



## **Second year of UK's Modern Slavery Helpline shows dramatic increases in calls, potential victims and police referrals**

### **INCREASED REPORTING**

A new report from Unseen, the charity behind the national Modern Slavery Helpline, shows that in its second full year of operation, the Helpline:

- Received over 7,400 calls and webforms – a 68% increase on 2017,
- Indicated over 7,100 potential victims – a 46% increase on 2017
- Indicated almost 1850 modern slavery cases – a 45% increase on 2017
- Made over 2280 referrals to police and other agencies – a 58% increase on 2017.

The rising figures in the Helpline's 2018 Annual Assessment are likely to indicate an increase in awareness of modern slavery and the Helpline, rather than an increase in modern slavery itself.

But they do suggest the scale of the problem in the UK is much greater than the 10-13,000 victims previously suggested by the Home Office.

The report launches with an event in the House of Commons on 24 April, supported by Darren Jones MP.

### **SHEDDING A LIGHT ON MODERN SLAVERY IN THE UK**

Call data sheds light on the nature and scale of modern slavery in the UK, including for the first time information on those doing the exploitation, not just the exploited.

- There was a strong correlation between the nationality of victims and exploiters. At least one exploiter and one victim shared a nationality in 63% of cases where nationality was known. But in some communities the correlation was even stronger: 92% for Vietnamese, 84% for Nigerian, 82% for Chinese, 80% for Indian.
- Potential victims of 94 different nationalities were indicated (bringing the total number of nationalities indicated over two years to 118).
- The most prevalent type of exploitation reported was labour exploitation, with 54% of all cases.
- The most common sectors/ industries were car washes and beauty including nail bars. This may be because of media interest in these sectors as hotspots for modern slavery driving awareness and reporting.
- Other prevalent sectors include construction, hospitality (restaurants, takeaways, hotels etc) and farming.
- Potential victim genders were 46% male, 21% female, 0.04% transgender, and 33% gender unknown. Potential exploiter genders were 60% male, 18% female, 0.04% transgender, and

21% unknown. (the high number of unknown cases is because when the public report a group of potential victims, if they cannot say with certainty what gender they were, unknown is recorded).

## **QUOTE**

“The Helpline is receiving an ever-increasing volume of contacts via calls, web and Unseen App submissions - a testament to the scale of the problem of modern slavery in the UK today. The numbers of potential victims indicated are just the tip of the iceberg. But growing public awareness of the signs of slavery, and of the Helpline as a resource, mean that we are able to help more people to freedom than ever before, working in collaboration with the police, businesses and other partners, while the data coming out of the Helpline is being used to further understand this crime and how to combat it.” – Andrew Wallis, Unseen CEO.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Unseen is a UK-wide national charity which believes that modern slavery can and must be eradicated. Unseen runs safehouses and outreach for survivors, the Modern Slavery Helpline, and works with businesses, the police, government and others to end slavery.

The Modern Slavery Helpline is open 24/7 every day of the year, free, confidential, and can take calls in over 200 languages.

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

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

Twitter @unseenorg @MSHelpline

## **CONTACT**

Comms Manager Tabitha Ross 0303 040 2888 / 07452 700963 / t.ross@unseenuk.org