

Look Up Project - One Year on

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Look Up Partnership

Medaille Trust and the Archdiocese of Birmingham have launched a special, six-year partnership to raise awareness of modern slavery on St Bakhita's Day 2019

Churches and individuals will be encouraged to pledge to support the victims of modern slavery and work together towards the eradication of all its forms – and parishes visited by Medaille Trust will be awarded a 'Make the Pledge' certificate for their work.

Joint Pledge Signed

Garry Smith, CEO of Medaille Trust, and Archbishop Bernard Longley signed a public pledge to work together for the benefit of those suffering from modern slavery. This pledge poster – featuring a portrait of St. Bakhita herself – is now displayed in Cathedral House, St Chads Cathedral, Birmingham.



Rev. Redfern, who jointly facilitated the St Bakhita Day service, said: "Slavery is happening in the shadows, and we are not noticing. Many of us are blind, we need our eyes opened. I salute the work of Medaille Trust. It offers safe spaces. Love, hope, a gentle way into recovery. We have some great systems, but people need love. They are terribly traumatised and need years to recover. Walking on by allows sin to flourish."

IS MODERN SLAVERY A BIG PROBLEM?

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

The details

The 6,933 potential victims found in the UK in 2018 were trafficked from 130 different countries. The top three source countries for victims found in the UK were: UK, Albania and Vietnam.

UK referrals **increased by nearly**

100% from 820 in 2017 to 1,625 in 2018.

The numbers of children referred **increased**

by 48%. Of the victims referred, 2728 were female and 4261 were male; 3856 were adults and 3137 were minors.

Thank you to the parishes we have visited in Year 1.

Together we can eradicate modern slavery.

We welcome your support to visit your parish to speak.

Look Up Project - One Year on

National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of modern slavery has risen year on year since 2014.

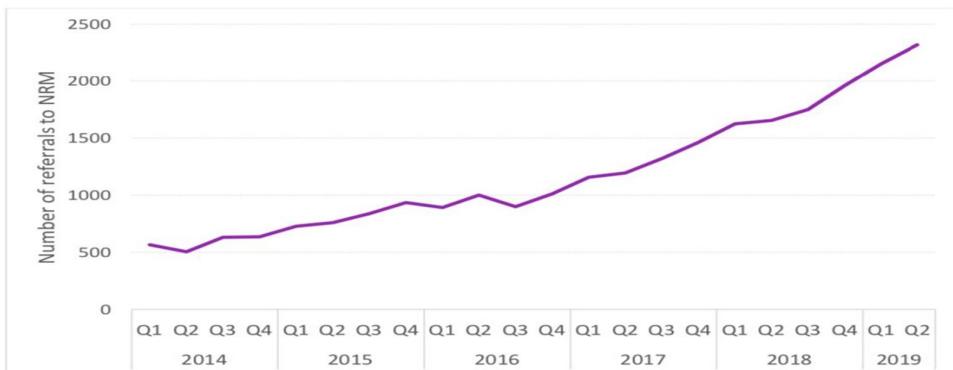


Figure 1: Number of NRM referrals per quarter

OPERATION FORT

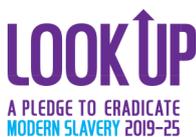
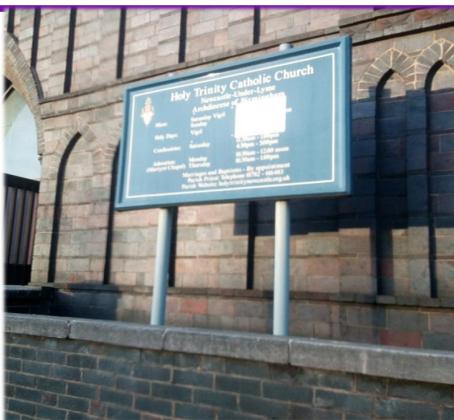
Members of a gang behind the biggest modern-day slavery network ever exposed in the UK have been jailed.

Police believe more than 400 victims were put to work in the West Midlands by the organised crime gang. They tricked vulnerable people from Poland into England with the promise of work and a better life.



Modern Slavery in the West Midlands

The Archdiocese of Birmingham, covering much of the West Midlands and beyond, is the second highest area for referrals of possible victims of slavery outside of London. (Source: UK Home Office).



3 Deaneries per year to be visited

Year 1

North Staffordshire

Birmingham Cathedral

Banbury

Year 2

Wolverhampton

Warwick

Birmingham South

Please get in touch to join in this partnership

We want to visit each parish in the deanery.

Year 1 parishes not yet visited, please let me know available dates.

Share Awareness and together we can eradicate modern slavery.

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I look forward to hearing from you