FACTSHEET

Sexual exploitation and Women facing Barriers to Safety and Wellbeing

Are you being forced to sell sexual acts?

Is someone taking money from you or giving you accommodation or substances in exchange for you offering sexual favours to others?

Are you afraid of someone who is controlling your life in this way?

You can contact

Vista - Portsmouth - 07869258165 Vista - Harbour Church (harbourchurchuk.org)
- Gosport - 07491 376928 Vista — Haven Church
- Isle of Wight – 07863385633 Vista — Ryde.Church

You will be offered a listening ear and a chance to speak in confidence with a team trained to offer non-judgmental, discreet support.

Maybe you have been moved to the UK or in the UK by someone who is now using you to make money. You can contact

The Modern Slavery Helpline - 08000 121700 Modern Slavery Helpline

UK Law and The Sex Industry

In the UK it is not illegal to offer sexual acts for money. It is illegal to get someone else to do this and to profit from it in any way.

What if the Home Office does not know about me?

What if I don't have my passport or ID?

If you seek help will not be arrested, you will be offered a place of safety away from those abusing you and support to help you rebuild your life.

Call 999 if you are in immediate danger

or contact the Modern Slavery Helpline

Or 101

Or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

Someone is in slavery if they are:

- Forced to work, owned or controlled by an 'employer' /dehumanised / treated as a commodity or property.
- have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people through force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. Men, women and children of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. The traffickers often use the threat of violence, violence, fraudulent employment agencies, the abuse of vulnerability and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.

Trafficking is a crime that can occur across international borders or within a country. It often crosses multiple geographic and legal boundaries.

We can we all play our part to help stop human trafficking and modern slavery?

To find out more, visit:

Modern Slavery Partnership - Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner (hampshire-pcc.gov.uk)

As neighbours, residents, informed bystanders, we can all be aware. If it is an emergency situation and the person is at high risk call 999.

If you have suspicions, information you want to pass on or you are with a potential victim who is safe you can report via 101 or crime stoppers.

You can also call the Modern Slavery hotline 08000 121700 to get advice.

Spotting the signs of women we might notice:

- No/little English
- Fearful/nervous
- Seems unsure of surroundings

- Often/always accompanied by someone who keeps her close
- Dressed up and carrying a bag

Being aware of properties in the neighbourhood:

- Neighbours – evidence of people living there but rarely/never seen
- New women arriving in a car and not seen again (especially at night)
- Lots of coming and going of strangers at all hours.

For customers – Those paying for sexual services:

A woman advertising/offering massage or sexual services **may** be experiencing exploitation and be subject to violence and abuse.

What might be the signs?

- Nervousness
- Being dropped off and picked up by someone for an outcall
- Not being able to leave a parlour or working flat
- Always new girls offered from the same number
- Can she speak English?
- Does she know where she is if you ask her?
- Do you think she could be dependent on substances?

Obey your guts. Speak out. It can be anonymous.

If you sense something is not right, report it. Call 101 or the Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121700

Portsmouth City Council in partnership with:

VISTA

Portsmouth City of Sanctuary