MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN RIGHTS | **POLICY & EVIDENCE CENTRE**

Led by the University of Oxford

Call for applications for research funding

Effectiveness of interventions to prevent modern slavery

September 2024

Call Overview

Aim

Prevention of modern slavery is a complex challenge that is a key pillar of the strategic approach to addressing modern slavery, including for the new UK Government and devolved administrations.

Therefore, this Call aims to generate new evidence on effective approaches to preventing modern slavery. We expect to fund up to two projects to assess or evaluate interventions and demonstrate the effectiveness of interventions, one to look at the prevention of modern slavery before it occurs, or at an early stage and the second on prevention of re-exploitation/re-trafficking. Projects will aim to understand the effectiveness and impact of interventions and consider the contextual factors that make an intervention effective and replicable/scalable.

Scope

Projects under this call should be assessing or evaluating an intervention that aims to prevent exploitation before it occurs, or at an early stage, **or** an intervention that specifically aims to prevent re-exploitation/re-trafficking. See "background" below for the Centre's definitions of the stages of prevention. Projects looking solely at the "treatment of harms" stage of the prevention of harms are out of scope for this call.

For the purposes of this call, an intervention is a service or specific activity undertaken for the purposes of the prevention of exploitation/re-exploitation of individuals that are at risk of or who have experienced modern slavery. This means that legal and policy frameworks (e.g. the Modern Slavery Act) are out of scope for this call. It also means that interventions to more generally raise public awareness of modern slavery would be out of scope. Applicants must describe the rationale for selecting the intervention(s) for assessment, including a justification that the intervention(s) have been in place for an appropriate amount of time for the evaluation.

This call cannot be used to fund the delivery of an intervention, only the research to assess the effectiveness of intervention. This is to minimise potential conflicts of interest.

All interventions assessed in this call should be relevant to UK policy (e.g. an intervention delivered to the UK, or that relates to countries bordering the UK, or countries from where data and evidence indicates patterns of people are being trafficked from/through to the UK) but can be internationally based. Applicants are encouraged to limit the scope further; and this could be, e.g. geographically, by exploitation type or in relation to certain population groups.

The essential objectives are to:

A. **Assess the effectiveness an intervention/s** that aim(s) to prevent exploitation before it occurs, or at an early stage, **or** interventions that specifically aim to prevent re-exploitation/re-trafficking.

B. **Describe the underpinning theoretical framework (e.g. a theory of change/log frame)** for the intervention(s), including relevant research and development that underpins the intervention, and define how effectiveness will be measured using insights from previous research on prevention, in particular the Before, Early, Treatment, Re-exploitation (BETR) continuum of prevention and associated pathways (see background below) including, e.g. the relationship between prevention of a broader category of exploitation and prevention of modern slavery.

C. **Employ rigorous and robust methodologies** to consider how an intervention could be replicated and scaled up, and what the impact of doing so would be and for different populations, including feasibility in different geographies or sectors.

D. **Generate impactful insights and recommendations for practice and UK policymakers** on the effectiveness of prevention interventions and the effectiveness of the underlying theoretical framework.

E. **We would welcome reflections on the equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations of an intervention and potential prevention inequalities**. We would also welcome reflections on the engagement of affected populations and survivors in the development, delivery and any assessment of the intervention, linking this to the measurement of the effectiveness of the intervention.

Desirable objectives:

F. **Explore innovative and creative methods of engaging lived experience** in the assessment of interventions that are appropriate, meaningful and non-tokenistic.

G. **If assessing multiple interventions, this needs to be done on the basis that these interventions all share sufficient characteristics such that they are already comparable**. Projects assessing multiple interventions should consider how these might demonstrate replicability/scalability, and how the impact of these interventions (both individually and in combination) could be estimate/quantified.

Project budget

A maximum budget of £100,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated per project for these projects, with Higher Education Institutions and Independent Research Organisations paid at 80% FEC (see budget below). Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC expects to fund up to two projects for this work, **one with a focus on interventions that look to prevent harm before/early and a second that looks to prevent re-exploitation**.

Projects must finish by March 2026 and there will be no ability to offer no-cost extensions (beyond exceptional circumstances).

Project team

The project may be led by either a UK higher education institution, an approved research organisation eligible to receive UKRI funding or a charity registered in the UK with a focus on modern slavery.

The team must be made up of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) and one Co-Lead. A PI is someone who leads the research team, they will be based at the lead organisation (either a UK based academic organisation or UK registered charity) and will have overall responsibility for ensuring the project completes on time and within budget, and they have reporting responsibilities to the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC.

> ## Glossary – project roles
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> **Principal Investigator (PI)** – the lead researcher in charge of the overall running of the project
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> **Co-lead(s)** – the collaborating researcher(s) working alongside the PI on a project
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> **Partner/collaborator** – organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, these can be non-academic organisations
>
> **Project team** – the combination of PI, Co-Leads and other partner/collaborating organisations

We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project. Co-leads are researchers who collaborate with the PI to complete research, they may be based at a different organisation (either an academic organisation or a registered charity) and their roles and responsibilities must be set out in the project application. Project partners are organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, they can be non-academic organisations. The project team must consist of at least one academic or research organisation and one UK based third sector organisation and collaboration between these partners must be demonstrated in the application.

UK based third sector organisations can receive up to 50% of the total budget. International organisations are eligible, as Co-Leads or partners, but teams must demonstrate how international research will be achievable within the timeframe. International organisations can only be included in addition to an eligible UK higher education institute or research organisation and third sector organisation.

Key Dates

Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	24 September 2024
Call webinar	12.30pm, 15 October 2024
Call deadline	4pm, 11 November 2024
Panel meeting	w/c 18 November 2024
Moderation of panel meeting	w/c 18 November 2024
Interviews with top applicants	w/c 2 December 2024
Decision to successful team	Mid-December 2024
Project start	January 2025 (date to be specified by applicant)
Delivery of final outputs	February 2026

Call Webinar

The call webinar will be held on15 October at 12.30pm to go through the scope of the call and answer questions from potential applicants. Following the webinar, a recording of it can be found on our YouTube channel. The Q&A from the session will be unrecorded, questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the call page on the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC website.

Funding call details

About the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC) was created by the investment of public funding to enhance the understanding of modern slavery and transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it.

The Centre provides independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery based on high quality and focused on policy impact research it funds and co-creates, aiming to have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

The Centre works to create a "network of networks" to bring together academics, policymakers, businesses, civil society, survivors and the public on a scale not seen before in the UK to collaborate on solving this global challenge. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC's approach is rooted in human rights.

Hosted by the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford, the Centre is a consortium of three universities consisting of the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull, the University of Liverpool, and the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford, with the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law (part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL)) working in close partnership. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC is funded and actively supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Read more about the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC at www.modernslaverypec.org

Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC: how we work

Our mission is to transform the effectiveness of policies and laws addressing modern slavery by using the evidence produced through the research we fund and co-produce.

Our focus is on ensuring that those we seek to influence have access to the best available evidence and can draw from this when decision-making. We are highly focused on the practical impact of research.

We therefore translate the evidence produced into practical recommendations for decisionmakers to drive real policy change, and we work to promote it to wider audiences to enhance the understanding of modern slavery.

We aspire to facilitate new collaborations in modern slavery research between those who have not previously worked together. By doing so, we hope to bring together the many different actors in the modern slavery space to maximise their collective influence.

This is why we work closely with research teams throughout the lifetime of projects to maximise the impact of the research on policy making and other key areas.

Our aim and guiding principles for research

We support research which provides innovative, independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery. Our aim is to drive policy change and have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

We aim to change the way in which modern slavery research is done through our guiding principles of **effectiveness, equity and survivor-involvement**. We aspire to facilitate new collaborations in modern slavery research including by supporting equitable partnerships between organisations, including those who have not previously worked together. By doing so, we hope to bring together the many different actors in the modern slavery space to benefit from their expertise and maximise their collective influence.

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC prioritises the equitable inclusion of people of all backgrounds and experiences across all the work undertaken by the Centre. We strongly encourage that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. We design our calls with the aspiration for projects funded by them to be inclusive, and to encourage a greater diversity of applicants and approaches to modern slavery research.

We intend for all the research that we fund to align with our guiding principles. We therefore expect all research that the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC funds to support diversity and inclusion with respect to the people who carry out the research and in terms of facilitating novel, cross-disciplinary teams.

Background and context for this call

There is a growing evidence base on what works or looks promising to prevent modern slavery. Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC funded research by Such et al. defined prevention as:

[A]n on-going process of avoiding and minimising exploitation and harm. This can be achieved by intervening before exploitation and harm occurs, by intervening early and by treating harms. It also includes action to prevent re-exploitation/-re-trafficking. Prevention includes enabling people to exercise choice, control over their lives and to thrive.[1]

Within this definition, a dynamic prevention continuum is presented, exploring the different stages at which trafficking and exploitation, and their associated harms, might be prevented:

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[1] https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/prevention-what-works

Figure 1. **The BETR prevention continuum**

This research suggests that each stage on the continuum of prevention can be addressed through a variety of pathways, these include:

- Access to the fundamental things in life (e.g. financial resources, safe and secure housing, access to services, dignity and rights).
- Literacy, including an in-depth understanding of exploitation and rights within statutory and non-statutory agencies, the general public and within communities and organisations.
- Community power and control, including resilience and having the opportunity to thrive.
- Deterrence and disruption, for example through law enforcement and early detection.
- Building partnerships coordination and pooling of resources to enhance preventative responses.

Following the publication of this research, the Centre funded a portfolio of prevention-focused research, and two studies to synthesise the Centre's portfolio of funded projects against this continuum. This found that much of the existing evidence focusses on the treatment of harms experienced as a result an individual's experience of modern slavery, identifying the need for further evidence to explore what can/could work to in prevention before exploitation occurs, early interventions and in the prevention of re-trafficking.

In this funding call, we are looking for projects that can evidence the effectiveness of interventions which seek to prevent harm before it occurs/early prevention and re-trafficking:

Prevention before harm occurs and early interventions

Prevention of modern slavery before it occurs refers to actions taken to resolve the circumstances that put a person at risk of exploitation.[2] Early interventions represent the next stage of prevention, where exploitation has begun, and an intervention is able to prevent harm at an early stage, to minimise the severity of harm that an individual experiences. These two elements of prevention are distinct, but closely interrelated. In both stages of the continuum, analysis of research funded by the Centre found that there were few evaluated prevention interventions. Where Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC funded research looks at structural interventions (those focussing on the

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[2] https://modern-slavery.files.svdcdn.com/production/assets/downloads/Modern-Slavery-PEC-prevention-report-final.pdf p 9

underlying systemic, societal factors that can lead to the potential for vulnerability), findings on prevention were often implicit, rather than deriving from explicitly assessing an intervention.[3]

Existing Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC funded research in this area has revealed missed opportunities for early intervention. For example, research by Murphy et al. and Franklin et al. highlights missing episodes from schools as a signifier that a young person might be at increased risk of exploitation and the inconsistent response to these.[4] Similarly, where individuals are in circumstances where their fundamental needs aren't being met, such as housing, access to employment opportunities or access to services, there can be an opportunity for interventions to prevent conditions that could put people at risk of re-exploitation.[5]

Research funded by the Centre has also investigated the importance of improved communication between young people and practitioners, as well as understanding of modern slavery, including beyond those with a formal responsibility to refer potential survivors to the NRM as key to early identification. Research identified the need for creating safe spaces and places for open conversations with children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at risk of exploitation and how to foster trusted relationships between young people and practitioners .[6] Underpinning this need for improved practitioner literacy is a need for cultural competency and de-stigmatisation to ensure that early interventions are trauma informed and accessible, so that individuals with lived experience feel comfortable in accessing these.[7]

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC would like to build upon this evidence base of what does/could work in 'before' or 'early' prevention, by exploring specific interventions, to understand how these work in practice, and extrapolate principles that other prevention interventions should adopt.

Re-trafficking

Evidence suggests that where an individual does not receive appropriate treatment for the harms they have experienced as a result of modern slavery, and structural or societal factors that led to an individual's original vulnerability are not addressed, this individual will be at a greater risk of further harm or re-victimisation. It also means that any dependents of that individual could be at a greater risk of exploitation.[8]

The term re-trafficking does not have a specific definition in UK law and policy. Research by Garbers and the office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner use re-trafficking as an umbrella term, encompassing re-trafficking, re-exploitation and re-victimisation.[9] For the purposes of this research, we understand re-trafficking to mean a dynamic situation where people with lived experience of modern slavery experience further exploitation. This could be a new/distinctive

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[3] Ibid 2, forthcoming Prevention of Modern Slavery Synthesis Review

[4] https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/support-british-nationals and https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/children-special-needs-disabilities

[5] Forthcoming adult synthesis review

[6] https://www.modernslaverypec.org/research-projects/identification-disabled-children-and-young-people-at-risk-of-modern-slavery, report forthcoming

[7] https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/adult-services-websites and https://www.modernslaverypec.org/resources/cultural-competency-responses-modern-slavery

[8] Ibid 3

[9] https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1705/iasc-and-rights-lab-re-trafficking-report_november-2021.pdf

episode of the same exploitation type, geography or perpetrator, or could be an unconnected/new experience of exploitation.

Whilst there is no statutory definition of re-trafficking, Home Office Statutory Guidance on Modern Slavery reference "former victims of modern slavery" as a group who are particularly susceptible to modern slavery.[10] The guidance also stipulates that children may be at higher risk of re-trafficking if they experience missing episodes, and the importance of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) in safeguarding against this. Risk of re-trafficking is also identified for adults who do not consent to entering the NRM and in the interplay between homelessness and increased risks of re-trafficking.

Adults not consenting to enter the NRM, a lack of secure accommodation and prolonged NRM decisions, lack of suitable support for survivors, insecure immigration status and a drop off in care during the transition from children's services to adulthood were all noted as potential risks of re-trafficking in the Home Affairs Committee's Human Trafficking enquiry first report.[11]

In accordance with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC's strategic objective of facilitating collaboration, successful teams will work cooperatively alongside the Centre for the duration of the project to maximise the impact of your work and to ensure alignment with our objectives.

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[10] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6659a22316cf36f4d63ebcc3/Modern+Slavery+Statutory+Guidance+_EW_+and+Non-Statutory+Guidance+_SNI_+v3.10.pdf
[11] https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/42482/documents/211207/default/

Key elements of the research

The successful applicant will demonstrate the following components in their methodology:
- A systematic approach to defining and assessing effectiveness.
- A novel approach to the assessment of the chosen intervention(s), including the engagement of lived experience in the design and implementation of the assessment, as well as being participants in the assessment.
- Applicants should reflect on how their assessment will generate insights for UK policymakers and practitioners.
- Applications should discuss how they will manage their collaboration, co-developing their study across the academic and NGO partnership. If working with international partners, applications should demonstrate how additional risks to delivery within the timeframe might be managed.
- Applicants should reflect on managing conflicts of interest in the assessment of the intervention.

This methodology will be confirmed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC once the funding is awarded.

Required outputs

The successful applicant will deliver a full report as well as a Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC Research Summary, tailored for relevant audiences including recommendations for policymakers, and other actors as appropriate. The outputs will be co-produced with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC team so there should be ample time (c. one month) included in the proposed project timeline for the sharing of drafts to enable comments and feedback to be incorporated. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will provide a minimum of two rounds of comments on all outputs to support their potential policy impact. Deliverables include:
- A mid-project report, in a format to be agreed with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC
- A full report of no more than 10,000 words
- A Research Summary of no more than 2,500 words
- Contribution to a Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC authored policy brief synthesising projects funded under this call
- Optional creative, accessible, outputs. These might include videos, blogs, podcasts, or other outputs appropriate to the intervention being assessed.

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC would welcome proposals that include innovative ideas for presenting data, e.g. with visualisation of results in a format to enhance understanding and to support the uptake of evidence by our key audiences.

The project team will also be invited to present interim findings to the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC team and other relevant audiences at a suitable mid-point during the research, either virtually or in person at a time agreed with the research team in the revised workplan (see below).

Project milestones and timeline

Phase 1: Project set up
To begin our collaboration on the project, we will arrange an introductory meeting with your project team. We will agree an updated and detailed project timeline with key milestones and deliverables. This phase also will also include working with your team to develop a plan for policy impact. Teams must share their ethics application with the Modern Slavery PEC before submission to their ethics committee.

Phase 2: Research
The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will continue to work closely with you throughout your project. We will organise regular check-in meetings and work with you to finalise your research tools and support your ethics application. Project findings should be communicated and discussed with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC at an early stage to enable early discussions of possible policy recommendations. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will work with you and your team to jointly develop a plan for communicating the project to targeted audiences, including branding. We will collaborate on communicating about the project throughout the project's timeframe.

Phase 3: End of project
As the project comes to an end, the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will co-produce research outputs, in line with internal guidance on drafting reports (provided separately), including by providing feedback on drafts (with a particular lens on maximising policy impact). All projects funded by the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC are required to produce, at a minimum, a full research report (max 10,000 words) and a co-developed Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC Research Summary (max 2,500 words). The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC can facilitate engagement between your research team and relevant policymakers to maximise the impact of your project. Policy impact plans will be tailored for each project.

You will be required to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken by the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC. This may include a post-project survey for all research team members and interviews to reflect on your experiences on the project. As an AHRC funded research team, you will also be required to report research outcomes to Researchfish. As this project was funded through the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC, we will be collating and uploading responses via our Researchfish submission. There is a requirement that a Principal Investigator reports outcomes until at least five years after it ends, so we (or AHRC/UKRI) will contact you annually to obtain updates on any outcomes.

Milestones and timeline	
Application process	
Action/Activity	**Deadline**
Call announcement	24 September 2024
Call webinar	12.30pm, 15 October 2024
Call deadline	4pm, 11 November 2024
Panel	w/c 18 November 2024
Panel moderation	w/c 18 November 2024
Interviews with top applicants	w/c 2 December 2024

Decision to successful team	Mid December 2024
Project start	January 2025 (date to be specified by applicant)
Project milestones and deliverables	
Action/Activity	**Deadline**
Phase 1: Project set up	
Final workplan and methodology (provided to the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC by project team if required) Teams must share their ethics application with the Modern Slavery PEC before submission to their ethics committee.	February 2025
Phase 2: Research	
Regular catch-ups with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC (see ways of working with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC)	Every 4 weeks
Presentation of interim findings	To be agreed alongside the revised workplan
Phase 3: End of project	
Completion of research activities	December 2025
Delivery of full draft of project report	January 2026
Delivery of the Research Summary in collaboration with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC	January 2026
Collaboration with Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC to finalise project report and other outputs	January 2026
Delivery of final outputs and policy impact activities with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC	February 2026
Monitoring and evaluation activities	March 2026
Annual Researchfish updates for five years post project-completion	TBC, depending on ResearchFish reporting dates, likely to be February/March of each year

Additional information for applicants

Ways of working with the PEC

Collaboration and co-operation are key values for the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC. As such, we will work jointly with the successful research team from the outset and will co-design and co-create research outputs that are timely, relevant, accessible, and have the potential to deliver policy impact. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC and the successful research team will meet every 4 weeks to check in on progress, discuss next steps and provide support. This support may include policy impact planning, communications work or operational support and will be tailored to each project.

Ethics and Safeguarding

There may be a need to collect primary data, e.g. via survey, semi-structured interviews or focus groups, from key people and organisations that work in this sector, in which case the applicant should detail their proposed plans and processes for gaining ethical approval before data collection begins. See the section below on working with people with lived experience, where we outline our safeguarding and collaboration expectations.

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC strongly encourages that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. Where a project undertakes new research directly involving vulnerable groups or people with lived experience modern slavery, projects should carefully consider ethics and safeguarding implications. In both the ethics and the safeguarding statements, applicants should include reference to organisational policies and processes around safeguarding, developing project specific policies where appropriate.

The Centre is committed to improving the ethics and safeguarding of modern slavery research. In 2024 we commissioned research into this and you can read some early reflections from the lead researchers on our blog.

Data protection/GDPR

All data must be collated and stored in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2021, and, if necessary, the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016. Applicants should detail their systems and processes for dealing with data securely. Proposals must cover how data will be transported/transferred, handled, analysed and stored, including retention schedules, within the Ethics Statement.

Any and all datasets produced in the course of this research will remain the property of the successful applicant. The final report will be co-branded with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC, whilst the summary briefing will be branded as a Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC output (for example). Both the successful applicant and the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will be free to use the final report as they wish after the end date of the project subject to the agreed contract.

For more information on how we handle your data please visit our privacy policy.

Budget

A maximum budget of £100,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for this project, with higher education institutions and independent research organisations paid at 80% FEC (see below). The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC expects to fund up to two projects for this work (one looking at prevention before or early and the second looking at re-trafficking).

The project can be led by either a UK higher education institution, an approved research organisation which is eligible to receive UKRI funding, or a charity registered in the UK with a focus on modern slavery.

- The Principal Investigator (PI), who leads the research team, can be either an academic, researcher or professional with relevant research experience working at the lead organisation. We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project.
- Higher education institutes and approved research organisations will receive 80% FEC (meaning for every £1 spent, they receive 80p of funding, with the organisation making up the 20p)
- Eligible UK based third section organisations may partner on this call. They can apply for up to 50% of the project's budget and will be funded at 100% FEC (for every £1 spent, they receive £1 of funding, meaning the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC cover 100% of the full economic cost of their work on the project).
- International higher education institutions or third sector organisations are eligible for this call and can receive a maximum of 30% of the total project budget, paid at 100% of the full economic cost.
- Subcontractors are eligible under this funding call. Subcontractors are defined as a third-party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, or a third party organisation, who is subcontracted by the host organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. This will be subject to the procurement rules of the host organisation. All costs that support the delivery of the subcontract are eligible and will be paid at 80% FEC, these should be outlined and fully justified and will be subject to the evaluation of the assessment panel.
- The combined UK registered charity and international costs can account for 50% of the total budget of the project. For example in a £80,000 project, UK charities can receive £40,000 total (this might be to one charity or split between several charities and international partners). This £40,000 will be paid by the Centre at 100% FEC.
- We would expect budgets to be signed off at the time of application by your organisation's research office (for a higher education institute or research organisation) or by the appropriate senior manager (for eligible charities) to ensure a quick set up when the successful project is selected.

> ## What we want to see in your budget
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> 1) All of the budget rules must be adhered to, if you are not sure if an item in your budget is eligible, email office@modernslaverypec.org to check first
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> 2) In the Excel budget template, you must create a new line for each type of expenditure. For example:
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> | Travel | Train ticket for PI (workshop 1) | £50 |
> |--------|----------------------------------|-----|
> | | Hotel for PI (workshop 1) | £75 |
> | | Train ticket for Co-lead (workshop 2) | £50 |
> | | Hotel for Co-1 (workshop 2) | £75 |
>
> We *do not* want to see block budgets, e.g. "Charity 1, £10k" Costs must be broken down into the actual items of expenditure

Costings must be prepared in line with UKRI funding guidelines with the exception of the division of funds between UK higher education institutions or approved research organisations and UK based third sector organisations, where UK based third sector organisations can receive up to 50% of the funding, as outlined above.

We request that Principal (lead researchers) and Co-Leads (co-lead researchers) are involved in only one application submission per call. There is no limit to the number of applications eligible organisations can submit, and the restrictions only apply to individuals within those organisations.

Eligible Costs

We will fund costs which are in line with AHRC's policies[12], with the following exceptions:

- Any costs for travel must be justifiable and reasonable within the delivery timeframe, and we request that any activity involving travel has appropriate mitigations and alternatives suggested.
- Given the short-term nature of the project we will not be awarding costs for equipment or capital infrastructure, such as audio recording equipment or laptops.
- The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC will cover the costs for the design of the research summary and the full report (in the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC branding). Design costs for reports are therefore not eligible and will not be funded under this call.
- Dissemination activities will be led by the Centre in collaboration with the research team. We expect the team to set aside at least three days of time for communications work, which might include activities such as blog writing, podcast recording and potential media activities. It might also include potential time after the publication of outputs (circa two days) to maximise the impact of the research.
- Any other communications costs (such as a video, animation, infographics, data visualisation etc.) can be included but must be fully justified in the justification of resources. The designed outputs should align with the evidence-generating objectives of the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC (e.g. the sharing of new knowledge, findings and recommendations from the research) and should not be used for campaigning.
- The creation of new websites is not an eligible cost under this call.
- Eligible participating charities and international organisations can include overheads, up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget they have applied for.

Working with people with lived experience

As per our guiding principles, the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC encourages researchers to include people with lived experience in the appropriate aspects of their research project. We encourage all projects to consider whether they should have a specific safeguarding policy or framework to govern their work, and to highlight specific risks and mitigations in their safeguarding statement. According to organisations such as UK Collaborative on International Development Research (UKCDR), safeguarding means 'taking all reasonable means to prevent harm from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur'.[13] Policies should include consideration of rights of people with lived experience and whistle-blowers, and how the project addresses questions of equity, fairness, transparency and accountability. This should include all parts of the research

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[12] https://www.ukri.org/publications/ahrc-research-funding-guide/
[13] https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/safeguarding/

chain, from research funders, planners and practitioners to participants and local community members, where everyone has the right to be safe from harm.[14]

We request that the following principles are adhered to when working with people with lived experience:

- Ground rules are established with the participants, including use of terminology, and agreed rules about withdrawal from discussions or activities.
- Participants are signposted to resources to support them (the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC can assist with these) and consider funds to support this if appropriate.
- People with lived experience are paid for their time (including being participants on interview panels and focus groups) and that this is done so in a manner appropriate to participants (considering cash payments or use of vouchers). We expect a minimum hourly rate of £12.00 (outside of London) or £13.15 (within London) for participants, based on the Living Wage Foundation's current rates, but we would encourage applicants to explore best practice in the sector and support higher rates of pay where justified in the justification of resources.[15]
- A risk assessment is carried out, specifically considering risks for those with lived experience. These risks and mitigations should be included in your Safeguarding Statement.

Application process

To apply for this call, applications must be made through our online form (https://modernslaverypec.submit.com/). The form includes the questions below. Where word limits are specified, these are the maximum word limits, please note the form will cut you off at the word limit:

Research team information

1. Lead researcher name, email address, organisation and department/unit/team
2. Lead organisation address and administrative email address (the email address of whoever will administer the onboarding of the award if successful)
3. Co-lead names, organisations, email addresses
4. Partner organisations, contact names and email addresses

Basic project information

13. Project title
14. Project start date
15. Project end date
16. Total budget amount requested (at 100% full economic cost)

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[14] https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-safeguarding-in-international-development-research/
[15] https://www.livingwage.org.uk/

Project details

17. Project description (500 words), including its aims, objectives and research questions. This must be suitable for a general audience, so please ensure this is accessible to non-experts, and avoid acronyms or jargon where possible.
18. Project scope (400 words), giving a clear definition of the scope of the research, and justification for the intervention(s) chosen to assess. This should include any additional changes to the scope beyond those specified in the call documentation.
19. Methodology (800 words), a clear explanation and justification for the chosen approach, and methodology responding to the aims and objectives and essential elements outlined in this call.
20. Impact (300 words), describing how this project will produce insights and recommendations for practice and UK policy.
21. Outputs (300 words), listing the outputs that the project anticipates producing. This must include those outlined in this call document.
22. Timeline (300 words), a detailed timeline incorporating the milestones and deliverables outlined in the call document
23. Team experience (500 words), details and relevant experience of each team member or organisation involved in the delivery of the project, and a description of why they and/or their organisations are best placed to address the research question
24. Equitable partnerships (300 words), a description of how the project envisages equitable partnerships between the organisations collaborating on the project, including the processes or structures that will be in place to support this. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC expects all applicants to demonstrate their commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in their project proposals.

Risk management, ethics and safeguarding

25. Risk management (400 words), a list of the risks that might impact delivery of the project and how these will be managed and mitigated
26. Ethics (400 words), describe the approach and process for ensuring the research is ethical
27. Safeguarding (400 words), describe the approach and process for ensuring any people at risk who are involved with the research are appropriately safeguarded, including highlighting any particular risks of the project, and the referral pathways/protocols you will follow, going beyond standard University safeguarding procedures where appropriate

Budget

28. Budget. Please upload a budget table as an Excel file using the template provided. This should detail the costs of each organisation, ensuring a line is added for each item of expenditure (please do not give a block cost per organisation, the panel would like to see the items to be purchased at each organisation line by line). For more information on how projects should be costed please refer to the Funding Scenario Examples attached here, as well as to this call documentation.
29. Justification of resources (500 words), explain the reasons why each budget line is being requested. You do not need to justify Estates and Indirect costs.

Additional information

29. This is not a requirement of the call, but projects may submit bibliographies, letters of support, GANTT charts, visual evidence, risk registers or other complementary documentation. This will not be scored but will assist in project set up and timelines should the applications be successful.
30. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre is committed to supporting equality, diversity and inclusion across the work that we do and would like to understand the diversity of those who engage with us. As part of this we would be very grateful if you could complete this anonymous survey and share the link with all team members (including Co-Leads and project partners) for completion. The survey can be found here.

Assessment process

The independent assessment panel may contain a mixture of experts from within and outside of the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC including, academics, policy experts, sector experts and people with lived experience of modern slavery. With this in mind, applicants should make sure language is clear and that technical terms and acronyms are clearly explained.

The panel will score applications, using the UKRI grading system[16] against the following headings:

1. Relevance of project description and scope to the aims and objectives of this call, including the generation of new evidence.
2. Clarity of application, ensuring applications are accessible and easily understood by non-academic audiences (for example explaining all acronyms and technical language).
3. Research methodology, and why the chosen methodology is most appropriate for evaluation the effectiveness of the interventions identified.
4. Timeline, milestones and deliverables, including how the team will mitigate risks.
5. Knowledge and expertise of team and organisations involved and inclusion of a range of organisations including research and charitable organisations.
6. Alignment with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC's guiding principles for research:
   a. Demonstration of equitable partnerships between higher education/research organisation and third sector organisation.
   b. Effectiveness of the research project to meet the aims of this funding call.
   c. Appropriate consideration of the inclusion of people with lived experience.
7. Demonstration of the proposed coproduction methods between partners on the project, including approach to methods and mitigation of potential conflicts of interest during the assessment of the intervention.
8. The policy impact potential of the research project.
9. Appropriateness of ethics approach.
10. Appropriateness of safeguarding approach.

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[16] https://www.ukri.org/publications/ahrc-research-funding-guide/

11. Budget and justification of resources, including the distribution of funds and tasks between organisations.

Each panel member will, independently score the applications using the ten-point UKRI grading scale. Applications must score an average of 5 out of 10 (good) or higher for it to be assessed at the panel meeting. Projects with large discrepancies will be discussed at the panel meeting and the chair of the panel will decide on any disputes. Where appropriate, decisions will be moderated by an external panel.

Following the panel meeting, the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC reserves the right to ask suitable candidates to attend interview. This will be used if and where the panel identifies additional questions and clarifications are needed. The interview will compose of a short presentation, interviews from the panel and the opportunity for candidates to ask the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC any questions about the research. Assessments will be made against the same criteria as indicated above, with any additional criteria communicated to applicants ahead of the interviews.

Outcomes of the assessment process will be communicated by late December.

Call webinar

We will hold a webinar for prospective applicants on 15 October at 12.30pm. The webinar will provide applicants with the opportunity to hear more about the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC and its objectives, hear a verbal overview of the call for research, the application process and hear more information on how the successful bid team will collaborate with the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC during the research. Register for the webinar here.

We will publish a recording of the webinar on our YouTube channel. A Q&A from the session will be unrecorded, questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the funding call's page on the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC website.

Contacting the Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC

The Modern Slavery Modern Slavery and Human Rights PEC team can be contacted at office@modernslaverypec.org. Please allow two working days for a response.

If you would like to discuss partnerships with other researchers and practitioners, please sign up to our Google Group to get in touch with others in our network.