

# A media guide to keeping people safe when reporting on modern slavery



More than 40 million people are held in modern slavery globally including the UK.

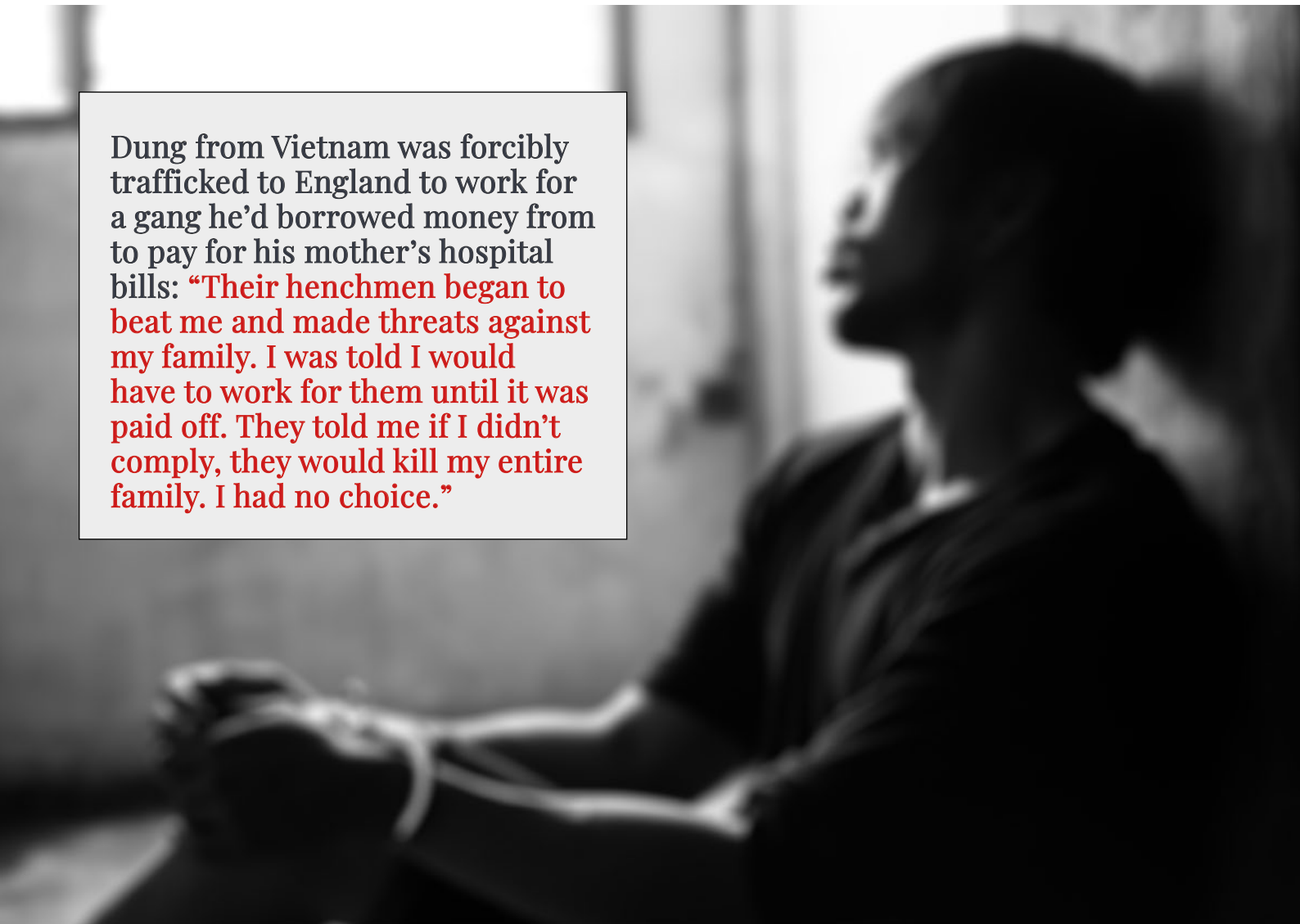
Survivors of modern slavery are victims of serious crime. They can remain at risk from traffickers for a very long time. Years of emotional and physical abuse can mean their captors maintain a psychological grip, even after their exploitation is over.

It's important that survivors' voices are heard and we all understand the need for sensitivity and safeguarding people who've already experienced a massive breach of trust and are fearful.

## This guide will help journalists

- understand the complex systems of support and terminology
- report the shocking truth of modern slavery, without inadvertently increasing trauma of survivors or risks to them and their families
- encourage and inform the public how they can be part of the solution

Dung from Vietnam was forcibly trafficked to England to work for a gang he'd borrowed money from to pay for his mother's hospital bills: **"Their henchmen began to beat me and made threats against my family. I was told I would have to work for them until it was paid off. They told me if I didn't comply, they would kill my entire family. I had no choice."**



## What is the correct terminology?

Using the correct language (such as ‘trafficking’ rather than ‘smuggling’) is crucial as it can impact on how people are identified and the support they can receive from the relevant authorities.

### People smuggling

- Travelling across international borders.
- They choose to make the journey, even if danger is involved.
- When they arrive at their destination they are not held against their will or forced into labour.

### Human trafficking

- Can happen anywhere, across borders, between cities or even from one street to the next.
- They were forced or tricked by fake promises into travelling.
- Threats, force, coercion are used to exploit a person for someone’s financial gain.

## Other key terms

<b>Modern slavery</b>	The severe exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain.
<b>Labour Exploitation</b>	Someone is forced to work against their will, often under threats.
<b>Criminal Exploitation</b>	Someone is forced to commit crimes like drug dealing or cultivation with the profits going to their exploiters.
<b>Sexual Exploitation</b>	Someone is manipulated or coerced into sexual acts for someone else’s gain.
<b>Domestic Servitude</b>	Someone is controlled by others to perform household chores such as childcare and cleaning, often confined to the house.
<b>Organ Harvesting</b>	Surgically removing someone’s organs without their consent, often for sale on the black market.
<b>National Referral Mechanism (NRM)</b>	The Government system to identify if someone is a victim of modern slavery so they can access support and protection. Adults can choose to enter the NRM and for those under 18 an NRM referral is done alongside child protection processes with local authorities providing care.
<b>First Responders</b>	Are responsible for identifying potential victims, gathering basic information about what has happened and referring them to the NRM. A crucial first point of contact, they are from designated organisations such as the police, local authorities and charities like The Salvation Army.
<b>Single Competent Authority (SCA)</b>	A Home Office department which decides whether there is evidence that this person is a victim of modern slavery.
<b>‘Reasonable grounds’</b>	If the SCA decide there are ‘reasonable grounds’ that someone is a victim of modern slavery they will be offered intensive support through the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract while further investigation determines if there are ‘conclusive grounds’. A positive ‘conclusive grounds’ decision entitles people to another period of intensive support and into the future light touch support, called ‘Reach-In’ while they build resilience and independence.
<b>‘Conclusive grounds’</b>	
<b>Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC)</b>	The Salvation Army and partners deliver support on behalf of the Home Office where survivors need help to begin to recover. This can include a safe place to stay and financial, medical, legal and emotional support.

## The journey through the system



Potential victim identified.



Interview by First Responder and referral to NRM.



'Reasonable grounds' decision made by Home Office.



Specialist support given to adults through the MSVCC where someone needs support with their recovery.



'Conclusive grounds' decision made by Home Office.



'Reach-In' support available for people with a positive 'conclusive grounds' decision.

Here are some of the things The Salvation Army provides outside the MSVCC to help people feel safe and ready to move on with their lives.



Our mentoring teams and church and community centres offer additional practical and holistic support in the local community



Our Survivor Support Fund meets needs, where no other funding is available, for things like training, a deposit or furniture for their own home.



Our international specialists provide technical and financial support to help at risk communities become more resilient to traffickers' tricks and coercion.



**Help spread the word!** It is believed that, in the UK alone, more than 100,000 people are currently trapped in modern slavery, in every corner and every community. The more people can spot the signs of slavery, the more people we can get to safety.

# Hidden in plain sight

Victims are often UK nationals as well as those trafficked from abroad. This crime often occurs out of sight with people forced to work in many scenarios from farms and factories, building sites and nail bars, car washes and cafes, domestic and sex work and being forced into crimes like drug smuggling.

- More details on spotting the signs of modern slavery can be found here: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/spot-signs](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/spot-signs)
- More details of support for survivors and how it works can be found here: [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery)



Please provide information along the following lines to enable people to respond

- If you suspect modern slavery is happening, report it to the Modern Slavery Helpline on **08000 121 700**.
- If you suspect that you or someone you have come into contact with could be a victim of modern slavery and in need of help, contact The Salvation Army's 24/7 confidential referral helpline on **0800 808 3733**.
- If there is an immediate danger to the suspected victim or if you think that they may be under 18, inform the police and call **999** as a matter of urgency.



For more information go to [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery)

## Help survivors feel safe to speak up

We know that many survivors of modern slavery want to speak to the media. Helping them feel comfortable to do so and keeping them safe can involve more than obscuring voices and/or visual identities or changing identifying details such as names and locations.

Organisations like The Salvation Army can help journalists work with survivors so they feel at ease and in control. **We can:**

- explain about **consent** and find out in advance if there are areas of questioning a survivor is not comfortable speaking about.
- provide suitable and **secure locations** where a survivor feels **at ease** and can be **supported** by someone they trust and an **interpreter** if needed.
- find out if a survivor needs **gender appropriate** journalists and team.
- check on the survivor's **wellbeing** after an interview and also let you know if the experience has affected their decision to share.

## Thank you

For more than 150 years The Salvation Army has been fighting to seek justice for all people who face exploitation and abuse every day, as well as those who are at risk or recovering. We are responding across the world and the UK with practical support to help vulnerable communities become more resilient to the threat and to help survivors rebuild their lives. **We welcome your support in making the world a more sympathetic place for potential victims and survivors of exploitation.**



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