



Modern slavery is not just a human rights and criminal justice issue — it's also a major public health concern.

In the UK, a public health approach can make a big difference in tackling modern slavery.

The Connection Between Public Health and Modern Slavery

- **Physical Health Impact:** People who experience modern slavery often face dangerous working conditions that lead to injuries, chronic illnesses, and malnutrition. They may not even get proper medical care, making them vulnerable to diseases. Those who've suffered sexual exploitation could also face reproductive health problems and infections.
- **Mental Health Impact:** Modern slavery inflicts trauma through abuse, isolation, and extreme stress. Victim-survivors might develop PTSD, depression, anxiety, and other mental disorders. Even after escaping, these psychological effects can last a long time.
- **Obstacles to Help:** Victim-survivors might fear retaliation from traffickers, lack awareness of support, or distrust authorities due to their immigration status. These barriers stop them from seeking help. A public health approach is crucial to identify and assist survivors who lack access to resources.

Many survivors of modern slavery interact with authorities like healthcare workers. Training these professionals to spot potential victims and connect them with support is essential.