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# Modern slavery

Modern slavery can take many forms including the trafficking of people, forced labour, servitude and slavery.

The term 'Modern Slavery' captures a whole range of types of exploitation, many of which occur together. These include but are not limited to:

- sexual exploitation
- domestic servitude
- forced labour
- criminal exploitation
- other forms of exploitation: organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; forced marriage and illegal adoption.

## The role of councils

Councils have a key role to play in tackling modern slavery, including in identifying and supporting victims and working in partnership locally. Councils' role can be separated into four distinct areas:

1. identification and referral of victims
2. supporting victims – this can be through safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing/homelessness services
3. community safety services and disruption activities
4. ensuring that the supply chains councils procure from are free from modern slavery.

Modern slavery intersects with many different areas that councils are involved with and a number of different officers might come across it while going about their everyday activities. Key examples where officers might come across victims include housing and homelessness services, community safety work, trading standards and licensing services, social services and customer services.

This is not an exhaustive list and there are many places where council staff and councillors may come across modern slavery or trafficking. Councils should consider how best to ensure a joined-up approach to the issues across their organisation.

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## Modern Slavery Act 2015

The **Modern Slavery Act**

[\[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted\]](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted) 2015 consolidated the current offences relating to trafficking and slavery and introduced a range of new measures around the prevention of modern slavery events and the support and protection of victims of modern slavery. Key aspects of the Act included:

- two new civil orders to **prevent modern slavery**.  
[\[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/part/2\]](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/part/2)
- creating the role of **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**  
[\[http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/resources/\]](http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/resources/) and its associated functions
- the requirement for certain commercial businesses to produce **transparency statements** []
- provision for the support and protection of modern slavery victims.

## Duty to notify and National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

Under the Act, local authorities have a duty to notify the Home Office of any individual encountered in England and Wales who they believe is a suspected victim of slavery or human trafficking.

A range of Government **resources**

[\[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-duty-to-notify\]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-duty-to-notify)

explain the meaning of 'duty to notify' and explain what you need to do if you think someone has been a victim of modern slavery:

- how to notify the Government if someone has been a victim of modern slavery

- the process for victims under 18
- which forms should be filled in
- what to do if the victim wants to remain anonymous.

The **NRM** [<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales>] is the process by which victims of modern slavery, including human trafficking, are recorded. The NRM was extended to all victims of modern slavery - both children and adults - in England and Wales following the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

It was estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2013 but in 2015, only 3,266 potential victims were identified and referred to the NRM. The Duty to Notify is intended to gather better data about modern slavery.

## **LGA support**

The LGA works to support councils to respond to the issue of modern slavery. Following our 2017 council **guide**

[https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12\\_Modern\\_slavery\\_WEB\\_2.pdf](https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.12_Modern_slavery_WEB_2.pdf)], to tackling modern slavery, we have also published a specific councillor guide and a series of good practice case studies highlighting the work that councils do to tackle modern slavery and support victims. If you have any examples you wish to share do let us know by emailing [info@local.gov.uk](mailto:info@local.gov.uk) [<mailto:info@local.gov.uk>].

## **First responder training for councils and other organisations**

[\[/first-responder-training-councils-and-other-organisations\]](#)

## **Tackling modern slavery: A guide for landlords**

[\[/publications/tackling-modern-slavery-guide-landlords\]](#)

## **Tackling labour abuse and modern slavery in the hand car wash sector**

[\[/publications/tackling-labour-abuse-and-modern-slavery-hand-car-wash-sector\]](#)



## **Councillor guide to tackling modern slavery**

This guidance is targeted specifically at councillors, and highlights the specific role that individual councillors can play in raising awareness of the issue and embedding work to tackle slavery within councils.

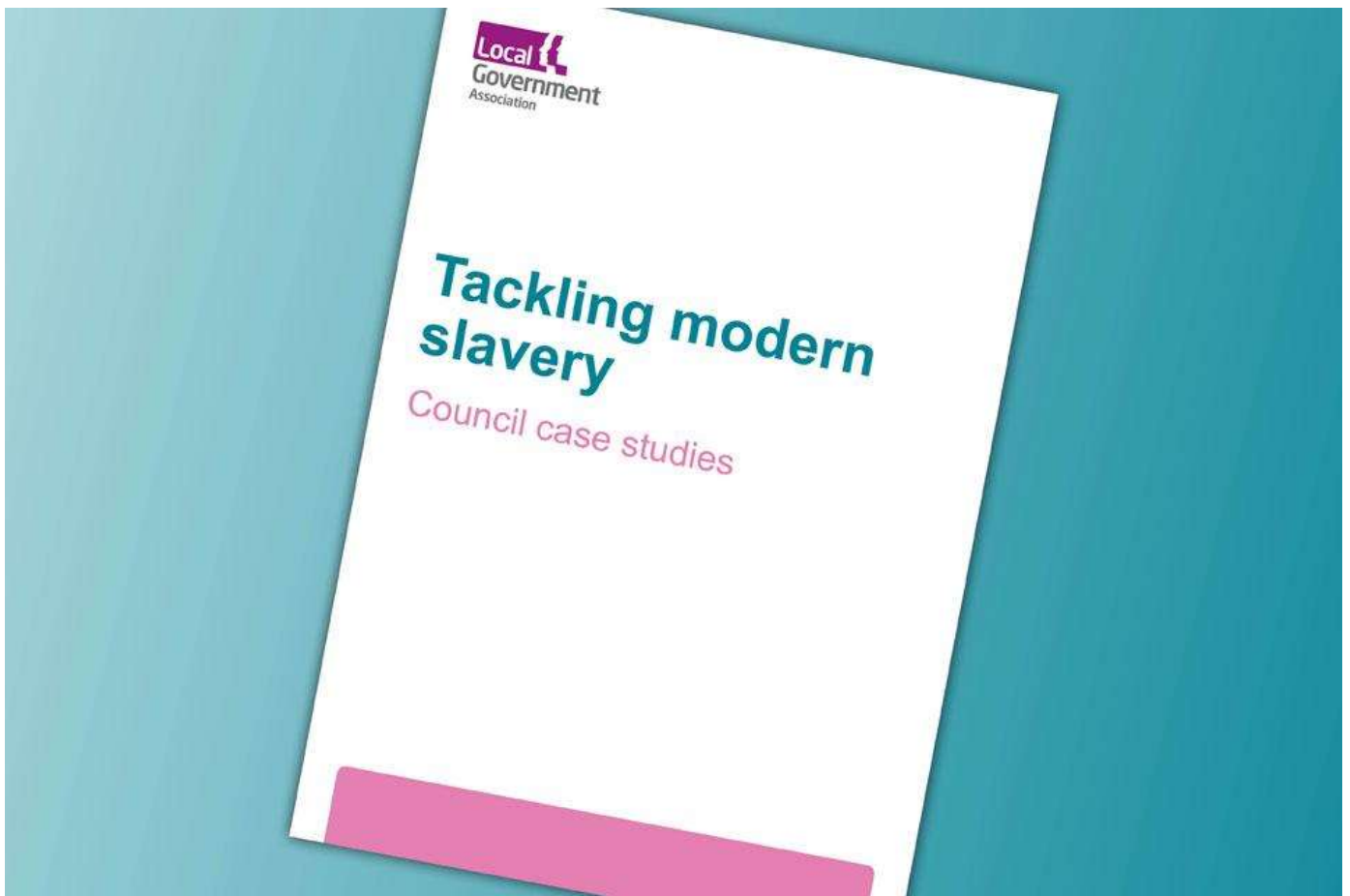
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## **Modern slavery in supply chains**

[\[/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery/supply-chains\]](#)

## **Tackling modern slavery: a council guide**

[\[/modern-slavery-council-guide\]](#)



## **Tackling modern slavery: council case studies**

[\[/publications/tackling-modern-slavery-council-case-studies\]](/publications/tackling-modern-slavery-council-case-studies)

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### **In this section:**

#### **Modern Slavery in the supply chain – council transparency statements portal**

Councils are uniquely placed to be at the forefront of the fight against modern slavery, and are demonstrating awareness and ethical leadership by voluntarily completing modern

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#### **The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and other resources**

The Commissioner and Nottingham University's Rights Lab have produced a modern slavery partnership toolkit.  
[\[/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery/%20independent-anti-slavery-commissioner\]](/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery/%20independent-anti-slavery-commissioner)

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