

# Modern Slavery

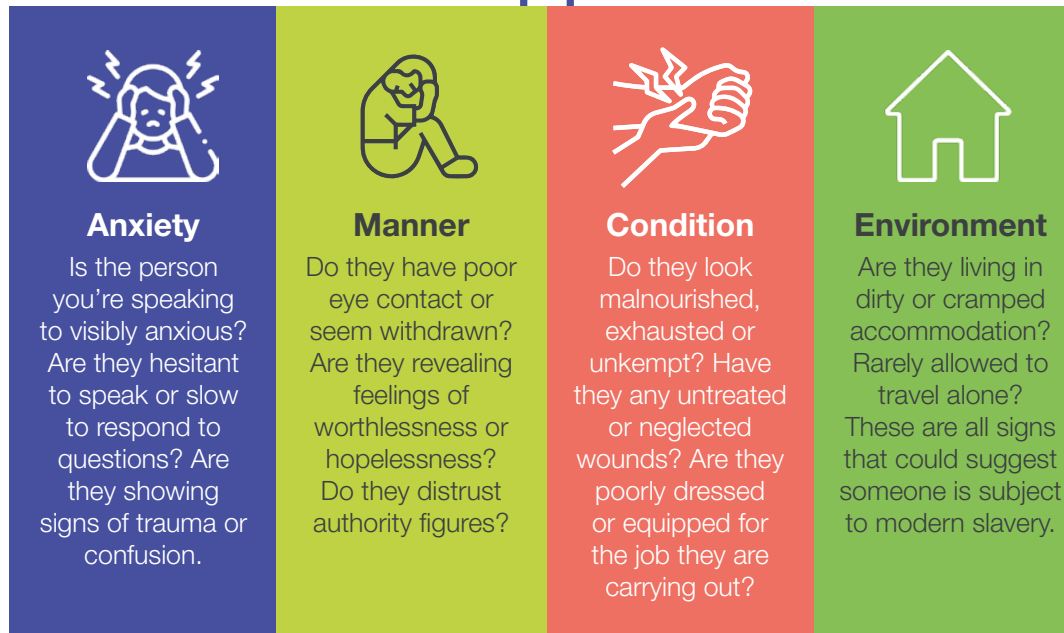
## 1 The Act

'The Act' – The Modern Slavery Act 2015 outlines in Section 1 the criminal offence of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and Section 2 covers the separate criminal offence of human trafficking. The act also defines the meaning of exploitation and two civil orders (Slavery & trafficking risk orders and slavery & trafficking prevention orders) have been created to prevent modern slavery. The Anti-Slavery Commissioner role was created under the act and provision for the protection of victims also forms part of the act. This means that those victims who have been compelled to commit certain crimes, typically cannabis cultivation, begging, shoplifting and immigration offences may not be prosecuted.

## 3 Contacts

- If you have information about Modern Slavery relating to victims or those who are committing such crimes... the first point of contact should be your local police force... **dial 101**
- If you believe victims are at immediate risk... **dial 999**
- If you are a business... ring the GLAA (Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority)... **dial 0800 432 0804**
- If you wish to discuss your suspicions contact the Modern Slavery Helpline... **dial 0800 0121 700**
- Anonymous? Inform Crimestoppers ... **dial 0800 555 111**
- Inform your **line manager** and UKROED **professional**. **standards@ukroed.org.uk**

## The Signs



## 4 Let's bust some myths

Modern Slavery **should not be confused with illegal immigration or people smuggling**. It doesn't have to be cross border, it can be as simple as moving someone from one room to another. Individuals may have consented to travel, and this does not mean they aren't a victim, as often they have only agreed under false pretences. **Victims are often trafficked from outside of the UK but it can happen to British Citizens too**. It's simply not true to say that if a victim has a better quality of life then the slavery or exploitation is ok. Similarly **if someone hasn't attempted an escape, this does not mean they aren't a victim**.

## 2 The triggers

**Economic** – victims may come from a background of poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunity and debt bondage. Many are driven to earn a better living abroad. **Social** – vulnerabilities may include homelessness, being uneducated, disabilities or learning difficulties, in the social care system, lack of family support or having a weak social network. **Political** – those who can be easy to exploit come from war, civil upheaval and social unrest. Many come to the UK for a better life. **Legal** – they may be fleeing from a weak judicial system, hold illegal documents or none at all and have little faith in the legal system or law enforcement agencies.

## 5 Evidence gathering

- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
- The online referral system is to be used for referrals into the NRM and for Duty to Notify referrals (DtN). Only staff at designated first responder organisations can make referrals.
- See **[www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start](http://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start)** for more information and a list of designated first responder organisations
- Make a record of what you have seen / heard / date, time and place / descriptions
- **Do not intervene, this could make things worse for the victim**