

Modern Slavery

What are the signs / symptoms of slavery?

Signs of slavery in the UK and elsewhere are often hidden, making it even harder to recognise victims around us.

Slavery is called a hidden crime because it can be difficult to identify a victim.

There have been cases of people escaping and reporting the situation to the police. However, many are physically unable to leave their work sites without an escort and are not free to contact family, friends, or members of the public.

Common signs to look out for:

Physical appearance

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid.
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behaviour.
- Appear withdrawn.
- Avoids eye contact.
- Reluctant to seek help.
- Lacks health care/dental care.
- Appears malnourished.
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture.

Isolation

- Not allowed to travel on their own.
- Rarely interacts with others.
- Unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- Seem under the control of others.

Lack of control

- Has few or no personal possessions.
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account.
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport).
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating).
- May wear the same clothes day in day out or clothes be inappropriate for the work being done.

Poor living conditions

- Dirty cramped environment.
- Over-crowded accommodation.
- Living and working at the same place.

Unusual travel times

- Maybe dropped off and collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.

If you have any concerns, call the Modern Slavery Helpline on **0800 0121 700**