



# MODERN SLAVERY AND COVID-19: What to do if you are a First Responder

As a First Responder you are able to identify and refer potential victims of modern slavery into support. This flyer helps set out how to do this during the COVID-19 outbreak. Help and support is still available for victims of modern slavery.

## SPOT THE SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY

It can be challenging to identify a potential victim of modern slavery and potential victims may be reluctant or unable to come forward themselves.

### A potential victim of modern slavery may:

- Show signs that their movements are being controlled
- Show fear or anxiety
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Look malnourished, unkempt or have untreated injuries
- Not be in possession of their passports or other travel documents, as these documents are being held by someone else
- Not have control of their own money or bank accounts
- Believe they must work against their will

## HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS

- **Adults** can access a range of support across the UK if they give their consent to enter the National Referral Mechanism.
- **Children** receive support through local authorities. Any potential child victim must be referred to local children's services urgently, and a referral made to the National Referral Mechanism, once the child is safeguarded.

## MAKE A REFERRAL

As a First Responder if you encounter a potential victim of modern slavery you have a Duty to Notify the Home Office. This is usually done by referring them into the NRM if they are a child or a consenting adult.



All referrals to the NRM should be made using the online portal:

<https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start>

If an adult potential victim does not give their consent, you still have a duty to notify the Home Office using the same online portal.

## STAY SAFE DURING COVID-19

If you encounter a potential victim you must **ensure your own safety and the safety of the potential victim**. Before making a request for support to The Salvation Army (TSA), you should ask the potential victim **if they have or have come into contact with anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms** and should inform TSA accordingly. If you encounter a potential victim displaying symptoms, you should follow the safeguarding procedures set out by your organisation and relevant PHE guidance.



The Modern Slavery Act 2015 Statutory Guidance gives full details of the support available and how it can be accessed.

- **Call the police on 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm.**
- **If the potential victim is a child, you must contact the local authority with safeguarding responsibility.**
- **Notify the Home Office - Refer children and consenting adults to the NRM using the online portal.**

The Salvation Army's confidential 24/7 referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 will provide advice on getting support to potential victims.



For more information on COVID-19 and modern slavery follow the QR code or visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>