



## PRESS RELEASE

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- **New register of slavery statements show results of UK's Modern Slavery Act**
- **Register is open to all to interrogate company statements and see best practice**
- **Participating organisations help to fund new helpline**

Unseen, the award-winning charity fighting modern slavery and Semantrica, a technology social enterprise have been working with The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) to develop the first [register](#) for Transparency in Supply Chains (TiSC) statements in line with section 54 of the [UK's Modern Slavery Act](#).

The provision took effect from March 2016 and requires businesses with a turnover of £36million or more, to publish an annual statement about their efforts to tackle slavery in supply chains and their own organisation. CIPS has been an advocate of uncovering [slavery in supply chains](#) and has been highlighting the issue to its members and to wider business groups and will be further promoting the register with examples of good practice.

The TiSC website will not only help consumers, the public and others to access and compare statements across sector, organisations and over time, it will also have a range of valuable free resources to support organisations in taking practical steps to eliminate slavery in their supply chains.

This central [register](#) of transparency statements was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at an event hosted by Karen Bradley MP, Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime and attended by 80 businesses. The register aims to increase transparency about slavery and help consumers and others to understand what actions businesses are taking to combat this evil trade. The register will not tier or benchmark businesses but will provide a single access point for academics, businesses, the UK Government and non-government agencies to assess the quality of the statements and follow up on any promised actions. It is targeted at all groups such as the general public, consumers, investors, business and non-government. Tiscreport has been created as a social enterprise to provide a neutral platform for businesses to demonstrate their commitment to tackling modern slavery and to engage consciously and pro-actively with this important issue.

For a small fee, which is donated to support management of the [registry](#) [www.tiscreport.org] and the UK's Modern Slavery Helpline, which will be launched later this year, businesses have started filing their reports, but we expect many more do so in the coming months. The register will also use digital technology to scan the web and 'pull in' statements published elsewhere to provide a more comprehensive picture of how businesses plan to target slavery in their supply chains. The register has the full support of [Business West Initiative](#), Stephen Chapman, Wales Anti-Slavery Coordinator and the Welsh Government through the Anti-Slavery Leadership Group.

Andrew Wallis OBE, CEO of Unseen said, "During the passing of the Act and since, there has been a growing call for the potential systemic and global impact of the Transparency Legislation to be fully realised.

"We want to enable the role of civil society, consumers and investors, to encourage businesses to race to the top in tackling this evil trade in exploitation and commodification of human beings.

"By creating a neutral Central Repository, we will enable all company reports to be easily accessible in one location on the web. It will allow for easy comparison of reports and it will, over time, highlight development and innovation, enabling greater analysis to take place, and ensure the race to the top culture we are seeking to achieve."

David Noble, Group CEO, CIPS comments: "The Modern Slavery reporting requirement means that businesses can no longer afford to ignore slavery issues, morally and commercially. If they are unable to convincingly outline the steps they are taking to eradicate human exploitation from their supply chain, they risk damaging both their reputation and their bottom line.

"The Act means it's no longer acceptable for businesses to ignore what they can't see. It's true that the modern supply chain is becoming longer and more complicated, but it is possible to take definite steps to put a process in place to achieve the level of transparency and traceability to ensure that their procurement practices do not contribute to modern slavery at any stage in their supply chains.

"The central register will enable businesses to clearly demonstrate the steps in their journey to a slavery-free supply chain. By storing the statements in one place we will be able to highlight areas of best practice and aid businesses to learn from each other. I believe that a collaborative approach within or across sectors will help everyone to eradicate this atrocious crime."

Jaya Chakrabarti MBE of Semantrica Ltd added, "I've waited many years to be able to use our technology skills and experience to create a fairer, safer world.

"The creation of the central register, [ [tiscreport.org](#) ], represents a sustainable way to enable businesses to collaborate to end the exploitation of human beings who are part of their supply chains.

“Uploaded reports are available to the public and will be searchable by sector, country of origin/operation, size and country of supply. We will also be able to produce indices for companies who have reported versus those who have yet to report, and every submission will raise funds to support the ongoing war against slavery. We're also working very closely with the Government Digital Service to ensure that we're compatible with standards that will make us very easy to integrate with it. We're very excited and privileged to be able to play our part.”

Companies who do file with the registry, will have additional access to tools and materials to support current plans and to strengthen their statements and strategies for future years.

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**About Unseen**

Unseen, a Bristol-based charity, operates across three main areas: supporting survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery; equipping frontline staff and businesses with the tools to correctly identify victims and take appropriate action; and influencing governments at a strategic level to create long-lasting solutions to modern slavery. In 2015, Unseen was awarded, Charity of the Year: with an income of less than £1 million, by Charity Times Awards.

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**About The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply**

The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS) is the world's largest procurement and supply professional organisation. It is the worldwide centre of excellence on procurement and supply management issues. CIPS has a global community of over 115,000 in 180 different countries, including senior business people, high-ranking civil servants and leading academics. The activities of

procurement and supply chain professionals have a major impact on the profitability and efficiency of all types of organisation and CIPS offers corporate solutions packages to improve business profitability.

[www.cips.org](http://www.cips.org)

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### **About Semantrica**

Semantrica Ltd is a fired-up technology social enterprise start-up whose directors have been working in the tech sector since 1999, providing technology and creative economy consultancy services across most sectors. Semantrica is focused on the smart use of (size-agnostic but often big) data and digital technologies to tackle social justice issues. With the advent of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, we've built up strong partnerships in order to help deliver the vision of amplifying the social impact of the reporting element of compliance with the Act. Working with Unseen and our growing band partners, we aim to bring about the end of modern slavery within our lifetimes.