



# Call for applications for research funding

**Prevention of modern slavery: homelessness, poverty, identification of children and cultural competency**

February 2023

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# Call Overview

## About the Call

The aim of this call is to generate new evidence on how policies and practice can improve the prevention of modern slavery with regards to:

- Homelessness,
- Poverty and cost of living,
- Cultural competency, and
- Early identification of child trafficking.

Projects must generate new evidence to inform UK based laws and policies and they will be selected on a portfolio basis to ensure that this research covers a wide and varied range of themes and methods.

## Project budget

A maximum budget of £100,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for each of these projects. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund up to six projects across this portfolio of work.

## Project teams

The projects 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.

Project teams must demonstrate collaboration between the lead institution and a UK based third sector organisation. UK based third sector organisations can receive up to 50% of the total budget.

Teams must be made up of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) and one Co-Investigator (Co-I). A PI is someone who leads the research team, they will be based at the lead organisation and will have overall responsibility for ensuring the project completes on time and within budget, and they have reporting responsibilities to the Modern Slavery PEC. Co-Is are research team members (academic and non-academic) who collaborate with the PI to complete research, they may be based at a different organisation 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.

### Glossary – project roles

**Principal Investigator (PI)** – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

**Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I)** – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

**Partner/collaborator** – organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, which can be non-academic organisations

**Project Team** – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers and partnering or collaborating organisations who are working on the project

The 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.

The project team must consist of at least one academic or research organisation and one UK based third sector organisation to meet eligibility criteria.

## Key Dates

Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	28 February 2023
Call webinars	13 March 2023, 2pm (UK time) – cultural competencies and prevention and identification of children 14 March 2023, 11am (UK time) – homelessness and poverty
Call deadline	4pm (UK time) 6 April 2023
Decision to successful team	Late April/early May 2023
Project start	June 2023
Delivery of final outputs	November - December 2023

**Please note that, due to our current funding timelines, the Modern Slavery PEC will have very limited scope to extend projects beyond the end of December 2023. The assessment panel will consider feasibility of projects within this timeframe as part of their assessment.**

### Call Webinars

The Modern Slavery PEC will hold two webinars to discuss this funding call.

The first webinar will be held on 13 March 2023 at 2pm (UK time) and will cover the objectives of the cultural competencies and prevention and identification of children funding portion of the funding call.

The second will be held on the 14 March 2023 at 11am (UK time) and will cover the objectives of the homelessness and poverty and cost of living portion of the funding call.

You can sign up to both webinars via the call web page.

Following these webinars, a recording of it can be found on our [YouTube channel](#). The Q&A from the sessions 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 PEC website.

# Introduction

## About the Modern Slavery PEC

**The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (the Modern Slavery PEC, the Centre) 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.**

It is designed to provide independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery based on high quality research it commissions, aiming to have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

The Centre brings 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 PEC's approach is rooted in human rights.

Led by the [Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law](#) (part of the [British Institute of International and Comparative Law \(BIICL\)](#)) the Centre is a consortium of universities and Independent Research Organisations with a track record in world-class work on modern slavery. The Modern Slavery PEC is funded and actively supported by the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](#), with additional support from the [Economic and Social Sciences Research Council](#), on behalf of the [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI), from the Strategic Priorities Fund.

## Modern Slavery PEC: more than a funder

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 don't just fund research, we also 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 Policy and Evidence Centre prioritises the equitable inclusion of people of all backgrounds and experiences across all the work undertaken by the Centre. The Modern Slavery PEC strongly encourages 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 of the research that we fund to align with our guiding principles. We therefore expect all research that the Modern Slavery 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.

## Policy impact

Policy impact is central to the Modern Slavery PEC vision and the projects we fund and support. We work to enhance the effectiveness of modern slavery policies and laws through co-developing **relevant, timely, trustworthy and accessible research and evidence**. Research we commission aims to impact modern slavery policies and laws in a variety of ways, including after the project has been completed. The Centre's aims to impact policy in the following four ways<sup>1</sup>:

- **Instrumental impact:** Support and encourage policymakers to directly use evidence in policy decisions, policymaking, departmental ways of working, and to inform legislation.
- **Conceptual impact:** Support and encourage policymakers to increase their access to and understanding of relevant research in modern slavery policy and decision-making.
- **Capacity building:** Directly improve the skills and expertise of policymakers in accessing, understanding using evidence in decision-making, and those of researchers in creating policy-impactful research.
- **Relationship building:** Directly increase the number and quality of relationships and the level of trust between the Modern Slavery PEC and policymakers, and between policymakers and the wider modern slavery research sector.

Policy impact should be embedded and prioritised within research project objectives and processes. The Centre's policy impact team regularly engages with policymakers, lawmakers, businesses and practitioners to maximise the impact of funded research, and will support successful research teams to determine influencing opportunities and targets as well as facilitate and build relationships directly between research teams and those we are seeking to influence throughout the lifecycle of the project. In addition to meetings, we host events, roundtables and workshops to share learnings and increase understanding of modern slavery research and related topics, including to bring researchers and policymakers together.

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<sup>1</sup> These categories are drawn from Laura Meagher and David Edward's identification of five types of impact in ['A framework to evaluate the impacts of research on policy and practice.'](#)

## Background and context for this call

Prevention of modern slavery is complex, and relatively underdeveloped aspect of the response to modern slavery, with limited evidence of what effective prevention means in principle and practice. As such, prevention of modern slavery is a research priority within the Modern Slavery PEC, and is a key element of the UK's strategic approach to addressing modern slavery.

[Research funded by the Modern Slavery PEC](#), which reviewed existing evidence highlighted the need to consider prevention more broadly, including interventions before harms occur and the need to work with relevant partners to ensure solutions are equitable, built on trust, culturally competent and developed “with” as opposed to “for” individuals.<sup>2</sup> As such, this call seeks to develop new evidence to inform recommendations on what works in specific areas of prevention, with a focus on partnerships and inclusion of people with lived experience of modern slavery throughout.

Through this research portfolio, the Modern Slavery PEC aims to fund research to fill evidence gaps in four key areas within modern slavery prevention. The research projects will include:

- **Homelessness:** To generate evidence exploring linkages between modern slavery and homelessness, and examine specific datasets on homelessness to produce insights for policy makers
- **Poverty and cost of living:** To generate evidence on the relationship between poverty and modern slavery in the UK, and the laws and policies that can be designed/redesigned to better safeguard against modern slavery during periods of a rising cost of living.
- **Cultural competency:** To generate evidence of the value of cultural understanding and practice in improving equity and effectiveness in legal enforcement, support services and identification of people affected by modern slavery.
- **Prevention and identification of child trafficking:** To improve understanding of how children are identified as victims of modern slavery and what is effective in the UK to support the early identification of children at risk of modern slavery; prevention of the re-exploitation of children; and prevention of children going missing from care.

Existing evidence in the four areas above has demonstrated linkages with modern slavery. With this call we would like to build the evidence base around what works in prevention in these spaces. Considering the importance of collaboration in prevention, and the role of different actors in this space, we ask projects to consider ways to include partnership with third sector organisations within the sector, affected communities and experts with lived experience of modern slavery.

Research projects funded under this call should be conducted using a pre-existing and established analytical framework with which to understand and operationalise modern slavery, including, for example, indicators and/or risk factors. Applications may wish to narrow their scope by geographical area, risk factor, protected characteristics or other variables within each area of interest. A diversity of approaches to narrowing of scope is welcomed but must be fully justified within applications.

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

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<sup>2</sup> Such et al (2022) 'Prevention of adult sexual and labour exploitation in the UK: What does or could work?' Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre, <https://modernslaverypec.org/assets/downloads/Modern-Slavery-PEC-Prevention-Research-Summary-final.pdf>



## Key elements of the research

Requirements in relation to methodology for each of the four projects is specified in the pages below. Successful applicants should demonstrate the relevant methodology within their application.

**Methodology and research tools must be confirmed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC once the funding is awarded and before research commences.**

## Required outputs

**The successful applicant will deliver a full report as well as a Modern Slavery 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 PEC team so there should be ample time (c. six weeks) included in the proposed project timeline for the sharing of drafts to enable comments and feedback to be incorporated.

- The full report should be no more than 10,000 words (excluding references/annexes)
- The Research Summary should be no more than (2,500 words)
- Outputs will be requested for each of the projects, outlined below

The Modern Slavery 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 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 one: Cultural Competency

*When submitting an application, you can only apply for one project per application. You may only act as PI on one project, and you be included on a maximum of two applications.*

## Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

### Aim

Improve understanding of the value of cultural competency in improving equity and effectiveness in legal enforcement (both initial and ongoing engagement), the provision of services to, and identification of, potential victims and people with lived experience of modern slavery.

### Background

Practitioners have highlighted the importance of cultural competence, alongside a trauma-informed approach, in providing a more effective response to those who experience exploitation and trafficking.<sup>3</sup> Research into best practices in prevention of trafficking and modern slavery point to the value of cultural competence as a core principle for a holistic approach based on 'trust-building and culturally-safe interventions'.<sup>4</sup>

Other sectors, such as youth violence, have already evidenced the importance of cultural competency and community engagement to creating long-term strategic approaches.<sup>5</sup> In health services it has been suggested that cultural competency and safety should take a broader view than just training curriculums and must be embedded in practice, environments, systems, structures and policies.<sup>6</sup>

In the modern slavery sector, research funded and supported by the Modern Slavery PEC found that cultural competency is important to the long term outcomes of survivors.<sup>7</sup> Survivors who received bespoke, and culturally sensitive, support reported positive impacts on their recovery and helped to develop trust between individuals and support services.<sup>8</sup> This included charities led by those with ethnically congruent backgrounds, befriender programmes with volunteers from similar cultural heritage and mediators who spoke the same language as service users. Research has also found that cultural sensitivity is essential in ensuring mental wellbeing for survivors of modern slavery.<sup>9</sup>

Particular areas of interest include:

- How much can/do professionals improve engagement and delivery of services to individuals based on their cultural background?
- What adjustments are currently put in place to accommodate individuals' cultural background?

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<sup>3</sup> Saker, A. (2022) 'Practitioner Responses to Child Trafficking: Emerging Good Practice' Report produced by Cumberland Lodge, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

[https://www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/sites/default/files/practitioner\\_responses\\_to\\_child\\_trafficking\\_-\\_emerging\\_good\\_practice\\_screen.pdf](https://www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/sites/default/files/practitioner_responses_to_child_trafficking_-_emerging_good_practice_screen.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid 2

<sup>5</sup> For example, see <https://www.powerthefight.org.uk/about-us/>

<sup>6</sup> Curtis E, Jones R, Tipene-Leach D, et al. Why cultural safety rather than cultural competency is required to achieve health equity:

A literature review and recommended definition. Int J Equity Health. 2019;18(1):1-17. doi:10.1186/s12939-019-1082-3

<sup>7</sup> Sharli Paphitis, Sohail Jannesari, Rachel Witkin, Bee Damara, Jeanet Joseph, Olivia Triantafillou, Minh Dang, Emma Howarth, Cornelius Katona, Nicola Wright, Queenie Sit, Sian Oram, [The Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set, February 2023](#), and Dr Carole Murphy, Dr Alicia Heys, Dr Craig Barlow, Louise Gleich, Sophie Wilkinson [Identifying Pathways to Support British Victims of Modern Slavery towards Safety and Recovery: A Scoping Study](#), October 2022

<sup>8</sup> Ibid 2

<sup>9</sup> Egbe, A (2022) 'Survivors' mental wellness: our feelings, our minds, our world' Report produced by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office <https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/news-insights/launch-iasc-report-on-survivor-experiences-of-mental-health-support/>

- What are the cultural barriers for people with lived experience of modern slavery to engage with the necessary professionals and organisations? How can these be managed/mitigated?

The Modern Slavery PEC therefore want to fund research to identify barriers and gaps within cultural competency practice, and to identify examples of good practice.

## Scope

Research should include examination of both services and law enforcement's initial and ongoing engagement with survivors.

Teams must partner with one or more community led and/or engaged organisation.

## Objectives

Essential objectives:

- A. Develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and practitioners about how policies can prevent modern slavery and safeguard those vulnerable to it.
- B. Desk based review of existing evidence, including for other relevant policy areas such as public health, on the effectiveness of interventions to ensure that services are provided in a culturally safe manner, identifying the benefits and risks associated with efforts to ensure culturally competent practice.
- C. Mapping of existing provision, in order to establish barriers, gaps and to identify good practices and/or initiatives that improve cultural competence via training and/or guidance.
- D. Include the perspectives of stakeholders and those with lived experience of modern slavery on current approaches to culturally competent practice, including information given to improve survivor's understanding of statutory services.
- E. Produce evidence-based principles for culturally competent work, specific to modern slavery practice in the UK. These principles should include the perspectives of people with lived experience of modern slavery. Applicants may choose to focus on a specific exploitation type and/or community/communities to generate in-depth recommendations.

Desirable objectives:

- F. Exploration of attitudinal and/or behavioural change following cultural competency training using appropriate social science methods.

## Methodology

Projects should demonstrate the following in their methodology:

- Systematic approaches to desk-based reviews and mapping
- Case studies on best practice
- Inclusion of the perspectives of people with lived experience of modern slavery, as per objective D.

## Project two: Homelessness

*When submitting an application, you can only apply for one project per application. You may only act as PI on one project, and you be included on a maximum of two applications.*

### Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

#### Aim

To provide evidence on the linkages between modern slavery and homelessness and examine specific datasets on homelessness to produce insights for policymakers.

#### Background

The UK Government has obligations to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking in their recovery under the [Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) (“ECAT”) which includes standards of living capable of ensuring their subsistence, through such measures as secure accommodation. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK’s framework for identifying and supporting potential victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. Through this system, following a risk assessment, identified adult victims may be provided with Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract accommodation (a ‘safe house’), or alternatively they may be provided with accommodation through the asylum system or via Local Authorities.

Research by [The Passage](#) has indicated that ‘homeless people are at risk of being exploited when they are on the streets, and victims of modern slavery are at risk of becoming homeless if no long-term support is provided to them.’<sup>10</sup> Research led by [Crisis](#) found that many EU citizens experiencing homelessness in the UK also reported experience of exploitative work.<sup>11</sup>

The [Homelessness code of guidance for Local Authorities](#) in England recognises that ‘If a victim of modern slavery is threatened with homelessness or is homeless this significantly increases their risk to being re-trafficked or exposed to further exploitation’.

Existing Modern Slavery PEC-funded research has identified the importance of secure accommodation for adult survivors’ recovery and some issues around adults referred to the NRM not receiving appropriate accommodation.<sup>12</sup> The Modern Slavery PEC is therefore interested in improving understanding around the links between modern slavery and homelessness.

#### Scope

The scope of this research is on adults in the UK. Applicants may narrow the focus, to a particular cohort or region if they are able to justify the approach taken.

Homelessness and threatened with homelessness is defined in this project according to section 6 of the Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities<sup>13</sup>:

There are a number of different factors that determine whether a person is homeless. Under section 175, a person is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for their occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person is also homeless if they have accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or the accommodation is a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is nowhere it can lawfully be placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be

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<sup>10</sup> [The Passage, Understanding and Responding to Modern Slavery within the Homelessness Sector](#), January 2017

<sup>11</sup> [The scale, causes, and impacts of homelessness among EEA Citizens](#), November 2021

<sup>12</sup> Sharli Paphitis, Sohail Jannesari, Rachel Witkin, Bee Damara, Jeanet Joseph, Olivia Triantafillou, Minh Dang, Emma Howarth, Cornelius Katona, Nicola Wright, Queenie Sit, Sian Oram, [The Modern Slavery Core Outcome Set, February 2023](#), and Dr Carole Murphy, Dr Alicia Heys, Dr Craig Barlow, Louise Gleich, Sophie Wilkinson [Identifying Pathways to Support British Victims of Modern Slavery towards Safety and Recovery: A Scoping Study](#), October 2022

<sup>13</sup> [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities](#), updated 31 January 2023, Section 6

treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for them to continue to occupy that accommodation. Housing authorities should ask themselves whether the person is homeless at the date of making the decision on their application.

Under section 175(4), a person is 'threatened with homelessness' if they are likely to become homeless within 56 days. Under section 175(5), a person is also threatened with homelessness if a valid notice under section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 has been issued in respect of the only accommodation available for their occupation, and the notice will expire within 56 days. Section 195 provides that where applicants are threatened with homelessness and eligible for assistance, housing authorities must take reasonable steps to help prevent their homelessness.

## Objectives

### The objectives are to:

Essential objectives:

- A. Explore why adult survivors of modern slavery may be more at risk of homelessness and why adults who are homeless (or may become homeless) may be more at risk of modern slavery or re-trafficking and identify when these risks are heightened.
- B. Analyse available datasets (such as [H-CLIC](#), [CHAIN](#), [datasets identified in ONS evidence review](#)) to indicate the scale and trends of adult survivors of modern slavery who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing homelessness
- C. Explore the intersection between homelessness policy and NRM policy regimes and whether lived experiences and risk to modern slavery and homelessness differ pre/post referral and/or exit from the National Referral Mechanism. This could be through a desk-based analysis of the systems and/or from the perspective of people with lived experience of both systems.
- D. For A, B, and C explore patterns according to causal factors and/or personal characteristics (such as age, gender, nationality, exploitation type), while noting that the scope is limited to adults in the UK.
- E. Develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and practitioners about how policies, services and multi-agency collaborations can prevent and safeguard those at risk of modern slavery and homelessness.

### PLUS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

- F. Explore regional differences e.g. across devolved administrations.
- G. Consider the housing support available for those with recourse to public funds who "fall through the cracks" (e.g. those with lived experience of modern slavery but who have not been formally identified/chose not to enter the NRM) and explore the most effective ways to prevent this and the associated harms.
- H. Explore barriers to accessing specialised accommodation for people with lived experience, or those who are at risk of modern slavery. In particular exploring if this is different for different groups (e.g. by nationality or type of exploitation).

## Methods

Projects should demonstrate the following in their methodology:

- Desk based literature review.
- Data analysis, method to be agreed with the Modern Slavery PEC.
- Consultation with people with lived experience of modern slavery and relevant NGOs.

## Projects three and four: Poverty and cost of living

*When submitting an application, you can only apply for one project per application. You may only act as PI on one project, and you be included on a maximum of two applications.*

### Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

#### Aim

Explore the relationship between poverty and modern slavery in the UK, and the laws and policies that can be designed/redesigned to better safeguard against modern slavery during periods of a rising cost of living.

#### Background

Research has identified a link between modern slavery and poverty, but it is often referenced in the international context, with a greater focus on developing countries<sup>14</sup>. UK based organisations such as the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#), and Government bodies such as the House of Commons and the Office for National Statistics have developed a significant body of literature and research on poverty in the UK, including about the impacts of increases in the cost of living since 2021/2022 (commonly referred to as 'the cost of living crisis').<sup>15</sup> The Modern Slavery PEC wishes to fund projects to draw on wider research to explore how poverty relates to and interacts with an individual's vulnerability to modern slavery in the UK.

Modern slavery has been notably absent from most literature exploring the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on communities in the UK. There is a large focus on the rising price of food, fuel, and energy and how this impacts the spending habits and decision-making of various groups. And there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the cost-of-living crisis is exacerbating existing poverty in the UK by negatively impacting low-income households to a greater extent.<sup>16</sup> Research is needed to that draws on this and explore how a rising cost of living may be impacting the vulnerabilities of poorer communities and households in the UK to modern slavery. Evidence on these linkages could also contribute to better prevention and safeguarding policies to protect those most vulnerable in the UK against modern slavery.

#### Scope

The scope is limited to the role of poverty and rising cost of living, and modern slavery in the UK. For project 1, applicants may wish to limit their scope by region, community, exploitation type or by risk factor, such as food poverty. For project 2, applicants may wish to limit their scope to a certain sector. Limitations to scope should be fully justified within applications.

#### Objectives

*Applicants may respond to either project 1 or 2, we intend to fund one team for each project.*

#### **Project 1: Assess how and in what ways living in poverty in the UK affects an individual's susceptibility to modern slavery.**

Essential objectives:

- A. Explore the ways in which poverty is a vulnerability factor to modern slavery, including how food and fuel poverty specifically link to an individual's susceptibility to modern slavery.
- B. Assess which characteristics, communities, and geographical areas of the UK are more likely to experience increased susceptibility to modern slavery in the UK as a result of changing levels of poverty.

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<sup>14</sup> Ashley Russell (2018) Human Trafficking: A Research Synthesis on Human-Trafficking Literature in Academic Journals from 2000–2014, *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4:2, 114-136, DOI: [10.1080/23322705.2017.1292377](https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2017.1292377)

<sup>15</sup> Harari et al (2023) 'Rising Cost of Living in the UK' House of Commons Research Briefing: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://modernslaverypec.org/latest/cost-of-living-vulnerable-modern-slavery>

- C. Explore how poverty interacts with other factors that may increase susceptibility to modern slavery (e.g. the role of disability, gender, age, immigration status).
- D. Generate recommendations for the UK Government with regard to effective laws and policies that can be implemented to prevent and safeguard those in poverty against modern slavery. This should include:
  - a. An assessment of whether current policies designed to support and protect those experiencing poverty are effective in safeguarding against modern slavery.
  - b. Examples of community based good practice to safeguard and protect those experiencing poverty across regions of the UK against modern slavery, including the role of local partnerships.

OR

**Project 2: Assess how and in what ways rising costs affect business operations and labour standards in the formal and/or informal economies**

Essential objectives

- A. Assess the impact of rising energy and raw material costs on business operations and working conditions in specific industries in the UK where modern slavery is a higher risk (e.g. health and social care, agriculture, construction sectors).
- B. Explore the ways in which these impacts on business operations and working conditions influence workers' susceptibility to modern slavery.
- C. Generate recommendations for the UK Government with regard to effective laws and policies that can be implemented to prevent and safeguard against modern slavery when the cost of living is rising. This should include:
  - a. An assessment of how effective existing Government policies and initiatives designed to support individuals during the cost of living crisis are in safeguarding against modern slavery.
  - b. Evidence based recommendations for good business regulation and legal enforcement measures to safeguard against the risk of modern slavery when the cost of living is rising.
  - c. Evidence based recommendations for good business practice when the costs of energy and/or raw materials are rising in specific industries with a high modern slavery risk.

Methodology

Project 1:

- Literature review, including grey literature.
- Desk-based assessment of UK policies and laws to support and protect those in poverty.
- Community engagement in an area/s experiencing higher levels of poverty in the UK. This could be through interviews, surveys or focus groups with local authorities, community groups and/or antislavery partnerships.
- Engagement with survivors of modern slavery to explore the linkages between poverty and different protected characteristics in relation to outcomes.

Project 2:

- Literature review, including grey literature.
- Desk-based research to identify industries with a high modern slavery risk in the UK.
- Interviews and/or focus groups with (1) survivors of modern slavery who have experienced exploitation in identified high-risk industries and (2) businesses and/or industry associations.

# Projects five and six: Effective approaches in the prevention and early identification of child trafficking and modern slavery

*When submitting an application, you can only apply for one project per application. You may only act as PI on one project, and you be included on a maximum of two applications.*

## Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

### Aim

To improve understanding of how children are identified as victims of modern slavery or trafficking and what is effective in the UK to support the early identification of children at risk of modern slavery or trafficking; prevent the (re) exploitation of children; and prevent missing episodes.

### Background

Modern Slavery PEC funded research has highlighted missed opportunities in the identification of adults and children who have experienced modern slavery.<sup>17</sup> Research is currently underway to improve our understanding of how to appropriately identify adult survivors of modern slavery<sup>18</sup>, but how to improve the identification of children remains a gap. Research into what [works or what could work in the prevention of adult sexual and labour exploitation in the UK](#) found that prevention is an important but relatively underdeveloped aspect of the response to modern slavery, with limited evidence on what prevention means in principle and in practice. Interventions designed to support children were out of the scope of this research.

In her annual report for 2021 the then IASC expressed her concern about the safeguarding response to children who have experienced exploitation and that despite welcoming attempts to improve the strategic response to extra-familial harm via the DfE funded [Tackling Child Exploitation Programme](#) (TCE) that “multiple challenges remain”.<sup>19</sup> As the then IASC report on the Practitioner Responses to Child Trafficking indicated, this was in line with the 2019 Children’s Commissioner’s report in which it indicated had highlighted “significant local level failings to identify children earlier who were at risk of exploitation, including monitoring young people’s links to drug dealing networks”.<sup>20</sup> The IASC Practitioner Responses to Child Trafficking report detailed that “A reason behind such a failure is the struggle of professionals to keep up with the scale and evolving context of CCE”.<sup>21</sup>

The Youth Endowment Fund’s 2021 ‘Evidence and Gap Map report’ identified a noticeable lack of evidence regarding interventions which aim to prevent child criminal exploitation, including contextual safeguarding approaches.<sup>22</sup> In 2022 the Children’s Commissioner examined the public health response to youth violence, indicating that “the research suggests that few Local Authorities were using public health infrastructure effectively to address the issue of gang-involvement and youth violence and bring intervention upstream to prevent future harm”.<sup>23</sup> In 2022 the TCE produced draft Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm, based on consultations with professionals, children, young people and families, and undertaking a rapid scoping review of the relevant research.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Dr Carole Murphy, Dr Alicia Heys, Dr Craig Barlow, Louise Gleich, Sophie Wilkinson [Identifying Pathways to Support British Victims of Modern Slavery towards Safety and Recovery: A Scoping Study](#), October 2022

<sup>18</sup> <https://modernslaverypec.org/research-projects/identification-of-adults>

<sup>19</sup> [IASC Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

<sup>20</sup> [IASC and Cumberland Lodge, Practitioner Responses to Child Trafficking: Emerging Good Practice, 2022](#)

<sup>21</sup> [IASC and Cumberland Lodge, Practitioner Responses to Child Trafficking: Emerging Good Practice, 2022](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Youth Endowment Fund, Evidence and Gap Map of Interventions to Prevent Children Getting Involved in Violence, January 2021](#) p.23

<sup>23</sup> [Children’s Commissioner, Still not safe: The public health response to youth violence, February 2021](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Tackling Child Exploitation, Practice Principles for responding to child exploitation and extra-familial harm, 5 October 2022](#)



A Rights Lab report commissioned by IASC report to better understand the current evidence base in relation to re-trafficking 'confirms that the evidence base relating to occurrences of re-trafficking – and how to effectively prevent it – is severely limited.'<sup>25</sup>

See [Annex 1](#) for further background information.

## Scope

The scope is limited to the situation of children and young adults (up to 25) in the UK who have experienced or are at risk of modern slavery, including child criminal exploitation such as county lines. Initiatives that are designed to identify and prevent exploitation of children can be in scope if applicants can demonstrate how they will generate evidence focused on prevention of child trafficking and slavery.

## Objectives

**This call intends to fund two complementary projects which will employ distinct methodologies to meet the following objectives:**

Essential objectives:

- A. Assess interventions and multi-agency collaborations to support the early identification of children at risk of trafficking and modern slavery in the UK and assess interventions and multi-agency collaborations to prevent the exploitation and re-exploitation of children and young adults (up to 25), including missing incidents in the UK. Consider how these can be assessed in terms of their effectiveness, equity and degree of inclusion of people with lived experience
- B. Establish how children are identified as victims of trafficking and modern slavery in the UK and by which agency (i.e. by health/police/social care actors) or other actors (e.g. schools). Assess how this affects the identification and protection response and is integrated in the safeguarding approach. Explore whether certain profiles are less likely to be identified and why.
- C. For A and B, explore interventions and patterns according to personal characteristics (age, gender, nationality, exploitation type) and location (projects specifically comparing UK jurisdictions would be welcome)
- D. Develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and practitioners about how policies services and collaborations can support the prevention and identification of child trafficking and modern slavery in children.

## Methodology

This call intends to fund two complementary projects which will employ distinct methodologies, one utilising methodology 1, the other utilising methodology 2. This is in recognition of the specific skill sets needed to complete each strand of the methodology, and the timebound nature of this funding call. The Modern Slavery PEC aims to bring the two projects together as a cohort to share findings and learnings throughout their research.

Projects may collect data to address the above objectives by EITHER:

1. conducting a desk-based evidence review and survey(s), e.g. for practitioners, service providers and/or policy makers (not including children and young people)
- OR
2. through qualitative participatory research methods.

We welcome applications that propose to work alongside and/or recruit people with lived experience of child exploitation, if the appropriate ethical and safeguarding considerations are made.

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<sup>25</sup> [University of Nottingham and IASC, Re-trafficking: The current state of play, November 2021](#)

## 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.

### **Phase 2: Research**

The Modern Slavery 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 PEC at an early stage to enable early discussions of possible policy recommendations. The Modern Slavery 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 PEC will work together with the research team to support the development of written 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 PEC are required to produce, at a minimum, a full research report (max 10,000 words) and a co-produced Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary (max 2,500 words). The Modern Slavery PEC will seek to facilitate appropriate 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 PEC. This will include a post-project survey for all research team members and interviews with the Centre's Monitoring & Evaluation Manager 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 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 update on any outcomes.

<b>Milestones and timeline</b>	
<b>Application process</b>	
<b>Action/Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Call announcement	February 2023
Call webinar	13 March 2023, 2pm (UK time) – cultural competencies and identification of children  14 March 2023, 11am (UK time) – homelessness and poverty
Call deadline	4pm (UK time) 6 April 2023
Decision to successful team	Late April/Early May 2023
Project start	June 2023
<b>Project milestones and deliverables</b>	
<b>Action/Activity</b>	
<b>Deadline</b>	
<b>Phase 1: Project set up</b>	
Final workplan, methodology, ethics and research tools provided to the Modern Slavery PEC by project team	June 2023
<b>Phase 2: Research</b>	
Regular catch-ups with the Modern Slavery PEC (see ways of working with the Modern Slavery PEC)	Every 4 weeks
Presentation of interim findings	To be agreed alongside the revised workplan
<b>Phase 3: End of project</b>	
Completion of research activities	October 2023
Delivery of full draft of project report	October/November 2023
Delivery of the Research Summary in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC	November 2023
Collaboration with Modern Slavery PEC to finalise project report and other outputs	November 2023
Delivery of final outputs and policy impact activities with the Modern Slavery PEC	December 2023
Monitoring and evaluation activities	Early 2024
Annual Researchfish updates for five years post project-completion	

## Additional information for applicants

### Ways of working with the PEC

Collaboration and co-operation are key values for the Modern Slavery 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 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 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.

### 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 PEC, whilst the summary briefing will be branded as a Modern Slavery PEC output (for [example](#)). Both the successful applicant and the Modern Slavery PEC will be free to use the final report as they wish after the end date of the project subject to the agreed contract (see our [sample 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. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund up to six projects for this work.

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 sector organisations may partner on this call. They can apply for up to 50% of the project's budget, they will be funded at 100% FEC (for every £1 spent, they receive £1 of funding, meaning the Modern Slavery PEC cover 100% of the full economic cost of their work on the project).
- International organisations are not eligible partners under this funding call.
- Subcontractors are eligible under this funding call, this is 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 in the stage two proposal and will be subject to the assessment panel.<sup>8</sup>
- The combined UK registered charity and third sector costs can account for 50% of the total budget of the project, for example in a £100,000 project, UK charities can receive £50,000 total (this might be to one charity, or split between several charities). This £50,000 will be paid by the Centre at 100% FEC.
- We would expect budgets to be signed off at the time of application by your organisations research office or (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.

Costings must be prepared in line with UKRI funding guidelines<sup>9</sup> 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-Investigators (co-lead researchers) are involved in a maximum of two application submission within this call (and may only appear as a PI once). There is no limit to the number of applications eligible organisations can submit, and the restrictions only apply to individuals within those organisations.

### What we want to see in your budget

- 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](mailto:office@modernslaverypec.org) to check first
- 2) In the Excel budget template, you must create a new line for each type of expenditure. For example:

Travel	Train ticket for PI (workshop 1)	£50
	Hotel for PI (workshop 1)	£75
	Train ticket for Co-I (workshop 2)	£50
	Hotel for Co-1 (workshop 2)	£75

We *do not* want to see block budgets, e.g. "Charity 1, £10k" we need to see costs broken down into the actual items of expenditure to be brought

## Eligible Costs

We will fund costs which are in line with AHRC's policies<sup>26</sup>, with the following exceptions:

- All staff costs, including academic time, must be costed as Directly Incurred (DI) due to the profiling of the award. We unfortunately cannot pay Directly Allocated (DA) Investigator costs but support the inclusion of PI/Co-I time as a DI cost.
- Any costs for travel must be realistic under the current circumstances 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 PEC will cover the costs for the design of the research summary and the full report (in the Modern Slavery 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 3 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 2 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 design outputs should align with the evidence-generating objectives of the Modern Slavery 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 can include overheads, up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget they have applied for.

## Working with people with lived experience

### Glossary – lived experience of modern slavery

**Lived experience:** at the Modern Slavery PEC, we define lived experience of modern slavery as those who have experienced modern slavery directly. We also use the terms lived experience and survivor interchangeably.

Applicants may wish to use terms interchangeably and may propose different definitions and terminology around lived experience and are encouraged to set out their choices and reasoning for this in their application.

[Read more about lived experience inclusion.](#)

As per our guiding principles, the Modern Slavery 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'.<sup>27</sup> 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

<sup>26</sup> <https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/> (from page 52)

<sup>27</sup> <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.<sup>28</sup>

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 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 £10.90 (outside of London) or £11.95 (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.<sup>29</sup>
- 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.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-safeguarding-in-international-development-research/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

## 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. – 4. Lead researcher name, email address, organisation and department/unit/team
5. – 6. Lead organisation address and administrative email address (the email address of whoever will administer the onboarding of the award if successful)
7. – 9. Co-investigator names, organisations, email addresses
10. – 12. Partner organisations, contact names and email addresses

### Basic project information

13. Research topic being addressed: homelessness, poverty and cost of living, cultural competencies, identification of children
14. Project title
15. Project start date
16. Project end date
17. Total requested (at 100% full economic cost)

### Project details

18. 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.
19. Project scope (300 words), giving a clear definition of the scope of the research, including any additional changes to the scope beyond those specified in the call documentation.
20. 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.
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 and to undertake the proposed methodology.
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 PEC expects all applicants to demonstrate their commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in their project proposals. We expect this to include all partners to input into methodological design and outputs, where appropriate.

### 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, 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

30. 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.
31. 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-Investigators and project partners) for completion. The survey can be found [here](#).

## Assessment process

The assessment panel is expected to contain a mixture of experts including Modern Slavery PEC staff, academics, policymakers, industry 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 AHRC grading system<sup>30</sup> 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. Methodology, and how it relates to the aims and objectives of the call
4. Timeline, milestones and deliverables, including how the team will mitigate risks and the feasibility of the timeframes within the funding timeframes.
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 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. Appropriateness of ethics approach
8. Appropriateness of safeguarding approach
9. Budget and justification of resources, including the distribution of funds and tasks between organisations

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<sup>30</sup> <https://ahrc.ukri.org/peerreview/peer-review-handbook/the-review-process/grading-scale/>

All applications will be reviewed by an assessment panel convened by the Modern Slavery PEC that will include external independent reviewers. Each panel member will, independently score the applications using the six-point AHRC grading scale. Applications must score an average of 4 out of 6 (very good) or higher from two introducers 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. Outcomes of the assessment process will be communicated by late April/early May.

## Call webinar

The Modern Slavery PEC will hold two webinars to discuss this funding call.

The first webinar will be held on 13 March 2023 at 2pm (UK time) and will cover the objectives of the cultural competencies and prevention and identification of children funding portion of the funding call.

The second will be held on the 14 March 2023 at 11am (UK time) and will cover the objectives of the homelessness and poverty and cost of living portion of the funding call.

You can sign up to both webinars via the call web page.

These webinars will provide applicants with the opportunity to hear more about the Modern Slavery 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 PEC during the research.

We will publish a recording of the webinars on our [YouTube channel](#). Q&As from the sessions 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 PEC website.

## Contacting the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery PEC team can be contacted at [office@modernslaverypec.org](mailto: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.

## Annex 1

### Further context for prevention and identification of child trafficking

In the UK, children identified as potential victims by First Responder organisations are referred to the NRM, but Local Authorities retain the legal duty to safeguard these children, regardless of their nationality or immigration status.<sup>31</sup> If modern slavery is suspected, or a child is perceived as being at risk of becoming a victim, child protection procedures must be adhered to, as included in the 2018 Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance.<sup>32</sup> This sets out the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements that Local Authorities, chief officers of police, and clinical commissioning groups must follow. The Home Office funds the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship scheme to support children which has been rolled out in two thirds of Local Authorities in England and Wales. In June 2021 the Home Office published an e-learning module on Child Victims of Modern Slavery for First Responders and safeguarding partners.<sup>33</sup> The UK Government is piloting a local, multi-agency approach to identifying child victims, in recognition of the need to better bring together NRM/modern slavery processes into local safeguarding structures.<sup>34</sup>

The Government publishes high level statistics on the number of children referred to the NRM each year, including by First Responder organisation and exploitation type. In 2021, 5,468 children were referred as potential victims of modern slavery in the UK, an increase of 9% on 2020. Child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation in 2021 (49%; 2,689) with 2,053 county lines referrals flagged, a 23% increase from 2020.<sup>35</sup> County lines referrals accounted for 16% of all referrals received in 2021, with the majority (76%; 1,551) of referrals for male children.<sup>36</sup> Where children are victims of county lines activity, they will also be victims of Child Criminal Exploitation<sup>37</sup> (CCE) and possibly also Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE<sup>38</sup>). They may also be a victim of modern slavery. ONS noted it is highly likely that modern slavery statistics mask its true prevalence.<sup>39</sup> There are significant discrepancies, for instance, between the number of children referred into the NRM, and the number of children in need who are assessed by local authorities as potentially experiencing CSE and CCE. In England in the year ending March 2022, local authorities recorded that trafficking was a factor in the cases of 2,470 individuals, that CCE was a factor for 10,140 (or 2% of episodes with assessment factor information) and that CSE was a factor in the cases of 16,330 individuals.<sup>40</sup> In contrast, only 876 children were referred into the NRM for

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<sup>31</sup> [Home Office, Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales \(under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015\) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland v3, 2023](#)

<sup>32</sup> [HM Government, Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, 2018](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Modern Slavery and Organisation Immigration Crime, Child Victims of Modern Slavery Training Programme, June 2021](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Home Office, Devolving child decision-making pilot programme: general guidance](#)

<sup>35</sup> [ONS, Child victims of modern slavery in the UK: March 2022](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary 2021](#)

<sup>37</sup> There is no Statutory Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation. The Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance indicates that CCE includes a number of types of exploitation, including county lines cases and *'Child Criminal Exploitation is common in county lines and occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.'*

[Home Office, Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales \(under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015\) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland v3, 2023](#)

<sup>38</sup> Department of Education (2017) Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners

Available at: [Child sexual exploitation: definition and guide for practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

*'Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.'*

<sup>39</sup> [ONS, Child victims of modern slavery in the UK: March 2022](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Children in Need Statistics](#) in England, Data table C3

CSE that year in England.<sup>41</sup> While one potential source of this discrepancy may be how CCE and CSE are defined and responded to by various responsible bodies, the statutory guidance on NRM referrals and the children in need assessments use identical definitions for both types of exploitation.<sup>42,43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> [Home Office, Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, Quarter 1 2022 – January to March: data tables](#) Statistics in England, excluding referrals made under the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police.

<sup>42</sup> [HM Government, Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, 2018](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Home Office, Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales \(under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015\) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland v3, 2023](#)