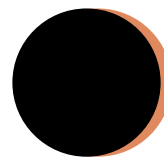


What is Modern Slavery?



Modern Slavery
Prevention Hub

Modern slavery is a human rights violation with severe consequences for the health and wellbeing of victim-survivors worldwide.¹

DEFINITION: Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes most situations where a person is being exploited and they are unable to refuse or leave because of threats, violence, fraud or deception, abuse of power or other forms of coercion.² Types of modern slavery include, but are not limited to, human trafficking, forced labour, forced marriage and debt bondage.



- **Globally, 49.6 million people are in modern slavery, including 27.6 million in forced labour and 22 million in forced marriage.**³
- **1 out of every 150 people in the world is living in modern slavery.**⁴

Modern slavery is all around us, often hidden in plain sight. People can become enslaved making our clothes, serving our food, picking our crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners or nannies.

A GROWING PROBLEM: According to the latest figures, 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 than in 2017.⁵ The impact of Covid global pandemic, ongoing crises, conflicts and the climate emergency are increasing risks of modern slavery around the world.⁶

Many people have fallen into this trap because they were trying to escape poverty or insecurity, improve their lives and support their families. Now, they can't leave.

LONG-LASTING EFFECTS: Situations of modern slavery are by no means transient – reports show that entrapment in forced labour can last years, while in most cases forced marriage is a life sentence.⁷

In the UK, modern slavery is a crime under the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) and includes holding a person in a position of slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, or facilitating their travel with the intention of exploiting them soon after.