



# Exploitation

## Factsheet

### Exploitation and modern slavery

Despite being illegal in every country in the modern world, slavery still exists, affecting millions of people worldwide, including many victims within the UK.

Modern slavery is defined as the recruitment, movement, harbouring or receiving of children, women or men through the use of force, coercion, abuse of vulnerability, deception or other means for the purpose of exploitation.

It is a crime and there is support available if you are being (or have been) exploited.

### What are the signs?

- ⇒ Money - Little or no pay for the work done, have no money/bank cards or accruing debts for transport or accommodation.
- ⇒ Restricted freedom - no access to passport, identity documents or medical treatment, unable to communicate freely, limited contact with family/friends.
- ⇒ Working conditions - working long hours over long periods of time, little/no time off, no employment contract, unable to choose when and where you work.
- ⇒ Appearance - wearing the same clothes every day, not dressed adequately for work e.g. no protective equipment or warm clothing, untreated injuries.
- ⇒ Accommodation - living in poor, substandard or unsuitable accommodation, no choice where or who you live with, live in groups in the workplace, rarely able to leave.
- ⇒ Behaviour - follow instructions from someone else, others speak on your behalf, have limited or no interaction with others at work or home.

### Support is available

You can report concerns about pay, work rights, employment agencies or working hours by [completing the government's online form](#).

Report concerns about serious exploitation and forced labour to the [Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority](#).

Do not tolerate exploitation. You may feel threatened and vulnerable, but there are organisations to help you. Contact the [modern slavery and exploitation helpline](#).

