



ANTI-TRAFFICKING ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

PROTECT Project

Refusing to ignore people in crisis

Essential trafficking awareness

The British Red Cross is committed to supporting people in crisis. During the course of working with us you may encounter people who have been trafficked, exploited or forced into slavery.



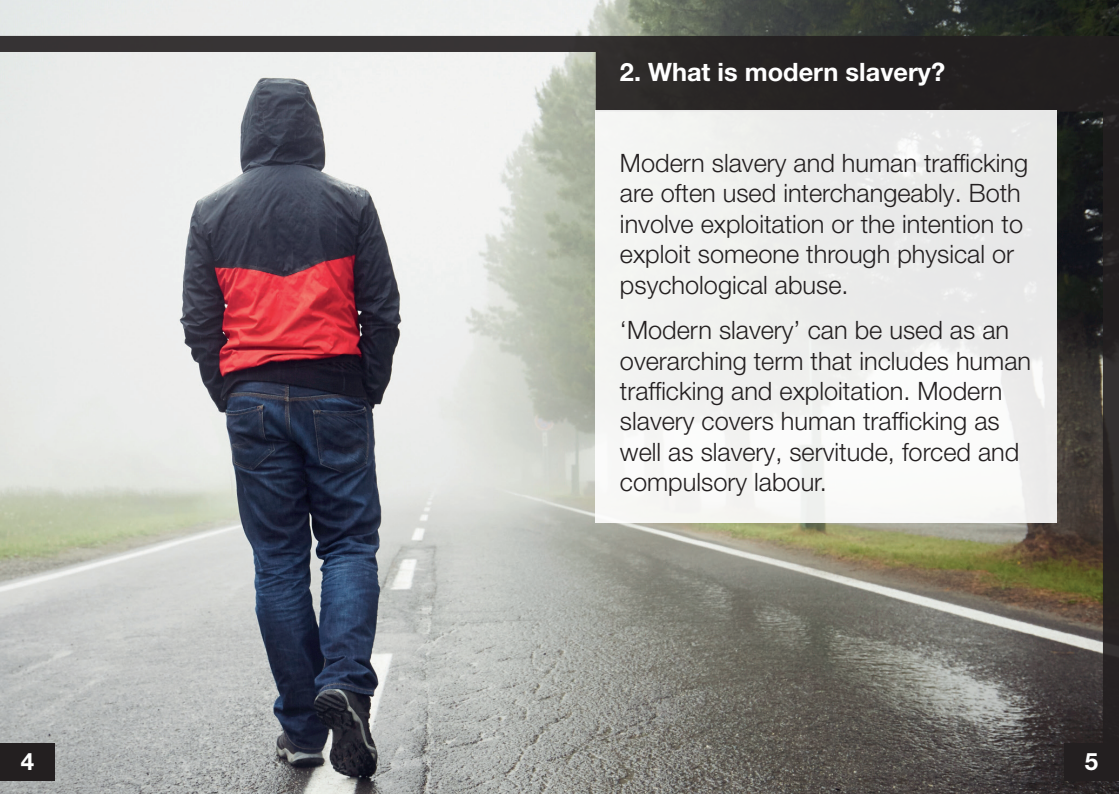
1. What is human trafficking?

Trafficking in human beings (THB) is a crime committed against an individual and can happen to anyone.

THB means the **recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt** of a person. This can be through **threats** or the use of **force**, or other forms of **coercion** and **deception** for the purpose of **exploitation**.

Exploitation comes in many different forms and can include sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, financial exploitation, illegal adoption or removal of organs.

This booklet tells you what signs to look for and what to do if you think someone is being exploited.



2. What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery and human trafficking are often used interchangeably. Both involve exploitation or the intention to exploit someone through physical or psychological abuse.

‘Modern slavery’ can be used as an overarching term that includes human trafficking and exploitation. Modern slavery covers human trafficking as well as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour.

3. What is the difference between trafficking and smuggling?

It is often hard to tell the difference between trafficking and smuggling. Both involve the movement of people and this is often facilitated by criminal networks.

One key difference between trafficking and smuggling is that the relationship between a smuggler and the person ends when they reach their destination. Trafficking not only involves moving somebody, but also the intention to exploit them on arrival. Trafficked people tend to be controlled and connected to their trafficker long after they arrive.

- > Smuggling is a crime against the state. Human trafficking is a crime against an individual.
- > Smuggling always involves crossing an international border. Human trafficking may involve crossing an international border but it can also take place in one city or town.

4. Consent and trafficking

When it comes to the issue of consent, human trafficking is an especially complex issue. A person may consent to leave their home and accept work in a different country without being considered a victim of trafficking. For instance, someone may accept an undesirable job.

However, if on arrival the terms and conditions change to what was initially agreed this may well constitute deception and exploitation leading to trafficking. A person may therefore be considered trafficked even if they bought their own ticket.

Someone can also be considered trafficked if they consent to be transported and the intention is to exploit them but this act hasn't yet taken place.



5. What happens to people trafficked for labour exploitation?

Trafficking for labour exploitation

can happen in industries such as construction, farming and textiles or at car washes and nail bars, among others. People may also be exploited in unregulated work such as cannabis production. People trafficked for **forced labour** usually **work long hours** in **poor conditions** and for little or **no pay**. They may remain in these conditions for various reasons, often because they are threatened, physically hurt or controlled by threats of harm to their family.

Spotting the signs of forced labour:

- > Is the person working excessive days or hours?

- > Is the person paid below the minimum wage or receiving no payment?
- > Is the person unsure of the address of their work or accommodation?
- > Is the person required to pay for work equipment, food or accommodation via deductions from their pay?



6. What happens to people trafficked for sexual exploitation?

A person trafficked for sexual exploitation performs sexual acts that they have not consented to or have been deceived into consenting to. This could be through sex work, escort work, pornography, massage parlours and brothels.

Spotting the signs of sexual exploitation:

- > Has the person been deceived about the nature or conditions of the job?
- > Has the person been forced or intimidated to perform acts or services of a sexual nature?

- > Has the person received threats that their family, community or the wider public will be told of the nature of their work?
- > Has the person been hurt, psychologically or sexually abused, or received threats?
- > Is the person closely monitored when they are accessing other services?



7. What happens to people trafficked for domestic servitude?

People who are trafficked for domestic servitude are made to work in private houses, often as nannies or cleaners. They often work very **long hours**, **sleep in communal areas**, are unpaid, and have little or no freedom.

Spotting the signs of domestic servitude:

Is the person living with and working for a family in a private home?

- > Does the person rarely leave the house without the employer?
- > Does the person not have their own private space to sleep?
- > Is the person treated differently to other people in the house?

8. Other signs of abuse

People will show signs abuse, control and fear in different ways. As well as the indicators discussed, other potential causes for concern include:

- > **restrictions on freedom of movement:** somebody is with them at all times; they are not in control of their own money; their passport and ID documents are held by somebody else; they are not allowed to speak for themselves
- > **signs of coercion:** threats have been made against them or their family members; fearful of the authorities; they owe money to someone
- > **poor physical and mental health:** physical signs of abuse; untreated medical conditions including mental health problems; signs of shame and/or fear; experiences sexual violence.

9. What to do if you have concerns

If you are concerned about something always consider the current situation and assess the risks.

- > Do not raise your concerns with anyone accompanying the person.
- > If you are using an interpreter, ensure they are independent, qualified and DBS checked. Do not use the person accompanying them as an interpreter.
- > Ensure you address the needs identified by the person and continue to support them.
- > Ensure that the person knows the Red Cross is a safe place.
- > Consider if you are the right person to discuss trafficking concerns. Do you have the skills, knowledge and resources to support somebody who may have been trafficked? Does the person trust you?

- > Consider contacting a safeguarding adults officer, your line manager or the anti trafficking manager to refer the person. Get support and guidance on next steps.

If someone tells you they have been **trafficked** or are currently being **exploited** consider the current situation and assess the risks.

- > React in a sensitive way, acknowledge their situation and listen carefully to what they have to say.
- > Take accurate notes and respond calmly.
- > Contact a safeguarding adults officer, your line manager or the anti trafficking manager to get support and guidance.

The British Red Cross must work with the person and respect the rights of the person to choose what support they want.

How might you feel and what support can the Red Cross offer you?

Hearing or suspecting that someone has been trafficked and exploited can be challenging and distressing. It is important that you seek support for yourself.

This could be by talking to a safeguarding adults officer, your line manager, the anti trafficking manager or one of the psychosocial support practitioners.

You can also contact the staff and volunteer support service.

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