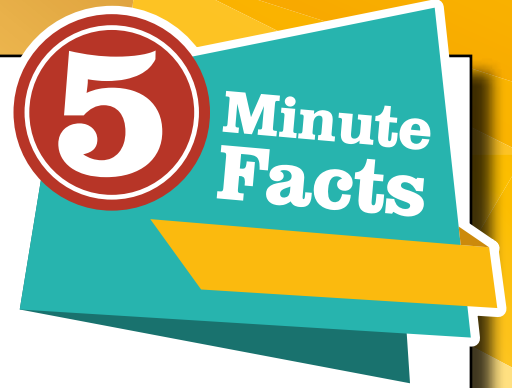


Child trafficking/ Modern day slavery



What is it?

Child trafficking is the movement of children for the purposes of exploitation. A child has been trafficked if he or she has been moved within a country, town or city, or across borders whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child.

The process of child trafficking is abusive in multiple ways and requires a child protection response. Child trafficking involves grooming, can involve significant international movement and different types of exploitation. This includes sexual exploitation, forced labour such as domestic servitude and forced criminality such as begging or cannabis cultivation. According to official data published by the National Crime Agency there were 3,266 potential victims of trafficking in 2015, 982 of them children. Children are coerced, deceived or forced into the control of others who seek to profit from their exploitation and suffering.

What does the law say about it?

Sexual Offences Act 2003 — Sections 57-60 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 created the offence of trafficking into, within or out of the UK for sexual exploitation. It also introduced new offences of abuse of children through prostitution and pornography.

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 — Section 4 of the Act created the offence of trafficking for forms of non-sexual exploitation.

Coroners and Justice Act 2009 — Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 created the offences of holding another person in slavery or servitude or requiring them to perform forced or compulsory labour without the need to prove trafficking.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 — Received Royal Assent in March 2015. The Act consolidates current offences relating to trafficking and slavery.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) — The NRM is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care. It was set up in 2009 as part of the UK's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention.

Identifying Trafficked Children — It may be difficult to identify trafficked children and young people due to them not showing obvious signs of distress or abuse. Some children and young people may try to hide the fact that they are trafficked and some may not be aware they are trafficked.

- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone
- Spends a lot of time doing household chores
- Rarely leaves their house, has no freedom of movement and no time for playing
- Is orphaned or living apart from their family, often in unregulated private foster care
- Isn't sure which country, city or town they're in
- Is unable or reluctant to give details of accommodation or personal details
- Might not be registered with a school or a GP practice
- Has no documents or has falsified documents



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- Has no access to their parents or guardians
- Is seen in inappropriate places such as brothels or factories
- Possesses unaccounted for money or goods
- Is permanently deprived of a large part of their earnings, required to earn a minimum amount of money every day or pay off an exorbitant debt
- Has injuries from workplace accidents

Some children are internally trafficked from one area to another and can sometimes be children living in care or at home, some of the indicators may be:

- Physical symptoms indicating physical or sexual assault; the child persistently going missing sometimes for long periods
- Returning looking well cared for despite having no known base
- The child possessing large amounts of money; acquiring expensive clothes/mobile phones without plausible explanation
- Low self-image, low self-esteem, self-harming behaviour; truancy and disengagement with education

Practitioners should also be aware that children who are at risk of serious harm through child sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation are often 'hidden' and may also be missing from education and/or care or home.

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What should practitioners do?

Trafficking is first and foremost a safeguarding concern. Whenever a practitioner identifies that a child may have been trafficked, they should act promptly before the child goes missing or is abducted and assess the child's level of need/risk of harm as set out in the above guidance. Any practitioner who believes that a child or young person is being trafficked or is at risk of this should contact the Integrated Front Door (IFD) Tel: **01204 331500**. The IFD in partnership with the Police, may undertake a Section 47 Enquiry (safeguarding).

Children, young people and professionals can also find support from the Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy Service which is delivered by Barnardo's.

Any concerns or information about possible victims or Modern Slavery Helpline is **0800 121 700** and is 24/7. Further information can be found at **www.programmechallenger.co.uk**

If the child is in immediate danger call **999**.

For more information...

NSPCC Child Trafficking advice centre
Tel: **0800 107 7057**

UK Human Traffic Centre is part of the National Crime Agency Tel: **0844 77 2406**
email: UKHTC@soca.x.gsi.gov.uk or
www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk

Stop the Traffik

Independent Child Trafficking Advocacy Service

**Bolton
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