

2026

It takes an Army to combat modern slavery.

Bring an end to slavery as we fight for social justice and respond with compassionate care.

Report on The Salvation Army's Modern Slavery Response in the United Kingdom and Ireland including delivery of the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract, July 2025 to June 2026





Stand together.

Foreword by Major Kathy Betteridge
Director of Anti-Trafficking and
Modern Slavery for The Salvation Army



Modern slavery remains one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time, affecting millions of people worldwide, including thousands here in the United Kingdom. Yet every day we witness something equally powerful: the extraordinary courage of survivors as they begin to reclaim their lives, supported by people, communities and organisations determined to stand alongside them.

This report reflects how The Salvation Army responded during 2025-2026 to strengthen protection and support long-term recovery of survivors. Through the Home Office-funded Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract, together with the commitment, expertise and resources of The Salvation Army and our partners, thousands of survivors have received practical, emotional and specialist support. We bring together everything The Salvation Army has to offer through our national and international networks - specialist expertise, dedicated staff and volunteers, practical resources such as charitable funding, churches and community centres - all to help survivors access the safety, support and opportunities they need to move forward.

Throughout the year, many people have secured safe accommodation, entered employment, reconnected with family, progressed into education and developed confidence and skills to live independently. Alongside this, we have continued to raise awareness, influence policy, train professionals and strengthen responses across communities, helping ensure that more victims are recognised and more people understand the realities of modern slavery.

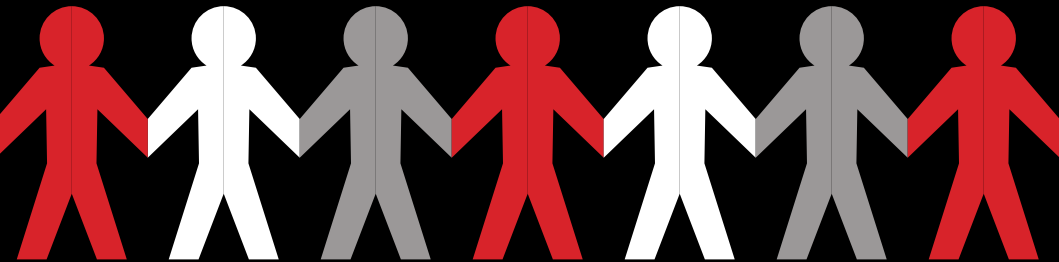
“
As you read this report, I invite you to remember that every number represents a life, every story reflects remarkable courage, and every achievement is possible because people choose to stand together. It truly takes an Army to combat modern slavery, and I am deeply grateful to everyone whose commitment, compassion and expertise is helping to change lives every day.
”



Combat slavery.

Our vision

Bring an end to slavery
as we fight for social
justice and respond with
compassionate care.



Our mission

Prevent modern slavery and the
trafficking of people.

Protect the individual(s) on their
journey from victim to survivor.

Progress the survivor's journey to
sustained freedom and communities'
resilience against trafficking.



Make an impact.

This year highlighted both the continuing scale of modern slavery and the importance of a sustained, survivor-centred response. As referrals increased, we continued to stand alongside survivors as they recovered, rebuilt their lives and moved towards lasting freedom, while also strengthening prevention, building evidence, influencing policy and mobilising communities to help combat modern slavery and exploitation.

Every number tells a human story.



Supporting survivors

10,584 people received practical and personalised support

90% of survivors we work with said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their support

5,185 potential victims entered our service

4,225 people were supported to access medical treatment

2,537 people accessed legal advice, while **2,722+** received information about their legal rights and entitlements

2,836 people took part in education or training, or received help to prepare for work



Our volunteers

287 volunteers working with us throughout the year

14,673 miles travelled to support survivors

3,917 hours given with compassion and dedication



Across the UK and Ireland

46 awareness and training sessions delivered

1,915 people reached through awareness sessions

6 police operations supported across multiple forces



International response

13 international projects undertaken

129,937 people reached through prevention work

87 survivors supported through return and reintegration services

2,823 survivors supported globally



Understand.

Since 2011, The Salvation Army and its partners have supported a total of **32,736 recovering survivors** of modern slavery through the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract and its predecessors.



5,185

Potential victims entered the service to receive support. This is **2,776 more people**, a **115% increase** on the previous year (2,409)



10,584

People received support during the year, including those already in the service at the start of year 15. This was a **119% increase** compared to year 14

What this means

The sharp rise in people entering our support this year highlights the continuing scale of modern slavery, but doesn't necessarily indicate that more people were exploited than in previous years. Instead, it may reflect additional Government investment in decision-making capacity, to help address backlogs for people awaiting decisions about their eligibility for support (Reasonable Grounds decisions) and for those awaiting final decisions on whether they are recognised as victims of modern slavery (Conclusive Grounds decisions). Faster decisions are welcome because they help more potential victims access support without lengthy delay and give more certainty about their futures. For survivors, reducing their time spent in limbo can be an important part of recovery, but timely access to support and being able to remain in support for long enough to recover, rebuild and move forward is essential.

Year 15 is the period between July 2025 - June 2026.

Behind every number is a person accessing safety, support and the opportunity to rebuild their life.



Understand.

Year 15 key data

Alongside accommodation and practical support, survivors were assisted to access a wide range of services which support recovery and independence, based on their individual needs.



4,225

People were supported to access medical treatment



2,533

Received professional counselling support



2,644

Accessed English language support (ESOL)



2,537

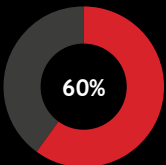
Were supported to access legal advice and more than 2,722 supported with legal rights and information about entitlements



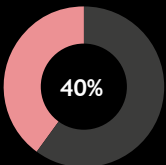
1,636

People took part in education and training, and over 1,200 received work-preparation support to build confidence, skills and independence

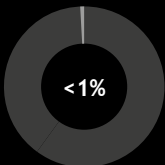
Gender



3,117
Male



2,060
Female



8
Transgender

What this means

The gender profile remained broadly consistent with the previous year, suggesting that the increase in people entering support was experienced across all genders rather than being driven by one particular gender.

Type of exploitation



What this means

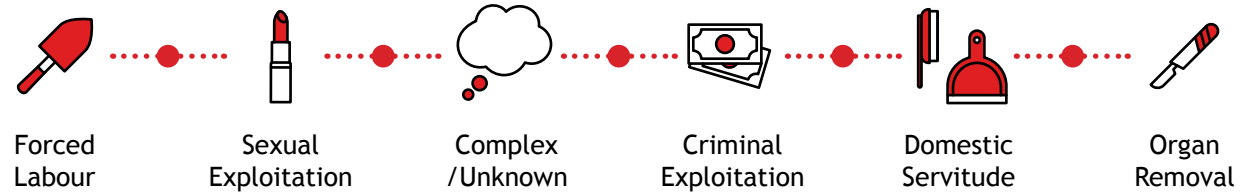
Forced labour continued to be the most commonly reported form of exploitation and accounted for nearly two-thirds of all people entering support. At least 61.7% of those referred to the service this year experienced some form of labour exploitation.



Understand.

Exploitation types

Here is a breakdown of how the types of exploitation experienced by people entering support have changed over the last 15 years.



Breakdown of Exploitation: Years 1-15

Type	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15
Forced Labour	179	222	375	391	587	606	825	1,072	1,081	1,030	1,404	2,061	1,754	1,557	3,201
Sexual Exploitation	158	235	342	472	626	741	772	881	848	647	715	672	533	482	810
Complex/Unknown	8	25	91	83	3	11	1	23	99	324	105	116	17	10	478
Criminal*	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	291	470	600	524	277	198	299
Domestic Servitude	37	68	81	151	184	195	258	274	273	187	241	160	158	158	393
Organ Removal	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	2	4	4
Total	383	550	889	1,097	1,401	1,554	1,856	2,251	2,592	2,662	3,068	3,533	2,741	2,409	5,185

*This is the 7th year that criminal exploitation has been recorded as a separate category which typically includes people forced to commit criminal activities such as gang-related 'county lines' drug distribution, cannabis cultivation, begging, financial fraud and theft.

“

The Salvation Army have been perfect. They've given me another family. They gave me back my life - I went from nothing to something again.” Looking to the future, Aziz adds: “I feel very positive about my future now and I'd tell anyone suffering as I have, don't ever give up.”

Aziz's* story

Aziz came to the UK from Uganda believing he was being offered the opportunity to continue his studies and complete a master's degree. Instead, his passport was taken and he entered years of domestic servitude and labour exploitation at the hands of people he had trusted.

Promised support to access university, Aziz instead found himself caring for children, cleaning homes and later working nights cleaning buses. “That was the last time I saw

my passport.” For years he worked almost constantly while receiving little or no money. “Every day I'd drop off the children at school, come home and start cleaning, pick them up and cook for the families, then go out to work at the bus station at night.”

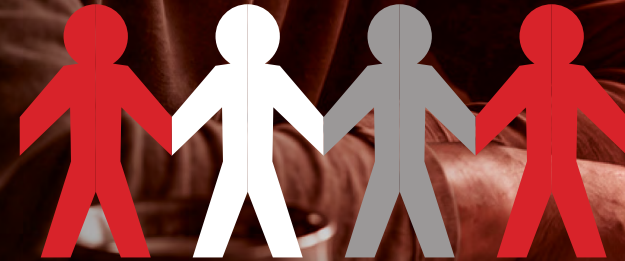
Whenever he questioned why he was not being paid or asked about his studies, he was threatened. Eventually, when he was no longer considered useful, he was made homeless. For several

years Aziz struggled to survive before being connected to The Salvation Army through a local resource centre.

The support he received marked a turning point. Safe accommodation provided the stability he had been denied for so long, while specialist support helped him regain confidence and rebuild trust. Today, Aziz volunteers regularly, supports others in his local community and spends his time reading and developing his legal

knowledge while waiting for opportunities to continue his education.

Despite everything he has endured, Aziz remains remarkably positive. “The Salvation Army have been perfect. They've given me another family. They gave me back my life - I went from nothing to something again.” Looking ahead, he says: “I feel very positive about my future now and I'd tell anyone suffering as I have, don't ever give up.”





Understand.

Gender and exploitation

The experiences of men and women entering support continue to show clear patterns across different forms of modern slavery.



76%

of forced labour survivors **were men**



86%

of criminal exploitation survivors **were men**



82%

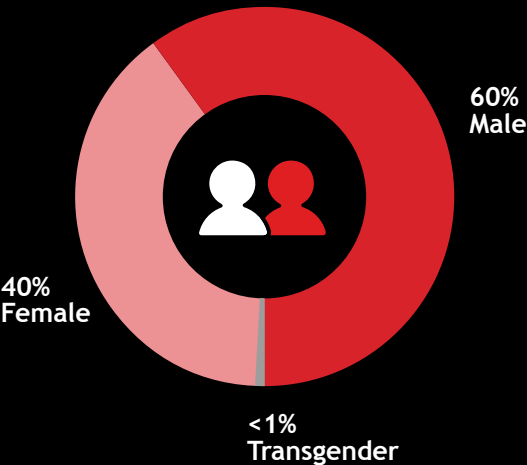
of domestic servitude survivors **were women**



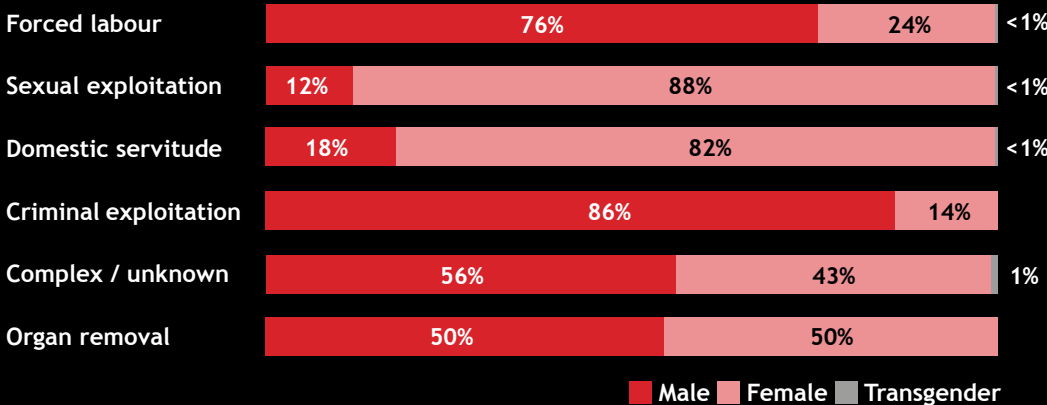
88%

of sexual exploitation survivors **were women**

Overall gender profile



Gender and exploitation breakdown



What this means

The data continues to demonstrate clear gendered patterns within modern slavery. Men made up 60% of people entering support and were particularly likely to have experienced forced labour or criminal exploitation.

Women remain disproportionately represented among survivors of sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. Almost nine in ten survivors of sexual exploitation and more than four-fifths of survivors of domestic servitude were women.



Understand.

Age and exploitation

Age can provide important insight into who is most at risk of exploitation. During Year 15, the vast majority of people entering support were working-age adults, with 87% aged between 18 and 39.



42%

of survivors were
aged 18 to 25 years

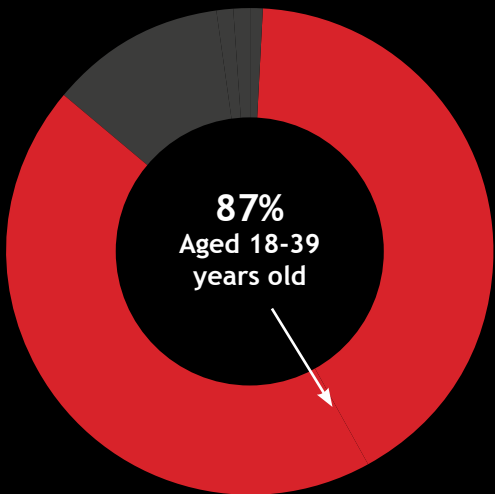


45%

of survivors were
aged 26 to 39 years

Overall age profile

Under 18*	< 1%	8
18-25	42%	2,168
26-39	45%	2,312
40-55	12%	622
56+	1%	73
Unknown	< 1%	2



What this means

Most survivors entering support were aged between 18 and 39 years, making up 87% of the total. This reflects the heightened vulnerability of working-age adults to forms of exploitation linked to employment, migration and economic insecurity.

*Support for victims under 18 is provided by local authorities and designated partner organisations. Occasionally a referral may have been made to the MSVCC where the age of the individual was unknown or inaccurately recorded at the time of referral.



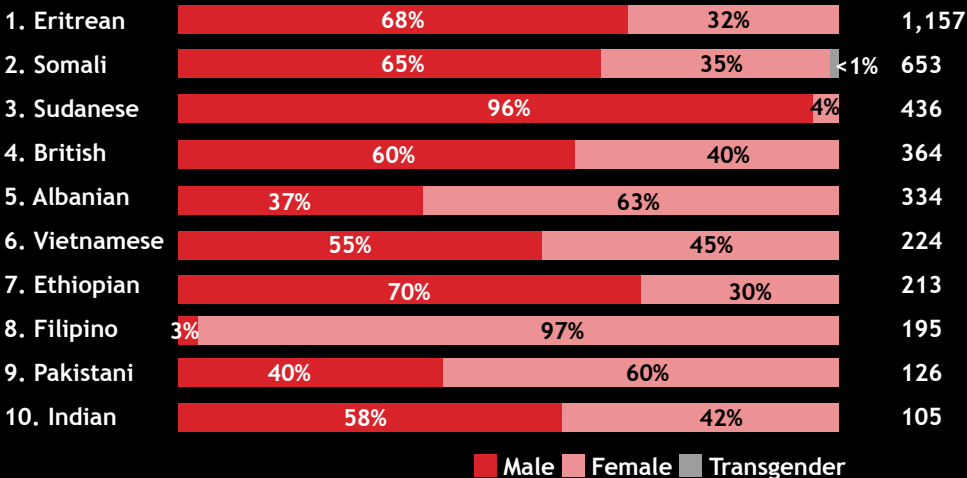
Understand.

Top ten nationalities

The top ten nationalities of survivors entering support reflect the global nature of modern slavery and help identify changing patterns of exploitation, vulnerability and support needs.



Gender breakdown of the top ten nationalities



What this means

There has been an increase in the number of survivors entering support for all nationalities in the top ten. Eritrean nationals are now the most common (30% of the top ten compared to 15% last year), while Vietnamese dropped to sixth (6% compared to 17%) and British dropped to fourth place. Somali is now second, despite not being in the top ten last year. Ethiopian nationals have also appeared in seventh place, despite not being in the top ten last year.

Survivors from Eritrea, Somalia and Sudan represented over four in ten people entering support during Year 15. Many individuals from these countries were identified as experiencing forced labour exploitation, reflecting wider displacement, migration and trafficking vulnerabilities affecting people fleeing conflict and instability.

3,807
(73%)

of all survivors
that entered
support were
accounted
for in the ten
most common
nationalities.



Understand.

Nationalities (excluding the top 10)

Survivors from 123 nationalities entered support in Year 15, showing the global nature of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Outside the top ten, the most common were



101

survivors were
Nigerian



95

survivors were
Iranian



81

survivors were
Syrian



74

survivors were
Afghan



68

survivors were
Sierra Leonean

Africa

513

Nigerian (Nigeria)	101	Nigerien (Niger)	9
Sierra Leonean	68	Ugandan	9
Egyptian	51	Tanzanian	8
Ghanaian	26	Senegalese	6
Moroccan	24	Tunisian	6
Libyan	23	Ivorian	5
Cameroonian	16	Malian	4
Algerian	14	Beninese	3
Gambian	14	Liberian	3
Kenyan	14	Angolan	2
Mauritian	14	Burkinabé (Burkina Faso)	2
Botswana	13	Mozambican	2
Chadian	13	South Sudanese	2
Zimbabwean	13	Lesotho	1
Congolese	12	Malawian	1
Namibian	12	Rwandan	1
South African	10	Swazi	1
Guinean	9	Zambian	1

Asia

577

Iranian (Persian)	95	Turk	6
Syrian	81	Uzbek	6
Afghan	74	Kazaks	3
Bangladeshi	59	Korean	3
Chinese	49	Mongolian	3
Iraqi	32	Saudi	3
Sri Lankan	31	Bahraini	2
Yemeni	26	East Timor	2
Kuwaiti	22	Hong Kong	2
Thai	20	Kurd	2
Georgian	9	Kyrgyz	2
Malaysian	9	Turkish Cypriot	2
Indonesian	8	Cypriot	1
Nepalese	8	Israeli	1
Palestinian	8	Japanese	1
Jordanian	7		

Europe

119

Romanian	31	Dane	3
Pole	17	Spaniard	3
Hungarian	8	Bulgarian	2
Czech	7	French citizen	2
Slovak	7	Greek	2
Kosovo Albanian	6	Latvian	2
Russian	6	Belgian	1
Dutch	5	Estonian	1
Lithuanian	5	Finn	1
Portuguese	4	German	1
Ukrainian	4	Italian	1

Oceania

5

Australian	4	Fijian	1
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North America

64

Jamaican	25	St Lucian	2
Grenadian	8	Barbadian	1
Trinidadian	8	Cuban	1
American	7	Dominican (Republic)	1
Mexican	3	Nicaraguan	1
Canadian	2	Panamanian	1
Guatemalan	2		
Hondurans	2		

South America

87

Brazilian	63	Argentine	2
Colombian	9	Ecuadorian	2
Peruvians	6	Bolivian	1
Guianese (French)	3	Guyanese	1

A further 13 people were recorded where nationality wasn't known at the time of referral.



Understand.

Referral regions

People who entered support in year 15 were referred from the following regions of the United Kingdom.

What this means

London remained the most common referral region for survivors entering support in year 15, with just over half of all referrals.

The number of referrals from London was higher than the combined total from all other regions, excluding the South East.

The regional breakdown follows a similar trend to last year.



Top three regions



1. London	51%	2,636
2. South East	15%	793
3. North West	9%	441
4. West Midlands	7%	381
5. North East	5%	235
6. East Midlands	4%	222
7. South West	4%	182
8. Eastern	2%	128
9. Wales	2%	79
10. Scotland	<1%	11
11. Northern Ireland	<1%	4

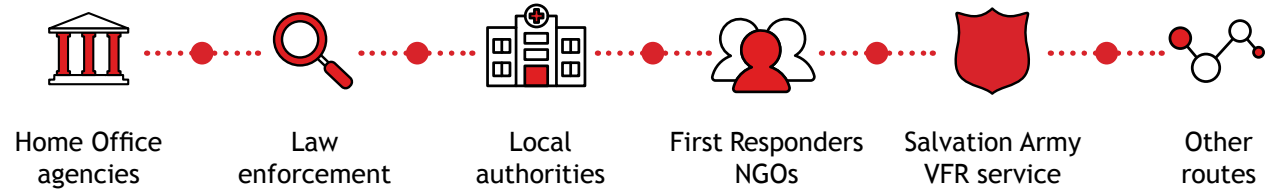
Not known at time of referral accounted for 73 (1%)



Understand.

First responder organisations

The following agencies identified and referred potential victims for support in Year 15.



Home Office including UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI); Immigration Enforcement; UK Border Force; and Single Competent Authority (SCA)	3,485
Law Enforcement including Police, National Crime Agency and Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority	655
Local Authorities including Social Services; Housing; Adult Safeguarding; Homelessness services	408
Other designated First Responder NGOs including Migrant Help, Medaille Trust, Kalayaan, BAWSO, Barnardo's, Refugee Council	301
The Salvation Army Volunteer First Responder Service	235
Self-Referral	47
Legal Representatives	38
Other including advocacy and support workers	9
Not specified	6
NHS	1

What this means

Over two-thirds of all referrals originated from first responders in Home Office agencies, including UK Visas and Immigration, Immigration Enforcement, UK Border Force and the Single Competent Authority. This reflects the important role these agencies play in identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery. The Salvation Army's Volunteer First Responder Service continues to play a disproportionately high role in referring potential victims into support.



Understand.

Potential victims that did not enter support

Some potential victims did not enter the service for a range of reasons, as detailed below. These reasons may include individuals declining support, not meeting eligibility criteria, or choosing alternative forms of assistance.

Reason didn't enter	TOTAL
Were eligible, but declined	93
Were eligible, but had no further contact	2,057
Were not eligible	5,419
Were placed on hold*	194
	7,763

Compared with Y14, the number of people who did not enter support increased by 1,301.

What this means

The main reasons why some potential victims referred to The Salvation Army do not enter the service are:

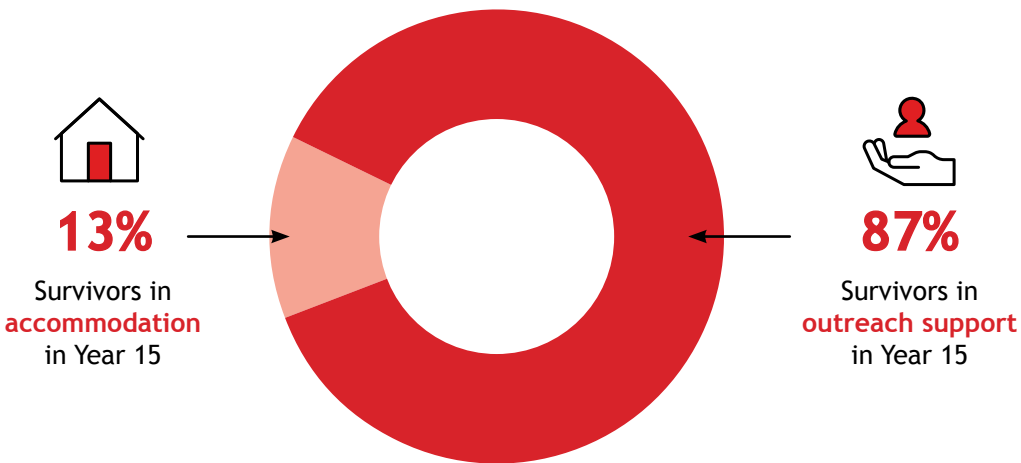
- The potential victim was not eligible for support under the terms of the contract. For example, there were no indicators of modern slavery, the person is aged under 18 years so would instead be entitled to local authority support; referred from outside England and Wales.
- The potential victim declined the offer of support, perhaps choosing to receive help from family, friends or another agency or immediately returned to their home country.
- The Salvation Army was unable to contact the potential victim with the information provided by the referrer or the information was incomplete, or the individual did not respond to our or the referrer's repeated attempts to contact them.

*On hold includes where The Salvation Army is awaiting news on reasonable grounds decisions



Understand.

Breakdown of support type
The chart opposite shows the percentage of support provided as Accommodation (safe house) or Outreach (community-based).



Length of time in support

Survivors exiting the support services in year 15 had received support for the following amount of time.

	Accommodation (support for people in safe house accommodation)	Outreach (support for people living in the community)
Year 14 - Average (mean) days in service per person	131	841
Year 15 - Average (mean) days in service per person	72	418

What this means

The number of days in support for those in accommodation and in outreach has almost halved as compared to last year. This is due to the increase and speed of reasonable grounds and conclusive grounds decision making.

A total of **891** journeys completed to transport survivors to somewhere safe, such as a safe house or changes in support or accommodation.



Understand.

Reach-In

This year 1,386 people (13% of all survivors) accessed Reach-In support after receiving a positive conclusive grounds decision - a 63% increase from last year. The Reach-In service offers information and signposting to survivors once they leave the main support service.

Top five nationalities accessing Reach-In support within year 15



A total of **7,496** survivors moved on from the support of The Salvation Army and our partners in year 15 (55% increase from the last year).

Living with family, friends, or partners (of whom 61 were outside the UK)	1433
Settled in private accommodation (of whom 15 were outside the UK)	1719
Moved into mainstream or supported accommodation with local authorities in the UK	2017
Moved to the Asylum Support service	1767
Had not secured accommodation. The majority of these were placed within statutory homelessness services and the remainder, typically with no recourse to public funds or access to formal housing support, were signposted to support services such as homelessness shelters, other charities, and food banks in the community	185
Moved into NGO supported accommodation (of whom 2 were outside the UK)	190
Absconded or were deemed missing persons	86
Were identified as hospital in-patients, in prison, or had died during the year	54
Accessed either the Government or NGO funded Voluntary Returns Service in order to return to their country of origin	33
Non UK Govt funded support abroad	12



Understand.

Country profile:

1. Eritrean

A total of **1,157 Eritrean nationals** entered support.



97%

of Eritrean survivors were aged **18-39 years**

Age group breakdown

<18	3
18-25	623
26-39	500
40-55	28
>55	1
Not known	2

Exploitation type breakdown

Forced Labour	887
Sexual Exploitation	114
Criminal	0
Domestic Servitude	48
Organ removal	1
Other	107



76.7%

of Eritrean survivors experienced **forced labour exploitation**

Gender breakdown

Over two-thirds (68.2%) of Eritrean survivors were men.



789 Male



368 Female





Understand.

Country profile:

2. Somali

A total of **653 Somali nationals** entered support.



96.8%
of Somali survivors were aged **18-39 years**

Age group breakdown

<18	1
18-25	416
26-39	216
40-55	18
>55	2
Not known	0

Exploitation type breakdown

Forced Labour	460
Sexual Exploitation	48
Criminal	4
Domestic Servitude	75
Organ removal	0
Other	66



70.4%
of Somali survivors experienced **forced labour exploitation**

Gender breakdown

Over two-thirds (65.4%) of Somali survivors were men.



427 Male



225 Female



1 Transgender





Understand.

Country profile:

3. Sudanese

A total of **436 Sudanese nationals** entered support.



95.2%
of Sudanese survivors were aged **18-39 years**

Age group breakdown

<18	3
18-25	213
26-39	202
40-55	17
>55	1
Not known	0

Exploitation type breakdown

Forced Labour	399
Sexual Exploitation	9
Criminal	2
Domestic Servitude	7
Organ removal	0
Other	19



91.5%
of Sudanese survivors experienced **forced labour exploitation**

Gender breakdown

Almost all (95.9%) of Sudanese survivors were men.



418 Male



18 Female





Understand.

Country profile:

4. British

A total of **364**
British nationals
entered support.



72.6%
of British
survivors were
aged **18-39 years**

Age group breakdown

<18	0
18-25	152
26-39	112
40-55	77
>55	23
Not known	0

Exploitation type breakdown

Forced Labour	80
Sexual Exploitation	73
Criminal	145
Domestic Servitude	4
Organ removal	0
Other	62



39.8%
of British survivors
experienced **criminal**
exploitation

Gender breakdown

Over three in five (60.4%) of British survivors were men.



220 Male



144 Female





“

I'm grateful to The Salvation Army for taking care of me and giving me somewhere to stay.” Craig now works with police and hopes sharing his story will help others spot the warning signs of exploitation.

Craig's* story

Craig was a vulnerable teenager looking for stability when he accepted an offer of work and accommodation from a traveller family. After several years, he left to live independently and accepted work with another group, believing they would also treat him fairly. Instead, he became trapped in forced labour exploitation.

What began as paving and construction work quickly turned into violence, intimidation and control. Craig was paid less and less, beaten when he questioned

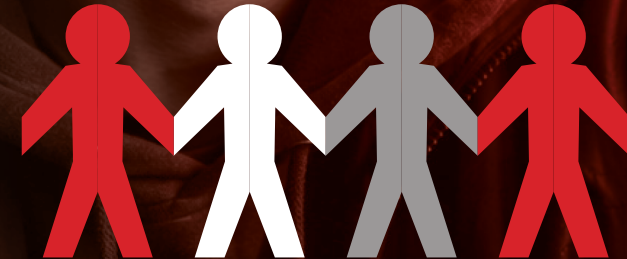
it and prevented from leaving. “They treated me like rubbish. Hitting me, sometimes locking me in or coming with me if I tried to go anywhere on my own.” He was also forced into criminal activity and lived in constant fear. “I knew if I ran away and they caught me, they would kill me.”

After escaping and seeking help from the police, Craig continued to face threats from those who had exploited him. Periods of homelessness followed and he increasingly turned to alcohol as a way of

coping with the trauma he had experienced.

Eventually identified as a victim of modern slavery, Craig was referred to The Salvation Army for specialist support. Through safe house accommodation and access to healthcare, counselling and addiction services, he has begun the difficult process of recovery. When concerns were raised that his exploiters had once again tracked him down, The Salvation Army acted quickly to move him to a new safe location.

Although the effects of exploitation remain, Craig is beginning to rebuild his life. “I'm grateful to The Salvation Army for taking care of me, giving me somewhere to stay, linking me up to things like doctors, counsellors and dentists.” Today he continues to work with police and hopes that by sharing his story he can help others recognise the warning signs of exploitation before it is too late.



Understand.

Country profile:

5. Albanian

A total of **334 Albanian nationals** entered support.



53%

over half of Albanian survivors were aged **26-39 years**

Age group breakdown

<18	0
18-25	126
26-39	177
40-55	30
>55	1
Not known	0

Exploitation type breakdown

Forced Labour	116
Sexual Exploitation	154
Criminal	41
Domestic Servitude	9
Organ removal	0
Other	14



46.1%

nearly half of Albanian survivors experienced **sexual exploitation**

Gender breakdown

Almost two-thirds (63.2%) of Albanian survivors were women.



123 Male



211 Female





Coordinate support.

A vital part of our work is the coordination of the government's Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC), where we oversee a national network of specialist organisations working with survivors, as well as providing support ourselves. It's a great example of us combining everything The Salvation Army has to offer with the power of our partner network.

What this means

Successful coordination of the MSVCC ensures potential victims receive culturally sensitive support from us and our partner charities, including safe accommodation, financial help and specialist counselling.

It means giving survivors the best possible chance to recover and build a positive, independent future.

"The support, guidance and assistance I received made a real difference in my life. Knowing someone was there to listen, answer my questions and help me through different situations gave me the confidence to keep moving forward."

Survivor of modern slavery





The power of trust

Our partners trust us, meaning we work together extremely effectively for the benefit of survivors.

Other organisations we work with - including health services, lawyers and the police - consistently report that survivors trust us, too.

Success does not mean we stand still, however. We go way beyond what the MSVCC coordination requires of us.



We have an outstanding record of KPI compliance in the MSVCC.



We constantly seek out independent scrutiny of our work to ensure we are always improving and developing exceptional support for survivors.



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) routinely highlights numerous examples of best practice in what we do.



We maintain a range of ISO certifications, and support our subcontractors to obtain relevant certifications for themselves, too.



Our Reach-In service provides transitional advice, counselling referrals, job-search assistance and language classes to help survivors transition from safehouse care to independent living.



90%

of survivors we work with said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their support



The network in action

We are working with:

- **Fellow charity Justice and Care** to enable more survivors to engage with Victim Navigators - specialist support workers deployed alongside frontline police. This year we funded two Navigator roles, resulting in 14 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the government's system for supporting survivors of modern slavery.
- **The Home Office** to improve contact with potential victims in the NRM, with a view to increasing their access to MSVCC support.
- **The Home Office, local authorities** and care provider **Barnardos** to improve children's transition from local authority services to the NRM as they approach their 18th birthday.
- **Border Force** to improve the quality of referrals into the NRM, ensuring more survivors are accepted and get the support they deserve.



32,736

survivors have been supported by The Salvation Army and its partners since 2011

Learning and joining the dots

Through partnerships with research institutions which share our goals, such as the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab, we are connecting academics, policymakers and practitioners to learn from people working on the frontline.

This helps us improve understanding so that systems can work better. It means better:

- Immediate and long-term support for survivors of modern slavery.
- Understanding of how to prevent re-trafficking.
- Help for survivors to reintegrate and move forward with their lives.

This year we have commissioned research into:

- The needs of dependent children in the MSVCC.
- The effectiveness of our Reach-In service.
- The factors that lead to forced labour in high-risk employment sectors, such as clothing manufacture.
- How people can find housing and avoid homelessness after leaving our service.
- The circumstances that can lead to people becoming re-trafficked or re-exploited.

"I honestly don't know where I'd be without The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army have had my back 100 per cent."

Survivor of modern slavery

An independent evaluation by the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull of our Reach-In service found that trusted relationships and continued support are central to survivors' recovery after they leave the formal support of the MSVCC. As survivors are increasingly exiting statutory support earlier, Reach-In has become more important in helping them navigate this transition. The evaluation highlighted opportunities to strengthen commissioning and ensure the service remains consistent and responsive to survivors' changing recovery needs.



Support survivors.

Survivors are at the centre of everything we do - and we have a proven track record of meeting their needs with respect, dignity and a deep understanding of trauma.

We bring together decades of experience, an unrivalled network of partners and the unique expertise of survivors themselves, to ensure we're providing everything they need to recover.

What this means

We think of what we do as a partnership - working with survivors rather than for survivors. It means survivors help to shape all that we offer, and are involved in such things as staff recruitment, safehouse design and service improvements. Such an approach, known as co-production, recognises that people with experience of modern slavery have unique expertise that complements professional knowledge.

Survivor led

Our Co-production Forum brings together people with lived experience to influence services, shape policy, and improve support. As well as ensuring the quality of our services, this approach helps members build confidence, develop leadership skills, and strengthen their influencing abilities.

This year members have influenced our advocacy work, contributed to government consultations, had meetings with policy makers, and spoken publicly about issues affecting survivors. Said one survivor we worked with: **"Being able to speak to ministers and see how they listened to me made me feel validated."**

Shaping our service

Survivor feedback is embedded in our service through ongoing surveys, wellness audits and their participation in our research projects. Survivors also meet regularly with staff to discuss their experiences. These meetings are informal and might include creative activities, coffee mornings or cooking opportunities. They are trauma-informed and as such held in safe spaces where survivors feel comfortable sharing ideas and experiences. At one of them, in Leicester, for example, survivors recommended anonymous feedback after events so people could feel more comfortable giving an honest opinion, plus more opportunities for peer support. Our approach is an effective way of listening and learning - and the insights that emerge go into shaping our service.

Despite the violence and trauma so many survivors have experienced, nearly all of those we work with are able to transition to independent living.



Making connections

Our safehouses celebrate all major faith events, and residents often cook together and share dishes from their own cultures.

We also encourage connections outside the safehouses too. One of our safehouses is supporting survivors to attend women-only community groups and a local choir, for example. Another has developed strong links with a city farm, an artist community and an autism support service.

It all adds up to smoothing the transition to independent living, with survivors leaving us with ready-made community connections.

Lived experience in action

We helped one survivor, who had lived in a safehouse for more than 20 months, to begin working for a care agency during their stay. And after leaving the safehouse, they went on to successful employment in The Salvation Army's homelessness service. Now they are an important part of our team, providing unique insights into our support and contributing to survivor engagement activities. On occasions, they also work with the media team to share their positive story with others.

Rebuilding lives

When Nadia* arrived in the UK from India, she came with an impressive academic background, having qualified as a pharmacist. But her hopes of furthering her studies were soon crushed - and instead of the safe accommodation she had been promised, she was abused and held in domestic servitude.

Eventually Nadia arrived at one of our safehouses, but she was traumatised and struggling to see a way forward with her life.

We worked with Nadia to turn this situation around and help her continue her degree, providing, among other things, the stable environment she needed to work and funding for a laptop.

Our team also encouraged Nadia to volunteer in a hospital, which not only helped her rebuild her confidence and gain relevant experience, but meant she could reconnect with the community. What began as a volunteering opportunity has become a pathway towards her ambition of working in the NHS.

Nadia says of our team:

“They helped turn what seemed impossible into reality and gave me hope, confidence, and the opportunity to achieve my educational goals.”

Local partnership with the NHS

We build national and local networks to maximise survivor support, including key contacts in local housing, specialist health support, the police and also local faith networks.

One survivor we work with, for example, was living with Hepatitis C in a rural area, and found it difficult to get treatment because of the distance they had to travel to hospital and anxiety about travelling.

Through our network, we identified a community-based NHS service that could carry out treatment closer to home. The relationship has since developed into a wider partnership, creating a way for all survivors in the area and other vulnerable groups to get specialist health support.

“I’m the happiest I’ve been in 10 years. I finally feel safe.”

Survivor of modern slavery

 **73%**

of survivors felt more independent as a result of working with us in 2026



“

I started to lose my faith in humanity before getting help from The Salvation Army. They showed me so much compassion and have given me a new life. Without their support, I don't think I'd be here today.”

Hakan's* story

Hakan became vulnerable to exploitation after a relationship breakdown left him homeless, isolated and unable to work legally while his immigration status was being resolved. Desperate for food and shelter, he accepted an offer of accommodation and work from a restaurant owner who promised to help him with permissions so that the work was legitimate.

Instead, Hakan was exploited. For four years he worked extremely long hours for little or no pay while sleeping on a sofa in the office. When he

discovered the documents he had been given were fake and challenged his employer, violence followed. Homeless once again, he later fell into the hands of another group who forced him into years of labour exploitation.

Over more than six years he was beaten, threatened and controlled. He lost teeth through repeated assaults, was forced to carry out dangerous work and was subjected to degrading treatment. The threat of violence against his daughter was used to keep him

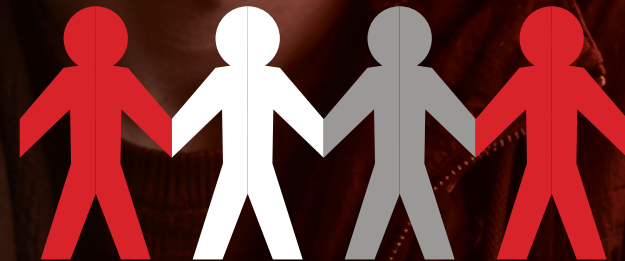
compliant. Through it all, thoughts of her kept him going.

After finally escaping, Hakan was referred to The Salvation Army's specialist support services. For the first time in many years he found safety, kindness and stability. Staff supported him with medical care, counselling, legal advice and practical help while he began recovering from extreme trauma.

“I started to lose my faith in humanity before getting help from The Salvation Army.

They showed me so much compassion and have given me a new life. Without their support, I don't think I'd be here today.”

Today Hakan is rebuilding his life and reconnecting with his daughter. “The Salvation Army has helped me gain confidence back in life; they are such nice, caring people.” While recovery remains ongoing, he now has something he once believed impossible: hope for the future.



Go further.

There are many ways The Salvation Army is unique, and one of them is the added value we provide in the fight against modern slavery. We go way beyond the requirements of the government's Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) - connecting all that the wider organisation and our network offer to prevent exploitation and give survivors the best possible chance of recovery.

What this means

Excellent value for taxpayers through our innovative approach that includes:

- Using all relevant Salvation Army services, including our buildings and charity shops, to support survivors.
- A legion of highly trained and well-supported volunteers doing important frontline work and mentoring.
- Awareness raising activities for community groups and professionals such as youth workers, the police and health workers.
- Innovative survivor engagement including therapeutic activities such as sport, arts and crafts.
- Skill-building and employment opportunities.
- Direct financial help through our Survivor Support Fund.

Tapping into our network

Our nationwide networks of charity shops, church buildings and community services mean we offer:

- Free spaces for events, including meetings with support workers and therapeutic activities.
- Free charity shop vouchers for clothing, furniture and other needs.
- Volunteering opportunities for survivors to gain workplace skills.
- Local fundraising drives for additional support such as welcome packs for survivors arriving at a safehouse with few or no belongings.
- Chaplaincy support for the wellbeing of survivors, staff and volunteers.
- Specialist addiction and employment services.

“Thank you for organising so many wonderful activities for us, like yoga, crafting, and nature sessions. I attended everything, and these played a massive role in helping me come out of my trauma.” Survivor of modern slavery





Volunteers

Our volunteers make it possible for us to provide compassionate and thorough first responder support to survivors.

Our first responders are people who identify potential victims, gathering information and referring them to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the government's system for identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery.

This year our specialist staff and 91 trained volunteers completed 404 referrals into the NRM. They often interviewed people in complex settings such as prisons or during police operations.

Our volunteers also provide safe and supportive transport for survivors, often moving them out of danger to safety.

And our Build programme connects volunteer mentors with survivors to help build life skills and independence through diverse activities, such as photography projects and our annual Sports and Wellbeing Day.

This year 28 volunteer mentors worked with 14 survivors: three mentees found employment, while two mentees progressed into college or university education.



287

volunteers contributed a total of 3,917 volunteer hours in 2026



14,673

miles travelled transporting survivors to safe accommodation

The art of recovery

As well as our annual Sports and Wellbeing Day, innovative therapeutic activities with survivors this year included:

- A Musical Theatre Day, where 19 people enjoyed a day of singing, creativity and shared time together. Said one survivor: **“Today reminded me that I can still do new things and enjoy myself again. I was nervous at first, but everyone was so kind and supportive. I feel happier and more confident leaving than when I arrived.”**
- A partnership with the Natasha Dance Project on a six-week series of dance workshops for 21 women who had experienced modern slavery.
- An arts workshop in Walthamstow, London, for five survivors of modern slavery.
- A week-long nature programme at one of our safehouses, employing local experts to help women connect with nature nearby and collaborate on activities such as shelter building and foraging.

Employment Plus

Our Employment Plus initiative provides tailored support to help people become job-ready, find a job and stay in work. Progress this year included bringing together employers, government representatives and supporters at an event in London to launch a new Employer Partnership Pledge, encouraging businesses to provide work experience and employment opportunities for survivors of modern slavery.





Sharing expertise

Raising awareness is not simply about sharing information; it is about enabling action. When a police officer recognises the indicators of exploitation, when a church member understands how to respond safely, or when a frontline professional feels confident making an NRM referral, awareness becomes protection for survivors of modern slavery.

With this in mind, throughout the year, we continued to share our expertise, running awareness sessions and professional training for a range of organisations, including police forces, statutory agencies, local authorities, charities, businesses and community organisations.

This included a webinar in partnership with the Human Trafficking Foundation attended by 443 professionals. Before the webinar, 26 per cent of participants said they felt confident about making an NRM referral. Following the training, this number increased to 83 per cent. Meanwhile 100 per cent of attendees said they found the session useful.

We also stepped up our work with young people, and the youth workers that support them, with resources to help them avoid county lines and other exploitation, and find ways out if they get into trouble. The initiative is in response to growing concerns about young people being targeted by criminal gangs.

“I felt I was finally getting the help and support I needed. My support worker always took the time to listen, answer my questions and help me through some of the most difficult moments in my life.” Survivor of modern slavery



46

awareness and training sessions
run by The Salvation Army



1,915

people in the UK reached through
our speaking engagements

Survivor Support Fund

Our Survivor Support Fund funds a wide range of items and activities such as equipment for parents of babies and children, household items for people moving into their own homes, equipment to help people in education and training or seeking work, and interpretation services.



365

applications made to our
Survivor Support Fund



£142,643.06

grants from our Survivor
Support Fund during year 15



“

The impact has been life-changing. Jennifer says: “Having a job has improved my mental and physical health. It has also given me independence, financial security and personal growth.”

Jennifer’s* story

Jennifer arrived in the UK from Ghana believing she was coming to study nursing with the support of her aunt, who had cared for her throughout childhood. Instead, her passport was taken and she was subjected to years of domestic servitude and sexual abuse.

Forced to cook, clean, care for children and support church events without pay, Jennifer’s attempts to seek help were repeatedly dismissed. “What I thought was a path to education became a nightmare of exploitation and abuse.” Even after escaping, she experienced further

exploitation and periods of homelessness before finally being identified as a survivor of modern slavery and referred to The Salvation Army.

Safe house accommodation provided Jennifer with something she had not experienced for years. “The Salvation Army gave me a safe place to stay. That was the first place I have laid my head where I have been safe.” Alongside counselling, legal advice and practical support, she found healing through gardening at the safe house, helping restore her confidence and sense of purpose.

A key part of Jennifer’s recovery was the support she received through The Salvation Army’s Employment Plus service. Staff helped her gain English and Maths qualifications, volunteer in a Salvation Army café and build the skills and confidence needed to secure employment. When she found paid work supporting people with learning disabilities and autism, Employment Plus continued to support her transition into work, including practical financial assistance until she received her first salary.

The impact has been life-changing. “Having a job has improved my mental and physical health. It has also given me independence and financial security and personal growth.” Today Jennifer is living independently and looking to the future with confidence. As she puts it: “The Salvation Army has given me wings to fly.”





Reach across borders.

No single organisation or government can address modern slavery alone. It's complex, crosses continents and readily adapts to conflict, poverty, displacement and inequality. That's why we work in 134 countries as part of a network of global specialists, sharing knowledge and expertise to combat modern slavery more effectively.

What this means

We work alongside local people with specific responsibility for modern slavery and human trafficking, academic institutions and trusted partners.

Together, we strengthen locally-led responses to exploitation, protecting those at risk and supporting survivors to rebuild their lives.

We do this by:

- Strengthening resilience in at-risk communities - rather than impose solutions, we invest in local leadership and in building community capacity.
- Promoting best practice worldwide - sharing our knowledge, experience and innovation.
- Assisting survivors who want to return to their home countries, and offering international support to at-risk family members across borders, through our Beyond Programme.
- Supporting survivors to recover, wherever that may be. We know that recovery does not stop at a border - it continues wherever a survivor calls home.

Globally connected - locally led

In Poland we're... working alongside vulnerable communities - including Ukrainian refugees, unemployed young people and people with disabilities - on awareness campaigns to help people recognise fake job offers and deceptive recruitment techniques.

In Malawi we're... working with schools, parents and young people to raise awareness of exploitation and protect children from trafficking. We're also supporting communities to strengthen local child protection systems.

In Bangladesh we're... helping women affected by sexual exploitation to have a safe future, supporting them to build alternative livelihoods, and to get parenting support and education for their children.

In focus - Community Champions in Uganda

Community Champions are local volunteers who understand the realities of modern slavery and human trafficking and the dangers facing their communities. Equipped with training, practical resources and ongoing support from us, they raise awareness, identify risks where they live, support vulnerable individuals and encourage solutions that reduce vulnerability to trafficking.

Take Nafula Teopista. She is a Community Champion in Bukokho, in Namisindwa District, Uganda. Nafula was becoming increasingly concerned about the widespread use of child labour where she lived.

Children as young as seven were missing school, exploitation had become normalised and many families, living in poverty, saw few alternatives.

Nafula began difficult conversations with parents, advocating for children's education, safety and future opportunities. But it was hard. As Alex, another Community Champion in Namisindwa District, put it, "... people need more than awareness; they need resources to survive."

But with empathy and resilience, as well as establishing trust with the families Nafula was talking to, things began to change.

Today, with our support, local savings groups are helping women where Nafula works to generate income. Combine this with families becoming more aware of the importance of protecting their children and the future is looking brighter.

One parent told Nafula: "You've helped our children understand that what was happening to them wasn't right."



129,937

people reached through our international activities



Our Beyond Programme - journeys to safety and stability

We're working with our partners around the world to ensure that survivors returning home receive support that extends well beyond travel arrangements.

Our approach recognises that a safe return is only one step in a much longer recovery. Support is tailored to each survivor's circumstances, needs and aspirations. It can include safe accommodation, healthcare, counselling, vocational training and family reunions - as well as help with generating an income.

Our work includes reintegration grants to help survivors rebuild stability, strengthen support networks and reduce the risk of re-trafficking.



16

reintegration grants to survivors



87

survivors supported with return and reintegration assistance

Return to Indonesia

We supported a survivor to return from the UK to Indonesia to be reunited with their family. Our UK team worked with The Salvation Army in Indonesia and other partners to coordinate the survivor's safe travel and reintegration. **"Without such excellent communication and organisation from the Beyond team, I do not believe it would have been possible to organise such a complex return,"** said one of the partner support workers involved.



2,738

community awareness events



2,823

survivors supported in countries outside the UK

Kaira's journey home

We worked with the Home Office's Voluntary Returns Service to help Kaira*, a survivor of modern slavery, get home from the UK to the Philippines. Kaira had not been home for years and was understandably anxious about what would be waiting for her.

Working with colleagues in the Philippines our UK team helped with Kaira's travel arrangements and reintegration planning.

Following her return, Kaira has been reunited with her family and gets ongoing support from us. Our reintegration fund has also helped her set up her own pizza business, which gives her a sustainable income.

"It was reassuring having The Salvation Army's support from the start," says Kaira, "I found it helpful having someone to talk to, and being reunited with my family meant everything to me."



13

international projects across Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean



Change minds.

To effectively combat modern slavery, we need to significantly raise awareness and understanding of the issues among the public and politicians. This will not only ramp up the pressure to address exploitation, but also help ensure it's done in an informed way - drawing on our unique frontline insights and survivors' own perspectives.

What this means

This year, our awareness raising and political advocacy included:

- Stories about our work, and the survivors we support, in high-profile media, including national radio and TV, mainstream publications and websites, and social media.
- Behind-the-scenes briefings to news outlets, ensuring they have an accurate understanding of the issues that is reflected in their reports.
- A major partnership with ITV, highlighting the fact that modern slavery could happen to anyone, and the help available for victims and survivors.
- Face-to-face contact with key politicians and anti-slavery officials that will feed into national and local anti-slavery initiatives and policies.
- Innovative events that explain what exploitation looks like and enable survivors to tell their stories in their own way.

Anti-Slavery Day

Anti-Slavery Day, on 18 October every year, is a major opportunity to raise awareness. This year we once again promoted a diverse range of materials across our social media platforms, including TikTok, encouraging people to learn to spot the signs, spread awareness of modern slavery and write to their MPs to ask for better protection of survivors' rights. From a survey on Instagram, 74 per cent of people said they had learned something new about modern slavery from our posts and 82 per cent were confident they could name some signs.

As well as major coverage in many news outlets, The Sun (potential readership of nearly 67 million) ran an in-depth piece on a British survivor of cuckooing supported by our East Midlands team. The piece included detailed coverage of The Salvation Army's anti-trafficking work and clear explanations of how to spot the signs of modern slavery.

Briefing encounters

This year we worked to ensure more informed reporting of modern slavery and trafficking. Our briefings included:

BBC news and The Evening Standard on cuckooing.

The Guardian on sexual exploitation through online websites.

The Daily Telegraph on organised, exploitative begging.

Housing Quality Network podcast on the need for better housing support for survivors of modern slavery.

All not right in Emmerdale

In autumn 2025, Emmerdale viewers began following the fortunes of April and Dylan, who were drawn into county lines activity. County lines is where vulnerable young people are groomed, threatened and controlled by criminals, often carrying and selling drugs for them.



Another Emmerdale character, Bear, was targeted by the same criminals, who held him on a farm, and forced him to work for no pay and live in appalling conditions.

We worked closely with scriptwriters, producers and actors to ensure these storylines, and the issues they dealt with over subsequent episodes were authentic to the reality we witness whilst helping people understand what modern slavery can look like. They generated massive coverage in the media, and included interviews with survivors of modern slavery.

The BBC, The Sun, Daily Express, Metro, OK! Magazine, Radio Times, Evening Standard, Yahoo and AOL were among the outlets that covered the story, sometimes multiple times as it developed on our screens (a feature in the Mirror online, with a potential readership of nearly 59 million, was particularly comprehensive).

The overall potential viewing figures for this coverage reached the hundreds of millions, ensuring growing awareness of a hugely important issue which affects thousands of people each year.



My Lens - I Am Still Here

We worked with renowned photographer Newsha Tavakolian, Stop Trafficking Africa, and Hope Education Project to stage a photography exhibition exploring the pain of exploitation, and the strength to be found in recovery and renewal.

My Lens - I Am Still Here brought together survivors with different experiences of human trafficking and modern slavery - from those promised nursing education in the UK to others lured to Dubai with false employment offers.

Many were trafficked from West Africa to the Gulf states, a route which has seen significant growth in recent years. **"The photography helped me deal with the anger... it's a way of telling my story,"** said Jennifer*, who was trafficked from Ghana as a teenager.



Westminster watch

This year we significantly deepened our relations with parliamentarians, government, and the devolved nations - important if we are to influence policy and change the identification and treatment of survivors for the better.

- Our work included increasing awareness of how modern slavery should influence housing policy. An important moment was meeting Danny Beales MP with a view to influencing government awareness of the links between modern slavery and homelessness in London. Danny has himself experienced homelessness and is, among other things, a member of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Ending Homelessness and for Temporary Accommodation.
- We commissioned major policy reports, including Nowhere To Go, which highlighted the barriers to survivors getting safe and sustainable accommodation when they leave the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the government's system for supporting victims of modern slavery. This was written after extensive consultation with survivors. We were also part of a coalition of organisations to publish the report A Decade of Dignity: A Strategic Vision for Eradicating Modern Slavery in the UK.
- As part of our response to the government's call for evidence on the identification of victims of modern slavery, we enabled 10 survivors to meet Home Office officials, with a view to informing identification reform.
- Our engagement with key officials in the devolved nations expanded significantly. In Wales, we hosted a safehouse visit for the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Eleanor Lyons, and Jane Hutt MS, so that they could gain deeper insight into survivor support services with a view to informing the Senedd's approach.
- In Scotland, we deepened our relationship with the Head of Human Trafficking in the Criminal Justice Division, with a view to supporting national efforts to improve prevention of modern slavery, victim care, and cross-sector collaboration.

“

My view of my own self-worth has been obliterated... I feel a lot better knowing she's with me... but I'm starting to build again.”

Shannon's* story

“Modern slavery is a big thing. More than you would think.” Shannon* knows this first-hand. Life had not been easy, but in recent years exploitation almost broke her completely. Diagnosed with ADHD and raising two young boys, she had rebuilt her life after difficulties as a teenager. “I wasn't in trouble. I had loads of friends. Never been in debt in my life... I used to cook lots for my two boys. I used to be happier.”

When a new neighbour moved in, Shannon believed she had found a friend. “She told me she was in a bad situation with her ex-boyfriend and I thought I was helping.” Small loans soon turned into manipulation. “It was gradual and conniving and manipulative. My trust just thrown all over the floor.” Shannon was forced to sell drugs to repay debts that kept growing, then coerced into handing over her passport. Bills arrived for accounts she had never opened. “I thought I was losing my mind... Made me question my own thoughts.” Eventually, Shannon shut down.

“My view of my own self-worth has been obliterated.” When she discovered a £50,000 loan taken out in her name, she went to the police not realising she could get help to recover. “I now understand it's the support system for people who've been exploited.”

Shannon was referred to The Salvation Army for specialist support. With her support worker, she is beginning to recover. “She is the first person who I've clicked with. She gets me. I feel a lot better knowing she's with me.” She adds: “A job's a job but she's gone above and beyond... she's helped me get my first win where I've been believed by an official person.”

For Shannon and her young boys, hope is slowly returning. “I thought I'd never ever fall for anything like that... but I'm starting to build again.”





Build strong partnerships.

We asked our partners to share a highlight from the past year, and their stories show what can be achieved when survivors have the right support, opportunities and people alongside them. From moments of personal progress to new beginnings and lasting change, these are some of the successes they have helped make possible.

BAWSO



One survivor fled her home country because of persecution linked to her sexual orientation. After being trafficked to the UK with false promises of work, she was moved between multiple properties, deprived of her freedom and forced into prostitution. When police rescued her, she arrived at BAWSO's safe house exhausted, traumatised and struggling with severe mental health challenges.

BAWSO responded with specialist, trauma-informed support, providing immediate safety, emotional reassurance and practical assistance. Recognising the scale of her trauma, staff arranged counselling while she waited for NHS services and supported her to rebuild her confidence through self-esteem and wellbeing programmes. Support workers patiently encouraged her through the smallest daily tasks and stood beside her during moments when she felt unable to cope.

The impact has been transformational. With BAWSO's support, she completed her GCSEs, progressed to an Access to Higher Education course and secured a university place. She also found employment in hospitality, helping her regain independence and confidence. Today, she is completing her first year at university and hopes to build a career in healthcare. Looking back, she credits BAWSO with helping her move beyond survival, giving her the confidence, hope and opportunities needed to build a positive future.

BCHA



One young survivor arrived in the UK as a child and experienced exploitation and abuse within her family network. Living with HIV, lacking secure immigration status and caring for her younger brother as his legal guardian, she faced significant challenges relating to housing, finances, health and emotional wellbeing.

BCHA provided coordinated, holistic support to help her and her brother achieve stability and safety. Staff worked closely with social services, healthcare providers and community organisations to ensure both siblings received the support they needed. They helped her access specialist healthcare, counselling services, refugee support, community networks and guidance on the asylum process, while maintaining close oversight of her brother's wellbeing.

As a result, she and her brother now have stable accommodation and improved access to healthcare and emotional support. The young lady is studying Art and Design at college, has built friendships and support networks, and is receiving ongoing mental health support. Through compassionate advocacy and effective partnership working, BCHA has helped a young survivor build confidence and independence while continuing to provide a safe and nurturing home for her younger brother.



BCWA



After fleeing domestic abuse in Pakistan, one survivor came to the UK hoping to build a safer future for herself and eventually her children. Instead, she and her family were subjected to labour exploitation by an employer who used threats, intimidation and financial abuse to control them. For more than two years, she endured excessive working demands and lived in fear that her children's immigration status would be jeopardised.

When she finally reported the abuse, BCWA provided practical, emotional and advocacy support. Staff helped her engage with the police investigation, access healthcare and mental health support, and navigate the National Referral Mechanism. They also assisted her son to access support as a victim in his own right and provided evidence that contributed to a positive Conclusive Grounds decision.

The outcome has been life-changing. The trafficker was investigated, prosecuted and their business closed. This survivor and her children have relocated, secured employment and rebuilt their lives in safety. BCWA's support helped a family move from fear and exploitation towards security, confidence and independence.

Hestia



A young woman arrived in the UK from Bangladesh following an arranged marriage, hoping to continue her education and build a better future. Instead, she experienced domestic servitude, coercive control and abuse that left her isolated, traumatised and fearful. When she entered Hestia's service, she was experiencing panic attacks, severe anxiety, flashbacks and poor mental wellbeing. Through a trauma-informed approach, her support worker focused on building trust while helping her access healthcare, legal advice, housing support, welfare assistance, English language classes and employability services. Close coordination with partner agencies ensured she received consistent, joined-up care throughout her recovery.

A Positive Conclusive Grounds decision reduced uncertainty about her future and enabled support to focus on long-term recovery. Today, she has regularised her immigration status, enrolled in ESOL classes, engaged with employment support and begun planning for permanent accommodation. Most importantly, she has regained confidence and independence. Hestia's person-centred support enabled her to move beyond crisis and start building a future on her own terms.

Medaille Trust



One survivor experienced years of coercion, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, who controlled nearly every aspect of her life. After bravely disclosing her experiences, she escaped with her two young children and was referred for specialist support.

On arrival at Medaille Trust's safe house, staff immediately focused on helping the family regain stability. They provided practical essentials, arranged healthcare registrations, supported school and nursery placements, secured counselling and helped her to engage with community organisations and police investigations.

When a negative decision within the National Referral Mechanism threatened her accommodation and support, staff went above and beyond. Working closely with the survivor, they identified crucial evidence missing from her original referral and helped her prepare a detailed reconsideration request, supporting her through the emotional challenge of revisiting her experiences. Their persistence resulted in the decision being reconsidered and her access to support being restored. Through determined advocacy, practical assistance and compassionate care, Medaille Trust helped her and her children continue rebuilding their lives in safety and with renewed hope for the future.



Migrant Help



One British woman entered support with multiple vulnerabilities and complex needs. Despite repeated safeguarding concerns, she struggled to access the mental health and specialist support services she required, often falling between service thresholds. Migrant Help staff provided persistent advocacy, refusing to allow her needs to go unnoticed. Through regular liaison with housing, safeguarding and healthcare professionals, they repeatedly challenged decisions, coordinated referrals and ensured that support remained focused on her wellbeing and safety. Their efforts led to the community mental health team accepting a referral after previous applications had been declined. Staff also successfully advocated for her to move into more suitable supported accommodation offering 24-hour support and specialist services for vulnerable women.

She now has access to a safer environment, appropriate mental health support and greater stability. While her recovery journey continues, Migrant Help's determined, survivor-centred approach has helped her feel more optimistic and confident about her future.

Palm Cove



After losing her parents at a young age, this woman was trafficked while travelling through Sudan and Libya in search of safety and opportunity. Unable to pay traffickers, she was subjected to sexual exploitation and forced labour before eventually escaping and making her way to Europe alone.

Palm Cove supported her to establish the foundations of a new life. Staff helped her access healthcare, legal advice, education and secure accommodation, while also assisting her to furnish her home and build connections within her local community.

The support provided the stability she needed to focus on recovery and future aspirations. Today, she is attending college and planning for future employment opportunities. Palm Cove's practical and person-centred support helped her move from exploitation and uncertainty towards security, education and independence.

Snowdrop



Over the past year, Snowdrop Project has been proudly playing a leading role in the development and pilot of the Independent Modern Slavery Advocate (IMSA®) Model, working alongside Hope for Justice, Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland (Sohtis) and survivors of modern slavery.

First launched in 2021, the accredited role ensures specialist advocacy for survivors, helping them navigate complex systems, access their rights and entitlements, and make informed choices about their recovery. Between September 2025 and May 2026, the IMSA® Pilot has already supported more than 200 individuals, including 107 survivors receiving dedicated one-to-one advocacy.

Through direct support, national collaboration and shared learning, the Pilot is helping to address long-standing gaps in support provision and move towards a consistent, accredited standard of advocacy for survivors of exploitation. We are proud to be contributing to a model that empowers people to rebuild their lives on their own terms, and strengthens support across the sector.



SJOG



One survivor of modern slavery with learning disabilities and significant health needs arrived at SJOG's service with no effective support network despite clear vulnerabilities. Existing services had disengaged, assessments were delayed, and there was no long-term plan in place to meet his complex needs.

SJOG staff acted immediately, registering him with healthcare services, arranging advocacy support, accompanying him to appointments and repeatedly challenging local authorities to take responsibility for his care. When concerns regarding his mental capacity went unaddressed, staff escalated safeguarding concerns and pursued formal complaints until action was taken.

Their persistence secured a comprehensive assessment, confirming that he required significant ongoing support. Staff also helped secure legal assistance for immigration matters and coordinated closely with statutory agencies throughout.

As a result of their sustained advocacy and determination, he has moved into appropriate assisted living accommodation where he receives structured support tailored to his needs. SJOG's intervention ensured that an extremely vulnerable survivor did not fall through gaps in the system and now has the care and stability needed to live safely.

Unseen



After fleeing forced marriage and conflict in Somalia, one young woman was trafficked through Libya, where she experienced labour exploitation, domestic servitude and sexual abuse. Following a dangerous escape, she eventually reached safety and entered support as a survivor of modern slavery.

Unseen provided intensive support during the critical early stages of her recovery, helping her access housing, financial support, education and employment preparation. Recognising the long-term impact of her experiences, staff also arranged specialist psychotherapy and funded family tracing services to help her reconnect with family members from whom she had become separated.

The impact has been remarkable. Although still young, she has embraced education, developed strong independence and taken increasing control of her future. She now requires very little ongoing support and is preparing for employment and independent living. Her journey demonstrates how timely, specialist intervention can empower survivors not only to recover from exploitation but to thrive, pursue their ambitions and build confident, independent futures.



Spot the signs.

If you suspect that you or someone you have come into contact with may be a victim of modern slavery, please call:

The Salvation Army confidential 24/7 referral helpline: **0800 808 3733**

Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111**

Modern Slavery Helpline: **0800 012 1700**

Bringing an end to slavery.

Fighting for social justice.

Responding with compassionate care.

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*Names have been changed throughout to protect identities.

