

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Modern Slavery

West Berkshire Support and Guidance

Are you a victim of Modern Slavery or suspect someone is being exploited?
There continues to be help and support available.

Modern slavery is a harmful and hidden crime and its victims may be especially isolated and hidden from view during the coronavirus outbreak.
If you are already being supported through the modern slavery victim care contract, the government have now released new guidance regarding your support.

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking.

A victim is usually used and exploited for someone else's gain, without respect for their human rights and involving some element of coercion, such as threats, use of force, deception, or abuse of power so that the victim performs acts or services against their will.

Reporting modern slavery

You don't need to be sure that modern slavery is taking place or fully understand the types and definitions to report your concerns.

Are you or someone else in immediate danger?

Call 999 - If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 999 - the police will continue to respond to emergency calls.

Call the police on **101** if you suspect modern slavery but there is **no immediate risk of harm**.
Call CrimeStoppers on **0800 555 111** if you want to report a modern slavery crime confidentially and anonymously.

Where can I get help?

The Modern Slavery Helpline: provides victims, the public, statutory agencies and businesses access to information, support and report a suspicion. The number is free to call and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on **08000 121 700**. If able to do so, you can also visit their website via the following link <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/>

Are you currently being support through the modern slavery victim care contract?

"Individuals supported through the modern slavery victim care contract will be allowed to stay in government-funded safe accommodation for the next three months.

Through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) individuals are able to access support including accommodation for at least 45 days if found to be potential victims. Where they would ordinarily be assisted to move on from their accommodation, this temporary change will ensure that these individuals remain safely in accommodation. These changes will take immediate effect."

This text has been taken from the government website which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-for-modern-slavery-victims-affected-by-coronavirus>

Websites to visit for further advice, guidance and resources:

Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>

Anti-Slavery: <https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/>

Unseen: <https://www.unseenuk.org/what-we-do/women-s-safe-house>

Hope for Justice: <https://hopeforjustice.org/>

The Salvation Army: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery>

