

# Factsheet: Slavery and Human Trafficking

## GLOBAL TRENDS

- **29.8 million** people live in modern slavery worldwide, roughly half the population of Italy.
- **£20 billion:** the total value of the illicit human trafficking trade per year.
- Human Trafficking is the **3<sup>rd</sup> largest illicit trade** on the planet after drugs and arms.
- The **European Convention on Human Rights** expressly forbids slavery under Article 4.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BRITAIN

- In 2013, there was a **47% increase in referrals of potential victims of human trafficking** compared to 2012. A total of 1,746 referrals were received.
  - **64%** of those victims were **women**.
  - **26%** of those victims were **children**.
- **Only 34 convictions for human trafficking and forced labour** were recorded in England and Wales in 2012.
- Victims of human trafficking are often punished instead of their traffickers.
- **Most common types of exploitation** (2012): Sexual exploitation (36%); Labour exploitation (22%); Criminal exploitation (16%).
- **10,000:** the estimated number of enslaved people in the UK.
- **120:** the number of secure bed spaces available for victims who escape trafficking.
- In the UK, **there is no comprehensive system of support for victims of trafficking and slavery** provided by the state.
- Parliament reports that the most challenging part of the process is the identification of victims.
- However, **two-thirds of rescued children go missing again**. This shows that the post-rescue support system is also deeply flawed.

## MODERN SLAVERY ACT

The UK Parliament passed the Modern Slavery Act in March 2015, with provisions addressing the prevalence of modern slavery in the UK. The Act introduces:

- A system of **independent child trafficking advocates**,
- **Modern slavery as a defence** to the committal of crimes where the victim was compelled by his/her slaver
- Provision of **civil legal aid** for victims of slavery
- A **maximum life sentence** for perpetrators of modern slavery
- **Provisions to enhance the ability for the court to place restrictions** on individuals at risk of committing modern slavery offences,
- An **Anti-Slavery Commissioner** to improve and better coordinate the response to modern slavery,
- A new reparation order to encourage the courts to **compensate victims**,
- Provisions **enabling law enforcement to stop boats** where slaves are suspected of being held or trafficked,
- Requiring businesses over a certain size threshold to **disclose each year what action they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their business** or supply chains.