

## Press release

For immediate release

13 October 2021

# More than 24,000 potential victims of modern slavery recorded by UK's Helpline as it marks five years in operation

**The UK's Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline today unveiled new figures for its first five full years of operation, shining a spotlight on the true extent of modern slavery in this country.**

Since its launch in October 2016, the Helpline:

- Has received over 28,000 incoming helpline calls and nearly 8,000 contacts through its website and app
- In total, raised more than 25,700 Helpline cases
- Of these, nearly 8,000 were related to reports of modern slavery
- More than 24,000 potential victims were indicated in these modern slavery cases<sup>1</sup>.

Says Justine Currell, Executive Director of Unseen: "I'm proud of what we've achieved in the past five years, and how our rich data is used by the Government, businesses, the police and other organisations to raise awareness and inform their approach to tackling slavery.

"There is no room for complacency, however. Modern slavery is alive and well in this country, and there is still a worrying lack of awareness. With some experts estimating there is up to 100,000 people in slavery in the UK at any one time, we need more of us to be able to recognise the signs of exploitation and report it to the Helpline."

The figures come ahead of Anti-Slavery Day on Monday 18 October, which was created by Parliament to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address the problem.

## **Notes to editors**

### **More information**

For all press enquiries, contact: 0303 040 2888 (out of hours 07943 498239)  
[media@unseenuk.org](mailto:media@unseenuk.org)

### **About the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline** **08000 121700**

- The Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline is part of the leading anti-slavery charity Unseen, [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org)
- The Helpline was launched on 10 October 2016.
- It is confidential and independent, providing information, advice and guidance to potential victims, businesses, statutory agencies such as the NHS and police, and the public about any modern slavery issue.
- The Helpline is free to use, can take calls in more than 200 languages, and operates 24/7, 365 days a year.
- People can also contact the Helpline via the website and the Unseen App.
- The Helpline is totally independent and relies on grants from trusts, businesses, fellow charities and other organisations, and donations from the general public.

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

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

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<sup>i</sup> All figures from 10 October 2016 to 10 October 2021