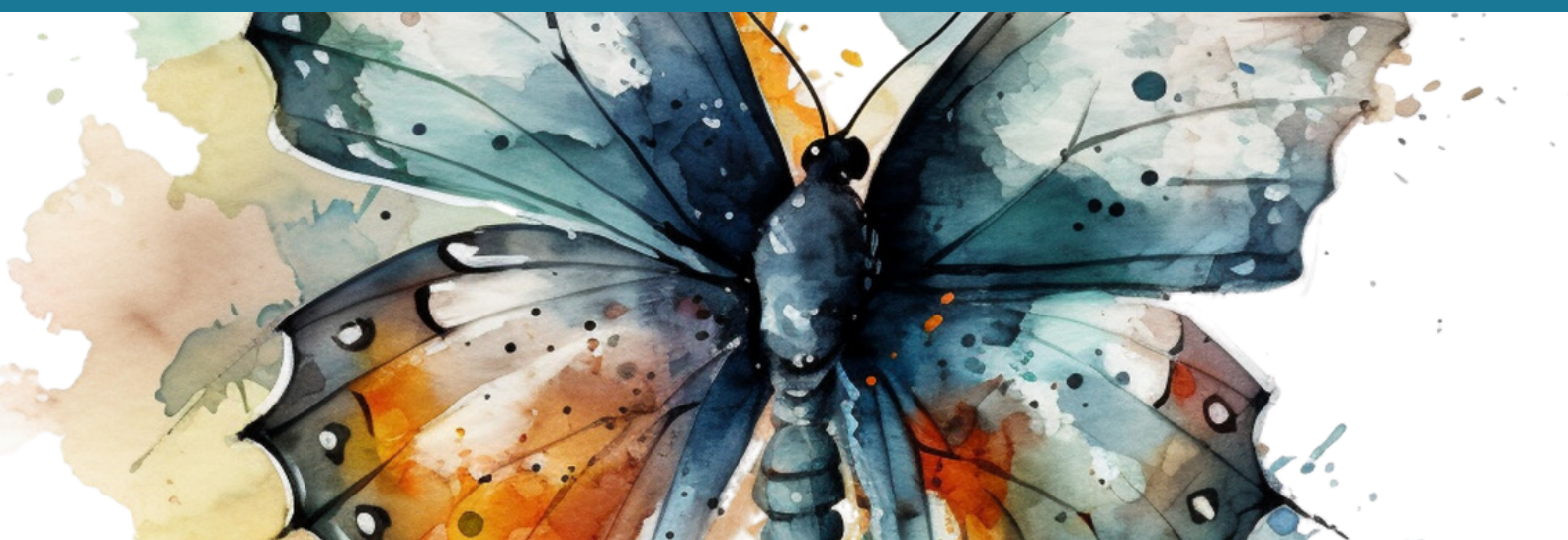


# SANDWELL ANTI-SLAVERY NEWSLETTER

Shining a Beacon of Hope and Unity Against Modern Slavery



## Our First Sandwell Anti-Slavery Newsletter

Welcome to the very first edition of the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight newsletter! We are thrilled to embark on this journey with you as we shine a powerful light on the issue of modern slavery within our community. This newsletter is brought to you by the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, a collective of dedicated individuals and organisations committed to raising awareness, empowering action, and creating a community that stands together against exploitation.

In this newsletter, we will share stories of resilience and hope, spotlight initiatives that combat modern slavery, and highlight the collaborative efforts that make our mission possible. Together, We aim to build a safer, more compassionate society, where the shadows of modern slavery are banished forever.

Our journey is just beginning, but our resolve is unwavering. Join us as we embark on this mission, hand in hand, to make a difference in the lives of those affected by this heinous crime. Together, we will pave the way for a brighter future, free from the shackles of exploitation.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to bringing you insightful updates and inspiring stories in each edition of the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight.

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

[Introducing Collaborative Chats](#)

[Slavery Free Sandwell Pledge](#)

[New Spotlight on Modern Slavery Blog](#)

[Spotlight on Modern Slavery in the Care Sector](#)

[Sandwell Modern Slavery Transparency Statement](#)

# Introducing Collaborative Chats

We are thrilled to introduce a unique and valuable opportunity that will deepen your awareness and understanding of an issue that impacts us all: modern slavery.

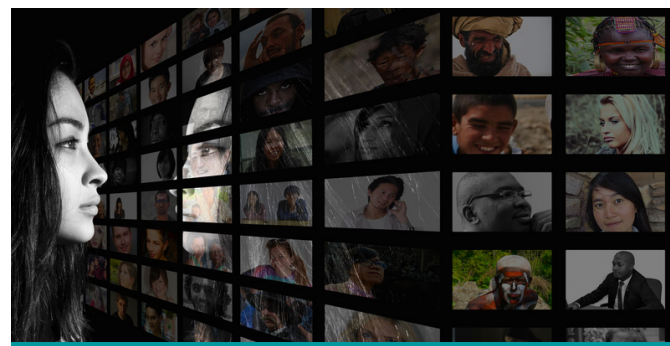
The Modern Slavery Team is ready to join your team meetings and deliver insightful sessions that will equip us with the knowledge and tools to combat modern slavery, one conversation at a time.

## Why Invite the Modern Slavery Team to your team meeting?

- **Knowledge and Awareness:** Hosting the Modern Slavery Team will provide you with valuable insights into the complexities and realities of modern slavery. This knowledge is essential for us to recognise and respond effectively to this heinous crime.
- **Collaborative Discussions:** Engaging in thought-provoking conversations with the Modern Slavery Team allows us to share perspectives and collectively brainstorm ideas on how we can combat modern slavery as a unified council. Together, we can develop innovative and impactful strategies to address this critical issue.
- **Actionable Solutions:** The session will offer actionable solutions, empowering your team to contribute to raising awareness, implementing preventive measures, and providing support to victims of modern slavery. By working together, we can create a more resilient and compassionate community.
- **Customised Content:** The Modern Slavery Team is flexible in their approach and will tailor the session to suit your team's specific interests and needs. Whether you desire a brief introduction or a deep dive into particular aspects of modern slavery, they will ensure the content is relevant and engaging.

Together, we have the power to break the chains of modern slavery and build a brighter future for our community. By inviting the Modern Slavery Team to your next team meeting, you are taking a significant step towards fostering a "Slavery Free Sandwell"

Let's join forces in combatting modern slavery, one conversation at a time. Together, we can make a difference and create a Sandwell where exploitation has no place.



### COLLABORATIVE CHATS

### MODERN SLAVERY

THE MODERN SLAVERY TEAM IS READY TO JOIN YOUR TEAM MEETINGS AND DELIVER INSIGHTFUL SESSIONS THAT WILL EMPOWER ONE COUNCIL, ONE TEAM, ONE CONVERSATION AT A TIME.

ONE  
COUNCIL

ONE  
TEAM

ONE  
CONVERSATION

INVITE US TO YOUR TEAM MEETING

email [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk)



## How Can You Get Involved?

It's simple!

Just email [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk) to express your interest and provide your preferred date and time for the session.

The Modern Slavery Team will be delighted

COLLABORATIVE CHAT  
IGNITING CONVERSATIONS, FOSTERING CHANGE

# Slavery Free Sandwell Pledge

As leaders in Sandwell, we are united in our determination to eradicate modern slavery from our Borough. At the last full council meeting, the Council Chief Executive and Leader, along with other esteemed leaders, officially pledged to do everything in their power to make our community free from this heinous crime. We believe that through collaborative action and unity, we can create a safer and more compassionate environment for all.

## Slavery Free Community Charter

As leaders in Sandwell we, the undersigned, commit to doing everything in our power to make our borough free of modern slavery. We will work proactively with national and local government, law enforcement agencies, businesses, the voluntary and community sector, faith bodies and our local communities.

In order to make Sandwell a Slavery Free Community, we pledge to:

- Demonstrate strong local leadership for anti-slavery initiatives
  - Raise awareness among our staff, associates and the people we serve on a daily basis
  - Train our staff to recognise and respond appropriately to potential signs of slavery
  - Share intelligence and information to help detect slavery and ensure it cannot take root
  - Support victims and survivors in our communities
  - Remove slave-based labour from our supply chains
  - Contribute to building a prosperous and slavery-free local economy.
- The West Midlands region stands in support of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, abuse and exploitation by 2030.



Signed  
*Korine Cumberbatch*  
Councillor Korine Cumberbatch, Leader of Sandwell Council

Signed  
*Shakir Lal*  
Shakir Lal, Chief Executive of Sandwell Council

Date



## Joining the Global Fight

By signing the Slavery-Free Pledge, we stand in solidarity with the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. Together, we pledge to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, abuse, and exploitation by 2030.

## A Collective Effort

The success of our pledge lies in the strength of our collective efforts. We invite every member of our community to join us on this journey. Together, we can make a difference and break the chains of modern slavery.

We will continue to share updates on our progress in the fight against modern slavery through the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight. Stay tuned for inspiring stories, valuable insights, and opportunities for collaboration.

Together, let's build a brighter and safer future.

## What Does the Slavery-Free Pledge Entail?

The Slavery-Free Pledge encompasses a comprehensive set of initiatives and commitments that will guide our journey towards a slavery-free Sandwell:

- **Strong Local Leadership:** We stand at the forefront of anti-slavery initiatives, leading by example and inspiring others to join the fight against modern slavery.
- **Raising Awareness:** Through continuous efforts, we aim to raise awareness among our staff, associates, and the people we serve, empowering them to recognise and respond to potential signs of slavery.
- **Empowering Staff:** We understand that knowledge is a powerful tool in combating modern slavery. As such, we are dedicated to providing our staff with comprehensive training that equips them to take appropriate actions when faced with potential instances of slavery.
- **Intelligence Sharing:** Information is crucial in the fight against modern slavery. We are committed to sharing intelligence and data to detect slavery and ensure it cannot take root in our community.
- **Supporting Victims and Survivors:** Our dedication extends to supporting victims and survivors of modern slavery within our community, providing them with the necessary care and resources to rebuild their lives.
- **Ethical Supply Chains:** Recognising the significance of ethical practices, we are committed to removing slave-based labour from our supply chains, creating a responsible and transparent economy.

# Launching the Spotlight on modern slavery blog

We are thrilled to announce the latest addition to our efforts in combating modern slavery - the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight Blog! This blog is our platform to shine a light on the realities of modern slavery, share insightful perspectives, and foster a community that stands together against exploitation.

## Our Mission

As leaders in the fight against modern slavery, our mission is simple yet powerful: to raise awareness, empower action, and create a community that is committed to eradicating modern slavery in all its forms. Through this blog, we aim to engage with you, our valued supporters and partners, in an ongoing conversation about this critical issue.

## What to Expect

The Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight Blog will be a space where we share compelling articles, stories of hope and resilience, informative resources, and updates on our collective efforts to combat modern slavery. We will delve into the complexities of this crime, shed light on the challenges faced by victims and survivors, and discuss the importance of collaborative action.

## Contributions from the Community

While our dedicated team will curate meaningful content, we also welcome contributions from the community. If you have a story, experience, or perspective related to modern slavery that you would like to share, please reach out to us at [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk). Your voice matters, and together, we can inspire change and raise awareness.

## How to Engage

To access the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight Blog, simply visit <https://redefiningmodernslavery.blogspot.com> and bookmark it for regular updates. We encourage you to explore the articles, leave your thoughts in the comments section, and share the blog with your network to extend our reach and impact.

## Stay Connected

As part of our anti-slavery community, you are vital in our mission to create a slavery-free Sandwell. By subscribing to our newsletter and following us on social media, you'll be among the first to know about new blog posts, upcoming events, and opportunities for collaboration.

## Latest blogs

### Uniting Hearts and Minds: Our Mission Against Exploitation

- August 01, 2023



At Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, we are driven by a clear and powerful mission: to raise awareness, empower action, and create a community that stands together against exploitation. This mission is not just a set of words; it is a heartfelt commitment to shine a light on the darkest corners of modern slavery and to work tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of those affected by this heinous crime. Why is this our mission? The answer lies in the faces of those who have...

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### Shining a Light on Exploitation in the Care Sector: Supporting New Arrivals

- July 27, 2023



Welcome to "Shining a Light on Exploitation in the Care Sector: Supporting New Arrivals"! Today, we, the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, were honoured to attend the multi-agency meeting for Sandwell New Arrivals Partnership (SNAP). Together, we addressed a pressing concern affecting our community - the exploitation faced by individuals who have recently arrived on visas, particularly within the care sector. Our hearts were full of compassion and determination as we...

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### The Alarming Rise of Modern Slavery in the UK Care Sector

- July 26, 2023



As the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, we open our hearts to the troubling surge of modern slavery cases within the UK care industry. The numbers are more than just statistics; they represent real lives trapped in unimaginable circumstances. Recent news has cast a glaring light on this deeply troubling issue, demanding our attention and action. The Shocking Truth Between January and March of this year, a staggering 109 potential victims were identified in the care...

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### Uniting for Change: Embracing a Public Health Approach to Modern Slavery

- July 25, 2023



In the warm embrace of a community striving for progress and compassion, the haunting presence of modern slavery casts a dark shadow on humanity. This heart-wrenching crime, which ensnares and exploits vulnerable individuals, calls for swift and decisive action from every corner of society. As the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Partnership, we stand together, fuelled by a shared mission - to eradicate modern slavery and pave the way for a future defined by justice and...

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# Spotlight on Modern Slavery in the Care Sector

In this edition of the Sandwell Anti-Slavery Spotlight, we turn our focus to a pressing concern affecting our community - modern slavery in the care sector. It is essential to shed light on the challenges faced by vulnerable individuals who have fallen victim to this heinous crime and to understand the importance of collaborative efforts in combating it.

## The Reality of Exploitation

Within our community, we have seen a concerning rise in cases of exploitation among those working in the care sector. These individuals arrive with hopes of a brighter future, seeking opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. However, their dreams are met with harsh realities as they find themselves trapped in exploitative working conditions.

## Understanding Their Struggles

During our discussions and research, we have delved into some heart-breaking struggles faced by these brave caregivers. Language barriers and cultural differences make them more susceptible to abuse by unscrupulous employers. Many endure long working hours with meager pay, living in conditions far from what they were promised. Fear of losing their livelihoods leaves them feeling powerless, making it difficult to break free from their exploitative situations.

## Empowering Action and Support

At Sandwell's Anti-Slavery Partnership, we firmly believe in empowering and supporting those in the care sector. Our spotlight on modern slavery in the care sector aims to provide essential knowledge, resources, and support to these dedicated individuals. By understanding their rights as workers and the importance of reporting abuse, we can work together to create a safe and nurturing environment for all.

## Collaborating for Change

Addressing modern slavery in the care sector requires collective action. We are committed to working alongside the care community, local authorities, healthcare professionals, support organisations, and concerned citizens to make a significant impact. By raising awareness, sharing knowledge, and fostering open dialogues, we can create a united front against exploitation.

## How You Can Contribute

As part of our community, your support is invaluable. By sharing our newsletter and blog posts with your network, you help extend our reach and amplify our message. Together, we can create a ripple effect of awareness and bring about positive change.

## Stay Connected

To stay up-to-date with our spotlight on modern slavery in the care sector and receive regular updates, make sure to subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media. Your engagement and feedback fuel our efforts, and we are grateful for your commitment to this important cause. Thank you for joining us in shining a light on modern slavery in the care sector. Together, we can create a caring and compassionate community that protects the vulnerable and fosters hope for a better future.

## Collaborative Chats

If you work in the care sector and want to invite us in to your organisation to help you understand how you can safeguard your organisation and your workers from modern slavery invite us to meet with your team for a collaborative chat. Just email [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk) to express your interest and provide your preferred date and time for the session.

## Latest blogs

### The Alarming Rise of Modern Slavery in the UK Care Sector

July 26, 2023



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# Signing of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement

We are thrilled to share a momentous achievement in our ongoing fight against modern slavery. The Sandwell Council leaders have officially signed off on the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement, reinforcing our commitment to ethical practices and ensuring transparency in our operations and supply chains.

## A Commitment to Transparency

At Sandwell's Anti-Slavery Partnership, we firmly believe that transparency is a cornerstone in the battle against modern slavery. By openly acknowledging the risks and taking proactive measures to address them, we lay the foundation for a responsible and accountable council. The signing of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement marks a significant step forward in creating a slavery-free community.

## Collaboration for Progress

This achievement is the result of collaborative efforts between various stakeholders, including the council, local communities, voluntary organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the business sector. Through meaningful partnerships and shared determination, we have fostered a unified approach to combatting modern slavery.

## The Path Ahead

While we celebrate this milestone, we also recognize that our work is far from over. The signing of the Modern Slavery Transparency Statement marks the beginning of a new chapter in our commitment to combatting modern slavery. Moving forward, we will continue to engage with our community, raise awareness, strengthen partnerships, and enhance our transparency measures to ensure that modern slavery has no place in our borough.

## Join Us in Our Journey

As members of this community, your support is integral to our progress. Together, we can create a united front against modern slavery and build a safer and more compassionate society for all. Stay engaged with us by subscribing to our newsletter and following us on social media, where we will continue to share updates and opportunities for involvement.

Thank you for being part of our journey towards a slavery-free Sandwell. Together, we can make a lasting impact and pave the way to a brighter future for all.

# Highlights of the Transparency Statement

The Modern Slavery Transparency Statement outlines key actions and commitments that demonstrate our dedication to eradicating modern slavery and human trafficking. Some of the highlights include:

## Designated Modern Slavery Program Manager:

We have appointed a dedicated Modern Slavery Program Manager to lead and coordinate our efforts in tackling modern slavery effectively.

## Operational Lead:

Our Community Safety Officer leads the operational approach to modern slavery, working closely with relevant stakeholders and agencies to identify, investigate, and respond to cases of modern slavery

## Pledge to Become Slavery-Free:

By pledging to become slavery-free, we reaffirm our determination to eliminate modern slavery in all its forms, within both our operations and supply chains.

## Collaboration through SHOP:

We actively participate in the Slavery and Human Trafficking Operational Partnership (SHOP), which serves as a collaborative platform for coordinating our response to modern slavery throughout the borough.

## Awareness and Training:

We prioritise raising awareness among staff members and the wider community about the signs of modern slavery and the appropriate actions to take.

## Ethical Procurement:

Our Corporate Procurement Team undergoes training on modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), ensuring a thorough understanding of ethical procurement and supply practices.

## Sandwell Council's Modern Slavery Transparency Statement: Unveiling Our Commitment to Combat Modern Slavery

- August 02, 2023



Today, I am filled with immense pride and determination as I share the news of Sandwell Council's official signing off of our Modern Slavery Transparency Statement. This is not just a document; it represents the heart and soul of our ongoing commitment to combat modern slavery and human trafficking. As a member of the council, I am personally invested in this cause, and I want to share with you the key elements of our transparency statement and the actions we are taking to make...

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### Your Ideas Matter:

We believe that the strength of our initiatives lies in our collaborative approach. We invite all members of our organisation/community to contribute their ideas for Anti-Slavery Day. Whether it's a workshop, seminar, awareness campaign, art exhibition, or any other creative concept, your input is invaluable.

### Share Your Ideas:

If you have any ideas or suggestions for meaningful activities, events, or campaigns that can help us mark Anti-Slavery Day, please email them to [us](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk) at [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk).

Your contributions will play a vital role in shaping our plans and ensuring that our efforts have a lasting impact.

We are excited to see the innovative ideas that our community members bring to the table. Together, we can make Anti-Slavery Day a powerful platform for education, advocacy, and action against modern slavery.

Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Let's work together to create a future where no one is trapped in the chains of exploitation.

# Key dates

## Anti Slavery Partnership

We are pleased to inform you about our upcoming Anti-Slavery Partnership quarterly meeting. This regular gathering is a crucial opportunity for us to come together, share updates, and strengthen our collaborative efforts in the fight against modern slavery.

### Meeting Details:

- Date: September 26th
- Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

As we work collectively to combat modern slavery and its various forms, your participation and insights are invaluable. This meeting will provide a platform for open discussions, knowledge sharing, and strategic planning to further our mission.

Attendance and Inquiries: If you would like to attend the quarterly meeting or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email at [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk).

Your active engagement in these discussions will contribute to our ongoing efforts to prevent and address modern slavery effectively.

Thank you for your commitment to this important cause. Together, we can make a significant impact and create a safer environment for all.

# Your Input Matters!

We value your input and ideas to make our newsletter even more informative and impactful. If you have any suggestions or topics you'd like us to cover in our next edition, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Your insights are invaluable in helping us create content that truly resonates with our community.

Feel free to reach out to us at [modern\\_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:modern_slavery@sandwell.gov.uk) with your thoughts, suggestions, or contributions. Together, we can continue to raise awareness, drive change, and make a difference in the fight against modern slavery.

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. Let's keep working together to build a safer and more inclusive future for all.