How Medaille Trust help

Medaille Trust is the largest provider of supported accommodation for victims of modern slavery in the UK. Our national network of safe houses provide personalised support, empowering clients on their path to a life free from slavery and exploitation.

Our work in a nutshell: (i) in 2018-2019 we supported 315 survivors and 70 of their dependent children; (ii) the vast majority of our clients went onto positive life experiences free from slavery; (iii) our low overheads mean that 95% of our income is spent directly on charitable activities.

But support isn't enough. Justice and awareness are also vital.

That's why we also cooperate closely with law-enforcement authorities, raise awareness across the UK and partner with NGOs in source-countries to prevent trafficking.

"Medaille opened their doors to me when I was most in need. The staff walked by my side and helped me to find my way. I spread my wings and today I fly high. I am free" – Medaille Trust client

You can make a difference **Survivor Bank**

At the core of modern slavery is financial exploitation. Slave gangs force their victims to work and withhold their pay. They often set up bank accounts in the victims' names and retain their bank cards, drawing their victims' cash and pocketing their pay.

At HSBC contact centres, you are at the frontline. And you can make a difference.

Although there are no 'hard and fast' rules for definitely spotting a victim of modern slavery, please speak to your manager in the first instance and follow HSBC's UAR process if you spot any of these signs or are concerned for any other reason:

- You suspect the person you are talking to is being coerced
- Their 'translator' is answering all the questions for them without reference back to your client, or acting in an otherwise controlling way
- The person on the phone sounds scared
- Your client does not know where they live (as opposed to having simply forgotten)
- An address search shows that there are multiple (e.g. 10-20 or more) bank accounts with HSBC registered under different names to the same address
- There is pre-signed paperwork in different handwriting
- The client has the same emergency contact or personal details as other accounts.

HSBC UK has launched an initiative, in conjunction with The Salvation Army, to create Basic Bank Accounts for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery as they rehabilitate into society after the trauma of trafficking, forced labour, sexual exploitation or domestic servitude.

The bank accounts will be created via a specific application process that is in-line with the National Referral Mechanism.

This service for survivors was piloted in HSBC UK branches in Nottingham and Glasgow between June-December 2018. During this time, 24 accounts were opened and the pilot was deemed a success. This was then rolled out to 18 other branches across the UK including Bishopsgate (London), Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield in January 2019.

An incredible 165 accounts have been opened by survivors so far. Feedback from our clients has been positive – they report having had an enjoyable experience in the bank, with the staff showing them care and making them feel safe when they go to complete the application process.

There are many ways you can join the fight to combat modern slavery in the UK today – Please consider supporting modern slavery survivors through Medaille Trust:

www.medaille-trust.org.uk

Call: 0800 06 999 16

Emai: enquiries@medaille-trust.org.uk

Visit: medaille-trust.org.uk

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