



## Doc. 1: "WHAT CAN I DO: SPOT & REPORT": SIGNS & INDICATORS OF MODERN SLAVERY & SOME HELPFUL APPS

Signs of various types of slavery and exploitation are not obvious, making it hard to recognise potential victims. Victims can be any age, gender or ethnicity or nationality. It is a matter of thoughtful observant perception. Does all seem well to you?

Slavery is happening all around us in hotels and restaurants, car washes and nail bars, factories, farms and warehouses, massage parlours and brothels as well as private homes: in fact everywhere.

Identifying trafficking and slavery is the first step to stopping it. Understanding the signs to look out for could help the most vulnerable people within your community.

Whilst by no means exhaustive, this is a list of some common signs:

### GENERAL SIGNS

#### **Appearance**

Does the person look malnourished, unkempt, or appear withdrawn? Are they suffering physical injuries or abuse such as assaults or cigarette burns? Do they have few personal possessions and often wear the same clothes? What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.

#### **Behaviour**

May act as if instructed by another, or guarded, accompanied in travel or generally as though they are forced or coerced to carry out specific activities. Is the person withdrawn or appear frightened, unable to answer questions directed at them or speak for themselves and/or an accompanying third party speaks for them?

If they do speak, are they inconsistent in the information they provide, including basic facts such as the address where they live?

Do they appear under the control/influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work? Many victims will not be able to speak English.

#### **Fear of authorities**

Is the person afraid of the authorities? Are they scared of removal or what might happen to their families? Has little or no contact with family or loved ones.

#### **Medical condition**

Demonstrates signs of physical or psychological abuse, such as lacking self esteem, seeming anxious, or untreated medical conditions. Does the person have old or serious untreated injuries? Have they delayed seeing a healthcare professional, and are they vague, reluctant or inconsistent in explaining how the injury occurred?

### **Legal documents**

Is the person in possession of their legal documents (passport, identification and bank account details) or are these being held by someone else? Victims will often be forced to use false or forged identity documents.

## HOW TO SPOT A PROPERTY WHERE A VICTIM OF MODERN SLAVERY MAY BE HELD

### **Outside the property**

- Are the windows of the property permanently covered on the inside? Are the curtains always drawn? Do the windows have reflective film or coatings applied to them? Are there bars covering the windows?
- Do large numbers of people (relative to the property size) come and go very early or late in a van, or is the property frequented by different men at all hours
- Does the entrance to the property have CCTV cameras installed?
- Is the letterbox sealed to prevent use?
- Is there any sign that electricity may have been tacked on from neighbouring properties or directly from power lines?

### **Inside the property**

- Is access to the back rooms of the property restricted or are doors locked?
- Is the property overcrowded and badly cared for?

## HOW TO SPOT A BUSINESS THAT MIGHT BE USING FORCED LABOUR

### **Appearance & Behaviour**

Is the worker wearing inappropriate clothing for their job? Do they appear unkempt and dishevelled?

Do workers seem to have noticeably poor personal hygiene, fearful or unwilling to engage with the public?

Do they show signs of psychological or physical abuse; appear frightened, withdrawn or confused?

Do they have restricted movement on leaving or entering the premises. Are they generally accompanied?

Are they are grouped together with workers of a similar nationality/age/gender and appear to have a representative by whom they are 'coached' ?

Do they appear tired, withdrawn, or do not appear to take any breaks

- look younger than you would expect
- seem on edge or afraid, particularly around the manager
- do not appear to speak English

- live at or around the premises
- become distressed when handling money directly
- do not engage with other team members

## **Children**

Are there children working on the premises?

### SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN AN AIRPORT OR ON HOLIDAY

<https://www.stophetraffik.org/spot-the-signs/child-trafficking/>

### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Does the person seem held in the employer's home and forced to provide household support, such as care for children, cleaning and cooking?

- Does the person appear to be working in excess of normal hours?
- Does the person ever leave the accommodation unaccompanied?
- Is there any indication the person has been subject to abuse, insults, threats or violence?
- Does the person interact much with the family? Are they forced to eat alone?

**Remember:** Spotting one of these signs may not mean that someone is being exploited or trafficked, but seeing one should be a reason to be suspicious. The more signs you see, the more likely that this person is being controlled, exploited and trafficked.

### DEGREE OF LIKELIHOOD

The police with whom we speak, tell us it is really important that you don't delay or fail to call just because you are not sure. If you have a reasonable suspicion call the National Slavery Helpline. The Police want and need us to be their "eyes and ears".

You will rarely be sure because you just won't have sufficient information. The police will need to investigate before they are sure. Usually your call will be part of a jigsaw of information.

If people didn't pass on their suspicions very few people would be investigated arrested and tried for modern slavery offences. Trust your instincts, your intuition.

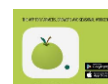
The police tell us they would much rather receive a dozen false alarms than miss the opportunity rescuing someone who was suffering such a terrible fate.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SPOT THE SIGNS

If you do suspect that someone may be being coerced and exploited, or you are yourself a victim of human trafficking, call the National Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700

### USEFUL APPS

- "Stop the traffik" - The STOP APP.. It is available in multiple languages and is excellent for live guidance on spotting the signs of modern slavery  
<https://www.stophetraffik.org/spot-the-signs/>
- "Unseen" App Recognise and Report even feint reasonable suspicions on the National Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700. It is free confidential and open 24/7. Calls can be taken in most languages.
- "Safe Car Wash" app. Law enforcement (including GLAA, HSE & others) need the public's help to map the issue. This app has been created to mobilise communities and gather information about hand car washes. Use it every time you go to one. The app takes you through the indicators and enables you to safely report conditions.
- "Farm work welfare" app includes the warning signs to look for and a simple reporting tool for anyone who suspects exploitation may be happening; available in eight languages.



**Acknowledgements:** this information is a collection from:

HMG's campaign website "Closer than you think" at  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-closer-than-you-think>;

NGO Stop The traffik at <https://www.stophetraffik.org/spot-the-signs/> and

NGO Unseen at <https://www.unseenuk.org/modern-slavery/spot-the-signs>