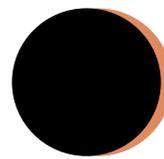


# Who Experiences Modern Slavery?



Modern Slavery  
Prevention Hub

No matter your race, gender, sexuality or socio-economic status, anyone can experience human trafficking and modern slavery. However, one of the most common threads that all victim/survivors of human trafficking share is increased vulnerability.

Often when someone is marginalised in society, they may be at greater risk of various forms of exploitation, including human trafficking. This is not a full list, but it provides insight into the ways traffickers may seek to exploit existing structural inequalities and socio-economic factors.



- **Poverty** - Both poverty and sudden loss of income can put people at higher risk of being targeted for human trafficking<sup>1</sup>. Traffickers often look for people who are in a vulnerable economic state or those who will be more likely to take any job offered to them, even if it is low-paying or results in debt, to provide for themselves or their families.
- **Race or Ethnicity** - Because race and ethnicity are tied to socio-economic and political vulnerability based on discrimination, traffickers around the world target people of colour.<sup>2</sup> Systemic racism prevents people of colour from accessing the same resources and often breaks down support networks, leaving people more at risk of modern slavery.
- **LGBTQIA+ Identity** - Research shows that a large portion of youth homelessness in the UK is experienced by LGBTQIA+ young people, and that being homeless can make people at risk of being targets for traffickers<sup>3</sup>. As with other groups facing financial and social challenges to accessing jobs, housing, or other resources, LGBTQIA+ youth and adults are more likely to seek out jobs in the informal economy, where exploitation is common.<sup>4</sup>
- **Migrants and Asylum Seekers** - Migrants and asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK and worldwide. This may be as a result of them: Fleeing situations of violence and conflict; Dislocated from community and family support structures, without access to legitimate forms of employment, legal status and social protection; Moving or working through irregular channels; Working in sectors that are either literally out of sight, such as work at sea or in private homes as domestic workers, or in informal sectors that are either not covered or may even be excluded from existing systems of labour protections.<sup>5</sup>

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- **International Students** - The exploitation of international students is an area of high risk for UK universities, as student visas could be used to facilitate human trafficking.<sup>6</sup> International students could be vulnerable to exploitation as they may be pressured to work in ways that do not comply with their visa, and told by their employer that they'll be reported to the authorities or lose their right to be in the country if they do not comply.<sup>7</sup>