@UKAntiSlavery

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO MODERN SLAVERY WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS SECTOR

ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS: REDUCING-PREVENTING-ENDING CONFERENCE, 19 SEPTEMBER 2017

www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk

MODERN SLAVERY IN THE UK

- 3805 potential victims of trafficking identified in 2016 (17% increase compared to 3266 potential victims in 2015),
- 1936 (51%) were female, 1864 (49%) were male
- 1278 (33%) of those identified were children (30% compares to 982 children in 2015)
- Victims brought to the UK from 108 countries, most commonly Albania, Vietnam, United Kingdom, Nigeria, China and Romania
- Adult victims are exploited through labour exploitation (44%), sexual exploitation (38%), domestic servitude (13%) and other forms
- Child victims are exploited through labour exploitation (37%), sexual exploitation (28% - most are UK nationals), unknown types (27%) and domestic servitude (8%)
- Home Office estimates 10,000-13,000 people enslaved across the UK (2014)

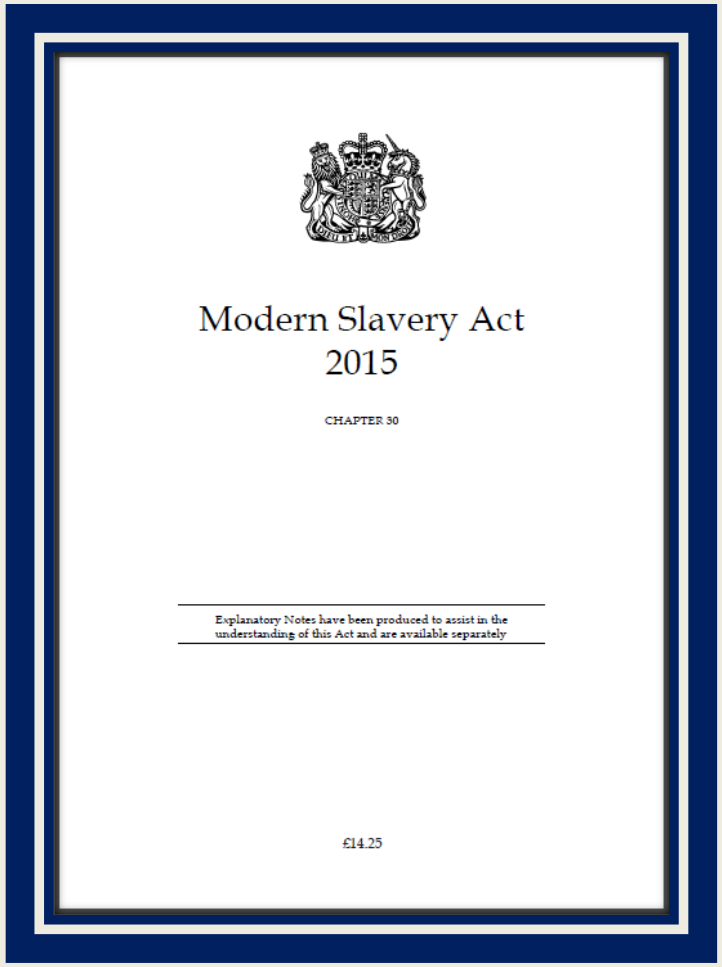
**National Referral Mechanism statistics*
NCA 2017

Role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

The role of the Commissioner, as laid out in Section 41 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is **to encourage good practice** in:

- *The prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of slavery and Human Trafficking offences.*

- *The identification of victims of those offences.*



Modern Slavery Act
2015

CHAPTER 30

Explanatory Notes have been produced to assist in the understanding of this Act and are available separately

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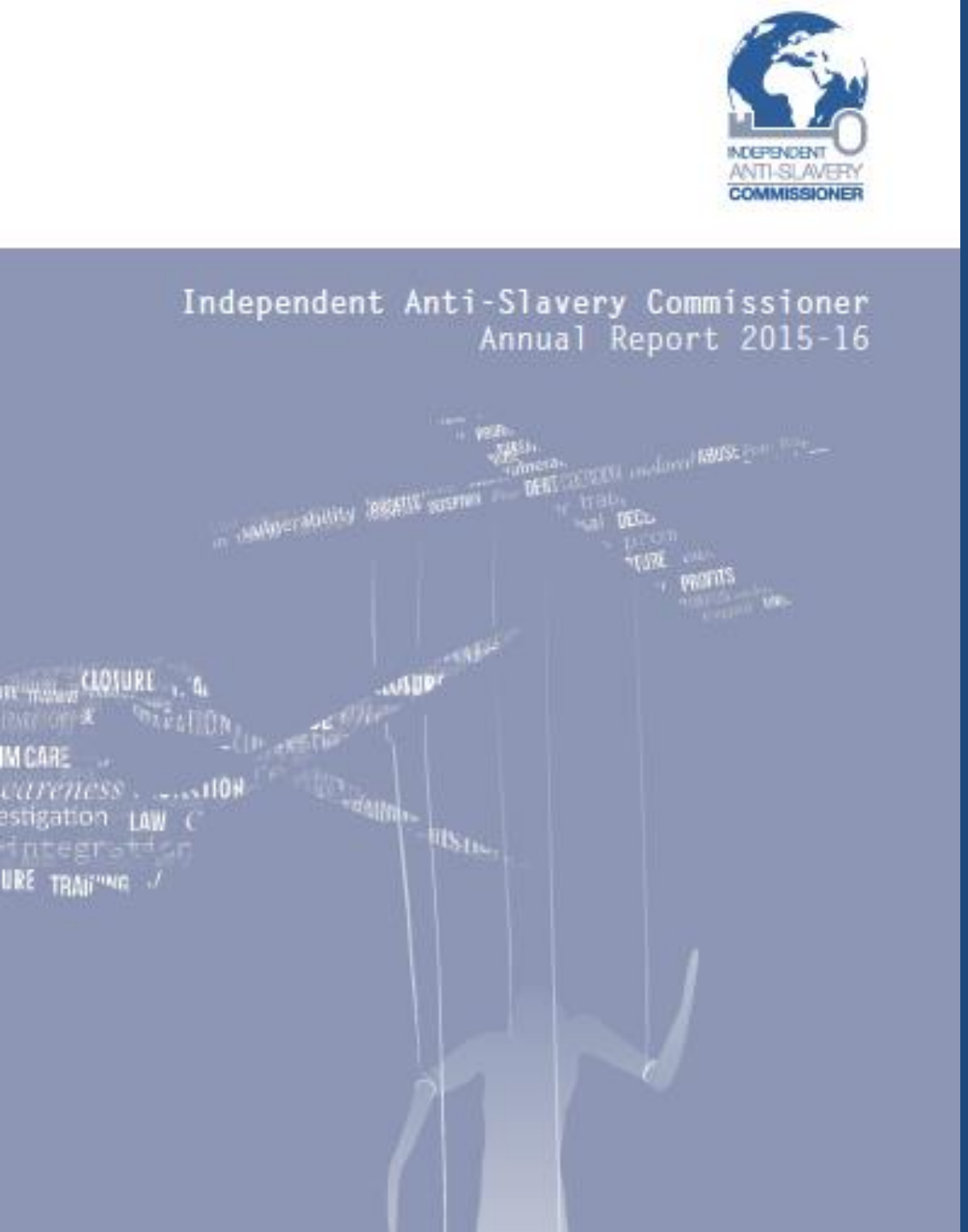


Priority 1: Victim identification and care

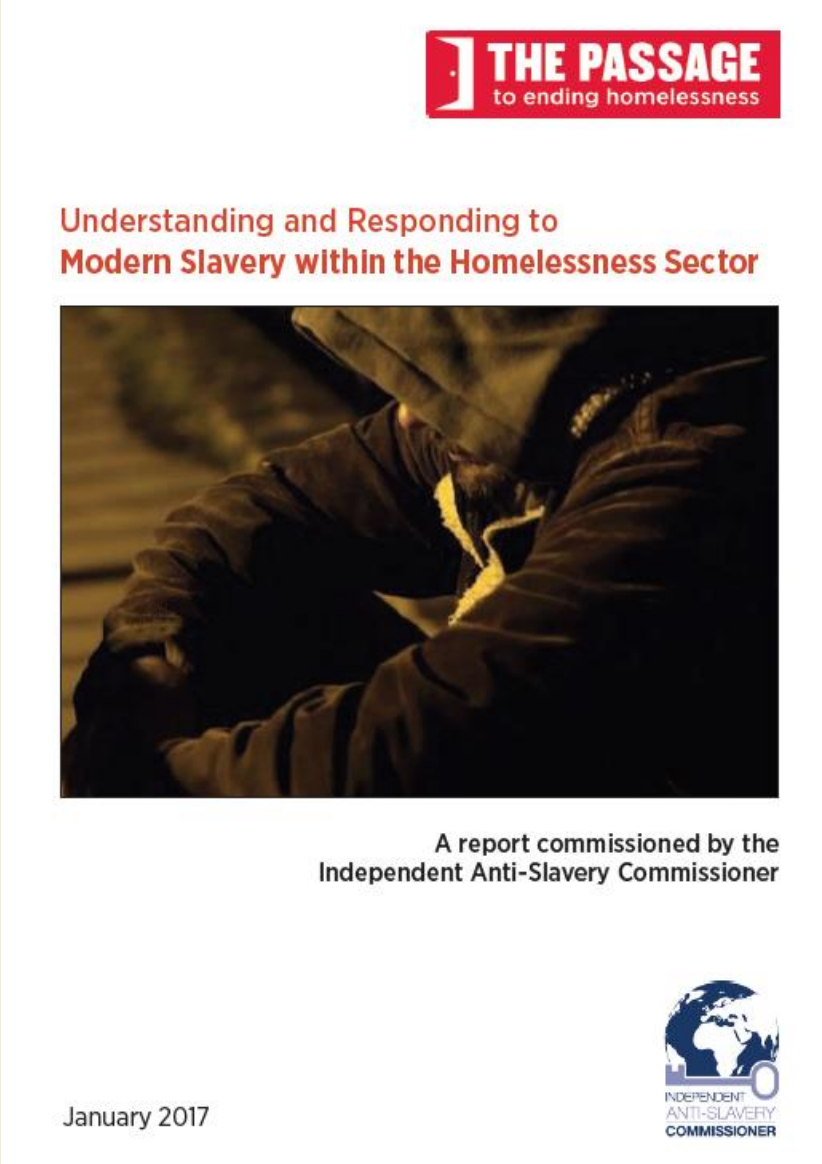
Priority 2: Driving an improved law enforcement and criminal justice response

Priority 3: Promoting best practice in partnership working

Priority 4: Private sector engagement to encourage supply chain transparency and combat labour exploitation

Priority 5: International collaboration

MODERN SLAVERY WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS SECTOR



- Homeless people are at risk of being exploited when they are on the streets, but also that victims of modern slavery are at risk of becoming homeless if no long-term support is provided to them.

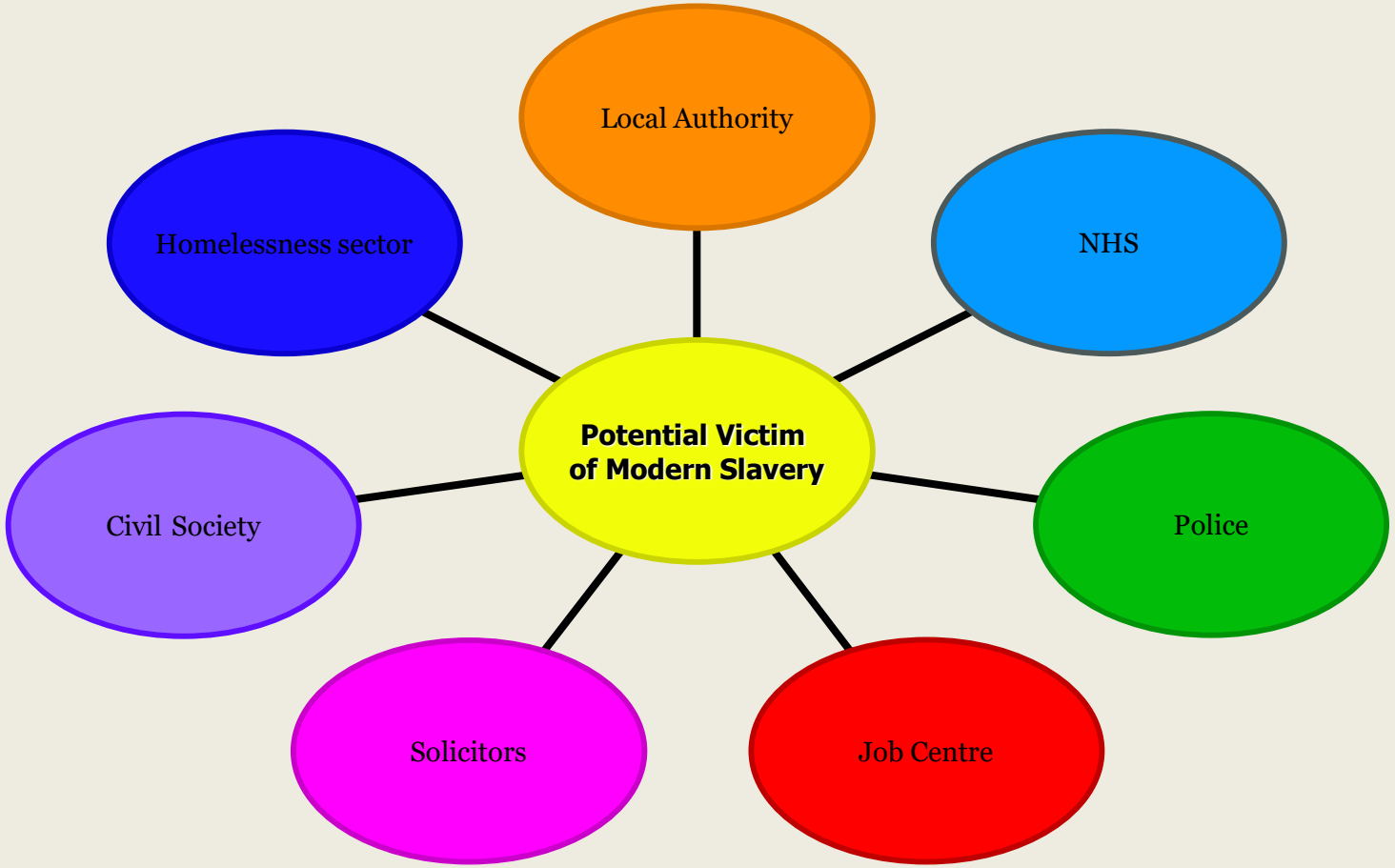
- Joining efforts by establishing partnerships across homelessness and Anti-Slavery organisations, local authorities, police and other relevant actors will result in a stronger and a more coordinated multi-agency response to modern slavery.

MODERN SLAVERY WITHIN THE HOMELESSNESS SECTOR: Recommendations

- **Training and raising awareness:** developing tools for raising awareness among homeless people themselves; homelessness organisations and local communities; developing training materials and guidance for homelessness organisations.
- **Data collection and collation:** much more robust systems need to be developed; including “modern slavery field” in homelessness recording systems; recording cases of homeless within the NRM; a prevalence study.
- **Partnerships:** more collaboration between local authorities and homelessness organisations to support victims; development of multi-agency partnerships; more partnership working between anti-slavery and homelessness sectors.

Multi-Agency Approach to Supporting Victims of Modern Slavery

Victims of modern slavery very often have complex needs including: medical, emotional and psychological, practical and legal needs that will only be met by establishing partnerships at local and regional levels.



A multi-agency partnership may include:

- NHS
- Solicitors/legal advice
- Local authorities
- DWP staff
- Police
- NGOs
- Community support groups, including faith-based & Diaspora
- Homelessness sector
- Embassy and Consular services
- Educational institutions
- Recruitment agencies
- Local businesses and others

Victim's Perspective:

- Lack of awareness that they are a victim
- Lack of understanding about what information might be relevant (e.g domestic servitude)
- Fear of authority
- Language barrier (attitude/ability of interpreters)
- Their own involvement in criminal activity
- Juju or similar practices
- Self-blame
- Stockholm syndrome
- Fear of retribution to them or their family
- Immigration status
- Trust

Guiding Principles

- Place the victim and his/her rights at the centre
- Do no harm
- Ensure safety, protection and assistance
- Ask questions in a sensitive and sensible manner
- Listen actively and responsively
- Consider preconceptions or prejudices
- Believe, do not judge
- Maintain professionalism
- Reassure the victim they are not to blame

Modern Slavery:

"The great human rights issue of our time"

Prime Minister, Theresa May MP

INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

THANK YOU!

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