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| **Strategy Group**  **Key Theme - Modern Day Slavery** |
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| Modern Day Slavery was the key theme discussed at the LMP strategy group on Thursday the 19th of January 2023. |

Guest speaker:

Gary Craig, a professor of social justice, introduced the Modern Day Slavery discussion by sharing an overview from the transatlantic slave trade, through to the introduction of the [League of Nations 1926 Slavery Convention](about:blank). In 2010, the UK introduced an annual Anti-Slavery day (18th October) and in 2015, the Government passed the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](about:blank).

Despite laws being introduced to protect people from becoming victims of slavery, there are currently over 13,000 victims of slavery in the UK, being supported through the [National Referral Mechanism](about:blank) (the vast majority are British nationals). [Walk Free](about:blank), an international human rights group, suggest the actual number of slavery victims within the UK is approximately 136,000.

Key challenges:

* Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 indicates victims of modern-day slavery will not be prosecuted for offences they have been forced to do. The books [The Modern Slavery Agenda](about:blank) and [Child Slavery Now](about:blank) shares case studies of people who have been sent to prison. In some cases, they are deported to find their families have been murdered or they are re-trafficked to pay off their debt.
* The [Independant Anti-Slavery Commissioner](about:blank) monitors modern slavery sector activity and developments. However, this post has been vacant since April 2022. The government are passing a modern-day slavery bill through parliament, while there is no Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.
* The ministerial responsibility for modern day slavery is under the safeguarding minister and the immigration minister (creating a conflict of interest).

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| Group Exercise  Gary Graig asked partners to complete an exercise giving examles of what would be some of the signs that we as services could see to help us identify *if* a service user is *possibly* being trafficked:   * Relutance to talk * Always accompanied * Place of employment * No identification * Living conditions e.g. overcrowded * Elements of their life/story not adding up * Withdrawn * Physical injuies * Poor health * Passivity * Unexplained finances * Fragility/emotional * Contraditions |

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| Action: LMP partners suggested to campaign against the upcoming bill that will infringe upon modern day slavery victims' rights and protections.  Action: To keep up to date with law, policy, practice and research, partners can email Gary Craig to request to be part of the Modern Slavery Research Consortium: [gary.craig@galtres8.co.uk](about:blank) |

The Leeds Modern Slavery Strategy 2020-2023

Nicola Stewart, Leeds City Council’s Service Improvement Advisor, within the Safer Stronger Communities Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse team, shared the strategy (linked below) and the city’s partnership approach on the modern-day slavery agenda.

The Safer Stronger Communities Team facilitate the Modern Slavery Board, working with the police and third sector partners such as Palm Cove to; Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare against modern slavery. This is reflected within the [Anti-slavery and human trafficking statement](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/plans-and-strategies/anti-slavery-strategy#:~:text=Our%20modern%20slavery%20statement%20for,slavery%2C%20forced%20labour%20and%20servitude.).

Partners asked how to support victims of modern slavery, inline with the national referral mechanism, and asked what training and resources are available to raise awareness.

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| Action: Modern Day Slavery will be discussed as the key theme of the next strategy group meeting. Palm Cove will be invited to attend.  Action: LCC will create a Modern-Day Slavery post for the LMP blog with links to resources.  Action: The partnership will consider who would be able to represent LMP at the modern slavery board in the next meeting.  Action: Third sector organisation leads are to consider signing up to the [Police Partnership Intelligence Portal](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/partnership-intelligence-portal) to share intelligence. A step by step guide on how to use the portal will be added to the LMP blog. |

Resources: Several resources were shared during the meeting, the useful links are outlined below.

**Policy:**

* [Modern Slavery Act 2015](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted)
* [National Referral Mechanism](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales)
* [Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/news-insights/iasc-office-interim-position-awaiting-the-appointment-of-a-new-commissioner/)

**Leeds City Council:**

* [Anti-slavery and human trafficking statement (leeds.gov.uk)](https://www.leeds.gov.uk/Pages/Anti-slavery-and-human-trafficking-statement-.aspx).
* [Leeds Modern Slavery Pocket Book for Professionals](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/media/7855/leeds-modern-slavery-pocketbook-2021_v4.pdf)
* Leeds City Council are currently reviewing their modern slavery strategy and once it has been published, it will be shared with partners.

**International Charities:**

* [Walk Free](https://www.walkfree.org/) is an international human rights group that focus on the eradication of modern slavery.
* Gary Craig, a professor of social science, has published 2 books called [The Modern Slavery Agenda](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/the-modern-slavery-agenda) and [Child Slavery Now](https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/child-slavery-now) which share case studies of modern day slavery.

**Police:**

* Third sector organisations can sign up to the Police [Partnership Intelligence Portal](https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/partnership-intelligence-portal) to share intelligence. At the LMP Strategy group meeting, on the 19th January 2023, Modern Day Slavery was the theme discussed. One of the actions was for organisations to consider signing up to the Police Partnership Intelligence Portal to share intelligence. A step by step guide can be found [here](https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/police-partnership-intelligence-portal/)

The next meeting theme is Modern Day Slavery, as a follow up from this meeting.

Future meeting dates for 2023:

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| **Meeting** | **Date** | **Venue** |
| **LMP Strategy Group** | * Thursday 20th April 2023 (10am-12pm) * Thursday 13th July 2023 (10am-12pm) * Thursday 12th October 2023 (10am-12pm) * Thursday 11th January 2024 (10am-12pm) | tbc |
| **LMP Operational Group** | * Monday 6th March 2023 (10am-12pm) * Monday 5th June 2023 (10am-12pm) * Monday 4th September 2023 (10am-12pm) * Monday 11th December 2023 (10am-12pm) | Leeds Refugee Forum One Community Centre, LS9 7SG |
| **Leeds Strategic Migration Board** **(LSMB)** | * Tuesday 31st January 2023 2pm-4pm * Tuesday 18th April 2023 2-4pm * Tuesday 18th July 2023 2-4pm * Tuesday 10th October 2023 2pm-4pm | Microsoft Teams |