



Report on
The Salvation Army's
Modern Slavery
Victim Care Contract
July 2023 to June 2024

Enslaved to empowered

Working with survivors to help them
take charge of their lives and thrive.

Spot the signs: salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery



Foreword

As I reflect on the past year, I want to acknowledge and give thanks for the extraordinary dedication of our staff, volunteers, and committed partners who have worked tirelessly to support and empower survivors of modern slavery. Their unrelenting efforts, particularly in the face of such a challenging year, are nothing short of remarkable. Despite a decrease in the number of individuals entering our support services, we remain deeply concerned that modern slavery is an ever-growing threat. Traffickers continue to use their criminal networks and activities to enslave more and more people, exploiting their vulnerabilities and instilling fear to prevent them seeking help from a society that too often either ignores or is unaware of their plight.

It is crucial the UK recognises survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking as genuine victims of crime and treats them with the dignity and support they deserve. If we fail in this, we risk pushing survivors further into the shadows, deterring them from seeking help and, in turn, strengthening the hand of traffickers. Our worst fears seem to be becoming reality: recent legislative changes appear to have left many victims too frightened to seek assistance, and stricter eligibility criteria have denied others access to Government-funded protection and support.

There is still so much work to be done. We need people on the street to recognise the signs of modern slavery and report anything suspicious. We need those in positions of authority to acknowledge these individuals as victims of crime, in need of protection and support. And we need frontline workers—such as those working in the police, healthcare, or local authorities—to be trained and supported in their critical role to identify and refer people effectively and with understanding. They may be the only hope a survivor has to receive the help they so desperately need.

Despite these concerns, we also have much to celebrate. This report highlights the growing strength of our sector as we unite to combat modern slavery and support survivors. I continue to be humbled and inspired by the resilience and hope that survivors demonstrate as they rebuild their lives.

“

Whatever challenges lie ahead, we remain steadfast in our God-given mission to provide shelter, space, and support to those recovering from the horrors of modern slavery. We will continue to advocate for their rights, show them love, and help them unlock their own strength and skills so they are empowered to live life to the fullest.

”

Major Kathy Betteridge
Director of Anti Trafficking
and Modern Slavery
for The Salvation Army.



Key data

Key data summary

This is the thirteenth year the Government has contracted The Salvation Army and its partners to deliver support under a contract to provide specialist support for adult victims of Modern Slavery referred from England and Wales.

The current Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract came into effect in January 2021. This section provides an overview of the number and profile of potential victims¹ of Modern Slavery who entered the support services between July 2023 to June 2024.



In Year 13, a total of **2,741 potential victims** entered the service to receive support. This was **792 fewer people, a 22% decrease**, on the previous year.

This decrease probably has several causes, none of which suggest that modern slavery is less prevalent in England and Wales. Recent changes in immigration laws, even those not yet enforced, may have made potential victims more afraid to seek help. Additionally, stricter eligibility criteria have led to a smaller percentage of those referred to the National Referral Mechanism being officially recognized as victims of modern slavery and able to

receive support and protection from the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract.

It is important to note that whilst a survivor may be referred due to forced labour, traffickers frequently exploit people in different ways at the same time.

Taking into account those people already in the service at the start of Year 13, a total of 9,818 people received support during the year. This is the first year there has been a decline of people supported.

Of the 2741 people who entered the service:

- **1660 (61%)** identified as male
- **1075 (39%)** identified as female
- **6 (>1%)** identified as transgender
- **1754 (64%)** experienced forced labour
- **533 (19%)** experienced sexual exploitation
- **277 (10%)** experienced criminal exploitation
- **158 (6%)** experienced domestic servitude
- **17 (1%)** experienced complex, unknown or awaiting confirmation of exploitation²
- **2 (>1%)** experienced organ removal



Since 2011, The Salvation Army and its partners have supported a total of **24,565** recovering survivors of modern slavery.

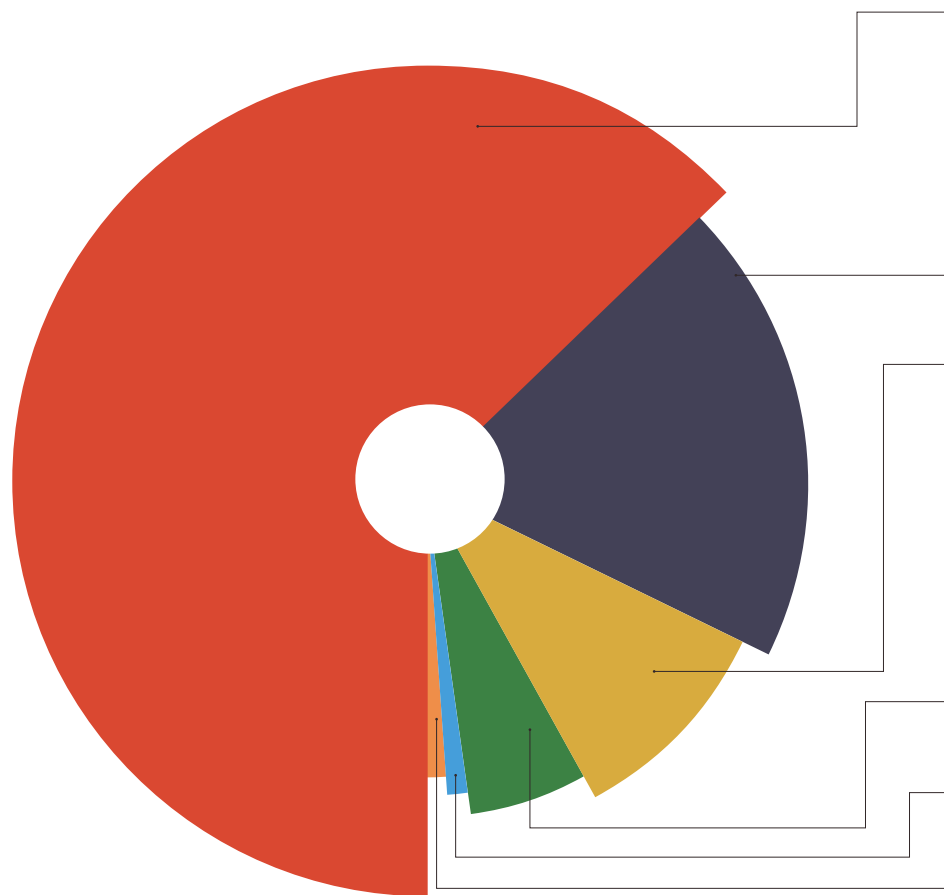
Footnote: Please note that data in this report differs from the National Referral Mechanism data for the following reasons: NRM data relates to referrals into the NRM for the whole of the UK, whilst the contract run by The Salvation Army and consequently its data refers to potential victims referred from England and Wales only. NRM data includes referrals for children and adults. The data in this report reflects adult only as the contract is for over 18's. Also, some adults referred into the NRM do not consent to receiving support. This may be because they are receiving support from family, friends, or another agency. Finally, the reference period for NRM reporting differs from this report. The NRM report covers a calendar year, January to December, whilst The Salvation Army reporting year is aligned to the year of the original 2011 Victim Care and Co-ordination, July to June.

*1 'Potential victim' is the term given to an individual where there is evidence that reasonably indicates they are a victim of modern slavery, but they are yet to receive a conclusive decision from the Single Competent Authority (SCA) or Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (IECA) (decision-making bodies in the Home Office) that they confirm they are a victim of human trafficking and modern slavery as part of the National Referral Mechanism process.

*2 Experience of these survivors was either not known or categorised as 'other' which is when the exact type of exploitation is unclear at the time of referral or not marked on the NRM referral form.

Key data

Exploitation type 2023 – 24



1,754 – Forced labour

Forced labour exploitation was once again the most common type of exploitation experienced by survivors entering support. At least 64% of those referred to the service this year experienced some form of labour exploitation.

533 – Sexual exploitation

277 – Criminal

Criminal exploitation has once again seen a decrease, possibly linked to new guidance this year which meant certain people who had committed crimes could be disqualified from entering support (Public Order Disqualifications). The overall number of people referred as victims of domestic servitude has remained consistent against a general trend of decline.

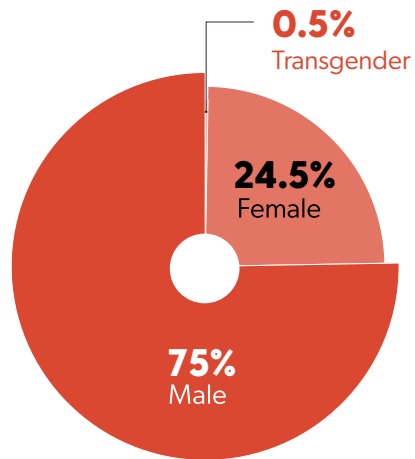
158 – Domestic servitude

17 – Complex/Unknown

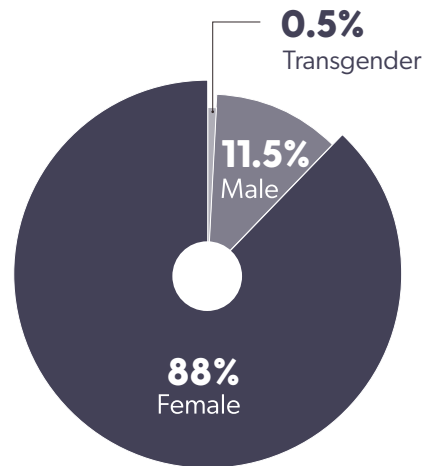
2 – Organ removal

Key data

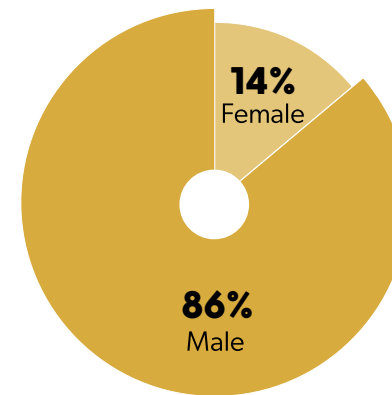
Gender and exploitation type 2023 – 24



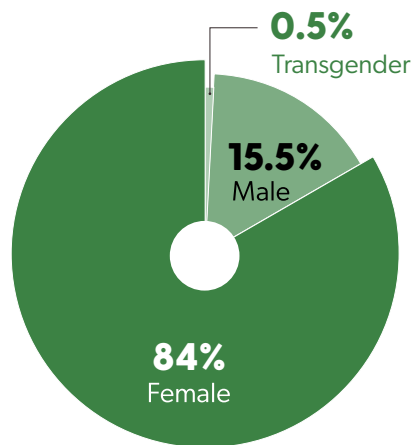
1,754 – Forced labour



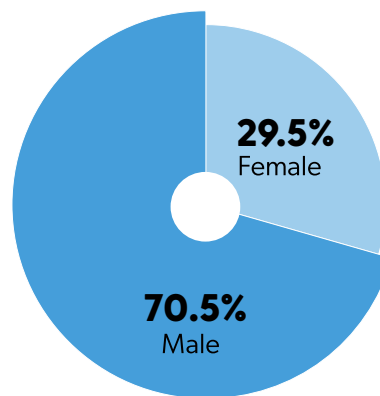
533 – Sexual exploitation



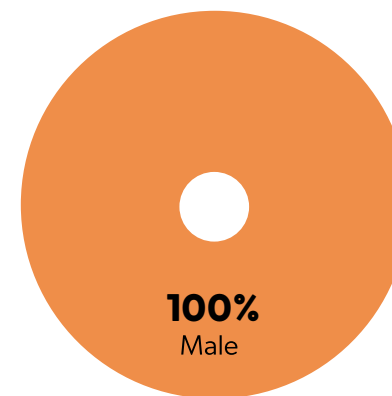
277 – Criminal



158 – Domestic servitude



17 – Complex/Unknown



2 – Organ removal

75% of forced labour survivors were men

86% of criminal survivors were men

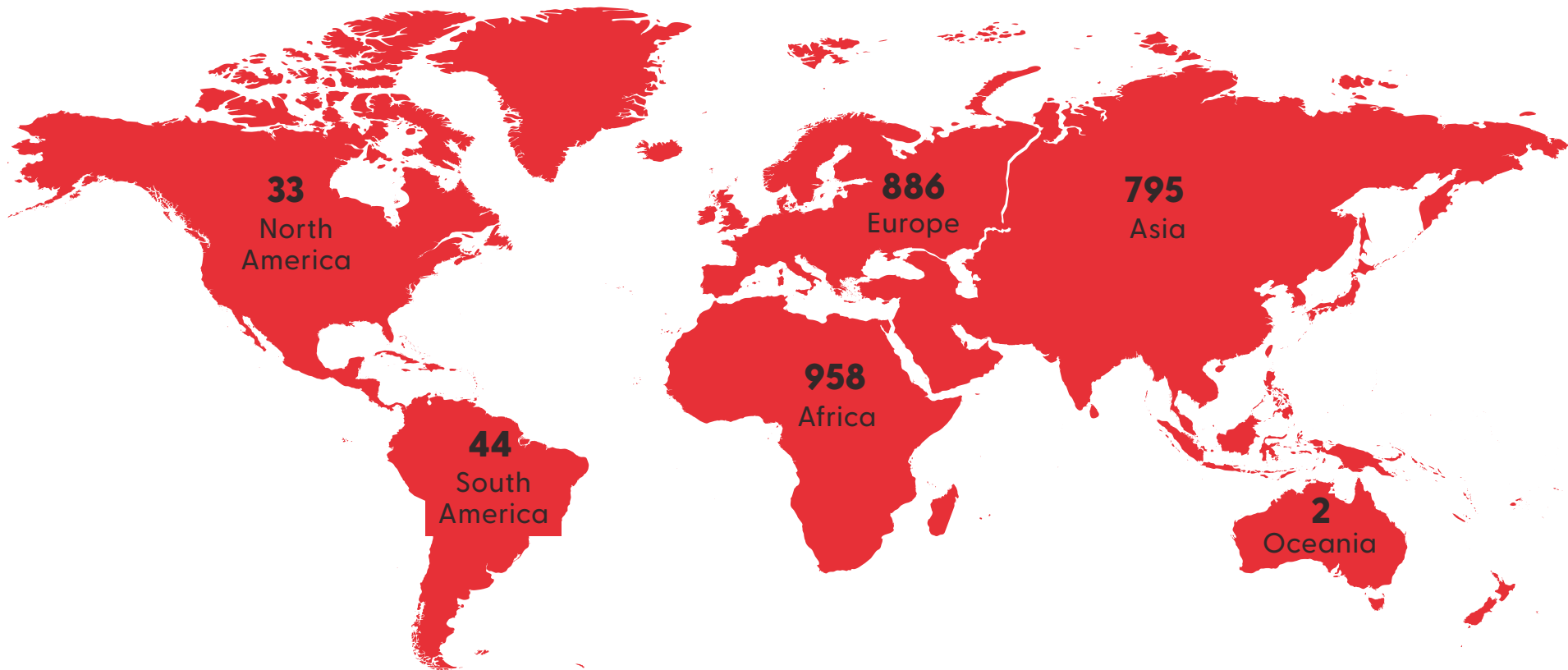
84% of domestic servitude survivors were women

88% of sexual exploitation survivors were women

6 transgender survivors were supported under the MSVCC compared to 50 transgender survivors last year

Key data

All nationalities



This year survivors from **101 different nationalities** entered support. Outside of the top ten, the next most common nationalities were Chinese, Syrian, Nigerian, Romanian, Afghan and Somali.



Case study

Rose's story



Rose* was brought over to the UK in 2019 from Nigeria by a family who told her and her parents that she would be coming to provide childcare for their daughter and that they would also arrange for Rose study. She and her parents were excited and happy about the opportunity and so agreed. What awaited Rose was actually years of slave labour and sexual exploitation.

*Names changed to protect identities.

“

At home in Nigeria I lived in a village with my parents and siblings. It was very nice. We were not rich but we had enough. In school I loved reading and I wanted to be a newsreader when I grew up.

”

Before I left home the family who had offered me the job in the UK told me that they would help me to study if I took care of their child. I was promised so many good things and I believed them because I couldn't imagine something bad happening in a country like the UK.

The man packed everything for me; bought me clothes; took me to the Embassy to get my visa. I was so excited and looking forward to going to school here and seeing the sights like London Bridge. But I was so naïve. When I came it was a different story.

I was super happy when I arrived. At first the couple were nice. I had my own room in their apartment. But I ended up spending four years in that home. It wasn't what they promised. I was made to do everything – I was baby sitter, housekeeper and also chef and cleaner in the restaurant that they ran. All for no money. They said that as I was paying them no rent and I didn't pay any bills, they wouldn't give me any wages.

I worked every day. I was at the restaurant six days a week; up early to get the child ready for school; back to clean the house and cook

for the family; look after the child while they were at work; and then at five in the evening I was sent to the restaurant where I had to cook; serve customers and clear up in the kitchen - often not getting back until two in the morning. I barely slept - sometimes I would only get two or three hours sleep.

I couldn't stop working, even when I was ill. Sometimes I would stand up for hours at the restaurant. If I asked for money or a rest they would shout at me and call me names. They watched me all the time because every room had CCTV. They would threaten me saying if I went to the

Case study

Rose's story

police they wouldn't treat me well and they would arrest me and send me back to Nigeria. They put fear in me.

They kept saying that they would fulfil their promise of helping me to study but eventually I realised they had only brought me here to work for them as a slave. After six months my visa expired and they didn't renew it. After a while they stopped me talking to my parents.

The wife slapped me and then she returned to Nigeria for a trip. All the time she was away the husband was raping me. This was the worst time of my life. I felt hopeless,

empty and exhausted and my life was meaningless. I would cry and ask God, 'please make it come to an end.'

One day I felt so ill and tired I cried. Then one of the regular customers started to ask why I was always working there and why I didn't go to school. I confided in him and told him my whole story. He gave me his mobile number and told me to record when the man raped me as evidence by putting my phone under my pillow. He told me I could trust the police and he was right. He helped me pack my things and took me to the police station. They were so

friendly. I was there for five hours talking to them and they were really kind and gave me food.

It was the police who called The Salvation Army to help me when they realised I had nowhere to go, and I was brought to this safe house. I arrived about two in the morning but someone was there to greet me. She told me I had nothing to worry about now; that I was safe and that it was her job was to protect me. She showed me to a beautiful room which was mine. I was so happy. I have a home now.

“

They have been amazing to me. I've been here six months and I feel OK. I've been doing online courses. I talk to my parents every day. I've met so many kind-hearted people here. When I arrived here I didn't see myself as a human being because of the things they had done to me. Now, with the help of The Salvation Army, I'm getting my confidence back. I know my future is very bright and hopeful. If one person is helped by hearing my story and doesn't have to suffer what I did then I will be so glad.

”



Key data

Referral regions

	Region	Total	Percentage
1	London	1,217 (decrease of 365)	44%
2	South East	314 (decrease of 104)	11%
3	North West	289 (decrease of 55)	11%
4	West Midlands	229 (decrease of 55)	8%
5	North East	222 (decrease of 70)	8%
6	Eastern	147 (decrease of 40)	5%
7	East Midlands	145 (decrease of 39)	5%
8	South West	101 (decrease of 51)	4%
9	Wales	51 (decrease of 36)	2%
10	Not Known	24	1%
11	Scotland	2 (decrease of 3)	>1%
12	Northern Ireland	0	0%
TOTAL		2,741	



London remained the most common referral region for survivors entering support in Y13. **Just under half (44%) of all referrals came from London.** All regions have seen a decline of referrals, with London seeing the biggest decrease of 365 compared to last year.

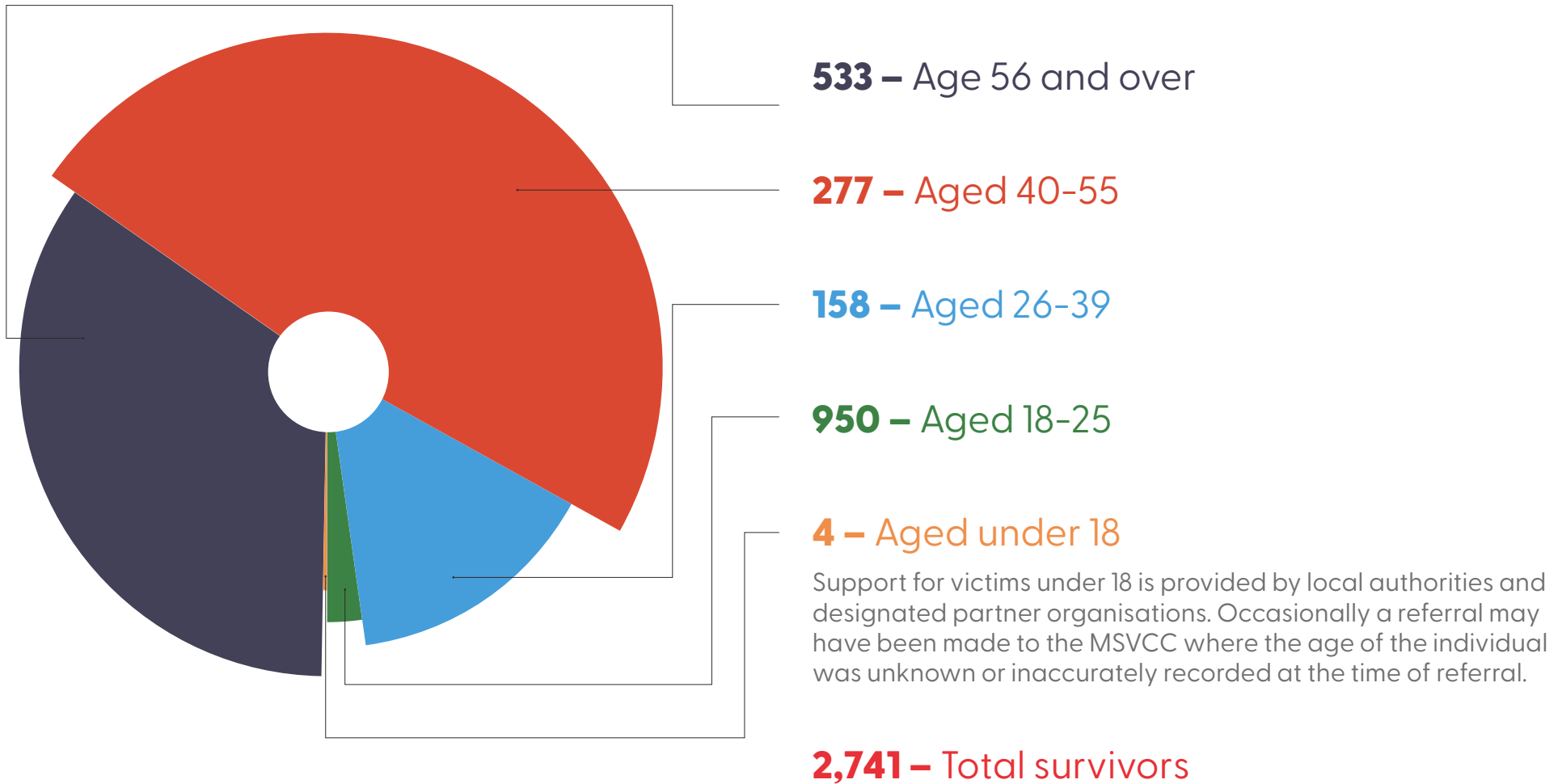
Key data

Referrals by agency

	Agency	Total
1	Home Office including UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI); Immigration Enforcement; UK Border Force; and Single Competent Authority (SCA)	1,361
2	Law Enforcement including Police, National Crime Agency and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority	580
3	Local Authorities including Social Services; Housing; Adult Safeguarding; Homelessness Services	226
4	The Salvation Army Volunteer First Responder Service	217
5	Other designated First Responder NGOs including Migrant Help (102), Medaille Trust (38), Kalayaan (27), BAWSO (9), Barnardo's (7), Refugee Council (3)	186
6	Legal Representatives	86
7	Self-Referral	47
8	Other including advocacy and support workers	31
9	Not specified	6
10	NHS	1
TOTAL		2,741

Key data

Referrals by age



Key data

Potential victims that did not enter support

Reason Didn't Enter	Total
Eligible - Declined	162
Eligible - No Further Contact	1,286
Not Eligible	3,735
On Hold	154
Total	5,337

Compared to Y12, there was an **increase of 201 people** not entering support. The main reasons why some potential victims referred to The Salvation Army do not enter the service are:

- The potential victim was not eligible for support under the terms of the contract. For example, there were no indicators of modern slavery, the person is aged under 18 years so would instead be entitled to local authority support; referred from outside England and Wales.
- The potential victim declined the offer of support, perhaps choosing to receive help from family, friends or another agency or immediately returned to their home country.
- The Salvation Army was unable to contact the potential victim with the information provided by the referrer or the information was incomplete, or the individual did not respond to our or the referrer's repeated attempts to contact them.
- On hold includes where The Salvation Army is awaiting news on reasonable grounds decisions

Key data

Length of time in support

Survivors exiting the support services in Y13 had received support for the following amount of time:

	Accommodation (support for people in safe house accommodation)	Outreach (support for people living in the community)
Y12 - Average (mean) days in service per person	386	664
Y13 - Average (mean) days in service per person	176	194

There has been a **significant decrease in average days in service per person**. This could be due to an increase this year in the number of conclusive grounds (CG) decisions made, which is the trigger for people preparing to move on. Additionally there are concerns that some survivors left support before receiving a CG decision, fearing legislation, such as the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act, could impact their ability to remain in the UK.



Key data

Move on

There were **3,634 survivors who moved on** from the support of The Salvation Army and our partners in Y13. They went to the following destinations:

Exit Destination	Total
Living with family, friends, or partners (of whom 73 were outside the UK)	1,134
Moved to the Asylum Support service	879
Settled in private accommodation (of whom 32 were outside the UK)	723
Moved into mainstream or supported accommodation with local authorities in the UK	427
Absconded or were deemed missing persons	151
Were identified as hospital in-patients, in prison, or had died during the year	108
Had not secured accommodation. The majority of these were placed within statutory homelessness services and the remainder, typically which no recourse to public funds or access to formal housing support, were signposted to support services such as homelessness shelters, other charities, and food banks in the community	100
Accessed either the Government or NGO funded Voluntary Returns Service in order to return to their country of origin	58
Moved into NGO supported accommodation (of whom 2 were outside the UK)	43
Non UK Govt funded support abroad	11
Total	3,634

The Salvation Army and our partners help people get the best possible start as and when they move on to begin to live and work independently. This includes forging links with potential employers, housing providers, as well as specialist agencies and NGOs in the UK and overseas. The breakdown of exit destinations is similar to the previous year, with an overall increase of survivors exiting the service.



Key data

Move on (continued)

Essential clothing, items of furniture needed to move into a new home or equipment required to help a person start a new job is often provided through funds such as The Salvation Army's Survivor Support Fund. Programmes such as The Salvation Army's mentoring scheme and links to local Salvation Army community centres contribute to enabling survivors to receive support and stay in touch within the community.

This year **2,584 people (26% of all survivors supported within Y13) accessed Reach-In support** following receipt of a positive conclusive grounds decision. **This is an increase of 140% from last year.** The Reach-In service offers transitional support for those leaving the main service and living in the community.

Key data

Top five nationalities accessing reach-in support

Nationality	No SU's supported
Albanian	1,246
Nigerian (Nigeria)	292
Vietnamese	219
Eritrean	158
Sudanese	144
Total	2,059

Key data

Top 10 nationalities

Click the numbers below

	Female	Male	Transgender	Total
Albanian	238	210	0	448
British	103	194	0	297
Eritrean	59	225	0	284
Sudanese	3	242	0	245
Vietnamese	41	104	0	145
Pakistani	68	29	0	97
Indian	39	47	0	86
Filipino	80	0	0	80
Ethiopian	24	36	0	60
Iranian (Persian)	15	44	0	59



65% of all survivors that entered support were accounted for in the ten most common nationalities.

Albanian nationals remain the most common entrants into the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) this year. However, there was a 79% decrease of Albanian people entering support in the past 12 months.

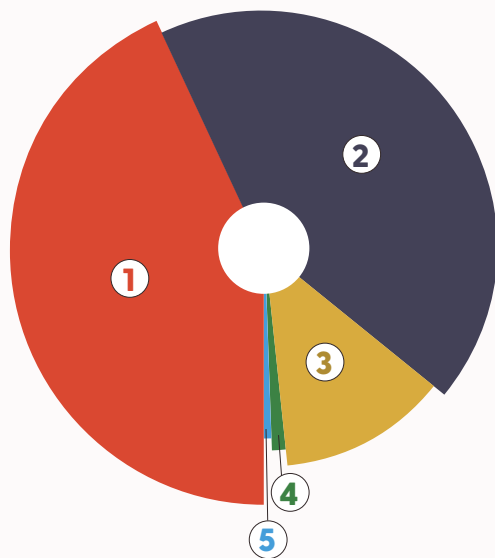
The number of **British survivors has dropped by 18%** but still remains the second most common nationality, with Eritrean just below which has seen a percentage increase of 7% from last year.

Iranian (Persian) had a notable percentage decrease of 69%, bringing them from the sixth most common nationality last year to the tenth this year.

Country profile

448 Albanian survivors

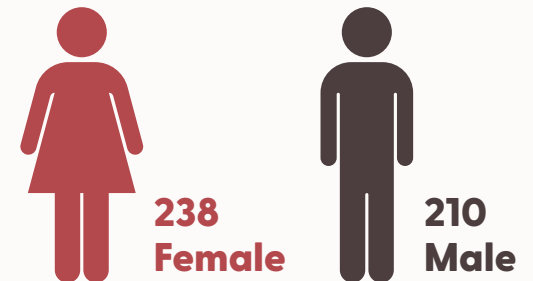
Exploitation type



- 1 **Forced labour (194 survivors)**
149 male / 45 female
- 2 **Sexual exploitation (191 survivors)**
187 female / 4 male
- 3 **Criminal (57 survivors)**
55 male / 2 female
- 4 **Domestic servitude (4 survivors)**
4 female
- 5 **Other (2 survivors)**
2 male

- The percentage of **forced labour exploitation** has **dropped 7%** from last year
- The percentage of **sexual exploitation** has **increased by 16%** from last year
- The percentage of **criminal exploitation** has **decreased by 7%** from last year

Gender



No Albanian transgender people entered support during year 13

Age range



Case study

Anna's story



Anna* – Female victim of sexual exploitation from Albania.

“

My life in Albania was just a normal life. It was beautiful. I was going to school; going to work; I had my parents and I was happy with my life. Sometimes life takes a hard turn at the moment you least expect it.

”

Everything was good and then some bad people, people I barely knew, decided to steal everything from me. They decided I would be working for them as a sex worker. I didn't know what to do because in Albania nothing works to protect you. I knew there was no point in going to the police. I didn't want to do what they told me to do, but I didn't have any other option. All the time they threatened me. They threatened my life; they threatened my parents, who are old and I am their only child. I couldn't worry them.

All the time I was getting raped. First in Albania and then in other countries. In every country they moved me to – Greece, Spain,

Germany – I was raped. They would move me around on false passports and they were watching me every moment. They knew I was a smart girl who spoke good English and that's why they eventually brought me to England. They bought the plane tickets and gave me false documents. It was not my choice. With them, nothing was ever my choice.

It was only when they brought me to England that I had the chance to run away. But even though I'm away from them, it's been really difficult since then. I've been dealing with my emotions and I'm terrified they will find me. I don't want to be here but I need to because I'm in danger.

I've been homeless since escaping from them. At first I couldn't talk to anyone and was struggling with thoughts of suicide. But, thank God, I found a friend and The Salvation Army. My only hope was to say to England, "Please take care of me." So I wrote to The Salvation Army and they have now helped me through this difficult journey.

But even now that I'm getting help and have somewhere to stay, I don't enjoy not being able to earn money to look after myself because that's how I was brought up. I have to hide all the time.

When I think of the future, I would rather be back in Albania with my life as it was before they changed everything. But now I need protection. It's so difficult that I can't even meet my parents or explain to them what has happened, because I don't want to put them in danger. I don't know how long they will live.

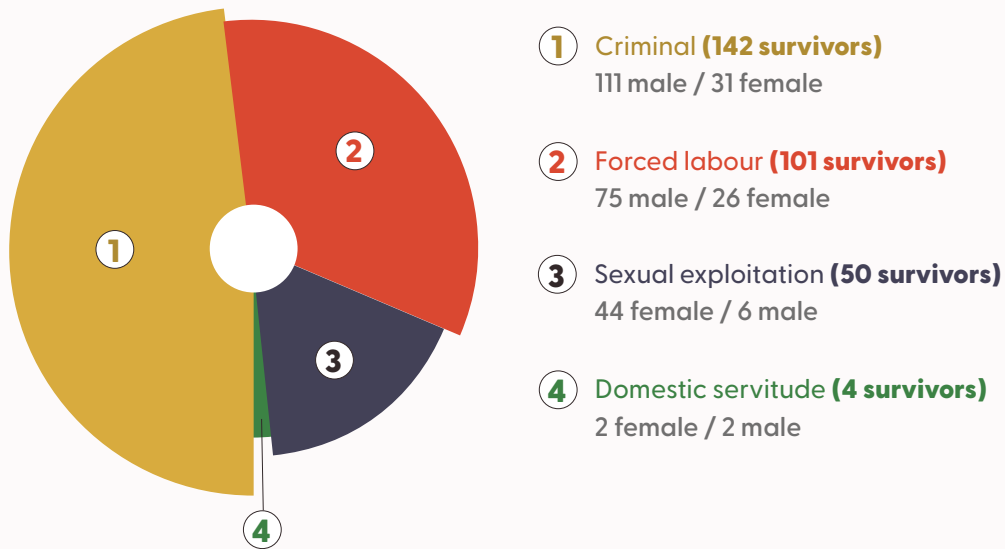
Right now The Salvation Army are the only people who protect me and make me safe. They provide everything for me – money; protection; support. I'm really glad I found them. I hope everyone who needs help goes to The Salvation Army. I will be grateful to them for all my life."

*Names changed to protect identities.

Country profile

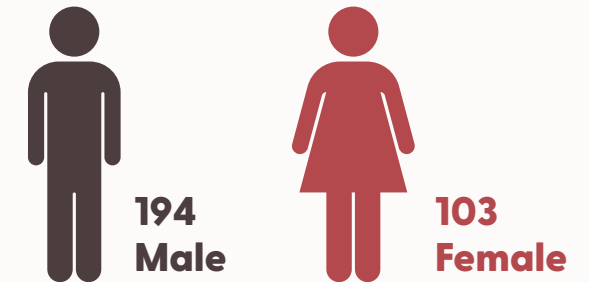
279 British

Exploitation type



Trend in exploitation types is similar to last year

Gender



No British transgender people entered support during year 13

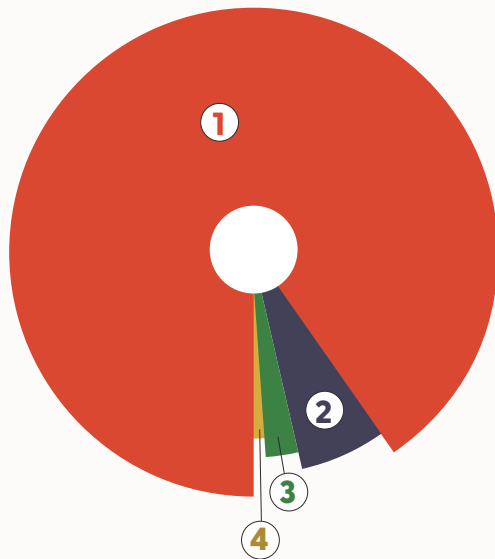
Age range



Country profile

284 Eritrean

Exploitation type



- 1 **Forced labour (258 survivors)**
221 male / 37 female
- 2 **Sexual exploitation (17 survivors)**
17 female
- 3 **Domestic servitude (7 survivors)**
5 female / 2 male
- 4 **Criminal (2 survivors)**
2 male

Trend in exploitation types is similar to last year

Gender



225
Male



59
Female

No Eritrean transgender people entered support during year 13

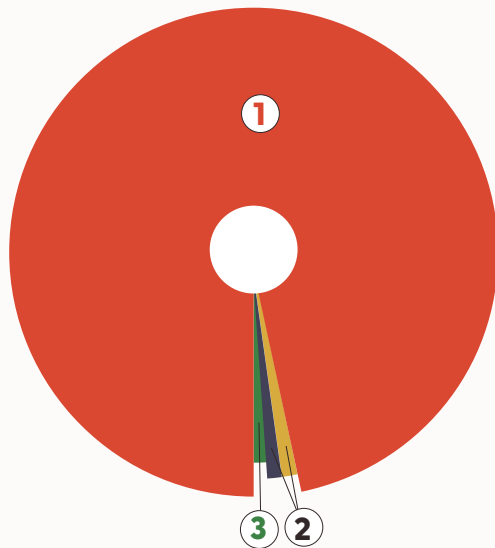
Age range



Country profile

245 Sudanese

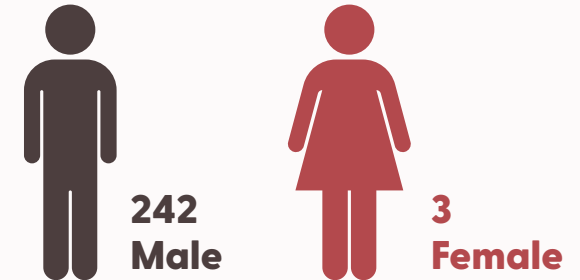
Exploitation type



- 1 **Forced labour (237 survivors)**
235 male / 2 female
- 2 **Criminal (3 survivors)**
3 male
- 2 **Sexual exploitation (3 survivors)**
2 male / 1 female
- 3 **Domestic servitude (2 survivors)**
2 male

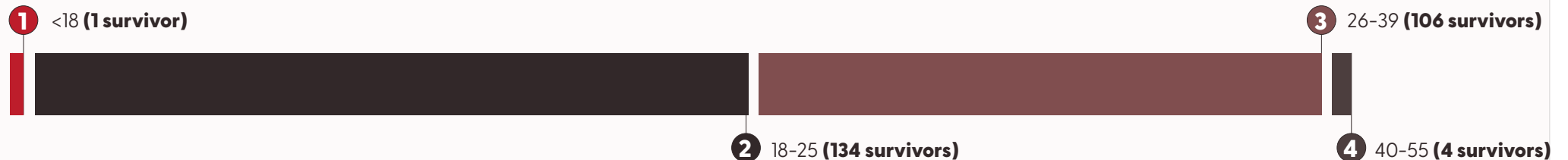
Trend in exploitation types is similar to last year

Gender



No Sudanese transgender people entered support during year 13

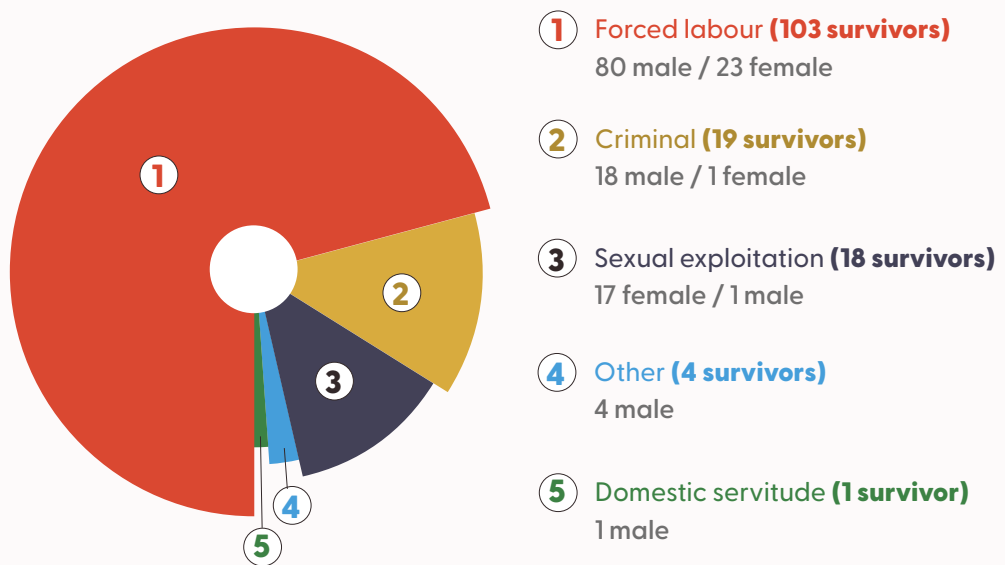
Age range



Country profile

145 Vietnamese

Exploitation type



Trend in exploitation types is similar to last year

Gender



No Vietnamese transgender people entered support during year 13

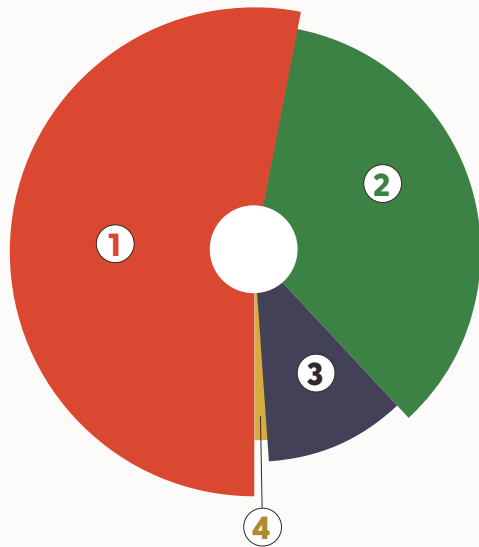
Age range



Country profile

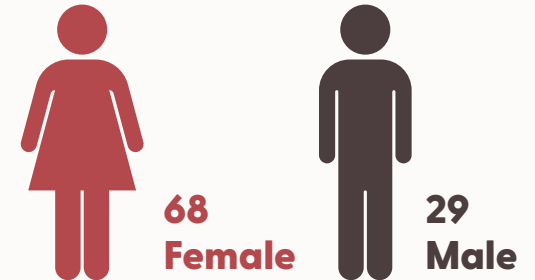
97 Pakistani

Exploitation type



- 1 **Forced labour (52 survivors)**
28 female / 24 male
- 2 **Domestic servitude (34 survivor)**
31 female / 3 male
- 3 **Sexual exploitation (10 survivors)**
9 female / 1 male
- 4 **Criminal (1 survivors)**
1 male

Gender



No Pakistani transgender people entered support during year 13

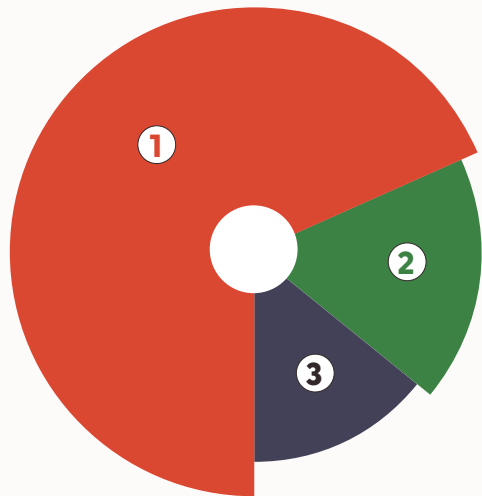
Age range



Country profile

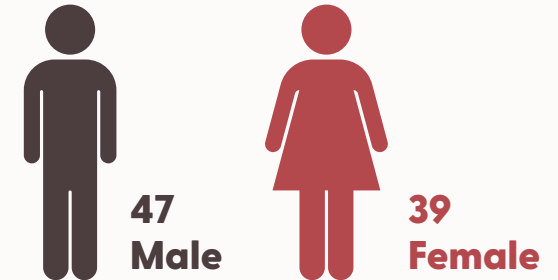
86 Indian

Exploitation type



- 1 Forced labour (59 survivors)
41 male / 18 female
- 2 Domestic servitude (15 survivor)
14 female / 1 male
- 3 Sexual exploitation (12 survivors)
7 female / 5 male

Gender



No Indian transgender people entered support during year 13

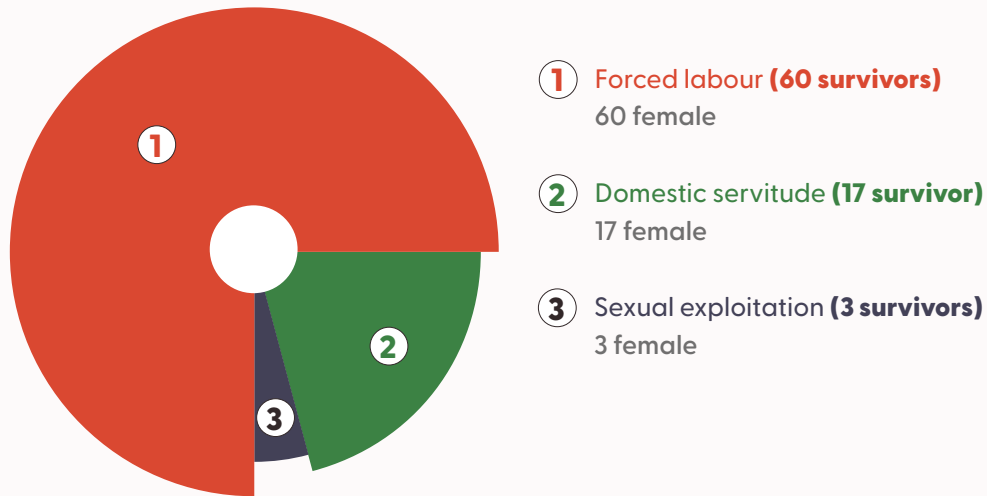
Age range



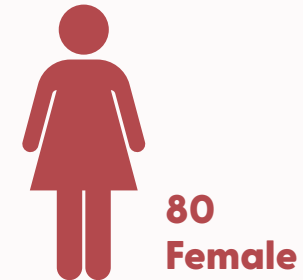
Country profile

80 Filipino

Exploitation type

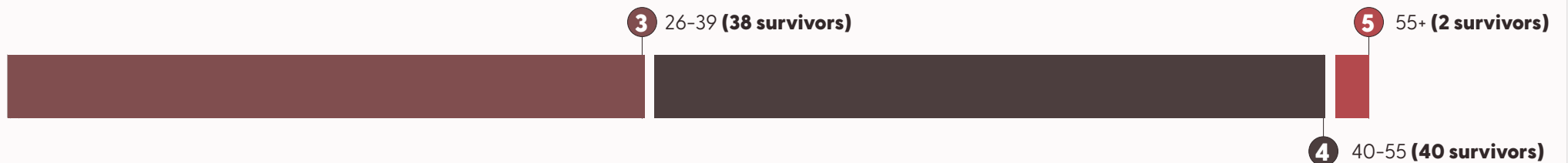


Gender



No Filipino male or transgender people entered support during year 13

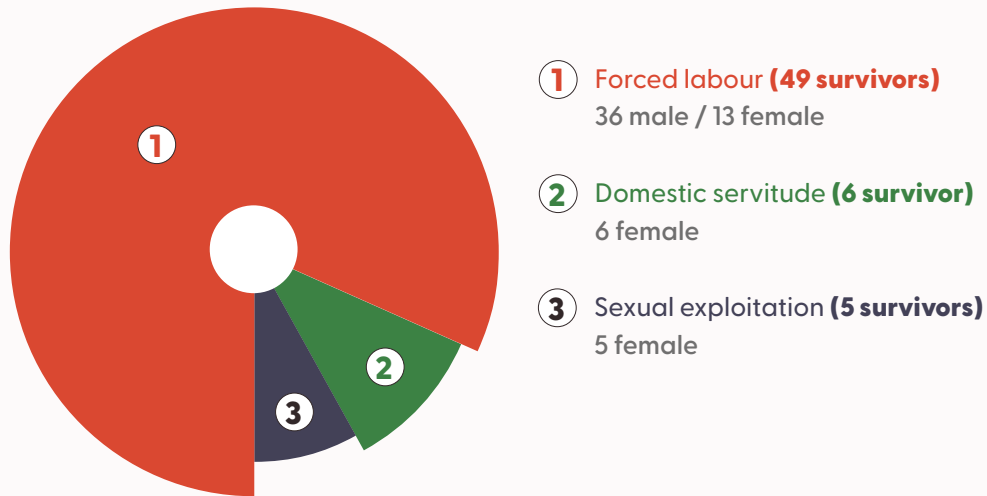
Age range



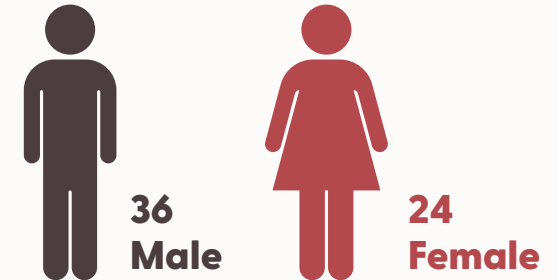
Country profile

60 Ethiopian

Exploitation type



Gender



No Ethiopian transgender people entered support during year 13

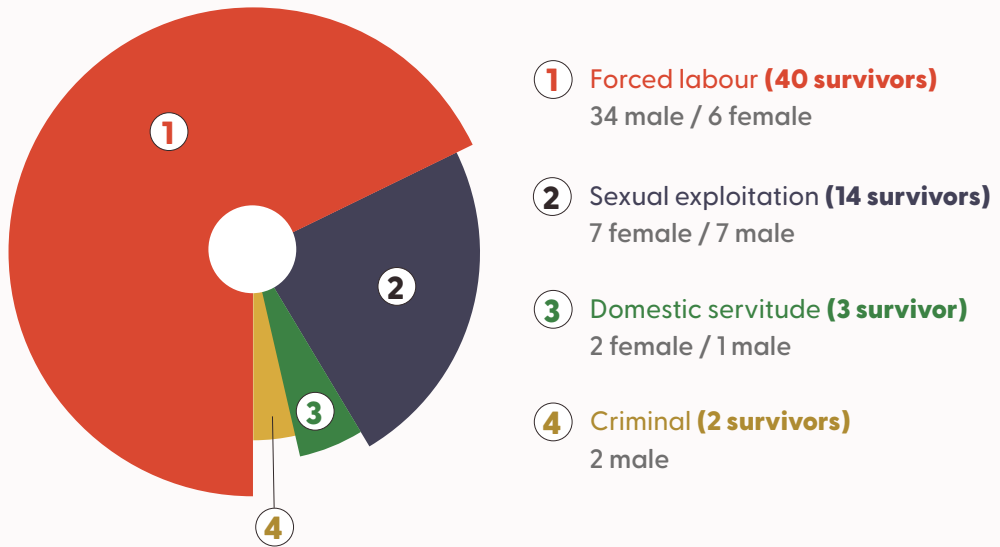
Age range



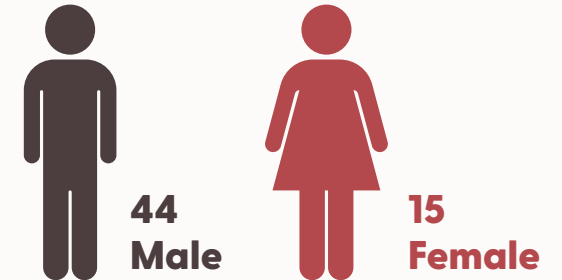
Country profile

59 Iranian (Persian)

Exploitation type



Gender



No Iranian (Persian) transgender people entered support during year 13

Age range



Case study

Franck's story



Franck* was working in his home country in Central Africa as a manager in a factory when he was offered an opportunity of a sponsorship to come to UK for a similar position with good wages.

“

Back home I had been given a lot of promises of a job with good pay and a contract. I was happy.

”

He was told to get to the UK and then he would be hired as a manager, living and working in London, and paid £5,000 a month.

Guided through all the necessary steps to take up the sponsored position, such as medical examinations and a professional English language exam, Franck got on the plane to London thinking: *“I’m going to make my dreams come true.”*

The British woman, his ‘manager’, picked him up from Heathrow and drove him to a house. On the journey Franck’s knowledge of the UK through watching televised Premier League matches made him instantly suspicious that he wasn’t heading to the address he had been told to put on his visa application.

“When I arrived here something was strange. I was taken to a six-room house with more than 25 people living.”

The house was crowded with one bathroom and one kitchen between everyone. Then the British women took his passport, telling Franck it was to keep it safe, and reassuring him this was normal practice. Next day he was taken to work and started a week’s training, not in managerial role but as a care worker. He was picked up from the house and taken to work each day.

“I worked from 6 in the morning until 10 at night with no break and then, at the end of the month I hardly got any pay.”

*Names changed to protect identities.

Case study

Franck's story

Franck was told that his wages were low because the rent and bills had been deducted from his pay. He asked to see what the bills and rent were, but his 'manager' refused to show him and became aggressive and threatening.

"Everything was a challenge. My physical and mental health became bad. I was told if I didn't do everything they said she would have me sent back home. I knew no-one here. I was afraid."

Franck says that at this point he didn't realise that this was 'modern slavery'. He remained trapped in this situation for the next six months until another man in the house called the police who started to investigate.

"Eventually, one day the police came when the lady wasn't at the house, so I could speak to them freely."

The police explained that this was modern slavery and that the men would be protected.

"The police told me The Salvation Army were going to look after me. It was a relief. Before I was in hell."

Franck gathered his belongings and was put up in a hotel for two nights while his case was processed. Then The Salvation Army brought him to a safe house where he now lives and receives support.

"The people at The Salvation Army welcomed me, gave me a room of my own where I could sleep and begin to enjoy life."

"When I arrived with them, that was the beginning of my dream. In fact it was so good I thought I was dreaming. Where I was before, with the people who exploited me, they were shouting and screaming at me and threatening me. But when I came to The Salvation Army, they spoke to me softly and asked me what kind of support I needed. And from that day I was given everything I need from The Salvation Army."

When Franck started to worry that his 'manager' might find him but the police and his support worker reassured him. He later learned that the moment he had left she had withdrawn his visa sponsorship so The Salvation Army helped him find a solicitor to sort out his legal status.

"I understand now why they call it a safe house. The staff here respect me. The most important thing is that I now feel that I'm a human being again because, before, I lost my dignity, I didn't feel like a human because that's how she treated me."

“
Today I can speak to you because of what I received from The Salvation Army and I speak, not as a victim, but as a survivor.

”

Enslaved to empowered

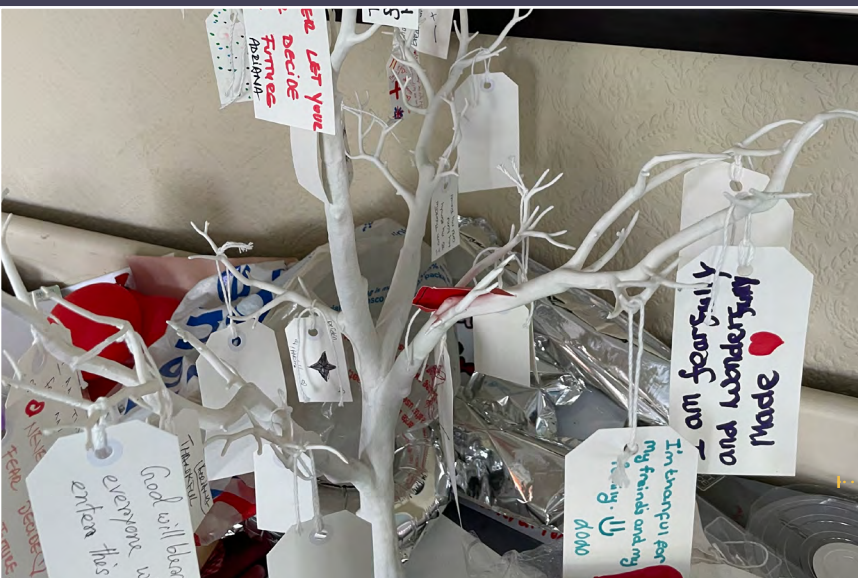
The journey from victim to survivor can be long and challenging and requires a multitude of interconnected support services tailored to each individual's needs. At the heart sits the teams delivering the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC). Their amazing work is complemented and enhanced by services funded and operated by The Salvation Army's charitable resources and nationwide network of churches, community centres and volunteers.

In everything we do alongside and on behalf of survivors, we aim to involve and empower them in their own recovery.

Enslaved to empowered

Within the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract

We are committed to maintaining high performance and stringent standards through continuous monitoring under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC). Beyond meeting these rigorous requirements, our teams proactively seek feedback and ideas from survivors and collaborate with other stakeholders to continually enhance and improve the support we provide so that survivors can move on from their difficult pasts and look to the future with confidence, resilience and hope.



Partnership

Our Partnership officer has made significant progress in coordinating, resourcing and monitoring joint activities with key stakeholders involved in delivering or influencing support services for survivors of modern slavery. We strive to improve the lives of those in our care by working collaboratively to minimise delays and streamline access, ensuring survivors are empowered rather than further traumatised by the processes needed to get the support they need.

We proactively connect all partners who work with us under the MSVCC to offer safehouse and outreach support to the wide-ranging services The Salvation Army can provide. These include mentoring; access

to community groups in our churches such as Parent and Toddler; access to additional funding streams, like the Survivor Support Fund, and our network of charity shops; and international partnerships to assist survivors when they wish to reintegrate safely in their home country or need help for their families when separated by borders.

As well as developing nationwide partnerships, we also work with each of our delivery partners on plans for building relationships with stakeholders in their local area to benefit the people they support. These stakeholders include law enforcement; prison services; academic institutions; other NGOs and community groups, as well as local authorities and healthcare providers.

A key focus remains on securing effective relationships and referral pathways for survivors needing access to local authority services like housing and safeguarding as well as making

it more straightforward for local authorities to identify and refer potential victims they may come across. We are continuously building evidence to demonstrate effective and efficient solutions and adapt to seek alternative approaches when local authorities are reluctant to adopt our initial recommendations.

Our Trusted Assessor Status pilot has continued this year in London working with the London Boroughs of Westminster, Islington and Hillingdon. Two-way training was delivered in which the London Borough instructed our staff on how to complete housing applications and assessments on behalf of survivors and one of our delivery partners, Hestia, trained local authority housing officers on trauma-informed questioning. A number of other local authorities from around the country have expressed interest in this programme. This can be rolled out once results of the pilot have been fully reviewed.

'The Thankful Tree' in one of our safe houses where survivors add things they are grateful for.

We have initiated improvements this year in the processes for releasing prisoners who have been identified as victims in need of support by working closely with HM Prison Service.

Regional and national networks and forums in the modern slavery sector also provide important opportunities to influence improvements for victims and survivors. In one three-month period this year our partners were involved in nearly 100 of these crucial groups. In the same period we engaged in a further 130 activities to raise awareness of modern slavery.

Awareness raising and training for other agencies have this year included presentations to 150 staff from Department of Work and Pensions based in Essex and London and more than 300 social workers nationwide in collaboration with Barnados. Among many presentations to health service staff was a session on spotting the signs of exploitation, in particular sexual exploitation, to a team of 50 sexual health workers in the West Midlands.

Legal

Within the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC), The Salvation Army advocates for survivors to access their rights and entitlements and seeks new ways to address challenges faced in securing the support needed.



In February 2024 The Salvation Army hosted a conference in partnership with the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab, which focused on 'Securing the Human Rights of Survivors of Modern Slavery with No Recourse to Public Funds.'

Through the event we sought to address the challenges faced by survivors of modern slavery with 'no recourse to public funds', those whose irregular immigration status means that they are unable to access



Nottingham Human Rights conference

mainstream welfare benefits, social housing, and many other areas of welfare provision.

The MSVCC offers crucial short-term support to these individuals, ensuring their basic needs are met and alleviating destitution. However, the MSVCC is intended as temporary support to act as a bridge to facilitate recovery and independence rather than as a permanent solution. Survivors with 'no recourse to public funds' often find themselves unable to

fully rebuild their lives despite being removed from exploitation.

The conference aimed to address these issues by bringing together various stakeholders including representatives from central and local government, academics, policy professionals, lawyers, and charities. The goal was to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, share knowledge and practices, and develop new approaches to effectively support survivors in these challenging circumstances.



Through presentations and joint training initiatives, such as a session by Migrant Help on asylum service processes which attracted over 150 attendees, we have spread specialist knowledge and resources to make the most impact.

Standards and inspections

The Salvation Army maintains five ISO certifications, demonstrating our commitment to high standards. These certifications include Quality Management (ISO 9001) for our Contract Management Team, as well as Environmental Management (ISO 14001), Business Continuity Management (ISO 22301), Information Security Management (ISO 27001), and Occupational Health & Safety Management (ISO 45001) covering all departments of The Salvation Army that deliver support and other services related to addressing modern slavery. Over the past year, these certifications have been updated and expanded. Additionally, our partner organizations, who provide subcontracted services, continue to increase the number and breadth of ISO certifications held across various areas.

CQC inspections provide an additional layer of scrutiny on the existing internal monitoring systems in place to ensure the best support possible for survivors. This year's results, through a further 39 inspections have built on the previous year's positive conclusions. Inspectors found good practice, quality services and highly committed staff, meeting and often exceeding contractual standards and responding well to feedback.

The CQC provides questionnaires in the top 20 most common languages used by people in our services. We are delighted to receive positive feedback from survivors through these inspections.



In recent months 91% of survivors questioned told CQC inspectors that they felt the support provided was good and 77% that it's very good.

“
I feel everything is in place for my recovery.”

”

“
They are polite, respectfully and friendly when I need anything.”

”

“
They are the only people I can openly discuss previous issues and problems as family and friends don't know everything I have experienced.”

”

Specialist Training

Recognising the diverse backgrounds, experiences and needs of the survivors of modern slavery in our care, our Contract Management team has taken part in 18 training sessions, delivered in collaboration with The Salvation Army's specialist Addiction Team. These covered topics such as Vicarious Trauma; Ethnic Diversity and Cultural Awareness; Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention; Gender-Based Violence; Emotional Wellbeing and Resilience; Substance Use; Effective Communication and Therapeutic Relationships.

Each year, we evaluate the effectiveness of this training programme, using the outcomes to inform future sessions. Next year, we plan to expand our training to include additional topics such as County Lines and supplementary sessions on addictions.



Other focuses for training this year have been around Neurodiversity, Trans and Gender Diversity and Asylum Support awareness which were delivered to allow the wider team and partners to benefit.

We develop our training to address both existing and emerging learning and wellbeing needs and improve the support we provide to survivors and our staff and partner organisations. This includes Clinical Supervision for all Referrals Officers and Recovery Needs Assessors within the Contract Management Team, an initiative to promote reflective practice, support continuing professional development, and enhance the personal wellbeing of our staff.

Financial and Mental Health Support

We work hard to ensure survivors can access the help they need and are entitled to. Financial and mental health services are two areas which can make a significant impact on a survivor's journey of recovery.



Through relationships and professional partnerships, we have developed over many years, we have made it possible for **1,809 survivors to open their own bank account and 1,239 to receive counselling services when standard NHS provision was not available.**

Research

The Salvation Army and the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull announced a new partnership in April this year aimed at connecting academics, policymakers, and practitioners to learn from others working in the field and continue developing best practices in modern slavery responses. The partnership started with conviction one month later when its inaugural Modern Slavery Spring Forum took place in London. Entitled **'From Slavery to Freedom'**, the forum brought together policymakers, researchers, survivors and other people working to bring justice through combatting the crime or practical support to survivors.

Just under 200 people came to The Salvation Army's Regent Hall church to attend the two-day event which covered survivor inclusion, trauma-informed practice, migration policy as well as impacts on and practical responses for survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery. Contributors included Eleanor Lyons, the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner; academics from Hull and Nottingham Universities; a range of NGO and government departments and several campaigners with lived experience of modern slavery.

The Modern Slavery 'From Slavery to Freedom' Spring Forum which took place in London.



“

Our Spring Forum has been a tremendous source of further inspiration and encouragement for me. With survivors engaged and empowered to be the driving force, combined with the strength of partnership and determination within the sector, we can all build a brighter future together.

”

Major Kathy Betteridge



In response to research which identified that survivors with dependent children can face additional parenting challenges due to the trauma caused by their exploitation, we ran a project with ChildsSide to assess the impact of the New Home, New Country (NHNC) programme. This programme aims to empower survivors to strengthen familial bonds on their journey towards independence and healing.



This year the programme expanded to provide training to 15 professionals who delivered 18 bespoke workshops covering various aspects of parenting, with resources to help survivors develop stronger relationships with their families as they adjust to life in a new country.



Testimonials from parents who completed the course this year underscore the positive impact of the NHNC programme, highlighting enhanced parenting skills, improved familial relationships, and increased confidence among participants. The Salvation Army remains committed to further researching and evaluating the NHNC programme to ensure its ongoing effectiveness in supporting survivors and their families within and beyond the NRM.

“

I feel I am going to be a better parent; they have taught me techniques on how to manage my child’s behaviour.

”

“

I feel so excited to have been part of this workshop. I have learned a lot concerning children. I know how to manage stress when I have my child. I have learned how to be mindful. I thank everyone who made this possible and I look forward to a good stay here.

”

Enslaved to empowered

Volunteering

The Salvation Army provides training and support for a range of different volunteering roles aimed at assisting survivors of modern slavery in their recovery. These dedicated individuals who take survivors to places of safety (drivers); help them share their story with the authorities who decide if they can get help (first responders) and provide practical guidance (mentors) enhance the support we offer through the MSVCC.



Norree and Georgia
The Salvation Army
First Responder team

Feedback from both **survivors** and **volunteers** highlights the profound positive impact on their lives...

Survivors

Survivor receiving mentoring support:

“

I'm happy being in mentoring... words from good people help me be free and strong. The energy they give to me help me know I can have a good life when it's difficult. They really help me a lot.

”

Survivor referred by First Responder team:

“

I deeply appreciate the support and care you have provided me during this difficult time. I find solace in the fact that I have your support and guidance.... Your willingness to listen and assist me gives me hope for a better future...I am committed to volunteering for your cause as a gesture of gratitude. Thank you for reaching out to me and for showing genuine concern for my well-being.

”

Volunteers

Alongside the designated roles we encourage people to volunteer in other ways and to fit around the time and skills they can offer.

One volunteer assisted with a crucial database project remotely, as she was unable to volunteer in person. Being exposed to the harsh realities and complexities of modern slavery helped her connect more deeply with those

affected by modern slavery and motivated her to raise awareness within her own circles and volunteer again in the future. She appreciated the support she received and the opportunity to enhance her own technical skills.

Letter from a grateful survivor who wants to join our volunteer team and support our work to help other people in the future. He is currently receiving support in a safe house and has made great progress since he arrived...

“

I've been so blessed in my life that it was time to pay a bit of it forward, and the Salvation Army fitted well with my faith and ethics, even though I'm not a church goer.

”

“

...even the smallest actions can have a profound impact on someone's life.

”

“

Volunteering not only changes the lives of others but also enriches your own. You'll gain new perspectives, develop valuable skills, and meet people who share your passion for making a difference. There's a role for everyone, and the rewards are immeasurable.

”

“

The Salvation Army is doing an amazing job for the people involved, but also for its volunteers. I felt always supported and never alone in my journey, knowing that help (psychological or technical) was available if needed. The team is made of incredible human beings who care about the cause, and they also created such a friendly atmosphere that made me feel welcome and valued.

”

...you have transformed my life in ways I never thought possible. There was a time when the weight of exploitation and despair pressed so heavily upon me that I contemplated ending my life. In those darkest moments, God sent you...as my first responders ... because of your timely intervention, I am alive today... filled with a renewed sense of purpose, because of the light you brought into my life.

With my background in computing, I am eager to offer my skills in any way that might benefit the Salvation Army. It would be an honour to volunteer my services and give back to the organisation that rescued me from the darkest period of my life.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for making me realise that I am a human being, deserving of dignity and respect, and not a slave. Your compassion and support have saved my life, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

With heartfelt thanks.

Training and encouragement

Throughout the year we held events to bring together our current volunteers, show appreciation and share information. Additionally, these events promoted volunteering opportunities to prospective new recruits.

“

As a volunteer I have also been pleasantly surprised by the extent of the training and support I receive from Salvation Army staff in whatever role - volunteer driver, first responder, mentor - that I undertake.

”

Volunteer First Responder

This year:

- **54** new First Responder volunteers and **51** new Transport volunteers were recruited
- **5** initial training sessions; **6** drop-in sessions and **2** lengthier forums were held to provide back-up and support for our First Responders volunteers
- **3** Roadshow events were run in Liverpool, Birmingham and Southampton and more informal gatherings held in London and Nottingham with plans for more in Leeds, Canterbury, Manchester and Cardiff.
- **2** Forums for Transport Volunteers were held
- **396** referrals into the National Referral Mechanism by the volunteer First Responder team
- **21** volunteers trained as mentors and 3 to lead 'Conversation Club' pilot

Promoting volunteering opportunities at the Nottingham Volunteer Fair

First Responder Team

Our First Responder team has shared their expertise through talks and training sessions with many statutory first responder during the year. Their knowledge has been described as transformative, significantly improving the ability of other first responders to identify and advocate for genuine victims of modern slavery who might otherwise have been missed. Following extensive collaboration with the HM Prison Service on awareness-raising, all prisons now have a dedicated Single Point of Contact to assist with accessing potential victims and ensuring all staff access modern slavery training.



The team regularly receives praise for the quality of their trauma-informed and compassionate approach to helping survivors and their tenacity in ensuring that survivors' voices are heard.

Highlights include presentations at:

- HMP Bronzefield Prison, including to all staff and a group of prisoners
- Modern Slavery Investigators at Norfolk Constabulary

- Birmingham Sexual Health clinic;

“

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for both training sessions ... They have been really well received and though- provoking...

”

Sexual Health Consultant

- Birmingham Domestic Violence Service
- Kingston Local Authority



Transport Team



A total of 753 journeys were undertaken to transport survivors from points of rescue or escape to safe locations, such as safe houses, or between safe accommodations to suit changing personal circumstances.

One-third of these journeys were carried out by our volunteer drivers, with the remainder handled by professional transport services or other appropriate bodies, such as the police. Police officers commend our drivers, noting that they can better support survivors knowing that each person we transport will be well cared for during their journey to safety.

“

If someone I cared about was ever in a position like that of our service users, I would like to think someone kind would take them to a place of safety. So I like to volunteer to show love and kindness to someone who is in an unwanted situation through no fault of theirs, and help them start their journey to a better future. It's not at all dangerous and so rewarding to see the relief of people as they are handed over to those who will look after them and keep them safe. it's a privilege to volunteer.

”

Volunteer driver

Mentoring Team

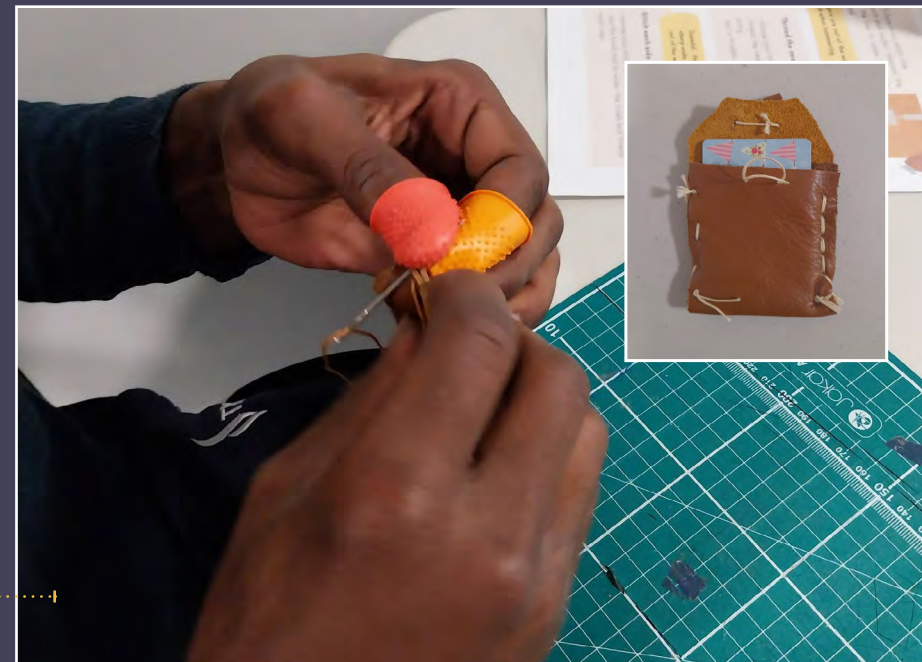
Our mentoring team operates within the BUILD programme, which aims to champion personal growth, contribution, and dignity through workshops, mentoring, and integrated partnerships.

The team continues to expand to support more survivors in our 12-month mentoring programme, where each survivor is paired with two volunteers who meet with them in the community. This year, we supported 14 people through mentoring, with six individuals graduating from the programme. The volunteer mentors create a space for personal development, helping with a range of activities, including engaging with the local community, navigating technology, accessing education and new skills, developing conversation skills, signposting to relevant organisations, and finding volunteering and work opportunities.

Eight survivors took part in a wallet making session at one of our safe houses

This year we also piloted a Conversation club workshop in partnership with one of our safe houses which delivered 12 sessions and supported six people. This was a safe space to practice spoken English together. Survivors told us how they had benefitted: “English conversation helps my mental health”; “Having a voice to speak is good” “Less stress, happy time, nice time, thank you.” We anticipate expanding with more conversation clubs in other areas.

Having space for creativity and community is an essential part of everyday life. Another pilot workshop series focused on creative expression, covering areas such as practical crafts and dance. A dance teacher who volunteers with us provided training to a survivors' choir helping to build their confidence as they sang and incorporate movement into their performances.



“

It's been great, they (mentors) have been with me through my worst times and guided and motivated me. They were like friends and gave me the confidence to make new friends. Talking together helped with confidence and to achieve goals. ...one day I would like to be a mentor.

”

Mentee

“

Everyone deserves to feel they have someone in their corner, supporting and cheering them on. Empowering my mentee to take control of their life as they want to, to make positive decisions based on what they want, is a great feeling. Progress won't always be linear, but seeing my mentee feel empowered is really rewarding.

”

Mentor



PwC Consulting volunteering day

Church, community and corporate support

Salvation Army church and community centres, along with corporate and other community partners nationwide have reinforced crucial support for survivors through various practical means.

At a Salvation Army church in Clowne, Derbyshire, Harvest Festival donations were used to supplement welcome packs for survivors arriving at an East Midlands safe house.

A group of volunteers from PwC Consulting transformed sections of a safe house garden, enabling survivors to enjoy the wonderful views and opportunities to grow produce and flowers.

Enslaved to empowered

Survivor Voice

Within the MSVCC, systems are in place to ensure regular feedback is sought from survivors, which is used to improve the delivery of support services.

Crafts to decorate a Christmas tree in one of our safe houses



From the moment a survivor enters our service, we aim to ensure they feel safe and listened to. To this end we seek feedback on their initial interactions with our teams, including their journey to us, through a new and easy-to-use form.

Additionally, we arrange proactive opportunities to empower survivors to be a part of improvement efforts. Informal wellbeing sessions often provide the best opportunities for survivors to feel at ease and empowered to disclose their thoughts on the support they are receiving and other issues important to them.

This year, our Survivor Engagement team has organised activities such as Christmas crafts, pizza making, and BBQs. These events often use food grown by safe house residents, who enjoy the chance to be outside and active in the garden.

Survivors enjoy a summer BBQ



Produce grown by safe house residents



Enslaved to empowered

Survivor Support Fund

Our Survivor Support Fund (SSF), furnished by generous donations from our supporters, is used by our teams and partners to provide essential items outside of the support survivors are entitled to through the Government contract. Where no other funding is available to meet their immediate needs, survivors of modern slavery can access funds to help them thrive and live independently.



Even grants of small monetary value can have a transformative impact on survivors' wellbeing and ability to realise their dreams.



The Salvation Army Survivor Support Fund supported a total of **332 applications** valued at **£104,883.20**.

The Survivor Support Fund supports mental and physical wellbeing, including Christmas celebrations

A wide range of applications and funds awarded include:

- Household items, including carpets, bed and bedding, white goods and furniture.
- College courses, education and training, including higher education courses, certificate validation and translation, ESOL books and resources for practical courses.
- Baby items including pushchairs and maternity items.
- Bicycles and accessories.
- Rent deposits and rent in advance.

The Survivor Support Fund also supported initiatives to help with mental and physical wellbeing, these include contributions towards the cost of:

- A football tournament for survivors
- Christmas 2023 celebrations
- Resources for activities in safe houses including; still life painting and knitting and crochet classes; a greenhouse and resources for a gardening project; board games and indoor activities for a safehouse
- A beach trip for residents of a safe house
- Refreshments, resources and admin for the Childside Project delivered by several delivery partners.

The Survivor Support Fund has also supported costs for:

- Interpreting service for the Salvation Army First Responder Service
- Survivor Inclusion & Engagement Specialist
- Supplying bicycles from The Salvation Army Recycles Project to survivors

What staff and survivors have told us

Football tournament

The first-ever football tournament for survivors of modern slavery was held in Birmingham in October this year as an opportunity for survivor to mark Anti-Slavery Day and celebrate their achievements as they move on from exploitation. 11 teams from safe houses and outreach

services run by The Salvation Army and our partners in a joyful event which demonstrated the role sport can play in helping people build physical and mental resilience and a strong sense of community as they rebuild their lives.



Marilyn said:

“ Today has been a beautiful day for me. I used to play football in school and university and I haven’t played for over two years. It has inspired me to get into football and sports again.

”

Dan said:

“ It’s made me want to take up sports again; my sons would be proud of me to know I’ve done this.

”



Christmas celebrations at a safehouse

“

I really enjoyed the Christmas party and being able to make food. I liked making my favourite dishes for everyone to try and seeing them enjoy it too. What I have learnt from my cooking classes is helping me improve my skills. Thank you for including me in the celebrations.

”

Enslaved to empowered

Chaplaincy

Our chaplains offer an additional layer of support for survivors, volunteers and staff, recognising the challenging nature of modern slavery work.

Among our team are people with more than 25 years of experience in modern slavery. They provide sounding boards and opportunities to reach out, including personal support sessions to address personal, spiritual or practical needs. This year they have conducted a series of workshops for staff on supporting wellbeing and been central to organising activities for survivors.

Support worker:

“

...as someone who isn't religious, I'm often chatting with Cheryl when she is around. I'm normally annoying her about random things and sometimes work-related things. I'd recommend checking in with her, it's like a cup of tea and slice of cake away from work for 10 mins.

”



Enslaved to empowered

Crossing Borders

The Salvation Army, active in 134 countries, remains dedicated to fighting modern slavery, providing support to survivors and their families and fostering global partnerships to combat this insidious problem.



The Salvation Army in the UK works alongside a network of people across the world who specialise in modern slavery within their country or region by partnering and supporting their anti-slavery initiatives and projects. Our global network of people are known as National Contact Persons (NCPs), and they provide local connections to build resilience against the threat of trafficking in their communities, support survivors and share knowledge.

Capitalising on The Salvation Army's global presence and recognising the challenges survivors face when separated from their families by borders, we developed the Beyond programme. This initiative focuses on the return and reintegration of survivors, supporting their families overseas and facilitating cultural exchange. Beyond connects survivors and their families with information and support, providing grants for the local Salvation Army NCP and survivor to use for practical needs on arrival home, such as transport from the airport; counselling; skills training, and employment support. When specialised assistance is needed NCPs leverage their local knowledge and connections.

This year, the majority of cases from the UK involved survivors concerned about the welfare of families overseas. Through our global network we signpost survivors to in-country support for their loved ones, helping to protect at risk family members and alleviating concern about family that can impact a survivor's recovery.



Our International specialists also delivered training to UK support workers to enhance their understanding of different cultures and how to provide more culturally appropriate support.

Street in Uganda.
Credit Hayley Still



Nearly 50 people benefited from the Beyond programme last year. Of these:

- 20 individuals were supported in returning to their home countries, including Pakistan, Thailand, USA, Spain, Hungary, Rwanda, Uganda, Sri Lanka, UK, Vietnam, Ghana, Kenya, after being exploited in the UK, India, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.
- Nearly 30 family members of survivors in the UK were connected to support in the following countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan, Colombia, Bangladesh, Uganda, Yemen, Vietnam, China, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Turkey.



150 support workers attended cultural training focused on Albania, India, The Philippines, Vietnam, China. Key learnings included cultural values and taboos, recognising that different cultures shape behaviours and trends and the importance of avoiding assumptions about others' cultures.

“

I am very thankful to The Salvation Army's Beyond Programme who made it possible for her to return to her home country. She had been wanting to go back home ever since she was first trafficked to the UK but unfortunately not had any safe place to go. It was so great to be able to work together with the Beyond Programme to support her to not only have a safe house to live in her own country, but who also offer her support in her own culture and language to move forward positively with her life there. I saw a huge difference in her mental health and wellbeing once she knew she could go home and still be safe and receive support.

”

“

It's massively helpful just getting in touch with someone who they know understands the international dynamics of things... We don't have the capacity or time to make that connection or do that research, so it really helps.

”



Our international team in the UK collaborate with our global anti-trafficking teams to address slavery in communities overseas. Working with NCPs and frontline responders, they develop and support responses which can encompass prevention, protection, policy and partnership activities. Last year, our international team supported eight projects within Africa, South Asia, Europe and South Pacific and East Asia.

Poland

A Ukrainian refugee was forced into exploitative work by traffickers. After escaping, The Salvation Army helped her in many ways. She now runs a Ukrainian kids club and is working at an after-school project at a Salvation Army centre in Poland.

Malawi

“I was trafficked from my home village where my relatives were involved ... so that the family should be supported by proceeds from traffickers which was wrong. Now after [being] rescued by The Salvation Army team and [going] through rehabilitation process including acquiring tailoring skills, here I am a well-trained tailor with my starter pack machine and materials that will help me to generate daily funds to support my family and relatives in a positive way.

”

Rwanda

A project provided vocational training in beauty skills and cosmetology to 20 women who were single mothers, including a survivor who became pregnant due to sexual exploitation. Several participants have since put into practice what they had learned and started their own businesses. “I am having a hope that our future is bright because the skills we have gained through the training will help us to work for money ... that can help us, our child and as well as our families. We are thankful to The Salvation Army for bringing light in our lives through psychosocial support ... and the training and care given.”



Our international teams reinforce awareness and training initiatives to improve understanding of the threats of human trafficking.

In the Solomon Islands, The Salvation Army conducted a 16-day community-based awareness campaign before the Pacific Games, expected to bring thousands of international visitors to the host nation. Designed to address concerns about the well-documented increase in sexual violence and human trafficking during international sporting events, the campaign reached around 600 people, and was well received. It encouraged local communities to confront vulnerabilities and abuse and empowered participants to apply the knowledge to their own context.

“

... one of the lessons I have learnt is, in our culture, as a girl... if anything happens to us, we don't tell anyone because that will then tarnish our name. For girls, now they won't say anything because of what they have been told by their parents. We must not be silent anymore.

”

Elizabeth

We support shared learning and encourage opportunities with our global teams. One example is from The Salvation Army in Kenya where they held a learning exchange event bringing together anti-trafficking practitioners and development officers from Mozambique and

“

After today, the young people now will have the confidence to report [unsafe behaviour] or speak to their parents. The culture suppresses them, suppresses their voice and their rights.

”

Alick

Uganda as well as international and Africa-based specialists. Participants gained practical insights by visiting community groups and other anti-trafficking activities in the area, and committed to strengthening their own responses to modern slavery.



Empowered to speak out

Public understanding of modern slavery, and the recognition that it affects every community across the UK and globally, has not yet reached the level needed to make a significant impact in eradicating this horrific trade in human lives. We are fortunate to work with many survivors in our support services, who are eager to prevent others from enduring exploitation in the future. These courageous individuals speak out and support our efforts to engage the public on this issue through mainstream and social media. Their feedback demonstrates that these opportunities can be both empowering and impactful.



Empowered to Speak Out

This year's awareness-raising initiatives around Anti-Slavery Day

Data and Reporting

In the lead-up to Anti-Slavery Day in October, our communications focused on data indicating that for every person successfully rescued from the clutches of modern slavery and given the opportunity to receive support, at least seven more remain trapped and exploited.

The launch of our annual report built on this, highlighting an increase in the number of people supported by The Salvation Army's modern slavery services across every region of England and Wales. The report was featured in a Sky News piece, which included an interview with Anna*, a victim of sexual exploitation from Albania. Anna feared she would lose protection and be returned to her home country, where she was first exploited, in the light of recent changes in immigration law.

“

If I went to Albania I would be murdered. If the Government take away my protection, then they take away my life.

Right now The Salvation Army are the only people who protect me and make me safe. They provide everything for me – money; protection; support. I'm really glad I found them. I hope everyone who needs help goes to The Salvation Army. I will be grateful to them for all my life.

”

Anna

Our annual report was launched at an event in the Houses of Parliament, sponsored by Paula Barker MP, bringing together parliamentarians and other stakeholders to learn about the key findings and hear the testimony of Franck, a survivor of forced labour. [\(See page 28 \[Franck's story\] to read the full account.\)](#)

Parliamentary event launching The Modern Slavery Annual Report





#WeAreNotForSale campaign

We saw a significant increase in the number of people wearing our temporary tattoos, sharing social media posts, and generally engaging, with this campaign which provides opportunities for people to show solidarity with survivors of modern slavery. Our Anti-Slavery Day campaign, particularly resources like the accompanying digital toolkit, performed exceptionally well on our newly launched LinkedIn channel. We also saw higher levels of endorsement from politicians and other opinion formers.

Social Media

Besides the tattoo campaign, we shared educational information on different types of exploitation which had featured in recent TV dramas, such as 'County Lines' and 'Cuckooing'. We also shared survivor stories including impactful videos of survivors, like **Toni**, speaking directly about their experiences and hopes for the future.

Survivor Activities

This year we prioritised providing secure opportunities for survivors to engage with Anti-Slavery Day and other key events. Highlights included a football tournament in Birmingham bringing together survivors from across the country ([see page 40 Survivor Support Fund](#)) and a concert in central London showcasing 'Dreams,' a singing group of survivors from our London Outreach service. Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie, co-founder of The Anti-Slavery Collective, was among the audience celebrating survivors and enjoying an evening of outstanding music. The concert provided our most popular Facebook post around Anti-Slavery Day.

The Survivor Choir Concert showcasing 'Dreams,' a singing group of survivors from our London Outreach service

“

Before the concert I was cold with nerves but now we have performed I feel warm with pride and excitement. We couldn't have done this without The Salvation Army.

”

Survivor of modern slavery who sings with 'Dreams'

Shortly afterwards 'Dreams' also performed at a glamorous fundraising event for the Anti-Slavery Collective, sharing the stage with Ed Sheeran and helping to raise more than £1 million for survivors of modern slavery.



Fundraising

We have been delighted by supporters stepping up to support of our work with survivors of modern slavery and to spread awareness. Notable examples include Richard Smart, a passionate anti-slavery campaigner from Wimbledon, who led a 'Wilberforce Walk' on Anti-Slavery Day from Wimbledon to Westminster, passing locations linked to important anti-slavery figures such as William Wilberforce and Josephine Butler.

Face to face engagement

The Way Out initiative is an example of how we utilise our nationwide network to spread knowledge of the dangers of modern slavery here in the UK. Our Youth and Children's team collaborated with specialists from Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery to create a set of resources for youth workers aimed at increasing awareness of the risks of exploitation to young people. Over 12 months, Salvation Army street-based youth workers piloted these resources in locations in Wales, Scotland and the East of England, introducing the concept and raising awareness of 'County Lines'. The pilot provoked strong engagement by encouraging young people to share their opinions about their own communities and demonstrated huge potential for wider rollout and additional activities in the future.

A 100% biodegradable Chinese lantern was released at Morecambe Bay at the 20th anniversary memorial of the cockle-picking tragedy

Marking key moments

Our team of support workers and survivors based in the North West felt a direct connection to the victims of the Morecambe Bay cockle-picking tragedy. To mark the 20th anniversary, they invited council officials, RNLI coastguard, local churches and other charities to join them in a short ceremony on Fleetwood beach. A message from current survivors, with the names of each of the 23 people who lost their lives, was released into the sky on a 100% biodegradable Chinese lantern.

Elsewhere survivors shared their stories and opened their homes to BBC TV News crews to show viewers the reality that modern slavery is prevalent in their regions. Both BBC East and BBC West reported figures from our annual report and heard from survivors who powerfully demonstrated the human cost of modern slavery and the transformative effect on their lives of the supportive environments and specialist support in our safe houses and outreach services.

Major Kathy Betteridge, Salvation Army Director of Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery, highlighted that too many victims are still falling through the net:

“People who are caught up in modern slavery aren't bound in chains as maybe some think. We could be sitting next to somebody... served by somebody who is in modern slavery.”



Advocating

The Salvation Army is committed to standing alongside survivors in our efforts to improve the protections available to those who have been exploited and trafficked. Advocacy is a crucial tool that allows us to speak to those in positions of power and to enact change. We work with colleagues from across the sector and with parliamentarians from all political parties to protect and push for improvements to the systems in place.



Some of our key areas of focus this year have included:

General Election

Ahead of the 2024 General Election, The Salvation Army has worked with parliamentarians and their colleagues on the systematic changes that we believe need to be adopted to better serve survivors of modern slavery. In the run up to polling day, during what is known as the short campaign, we worked with colleagues in the sector to call on prospective MPs and parties to adopt a shared manifesto of policies which would give material benefits to the lives and journeys of those experiencing this heinous crime.

House of Lords Select Committee on the Modern Slavery Act

The Salvation Army contributed to the House of Lords Select Committee, uniquely set up to scrutinise the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and was subsequently invited to give oral evidence from our expertise and insight into how the Act is being implemented nine years on. Major Kathy Betteridge outlined The Salvation Army's practical experience of the Act and advocated on behalf of survivors and potential survivors to secure the support they need as part of their recovery journey.

Ministerial Meetings

Prior to the calling of the General Election, The Salvation Army met with the then Minister for Safeguarding, Laura Farris MP, to outline our concerns with the challenges we and our partners were facing in supporting survivors of modern slavery. We have since met with the new Minister for Safeguarding, Jess Phillips MP, and will continue to advocate for survivors at the highest levels of government.



Illegal Migration Act

The Salvation Army continued to campaign actively for changes to the Illegal Migration Bill (now Act) as it progressed through Parliament, working closely with others in the modern slavery sector. In addition to advocating directly with parliamentarians, we joined other faiths in a prayer vigil for victims of modern slavery and for politicians as they voted on the Bill. Survivors of modern slavery whom we had supported wrote to the then Prime Minister expressing their fears about the Bill's negative impact on survivors. Opportunities we provided for our supporters to engage were well received, including facilitating letters to MPs and seeing high engagement on our social media channels of messages around this campaign.

ILLEGAL
MIGRATION BILL
CONCERNS

The Salvation Army is calling for Modern Slavery to be...

REMOVED

from the Illegal Migration Bill.

Salvationarmy.org.uk/ProtectSurvivorsRights



“

Since the Act passed into law, we have not only continued to offer shelter, space and support to survivors of modern slavery: we are more determined than ever to empower survivors to speak out and to advocate for their rights.

”

The Rwanda asylum scheme

The Salvation Army consistently opposed the proposal to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda. We were concerned that it would mean that victims of modern slavery who entered the UK irregularly would be detained and possibly removed to Rwanda without access to first responders to share details of their exploitation. We worked with partners in the sector to call on parliamentarians to make the necessary changes to the legislation that was carried through parliament. Following the Supreme Court ruling against the scheme in November 2023, we supported MPs and peers who shared our concerns during the passage of the subsequent Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act. After the 2024 General Election, we welcomed the new UK Government's announcement that the scheme will not proceed.

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

In late 2023 the UK Government appointed Eleanor Lyons as the new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, after over a year and a half when the post had been vacant. We had consistently called for the vacancy to be filled and quickly established good connections with the new Commissioner, who visited our new Territorial Headquarters in Denmark Hill for discussions. In May 2024 the Commissioner gave the keynote speech at the inaugural Modern Slavery Spring Forum, which we organised in partnership with the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull.

Case study

Daniel's story



Daniel*, now in his fifties, made the journey to England from his home in the Baltic States seven years ago. He had got to know some people there who offered him a job working in the construction industry.

His living and working conditions were dreadful.

“

They forced us to work over 10 hours a day, sometimes seven days a week. We were supposed to get Sundays off but that didn't always happen. The demands they made were physically impossible.

”

After a while Daniel realised he was not being given the pay he had been promised. For the next five years Daniel worked for just £10 a day. He was told that money for his accommodation, a cramped and overcrowded attic room, and for securing the work for him, had to come out of his wages first.

The abuse Daniel and his fellow workers faced was not just physical, but also psychological. Threats and taunting were common, leaving Daniel feeling powerless and trapped.

“It was humiliating. They looked down on us. If you refused to work, they would

threaten you or tell you to leave. But we didn't know where to go or who would help us. We thought we had no options but to take it.”

“Because of my own ignorance I became a victim of modern slavery.”

Rescued by the police, Daniel is now recovering in a safe house provided by The Salvation Army. Here he has been given the time to recover mentally and physically. He is being helped to improve his English language and other skills because he is keen to be able to work again and support himself, this time in freedom.

Daniel wasn't able to contact his family the whole time he was held captive, so they thought he had died. They were delighted when he got back in touch once he was in the safe house. Though he shields them from the full extent of his suffering, he now provides regular updates on his progress. Daniel is hoping to be well enough to start work soon and remains optimistic about the future.

“It's lovely here. I've been given an opportunity to make a better life.”

*Names changed to protect identities.

Celebrating successes

The Salvation Army

Every day, The Salvation Army and the other organisations subcontracted to deliver support through the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) celebrate the successes of the people in our care. These achievements, large and small, are always significant milestones in their journey towards recovery. This is made possible by the daily efforts of support workers and numerous special activities and initiatives designed to build resilience and empower survivors.

Here are some highlights of individual achievements and activities throughout the year that empower survivors, helping them express themselves, be active and engaged.

To mark International Women's Day, residents at one safe house decorated a life-sized outline of a woman with drawings and words such as 'brave', 'mother', 'sister' and 'courageous' to express what being a woman meant to them. Named 'Hope' by residents, is now displayed in the house as a symbol of what they can achieve when they all work together.

Our safe houses are not just homes, but also provide resources and facilities for survivors to keep fit and improve mental health. The activity centre in one safehouse, which also contains a gym, multi-faith prayer room and craft centre, support workers use the sensory room to run weekly meditation workshops, teaching techniques for survivors to use in between session when feeling overwhelmed. Another twice weekly support worker-run session guides residents, using emotional freedom techniques proven to help alleviate anxiety and stress. Residents find it helps them to relax and improves sleep.

Other outings and activities through the year include:

- Pumpkin carving, using pumpkins they picked themselves from local farms; celebrating the 2024 European football tournament together by decorating the living room with country-themed flags, balloons and treats, and regular movie nights.
- Boating; ice-skating, and crazy golf
- Beauty and henna nights
- Cooking and craft activities, such as clay moulding; making sweets, bath bombs and postcards to give to other residents; and a special Christmas session on gingerbread houses



'Hope' created by safehouse residents to mark International Women's Day

Survivor Stories

The road to recovery can be challenging, even for survivors supported through the Modern Slavery Victim Care contract. Here are some success stories where support workers have helped survivors overcome additional barriers to moving on.

An Indian man, tricked into exploitative work and threatened if he complained, found support in a Salvation Army safehouse. When staff realised he was struggling with not working due to huge debts with family and friends, they secured legitimate employment for him through local connections. To take this opportunity, he needed money to secure paperwork and move to Ireland. Together, the Fishermen's Mission and The Salvation Army raised funds to make this possible. He was rewarded for taking the brave step of leaving the safe house and its support and is now thriving in his job. He sends regular updates on his progress to safehouse staff, including news of his recent marriage.

A survivor who had been threatened, along with his family, and force-fed drugs while under the control of his exploiters, was initially reticent to engage with the support on offer. His support worker gave him time and continued to reassure him until he finally explained that criminals had overtaken his home to rear a banned dangerous dog breed there. Fearing repercussions if he contacted the police, his support worker did so on his behalf and worked with the local authority, stressing the sensitivity of the situation. Investigations into the gang were started while the man was found alternative accommodation until it was safe to return. Through The Salvation Army's Survivor Support Fund and links to local charities, staff helped him to move back in and get back on his feet.

When another survivor receiving outreach support started to avoid calls and miss appointments, his support worker liaised with other support organisations, resulting in a welfare check from police. This revealed that his home was being used by a criminal for drug dealing, a practice known as 'cuckooing'. His finger had been broken to scare him into

silence and prevent him from leaving. He was moved to a safe area and now receives support and protection from several agencies, including through the MSVCC. He feels more positive and confident and is engaging really well as he begins to plan his future, which he hopes will include a pet companion.

A survivor joined an art therapy group in a very negative mental state but used the sessions to transfer his anger onto canvas. Over time, as his recovery progressed, his paintings became gradually lighter and more colourful. Support staff commented: "Through continued engagement, whether through painting, gardening or looking after the fish, the trauma, is not lessened or forgotten, but it becomes easier to manage as these other activities take precedence."

A Thai woman wanted to return home to care for her sick father. Attempts to retrieve the documents she needed failed several times. Support workers persisted and she was finally able to look after him during the last months of his life.

Feedback from survivors:

“

I've been through a lot before my support worker became my worker and I can only say that good things came after, she has helped me in lows and gone above and beyond to do all she could to help me turn my life around, and I am so grateful words can't really describe.

”

“

After the nightmare I experience, I am finally comforted. I have been listened to. Now I feed birds, get therapy and finally get my paperwork together. Thank you for this service. I needed your help and today I feel safe and I am safe. Relieved is an understatement. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

”

Celebrating successes

Ashiana

Ashiana has organised numerous events throughout the year, addressing diverse themes and providing diverse activities to benefit and add value to the people in their care. These have covered diversity and inclusion, skill-building workshop, arts and crafts and social integration, provided in a safe and supportive environment. This approach has empowered survivors to access resources, learn new skills, and connect with others in similar situations.



Special events throughout the year marked the following themes and key dates:

- International Women Day with theme 'Inspire Inclusion' in collaboration with the Pakistani Muslim Centre
- Religious festivities at Hadfield institute
- Refugee Week in collaboration with South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Black History Month

Attracting around 100 participants, these events provided a range of activities, including group workshops, discussion sessions, networking activities and creative arts sessions. Survivors gained awareness of organisations and external agencies that provide support in the community, and they felt more confidence to seek support. 80% of participants reported gaining valuable insights and feeling empowered to face the outside world. Additionally, a 20% of attendees expressed interest in volunteering and giving back to society.

Feedback from survivors:

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, revealing the impact of having a diverse range of activities; supportive atmosphere and accessible resources

“

This event gave me hope and practical tools to improve my situation. I feel more confident and less isolated.

”

“

What I learnt from today is: We should not give up! No matter how many “Nos” we receive, we should keep on pushing, a “YES” is on the way.

”

In addition to the events, Ashiana has provided additional financial support for survivors in need. For example they provided a laptop for a survivor to use her studies and supported another survivor, who, having successfully completed her degree, needed a Graduate visa to move into work.

Celebrating successes

BAWSO

Survivor Stories

Katrina* from Malaysia was identified as a victim of modern slavery, specifically domestic servitude, in 2020 at the age of 67.

She had worked for nearly 20 years in the UK as a domestic worker but her most recent employers didn't help her secure her work visa but exploited her lack of legal status by threatening to report her if she didn't do as they demanded. Katrina had to work seven days a week; to cook, clean, carry out all the household duties and look after their three children. Her pay was never more than £50 a week and often she wasn't paid at all. The family refused to let her access health services until one day she had a brain aneurism and

was admitted into hospital for a major operation. It was here she was spotted to be a victim of exploitation and referred for support. On arrival at a Bawso safe house she was helped with her health issues and supported to access legal advice and representation. She has now been granted leave to remain in the UK and is being helped to move into her own home. With staff support she has settled well, grown in confidence and independence and is looking forward to retirement and visiting family.



*Names changed to protect identities.

Feedback from survivors:

“

You've shown me humanity. You've been so good to me. The world needs such people like you. I'm humbled and grateful. I also look forward to the next chapter of my life. May God bless you all abundantly.

”

“

I am very grateful to Bawso for helping me understand my situation. They advocated on my behalf to support my move from Cardiff to England. They showed great understanding of my mental health condition and assured me of their continuous support, even after hours and on weekends. Their commitment gave me tremendous strength during a challenging time.

”

“

I cannot find the words to adequately express my gratitude for the support I received from Bawso and the help I was given while staying in the safe house. When I decided to return to Romania, I was very happy to receive immediate support. My caseworker, along with the out-of-hours staff, arranged the necessary funds for my air and coach tickets. They supported me every step of the way. I am deeply grateful for their support.

”

Celebrating successes

BCHA

Survivors often find joy and comfort in cooking and eating together.

Inspired by residents in one of its safehouse for women and children, specialist support workers at BCHA's Liberty Project made it possible for survivors to co-create a cook book – A Flavour of Liberty. Sharing recipes from their home countries became a cherished ritual, reminding residents of home and helping them connect. New arrivals were always greeted with a home-cooked meal, easing their

transition and welcoming them into the community. Inspired by this, the women decided to take their love of cooking beyond the safehouse to advocate for anti-slavery and highlight the prevalence of modern slavery through a cookbook. The process of creating the book has fostered valuable life skills, from translating recipes into English to honing Maths skills through measurements and conversions, developing budgeting skills by ensuring the recipes were cost-effective, and unleashing creativity in designing the book's style.

A Flavour of Liberty



The book cover photo for A Flavour of Liberty

“

A Flavour of Liberty is more than a collection of dishes; it is a testament to resilience, connection, and the shared love of food that brings us all together - a true symbol of empowerment.

”

Celebrating successes

Black Country Women's Aid

From a busy calendar of wraparound activities, empowering clients to build connections with each other and the wider community, develop skills and improve their wellbeing, safe house residents shared during CQC inspections how they felt empowered by the supportive peer relationships developed through wellbeing and group activities.

Women in BCWA safe house came together to create squares with messages of empowerment, rebirth and hope in a project in partnership with Sandwell Council. Other events included a Summer Ball Party, cooking classes, outings to the zoo, seaside, cinema and bowling, health and wellbeing events, alongside religious and cultural festivals, supported by fundraising team who provided donations of toys, gifts, food and clothes.

Survivor Stories

A woman with respiratory failure didn't want to engage with health services, because of her extreme trauma. Following several months of work to build her confidence, and advocated for her to get access to the services she needed, she now feels able to trust in health services, understands her rights, and is accessing treatment.

A male survivor of forced labour was supported to access legal representation, understand his rights in the UK and apply for asylum. He has been awarded refugee status; has settled housing via the local authority and is in college studying Health and Social Care, while working as a support worker, with university in his sights.

When tragically a female survivors lost her long-term battle with complex health issues, support workers continued to advocate for her to ensure her religious beliefs were respected. Her family were supported with arrangements to fulfil their wish for her to be buried in her home country and staff honoured this fun-loving, larger than life personality by attending religious services and will keep her memory alive.

Feedback from survivors:

“

My favourite activity was the Winter Wonderland... everyone from the safe house gathered together. It was so fun, we sing, danced and laughed so much. Times like this, you forget your pain, why you are here and how you have no family but then this is my family. Safe house resident.

”



Celebrating successes

Causeway

Through Causeway’s **Ingredients for Life programme cooking courses, led by professional chefs in the innovation kitchens of food focussed businesses such as ASDA and Compleat Food, have taken place in numerous locations across the UK, supporting many survivors from Causeway and other organisations. The popular courses provide an opportunity to teach new skills, build confidence, and meet new people.**

“I enjoyed communicating with new people. I learned to cook many new things and the social aspect was really nice.”

Survivor who took part in Ingredients for Life programme.



... An Ingredients for life cooking course

The Brighton Future Cooperative, programme that links modern slavery survivors with employers so they can access high quality stable employment, launched the UK’s first online careers platform just for modern slavery survivors. This innovation allows more survivors to access safe

employment with companies who can post fully accessible job adverts for positions specifically set aside for survivors. Businesses will also be provided with full training, and supported by Causeway and Bright Future Co-operative throughout the onboarding process and during the first stages of employment.

Feedback from survivors:

“

I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I didn’t know if I was able to continue living or not until I found Causeway. My life didn’t have any meaningful sense until I come here. I am happy that the bad things that happened to me in the past make me strong todayI am very grateful for the highly supportive words and kindness. I will always appreciate it and remember it. I left all the negativity on the past and moving forward with huge positivity today I am a very different person. I couldn’t do it by myself but with your help, I felt like I found my family A very kind family. I felt trusted and loved. And I trust back ...I am starting a new life ..and I am finally able to have life that I call mine. I am very thankful for the support I got from Causeway.

”

Celebrating successes

Hestia

Hestia was delighted to open its tenth safe house in London and the South East this year.



Feedback from survivors:

One active member of Hestia’s Empowered Voices survivor group, who regularly contributes feedback on operational improvements and public affairs, was with the group as they met the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Modern Slavery Unit at the Home Office and senior officials from the Police this year. She said:

“ I don’t smile like this before, my face wasn’t this bright. Sometimes, before I met Hestia, I used to think – should I maybe just end everything? But now I don’t think like that anymore. I’m very hopeful for the future. ”



Empowered Voices group met new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Eleanor Lyons

Art Is Freedom exhibition in Waterloo Station



Survivors also gave verbal evidence at the Home Affairs Select Committee on human trafficking, and advised on effective communications including designing letters and leaflets for fellow survivors in support to advise on the impact of the Illegal Migration Act throughout its passage into law. In March 2024, Hestia supported survivors to participate in a consultation led by the Human Trafficking Foundation to inform the next modern slavery contract.

In October 2023, Hestia’s annual Art Is Freedom exhibition, featuring artwork and photography by survivors of modern slavery, was displayed at iconic London locations including Trafalgar Square, Waterloo Station and the Piccadilly Lights. It reached more than 6 million people and went on, in early 2024, to be displayed at Portcullis House where it was officially launched by former Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Theresa May.

Hestia’s annual Underground Lives report focussed on the experience of Albanian survivors of modern slavery, surveying 119 survivors. It revealed that, despite nearly three quarters wanting the criminals who exploited them to be prosecuted, less than half felt able to give evidence to the police, and less than 1% believing they could be safely returned to Albania, mainly due to fear that they or their families might be found by their exploiters.

Celebrating successes

Medaille Trust

Medaille arranges for survivors in its southern service to attend Maths and English classes at the local college.

Of the six people who currently attend classes and are working towards a qualification at the end of the year, one was rewarded for her hard work with a distinction in her English class. She accepted the award from the mayor at a ceremony where she gave an inspiring speech she had prepared herself. She enjoyed celebrating her success with other survivors and staff helped her to appreciate and take pride in her achievement. She is now motivated to continue with her studies next year.



Celebrating successes

Palm Cove Society

In February, Palm Cove opened a new safehouse designed specifically to support individuals who struggle living in shared accommodation. This has enabled survivors to be in a secure environment, close to support workers, with weekly assistance to help them reintegrate into society.

Additionally, Palm Cove partnered with Bradford University and the Bradford Renduchintala Enterprise Ecosystem (BREE) to deliver a 5-day business skills workshop, featuring guest speakers and activities aimed at building confidence and fostering entrepreneurial ideas.

Survivors also participated in a local charity sports event, where one survivor won the prize for best female player, and the Palm Cove team secured third place. The event strengthened camaraderie and fostered new friendships.

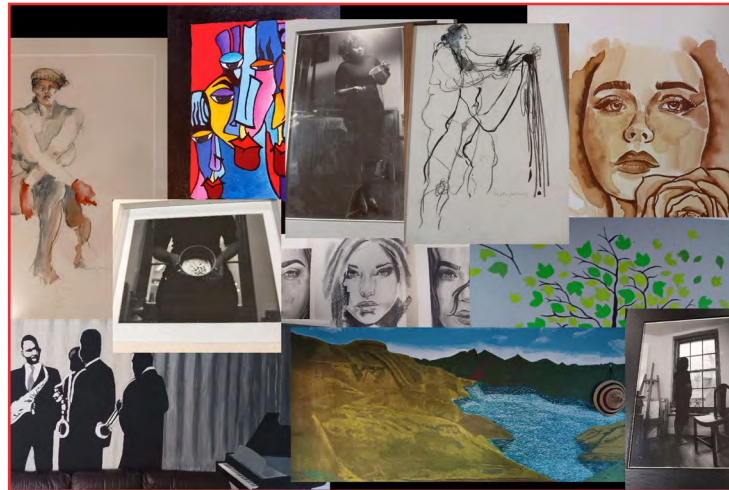
Finally, Palm Cove collaborated with Bradford Volunteering to celebrate Refugee Week, hosting a garden party with music, refreshments, and children's activities.



Celebrating successes

Migrant Help

To mark Migrant Help’s 60th anniversary this year and raise money to support survivors of modern slavery, the team in Oxford organised an art exhibition, auctioning pieces and celebrating the talents of staff and survivors. 21 pieces and a further 150 handmade cards were donated for sale with 16 pieces of art from survivors of modern slavery showcased in a meeting room, cleverly transformed into a boutique art gallery for the day.



Survivor Story

A survivor came to Migrant Help’s service with significant communication difficulties which left him feeling very isolated and struggling to access vital healthcare. As he was deaf, with no English and only understood very basic Farsi sign language, his support worker put in place many layers of support to help with communication. This included setting up a regular series of appointments with the GP to enable interpreters to be present; connecting and accompanying him to a local lunch club and association for deaf people; arranging funding for bespoke British Sign Language tutoring and a laptop to access resources and ensuring consistency for the survivor by using the same interpreters at face-to-face meetings, reviewing his progress and needs. He is very happy with the support in place to build his confidence and independence while he recovers from exploitation.

Contributors added descriptions to their art such as this from one survivor:

“

The photographs are an artistic representation of exploitative situations I repeatedly found myself in while living as an undocumented immigrant in London. Externalising in this way the drudge, dependency, and confinement I experienced, helps me create a distance to these events and to some degree neutralises the pain associated with them.

”





Celebrating successes

Saint John of God Hospitaller Services

Every year Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG) celebrates 8th March, the feast day of Saint John of God, referred to as 'Do Good Day', by arranging activities for colleagues and the people they support to 'do good' in their local communities. This included spending time with elderly people; supporting new mothers and their babies at a church playgroup; inviting female survivors to an empowering women session and arranging donations of food; books and clothes.



Feedback from survivors:

SJOG's London Outreach Service organised a workshop for survivors, providing a safe, creative outlet for survivors of modern slavery to express their experiences and emotions. The 11 survivors, who attended the first art therapy session, produced 16 powerful pieces of art and gave very positive feedback. Feedback from survivors on support staff following one of this year's CQC inspections:

“

'She has helped me to be the person I am becoming.'

'Staff are very caring and helpful to others.'

'We need more people like this. They treat you well and do a great job and give you courage.'

'Everything is perfect, 5 star.'

”

Survivor Stories

After a successful immigration appeal, an Albanian survivor is moving into a private rented accommodation and, having completed college course whilst holding down the same job for over two years, will shortly be studying tourism at university.

A woman has transformed from the fearful person who lacked confidence on arrival to someone who, through support and help to access English and Maths courses, now has refugee status; secured full time work and is looking forward to getting married.

Another survivor wrote to thank her support worker, Sabrina, and all the SJOG team for the incredible support she had received while in a safe house. Describing herself on arrival as; "shattered, lost, and traumatized", she felt reassured, listened to and supported from

the outset. Her support worker helped her take the necessary steps to access GP; dentist; mental health and legal support.

"In less than two weeks, I felt a remarkable shift in my life. I began to feel healthier and happier, thanks to her tireless efforts."

"Her patience and thorough explanations during those early days made me cry, but this time, my tears were of happiness. I realised that I had achieved my goals and wishes... thanks to a good foundation through her unwavering support. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you having such a compassionate and effective system for people like me who are rebuilding their lives from zero. Sabina's dedication has made me a stronger person, and I am forever grateful."

Celebrating successes

Unseen

Unseen achieves its mission to empower survivors of modern slavery to rebuild their lives by always ensuring survivors have a leading voice in the support they receive through safe house and outreach services.

In addition to one-to-one support, Unseen runs a privately funded Wellbeing Café. This weekly-run event offers a safe space for survivors to connect with peers and Unseen staff, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

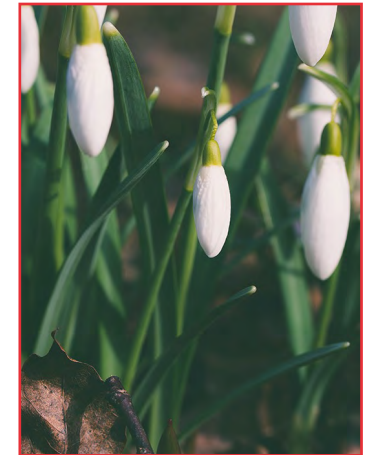
People with lived experience of modern slavery also play an active role in helping reach the wider mission of a world without slavery. Unseen regularly facilitates opportunities for survivors to engage with key professionals involved in leading the UK's response to modern slavery, including inviting government policymakers and policing leaders to the Wellbeing Café to learn from survivors' experiences in order to inform the improvement of wider support services.

Unseen aims to equip survivors with the tools they need to thrive and ultimately seeks to empower survivors to make their own choices and live independently.



Celebrating successes

Snowdrop



Feedback from survivors and staff:

“

I wouldn't know where I would be if Unseen hadn't taken me in. Whenever I need something, I can talk to staff and they shortly get it done. **Survivor**

”

“

I've seen clients move from a place of deep fear and isolation to confidently attending appointments, volunteering in their communities, and even securing employment. It's incredibly rewarding to witness their progress and resilience. **Support worker**

”

“

We believe in a future free from modern slavery

”





Spot the signs for someone today

If you suspect that you or someone you have come into contact with may be a victim of modern slavery, please call:

The Salvation Army confidential 24/7 referral helpline: **0800 808 3733**

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Modern Slavery Helpline: **0800 012 1700**

Bringing an end to slavery.

Fighting for social justice.

Responding with compassionate care.

The Salvation Army is a Christian Church and registered charity in England and Wales (215174, 214779) Scotland (SC037691, SC009359) and the Republic of Ireland (CHY6399).

The Salvation Army, 1 Champion Park London SE5 8FJ

*Names have been changed throughout to protect identities.