MODERN SLAVERY AND COVID-19: What to do if you are a First Responder

As a First Responder you are able to identify and refer potential victims of modern slavery into support. This flyer helps set out how to do this during the COVID-19 outbreak. Help and support is still available for victims of modern slavery.

SPOT THE SIGNS OF MODERN SLAVERY
It can be challenging to identify a potential victim of modern slavery and potential victims may be reluctant or unable to come forward themselves.

A potential victim of modern slavery may:
• Show signs that their movements are being controlled
• Show fear or anxiety
• Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
• Look malnourished, unkempt or have untreated injuries
• Not be in possession of their passports or other travel documents, as these documents are being held by someone else
• Not have control of their own money or bank accounts
• Believe they must work against their will

HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS
• Adults can access a range of support across the UK if they give their consent to enter the National Referral Mechanism.
• Children receive support through local authorities. Any potential child victim must be referred to local children’s services urgently, and a referral made to the National Referral Mechanism, once the child is safeguarded.

MAKE A REFERRAL
As a First Responder if you encounter a potential victim of modern slavery you have a Duty to Notify the Home Office. This is usually done by referring them into the NRM if they are a child or a consenting adult.

All referrals to the NRM should be made using the online portal: https://www.modernslavery.gov.uk/start
If an adult potential victim does not give their consent, you still have a duty to notify the Home Office using the same online portal.

STAY SAFE DURING COVID-19
If you encounter a potential victim you must ensure your own safety and the safety of the potential victim.
Before making a request for support to The Salvation Army (TSA), you should ask the potential victim if they have or have come into contact with anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms and should inform TSA accordingly. If you encounter a potential victim displaying symptoms, you should follow the safeguarding procedures set out by your organisation and relevant PHE guidance.

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- Call the police on 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm.
- If the potential victim is a child, you must contact the local authority with safeguarding responsibility.
- Notify the Home Office - Refer children and consenting adults to the NRM using the online portal.

The Salvation Army’s confidential 24/7 referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 will provide advice on getting support to potential victims.