

Modern Slavery Service

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is a crime hidden in plain sight and it happens here in the UK: it targets the most vulnerable in our society and seeks to use them as commodities from which to take profit. It can affect men, women and children, from abroad or from the UK. Victims are forced to work on farms, building sites, in factories, restaurants, nail bars, car washes, brothels, massage parlours and private homes. Traffickers and exploiters use coercion and deception to keep control over their victims.

Types of modern slavery include:

- Human trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labour
- Forced criminality
- Organ harvesting
- Child exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Forced marriage

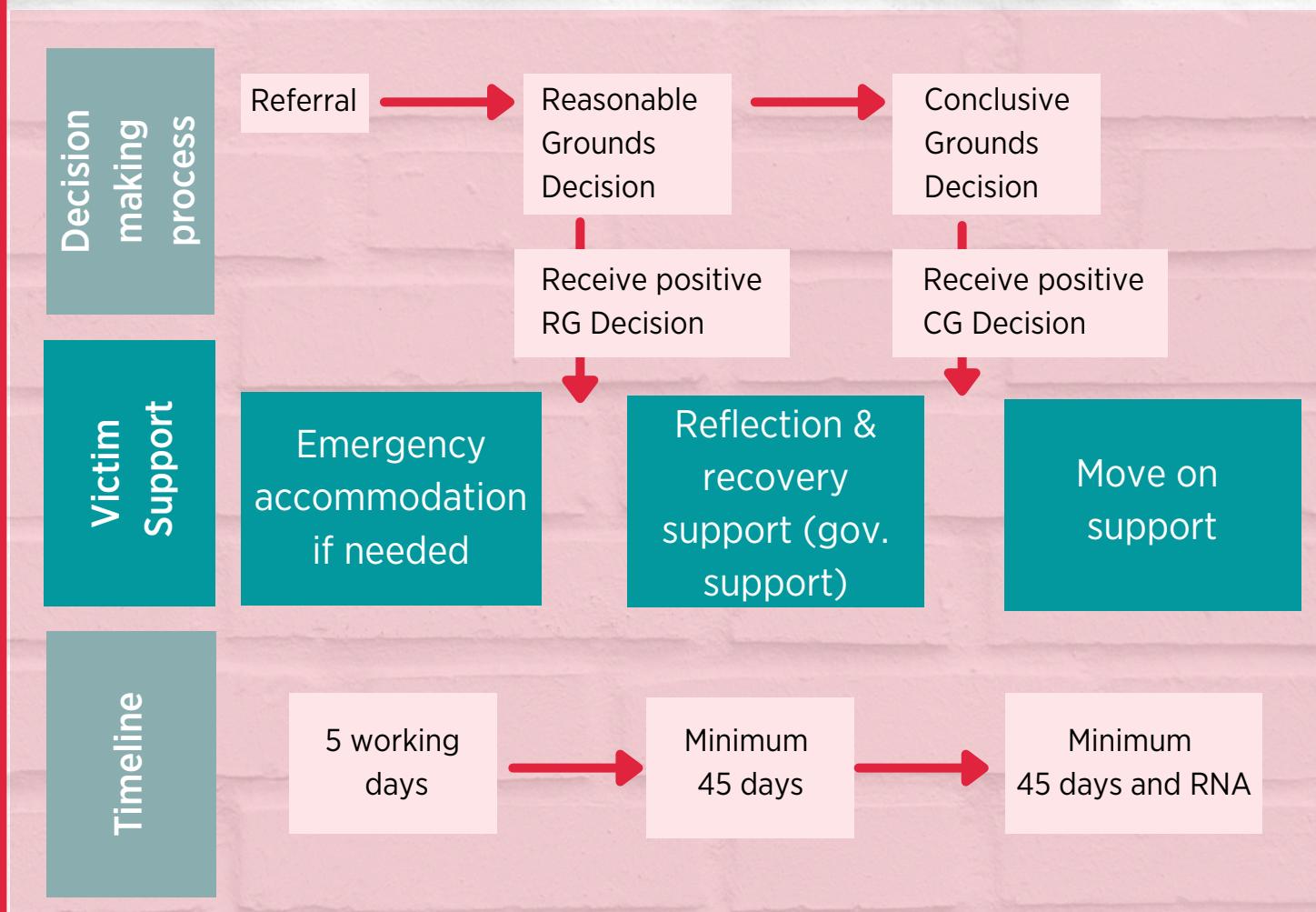
Modern Slavery and Homelessness

The link between homelessness and modern slavery seems evident. On one hand, people who are experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable to grooming, psychological manipulation, physical abuse and exploitation as a result of poverty, loneliness and instability. If they go missing, quite possibly no one will notice. On the other hand, survivors who have fled their traffickers may be destitute, without ID documents, and become rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds. Actually, a victim of modern slavery is someone experiencing homelessness: they might have a roof over their heads but that is not their home.



Victim support system in the UK

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.



Note: If the person receives negative CG decision, he/she/they are required to exit support within 9 days

A referral into the NRM is only done with informed consent from the client. Part of The Passage Modern Slavery Service is ensuring the client understands the benefits and consequences of a referral into the NRM and is informed of any alternative pathways, should they choose not to enter.

Once in the NRM, providing they get a positive reasonable grounds decision, the potential victim will be entitled to further Government support, such as: a safehouse, financial support, and a dedicated support worker, whilst a conclusive grounds decision is made.

Only a First Responder can refer a person into the NRM.

The Passage is not a First Responder.

First Responders include:

- Police forces
- Home Office UK Visas and Immigration
- Home Office Border Force
- Home Office Immigration Enforcement
- National Crime Agency
- Local authorities
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- Health and Social Care Trusts (Northern Ireland)
- Tara Project (Scotland)
- Salvation Army
- Migrant Help
- Medaille Trust
- Kalayaan
- Barnardo's
- Unseen
- NSPCC (CTAC)
- BAWSO
- New Pathways
- Refugee Council

For more information, download The Passage Modern Slavery Handbook at www.passage.org.uk/modern-slavery or ask for a copy at The Passage reception.

Modern Slavery Service at The Passage

The Modern Slavery Service at The Passage identifies and supports potential victims of modern slavery who are experiencing homelessness.

Service referral criteria:

- Potential victims of modern slavery experiencing homelessness in London.
- Presents possible indicators of human trafficking and modern slavery, past or present

The aim of the service is to provide immediate assistance while addressing support needs and risks in a trauma-informed and empowering way.

The Modern Slavery Service is comprised of an Anti-Slavery Coordinator and a Modern Slavery Navigator. The Coordinator works at strategic level and manages the service while the Navigator provides direct frontline support to service users.



The Passage Modern Slavery service provides:

- Emergency respite accommodation
- Support to access external services (e.g. embassies, local authorities, Home Office)
- Referrals to GP/health services
- Referrals to other specialised support providers
- Advocacy
- Liaison with the police (if requested)
- Liaison with the Home Office, Single Competent Authority (Government body responsible for making NRM decisions) and subcontractors under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract
- Referrals to refuges and safehouses
- Support with client appointments
- Referrals to legal representatives

Additional support available at The Passage:

- Mental health support
- Housing advice/support
- Benefits/money advice
- Immigration
- Employment and training
- Chaplaincy
- Primary services – food, showers, clothing
- Homeopathy
- Onsite homeless health team

Client's journey:



Multi-Agency Case Conferences

In November 2020, The Passage, in partnership with Westminster City Council, established a Multi-Agency Case Conference (MACC) approach to safeguarding potential victims of modern slavery who are experiencing homelessness, including people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This approach was awarded second prize at the London Homelessness Awards 2019.

MACCs are based on principles similar to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) for domestic abuse survivors, whereby statutory and voluntary sector professionals come together to share information and develop action plans for high-risk cases, with the safety of the individual as the primary focus.

Those present at a MACC will usually include the Modern Slavery Navigator from The Passage, a representative from Westminster City Council and a representative from the bi-borough (WCC and RBKC) safeguarding team.

Depending on the case, the police, health professionals and other support professionals involved in the case will be present. Following the MACC, the case is submitted to the NRM provided there are reasonable grounds to refer, and the survivor has given informed consent.

If the survivor receives a positive reasonable grounds decision, they will enter the NRM and be entitled to support under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) for a minimum of 45 days.

This is where the support of The Passage Modern Slavery Service will end.



For more information or referrals please contact:
modernslavery@passage.org.uk

More information can be found on The Passage website:
www.passage.org.uk/modern-slavery/

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to be best in any
point of view.

Survivor

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affliction; "the su
for what is thought



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