



Moving On Project

Empowering survivors of modern slavery
to thrive in their community

**A referrers' guide to our project
and the support we offer**

Introduction

The Moving On Project is delivered by Medaille Trust in collaboration with the Snowdrop Project. Working together, we help women affected by human trafficking and modern slavery through one-to-one support, group support and signposting to other services.

We reach out to female survivors living in the community, providing support to those who might not have access to such services, regardless of their status in the National Referral Mechanism.

We also help women and girls who are vulnerable to the risks of modern slavery, including those who are economically and socially marginalised or disempowered and are suffering gender inequalities.

We're here to support women with their recovery, whether this support is needed quickly after leaving an exploitive situation, or as they face challenges later on.

What we do

We provide a range of services to female victims, tailored to meet each client's individual needs. This includes:

Casework and befriending

Women have access to one-to-one support that can help them to move on from their past. Through receiving support to overcome the multiple barriers they may face, women will build confidence, self-esteem and motivation, will explore their skills, interests and aspirations and will be empowered to move forward with their lives.

Wellbeing

Women will be supported to access one-to-one counselling to help them deal with the psychological impact of human trafficking and modern slavery. Where possible and necessary, this will be delivered in their own language or through interpreters, making it easier to talk about experiences and emotions. Additionally, women will have access to group therapies and drop-in sessions to help improve their physical, emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing.

Education and employment

Women will have access to community-based English classes if needed, to open doors to training and employment. We will support women to take up training and work experience or to explore volunteering opportunities, tailored to meet their individual needs and aspirations.

Community activities

The project promotes community engagement in order for women to build friendships, improve their social networks, access life skills and hobbies, reduce feelings

of isolation and experience greater wellbeing. Women will be encouraged to think about what they enjoy doing or would like to do and opportunities for them to engage in community groups and activities will be explored.

Independent living

Women will be supported to develop the skills, confidence and knowledge needed to live independently. This may include support in accessing accommodation, benefits and entitlements and being able to advocate for themselves. It may also include being able to travel independently, feeling safe within the community, being responsible for their routine, ensuring their children's needs are met and looking after their own health.

Access to Justice

Women will be supported throughout the whole judicial process, should they wish to seek justice for their exploitation. Our caseworkers, who are experienced in working with victims of modern slavery, are being trained to undertake Achieving Best Evidence digitally video recorded interviews to an evidential standard on behalf of police and law enforcement. These accounts will be admissible in court and support prosecutions undertaken by the CPS.

Who we help

Support is available to women affected by human trafficking and modern slavery. This includes:

- Women leaving safe-house accommodation with a positive or negative conclusive grounds decision and settling in the community;
- Women who have come to the end of statutory support and require longer-term support within the community;
- Women living in the community who have chosen not to enter into the National Referral Mechanism or who have been through the process and are now at risk of re-exploitation;
- Women and girls in the community who are disadvantaged and vulnerable to the risks of modern slavery.

The project is available for women living or settling in:

- Wiltshire
- Hampshire
- London
- Kent
- Manchester
- North Cheshire
- West Midlands

Making a referral

Referrals are accepted from a range of service providers, including other charities, local authorities, social workers and primary care providers.

Women who have experienced exploitation in the past, can refer themselves for support.

If you are looking to refer a woman who is currently being exploited, please contact us in advance of submitting a referral form.

Referrers should only complete the form following consent from the person they making the referral for.

Your referral will be sent to the Local Co-ordinator in your area who will get in touch with the client to organise a face-to-face assessment and together devise a personal plan for the kind of support they need.

Our Confidentiality Promise

All personal information about the client is treated as confidential and is discussed only as necessary with the Quality and Development Supervisor or Project Manager.

With the client's consent, we will share certain information with other agencies and service providers who are assisting in supporting the client.

Information pertaining to a client's trafficking experience will not be shared with government agencies or statutory services, except when it is considered absolutely necessary for the welfare of the client and any children she may have.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Moving On Project is funded through a grant from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Tampon Tax Fund.

We have a responsibility to use these funds wisely and an obligation to provide regular updates on how the project is progressing.

Our Local Co-ordinators and Caseworkers will collect anonymous demographic information about the women we support. Clients will also be asked to complete assessment forms at regular intervals during their support.

We use the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale to monitor the mental wellbeing of clients and measure the effect of our project in improving clients' wellbeing. Non-identifiable data from this may be shared with external agencies and in external reports.

The Facts about modern slavery

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is a serious crime that is happening in communities across the UK today. Victims are UK nationals as well as those trafficked from overseas. They are most commonly forced to work in factories, agriculture or the sex industry, and in places such as nail bars, brothels and as domestic workers in private homes.

Believing they've been offered the chance of a new life, victims often come from disadvantaged communities, where poverty, unemployment, homelessness, poor education and gender inequalities leave them more vulnerable to traffickers. Many will be forced to work long hours in difficult conditions, for little or no pay, and often they're too scared to leave the situations they find themselves in.

What is the scale of modern slavery among women?

The number of victims of modern slavery in the UK is growing. In 2019, 10,627 potential victims were identified; a 52% increase on the previous year. More than 3,000 of the victims in England were women and girls, with 63% of them suffering some form of sexual exploitation.

While these numbers are shocking, the true scale of this crime is unknown. Estimates suggest there are as many as 136,000 people living in modern slavery in the UK today.

What support is available to female victims of modern slavery?

Support is available to potential victims of modern slavery through the National Referral

Mechanism (NRM), the official framework for identifying victims and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support.

Once referred into the NRM, potential survivors are firstly assessed on whether there is 'reasonable grounds' to believe the individual to be a potential survivor. After a positive reasonable grounds decision is given, information is collected to make a final decision on whether or not the individual is recognised as a survivor of modern slavery. This is known as a conclusive grounds decision.

While waiting for a conclusive grounds decision, survivors are able to access support, provided to them under the Victim Care Contract. It can be either within a safe-house environment or as outreach support, depending on their individual needs. The length of support available depends on the outcome of the decision. A negative conclusive grounds decision can see support stop within a matter of days.

For women in receipt of a positive conclusive grounds decision, support does continue and women spend, on average, 159 days in a safe-house¹. While this offers them the chance to recover and reflect, it rarely is enough time for them to overcome the traumas they've experienced. Although there is little information or data available on what happens to them in the long term, the need to provide sustained, trauma-informed and gender-related support has been widely discussed.

Although it is unknown how many victims of modern slavery do not consent to entering the NRM, we do know that many women

¹ Salvation Army Report

chose not to enter into it. They may have negative experiences of involvement with statutory services, distrust of people in authority, fears around immigration or they may not fully understand what level of support would be available to them. This puts women at risk of returning to dangerous situations that could lead to further exploitation.

How can you spot the signs?

Modern slavery does not discriminate. Victims can be of any age, gender and from any cultural background. It is, however, more likely to affect the more vulnerable in society.