

DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH- SAFEGUARDING OFFICE



QUICK GUIDE IF YOU COME ACROSS MODERN SLAVERY

All Christians have an obligation to support and stand up to crimes that impact on the oppressed and vulnerable in society and as such responding to concerns about modern slavery is crucial, as such it's important to address them with seriousness and empathy. Here's how you might respond:

WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY

Key characteristics of modern slavery include:

1. **Forced Labour:** Individuals are compelled to work against their will under threat of violence or other forms of coercion. This can occur in various industries, including agriculture, construction, manufacturing, domestic work, and mining.
2. **Debt Bondage:** People are trapped in a cycle of debt they cannot repay, often due to exploitative lending practices or deceptive recruitment schemes. They may be forced to work to pay off the debt, with the terms continually manipulated to keep them in servitude.
3. **Human Trafficking:** The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, through force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of exploitation. This includes both sexual exploitation and forced labour.
4. **Commercial Sexual Exploitation:** Individuals, often women and children, are coerced or forced into engaging in sexual activities for financial gain. This includes prostitution, pornography, and sex trafficking.

Combatting modern slavery requires concerted efforts from governments, businesses, civil society organisations, and individuals. This involves implementing and enforcing laws and policies to prevent exploitation, prosecuting perpetrators, providing support and protection to victims, raising awareness, promoting ethical supply chains, and addressing root causes such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

Efforts to combat modern slavery must be multifaceted, addressing both the immediate needs of victims and the systemic factors that perpetuate exploitation. By working together and prioritizing the protection of human rights, we can strive towards a world free from modern slavery.

GENERAL RESPONSE

Things to look out for:

- Poor physical appearance
- Lack of contact with others
- Isolation
- Absence of belongings
- Poor living environment

Action to take

1. **Acknowledge the Concern:** Begin by acknowledging the concern raised about modern slavery. Show that you take the issue seriously and that you're open to discussing it further.
2. **Express Empathy:** Show empathy towards the concern and its implications. Acknowledge the gravity of modern slavery and its impact on individuals and communities.
3. **Share Information:** Provide information about any measures or policies your organization has in place to combat modern slavery. This could include ethical sourcing practices, supplier audits, or partnerships with organisations working to eradicate slavery.
4. **Commitment to Action:** Reiterate your commitment to ethical practices and combating modern slavery. Emphasise that you are continuously working to improve and strengthen your efforts in this regard.
5. **Invite Further Discussion:** Encourage an open dialogue about the issue. Invite the individual raising the concern to share any additional information or suggestions they may have for addressing modern slavery within your organisation.
6. **Follow-Up:** Finally, assure the individual that their concern will be taken seriously and followed up on appropriately. Offer to keep them informed of any updates or progress made in addressing the issue.

RESPONSE TO INDIVIDUAL

The safety of the individual and your safety is of paramount importance, each individual set of circumstances will dictate the appropriate response, but the following information is there to assist.

Emphasise that the individual's safety is our immediate concern and that ideally, we would like to help them seek safety, though this may not always be possible.

Emphasise confidentiality and privacy and the individuals right to seek support assistance on their terms.

Listen and offer assistance and guidance they may need. Reemphasise that they are not alone, and we will work towards ensuring their safety, security, and freedom.

Record the information you are provided and act as below.

If there is an immediate concern for the persons wellbeing dial 999 and report the matter to the Police.

If action is not required or possible immediately then report the matter to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office who are trained to deal with issues of modern-day slavery

Do not make assumptions as modern slavery comes in many forms and is not unique to groups in society.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Safeguarding Office

St Boniface House

Ashburton

Newton Abbot

TQ13 7JL

General Enquiry Number: 01364 645430

E-mail: safeguarding@prcdtr.org.uk

Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700

In an emergency always call 999.

0300 303 8151 (The Salvation Army's 24/7, confidential referral line)