

In the know
Surrey and Sussex



Tackling Modern Slavery In Sussex

Today, Sussex Police are launching a third external campaign for two weeks. This time we're focusing on how we work with partner organisations to tackle modern slavery offences in our communities.

Chief Inspector Kris Ottery, Operational Lead for Modern slavery said: "Modern slavery is a serious crime that is often hidden in plain sight. Perpetrators exploit people from all backgrounds and will target an individual's particular vulnerability. That vulnerability could be an individual's desire to seek a better life for themselves and their families or they could be homeless living on the streets. There is no one stereotype to neatly define a victim of modern slavery.

Our best approach to protect people who are being exploited is to work with our communities and partner organisations. Police cannot act alone to eradicate modern slavery, it takes a number of agencies to work together to achieve this from gathering intelligence from the public, acting on it, safeguarding potential victims and getting a case to court. This process can take up to two years.

Modern slavery cases are complex and often entwined with other serious offences such as drugs, knife crime and sexual exploitation. All of these crimes trade in human misery and exploit people for profit.

We continue to build stronger links with our partners, voluntary organisations and businesses to establish working practices which are aligned to tackle modern slavery, stop it from happening and protect those exploited by it. Later this week we're involved in a milestone event with local authorities, you can find out more on Friday, 16 October."

Sunday 18 October is the tenth anniversary of Anti-Slavery Day and we'll be showing our support on the force's Twitter and Facebook.

We'll highlight and support the work of our award winning East Sussex based Discovery Team, a partnership of 21 agencies that include a team of specialist police officers who work together, maximizing their combined powers to disrupt criminal activity and safeguard victims.

Since January, 380 reports of potential victims of modern slavery have been reported in Sussex, involving people originating from both the UK and overseas. At the end of 2019, 101 potential victims were referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is a framework for identifying potential victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support.

If you think you have information that might identify or locate a potential victim or suspect for modern slavery, or someone you know is a victim of modern slavery, or even a location where you think exploitation might be happening, please report it online or call us on 101 (always call 999 in an emergency).

You can also contact the national Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or the Salvation Army Modern Slavery helpline on 0300 303 8151, or the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Support the campaign by following Sussex Police Facebook and Twitter accounts and sharing the posts. We'll be using the #Itscloserthanyouthink

You can find more information on our [Modern Slavery advice](https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk) webpages or <https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk>
[How the government is tackling Modern Slavery](https://www.stopthetraffik.org)
<https://www.stopthetraffik.org>

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