

## Press release

Immediate release

### **Businesses championing anti-slavery invited to enter prestigious 2024 Unseen Business Awards**

- Nominations are now open for the 2024 Unseen Business Awards, recognising businesses and individuals leading the fight against modern slavery in global supply chains.
- The awards encompass two categories: Business Awards and Individual Awards. Five awards will be presented in total, celebrating a range of vital contributions.
- A distinguished panel of anti-slavery, human rights, and business ethics experts will assess nominations based on four key criteria: commitment, collaboration, innovation, and impact.
- Businesses and individuals are encouraged to submit nominations highlighting their best practices and contributions. Projects must have been undertaken within the past two years.
- To submit a nomination, visit: <https://www.unseenuk.org/unseen-business-awards/> Nominations close on 19 July 2024.

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Unseen Business Awards, recognising businesses and individuals driving positive change in the fight against modern slavery.

Run by UK anti-slavery charity Unseen, the awards celebrate companies of all sectors and sizes, demonstrating exceptional leadership in eradicating modern slavery from their operations and supply chains.

Now in its second year, the Unseen Business Awards provide a vital platform for businesses to showcase the positive impact they make in tackling this critical human rights issue.

Modern slavery and worker exploitation remain a stark reality, affecting every industry and location.

Since its launch in 2016, Unseen's UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline has identified labour exploitation as the most prevalent exploitation type, with 3,416 potential victims indicated across 759 cases in 2023. This comprises more than a third (35%) of all modern slavery Helpline cases and 58% of potential victims during the year (i).

"Modern slavery is a complex issue, and businesses have a critical role to play in dismantling the systems that perpetuate it," says Andrew Wallis, CEO of Unseen.

"The Unseen Business Awards are designed to celebrate those companies taking concrete steps to eradicate slavery from their operations and supply chains. By showcasing these efforts, we hope to inspire and empower others to join the fight."

UK businesses and individuals of all sizes and sectors are encouraged to submit nominations highlighting their best practices and contributions. Projects must have been undertaken within the past two years to be eligible.

The awards encompass two categories: Business Awards and Individual Awards. Five awards will be presented in total, acknowledging a range of critical contributions, from innovative approaches to impactful partnerships.

Winning an Unseen Business Award is a mark of distinction, signifying a company's commitment to ethical practices.

"Being recognised by such an important organisation in the modern slavery landscape as Unseen is an honour," says Madeline Fitton, Head of Growth at sustainable food company Sodexo and winner of Unseen's Individual Impact Award in 2023.

"The Unseen Business Awards were a great opportunity to make connections with organisations and individuals who are working purposefully towards exposing and eradicating this heinous crime. "

Winner of the 2023 Business Impact Award, Caroline Lowe, Head of People at Shiva Hotels, echoes this sentiment: "As a guest facing business, the public are more aware of and interested in the social and ethical practices of the businesses they engage with.

"Winning the Business Impact Award has amplified our commitment to tackling modern slavery at Shiva Hotels with our guests."

A distinguished panel of judges, comprising leading experts in anti-slavery initiatives, human rights, and business ethics, will assess nominations based on four key criteria: commitment, collaboration, innovation, and impact. Among them is Matt Crossman, Stewardship Director at investment management company, Rathbones Group.

Commenting on his role as a judge, Crossman says: "With 20 years dedicated to responsible investment, I'm delighted to be judging the Unseen Business Awards this year. At Rathbones we have long championed the role of business in tackling human rights issues, and these awards perfectly align with that mission.

"Recognising businesses that prioritise ethical sourcing and positive social impact is crucial, not only to inspire others but also to share best practices so we can collectively make a greater difference in the fight against modern slavery. I'm excited to see the innovative solutions driving real change."

Nominations close on 19 July 2024 at 11.59pm. Businesses and individuals can visit the Unseen website for more information and to submit their nominations:

<https://www.unseenuk.org/unseen-business-awards/>

### **Notes to editors**

For all press enquiries and interviews, contact 0303 040 2888 or [media@unseenuk.org](mailto:media@unseenuk.org)

### **About Unseen**

Unseen is working towards a world without slavery. We provide safehouses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. We also run the UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline, and work with communities, business, governments, other charities and statutory agencies such as the police and NHS to stamp out slavery for good. [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org)

### **About Unseen business services**

Since 2017, Unseen's business team has supported hundreds of organisations to tackle modern slavery across their operations and supply chains. Unseen offers a range of unique and bespoke services, delivered by experts, that will make a genuine difference to your business.

Unseen's Business Hub is a vibrant community of industry leaders united against worker exploitation and modern slavery. We empower businesses of all sizes and sectors with the tools and expertise needed to make a real and lasting difference.

In 2023, the Business Hub has supported nearly 80 businesses on their journeys to becoming ethical leaders.

## **Ends**

- (i) UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline Annual Assessment 2023:  
[https://www.unseenuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Unseen-Helpline-Annual-Assessment\\_2023.pdf](https://www.unseenuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Unseen-Helpline-Annual-Assessment_2023.pdf)