



IT HAPPENS HERE

Equipping the United Kingdom to fight modern slavery

THE CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL
JUSTICE

Executive summary

This is the Executive Summary of *It Happens Here: Equipping the United Kingdom to fight modern slavery*. To download the full report and complete list of recommendations, visit www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk.

I. Modern slavery: the gravest injustice

'It ought to concern every person, because it is a debasement of our common humanity. It ought to concern every community, because it tears at our social fabric. It ought to concern every business, because it distorts markets. It ought to concern every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime. I'm talking about the injustice, the outrage, of human trafficking, which must be called by its true name – modern slavery.'

President Barack Obama, September 2012¹

The Centre for Social Justice fights for people trapped in social breakdown and poverty. We seek to understand the root causes of deprivation and promote transformative solutions. This report exposes the shocking plight of those who are trapped in modern slavery in the UK. The national response to this problem is currently inadequate to the task of eliminating it. Our review seeks to breathe new life into the fight against modern slavery. It proposes a revitalisation of every aspect of our country's approach, including by:

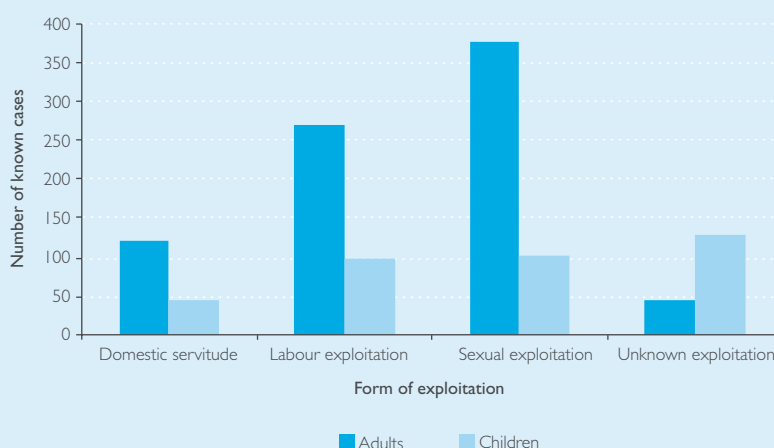
- Injecting new and effective leadership to match the seriousness of the crime;
- Developing better information about the extent and pattern of modern slavery in the UK in order to bring clarity and transform our national and local responses;
- Equipping those on the frontline to recognise modern slavery and act;
- Offering more compassionate and radical support to rebuild the lives of survivors;
- Ensuring that the business community plays its part to stamp out this crime, including by ensuring transparency in their global supply chains.

¹ Speech by President of the United States, Barack Obama, Remarks by the President to the Clinton Global Initiative, 25 September 2012

2. Modern slavery in the UK

Modern slavery exists in the UK and destroys lives. It manifests in an appallingly wide range of forms. Adults and children – UK nationals and those from abroad – are exploited in the sex industry, through forced labour, domestic servitude in the home, and forced criminal activity. The CSJ has gathered evidence on numerous cases of exploitation in factories, fields, construction sites, brothels and houses.² Our research shows that a large proportion of cases are never recognised or reported, and do not appear in any statistics or measures of the size of the problem. There is no consistent grip on the numbers; agencies charged with such responsibility are groping in the dark for a sense of scale. The figures used below reflect the small number of cases known about, but are a pale reflection of the true size of the problem.

Figure 1: Adults and children in modern slavery in the UK 2012



Jess and Hannah

Jess and Hannah, two UK-born school children, met a small group of young men who began to flatter and treat them, and convince the girls that they were in love. Before long, the girls began to be pressured and forced into performing sexual acts on the young men and their older friends. One weekend the girls were driven to a flat and told that they must have sex with whoever arrived at the property. Jess was menstruating, and so was forced to sit outside the room. Hannah had no option and, over the weekend, was raped by 90 men. Both of these girls were victims of modern slavery within the UK.³

² In all case studies used in this report all names have been changed.

³ Case study submitted by Mike Hand, former Tactical Adviser on child trafficking cases at the UK Human Trafficking Centre, in evidence to the CSJ, November 2012.

Mary

Mary was born and grew up in Nigeria. After her mother's death, Mary was forced to move to the country's capital in order to make some money. It was there that she met Tony. He told her he could offer her a good job in England. Tony organised her plane ticket, and they both left for the UK. Hours after her arrival, Mary was taken to what appeared to be a house. It was actually a brothel. She was then forced, under threat, to have sex with men who paid money to Tony. Before Mary even realised she had been deceived, she was trapped. For many months she was locked in her room and forced to have sex with as many men as Tony dictated – often up to ten or 12 men a day – and she was never allowed to say 'no'. After some time Mary fell pregnant. When Tony found out he was furious; he attacked Mary and tried to abort her baby by force. These attempts were not successful. One evening after this ordeal, Tony and his friends had a party at the brothel. Mary took her chance to escape and, with the men too drunk to notice, fled the property.⁴

2.1 Definition

The CSJ uses the term modern slavery to include all definitions below.

Modern slavery

Human trafficking

1. Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons;
2. By means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person; (where a child is involved, the above means are irrelevant)
3. For the purposes of exploitation, which shall include (*non-exhaustive*):
 - a. Prostitution;
 - b. Other sexual exploitation;
 - c. Forced labour;
 - d. Slavery (or similar);
 - e. Servitude etc.;
 - f. Removal of organs.

Slavery

The status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised (129 Convention; approved in defining Art 4 ECHR: *Siladin v France* (ECHR, 2005)).

Servitude

An obligation to provide one's services that is imposed by the use of coercion, and is to be linked with the concept of 'slavery' described above (*Siladin v France*, ECHR (2005)).

Forced labour

All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily.

⁴ Case study submitted by the William Wilberforce Trust, in evidence to the CSJ, March 2012

3. Filling the leadership vacuum

There is an urgent need to improve the strategic leadership in the UK to combat modern slavery; there is nobody who is leading the fight. Responsibility in government lies with the Minister for Immigration. This is wrong. Modern slavery is first and foremost a crime and not an immigration issue. **We recommend that the remit for human trafficking and modern slavery be transferred from the Minister for Immigration to the Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice** to reflect the serious criminality of this issue and undo the harmful perception that modern slavery is primarily an immigration problem.

3.1 Consistency, accountability and coordination: the Anti-Slavery Commissioner

To bring effective leadership in the UK **the CSJ recommends that the Government establish an Anti-Slavery Commissioner** to oversee and impact the UK's response to the problem. The Anti-Slavery Commissioner should be free from political influence and able to draw in key agencies and organisations to gather information. Crucially, it would offer consistency in the UK's approach, which currently fluctuates and stalls with changes in government and officials. It would be the single point of contact for the modern slavery agenda and would independently drive improvements in strategy, awareness, training and information gathering. The Commissioner should promote the views of those who have been trafficked into and within the UK, in order that the experiences of victims and survivors help shape policy. **This role should thus be modelled on the position of the Children's Commissioner** which is statutorily obliged to give voice to the interests of children in the UK. The Anti-Slavery Commissioner should do the same, shaping a political and national response that is proportionate, unwavering and effective. Further, the Anti-Slavery Commissioner should not be a political appointment. It should be able to launch inquiries and publish its findings without regard to the political implications.

64 per cent of people we polled would support the appointment of one person with sole responsibility to oversee efforts to combat modern slavery in the UK.⁵

The Anti-Slavery Commissioner should:

- Keep the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking accountable, helping to coordinate department activity across government;
- Launch independent inquiries (with or without the permission of Secretaries of State) and require independent inspections, such as requesting that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary inspect a particular police force's ability to respond to human trafficking and modern slavery;

⁵ CSJ/YouGov polling, November 2012

- Coordinate the gathering of national information, particularly ensuring that data from outside of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is captured, and present an annual report of findings to Parliament;
- Ensure transparency amongst the voluntary sector and identify and ameliorate tensions that may be hindering coordination, including funding competition and communication barriers;
- Give voice to victims of modern slavery, within government and statutory agencies such as the police, to ensure their interests are met.

3.2 From Parliament, for practitioners: a new Modern Slavery Act

‘Human trafficking for non-sexual exploitation is the only immigration crime that has a victim.’

Pam Bowen, Crown Prosecution Service, in evidence to the CSJ

Legislation relating to human trafficking and modern slavery currently lies under three different Acts.⁶ Confusion caused by this separation is compounded by the fact that offences of human trafficking for non-sexual exploitation fall under immigration law.

This separation is unhelpful, and creates unnecessary confusion for those whose job it is to implement the legislation. It also perpetuates the misunderstanding of modern slavery as primarily an immigration – not a criminal – problem. This holds our country back.

The CSJ recommends that the Government passes the Modern Slavery Act. This Act should include:

- All human trafficking and slavery offences, in order to symbolically reflect the criminality of human trafficking for any form of exploitation and to highlight that modern slavery is not tolerated in British society;
- Provisions for ensuring that victims of human trafficking are not prosecuted for crimes they may have committed as a direct consequence of their trafficking situation;
- Provisions for the obligation to identify victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, and investigate the circumstances of their victimisation;
- The outlined role of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner, including its authority to conduct unannounced visits and launch independent investigations with or without the permission of Secretaries of State, and its obligation to promote awareness of the interests of victims of modern slavery.

⁶ Section 57, 58, 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 criminalise trafficking into, within and out of the UK for sexual exploitation, section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 criminalises human trafficking into, within and out of the UK for non-sexual exploitation and section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 criminalises holding a person in slavery or servitude or requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour

4. Lifting the fog: clear data and useful information

It is vital that better information is collected about the extent and locality of modern slavery in the UK. The nature of modern slavery is such that details about its levels and extent are very hard to gauge. The NRM is currently a gateway to some support services for victims who choose to make a referral. It is also the system through which the NRM Competent Authorities – the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) or the UK Border Agency (UKBA) – decide on whether someone has been a victim of trafficking. However the CSJ believes there is untapped potential in the NRM, and that a much more detailed picture of modern slavery can be built up by adapting it. We recommend that the Government should:

4.1 Introduce a two-tier NRM

This will help information about modern slavery to be effectively captured. An anonymous 'first-tier' referral would be designed to receive information on cases of modern slavery whether or not a victim consents to a named referral. A 'second-tier' referral would be for those who wish formally to access support through the NRM and would be a named referral, as per the current format.

4.2 Strip the UK Border Agency of its Competent Authority status

This will ensure that the first decision made about a victim of modern slavery is not related to their immigration status, but is a welfare decision based solely on their need for support. They are victims first. Too often the CSJ has been told that UKBA involvement in the NRM process acts as a major barrier to victims to make a referral. This further damages the UK's grasp on the scale of the problem, since many will choose not to be referred. The fact that any potential victim is required to make their welfare case to the very agency that may at the same time be considering their immigration status is a denial of the right to have an independent decision concerning whether they have been trafficked. A single Competent Authority making decisions on whether a person has been trafficked into exploitation, regardless of their immigration status, will ensure that the UK's response is victim-centred and compassionate. It will also improve engagement with the NRM, helping the UK to build a clearer picture.

5. Frontline professionals are ill-equipped to recognise modern slavery

'It is widespread and is in all communities – people don't know what's right in front of them, or how to spot the signs.'

Assistant Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney, ACPO lead on Migration and Associated Matters, in evidence to the CSJ

It is crucial that frontline agencies are equipped with the training, skills and knowledge to identify the indicators of modern slavery, giving the person the best possible chance of freedom.

5.1 Lack of awareness

The CSJ has been shocked at the low awareness among professionals and has seen that many are not equipped to fulfil their responsibility. We have encountered unacceptable levels of ignorance and misidentification of victims among the police, social services, the UKBA, the judicial system and others whose responsibility is to identify victims and ensure they are protected. This is a grave hindrance to the UK's response to the victims hidden within its communities and the traffickers who seek to exploit them.

Social workers across the country are not equipped to identify cases of modern slavery. The CSJ recommends that **trainee social workers should be taught about the risks of child trafficking in the UK as part of their qualification, and existing social workers should be trained effectively through an agreed programme.** This training should form part of a social worker's continued professional development.

'One girl escaped from a brothel and went to a police station to tell them that she had been trafficked. She had no passport. Under these confusing circumstances, we chose to arrest her for being an illegal immigrant.'

Deputy Chief Constable, in evidence to the CSJ

'In any room of 30 to 40 social workers across the 70 local authorities we have trained, when asked if anyone knows what the NRM is no more than one or two will raise their hand.'

Children's charity, in evidence to the CSJ

An appalling outcome of such failure on the frontline is the fact that numerous victims of modern slavery are being prosecuted for offences they have committed as a result of being trafficked. This may include immigration offences or, in cases where people – often minors – are trafficked into the UK to work in one of the thousands of British cannabis farms, drugs offences. This is a distressing miscarriage of justice: more must be done to ensure that vulnerable victims of modern slavery are not criminalised. **The CSJ recommends that under the Modern Slavery Act provisions should be made for ensuring that victims of modern slavery are not prosecuted for crimes they committed as a direct consequence of their trafficking situation.**

5.2 British children in modern slavery are not being found

In 2011, 42 per cent of the UK citizens who were trafficked were girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.⁷

The CSJ has been just as disturbed by evidence of British children being trafficked within the UK for sexual exploitation. We have also been alarmed to learn that many of these children are viewed as being complicit in their exploitation. This is absurd and unacceptable. Elements of control in these cases can be subtle and difficult to identify. They frequently take the form of sexual or other forms of violence, physical or emotional abuse, threats of violence towards family members or threats of public shaming – perhaps by the publication of humiliating photographs of the abuse that has taken place. In the midst of such abuse, one perpetrator may play ‘good cop’, thus becoming the victim’s main controller through a misplaced loyalty or the semblance of a relationship. This often means that the victim is beholden to the perpetrator’s demands, however abusive, demeaning or illegal. It is crucial that practitioners are able to identify and respond to this horrendous abuse which makes children a commodity.

‘The controls I have seen exerted on British children who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation are virtually the same as those I see on adult victims who are trafficked to the UK from abroad for sexual exploitation.’

Mike Hand, Former Tactical Adviser at the UKHTC, in evidence to the CSJ

It is also essential that the laws on human trafficking in the UK are recognised as relevant in cases such as these. The CSJ has heard of a damaging lack of leadership on tackling this crime, and recommends that **police should be more widely trained on the relevance of human trafficking offences in addressing the internal trafficking of British children.**

5.3 New direction for law enforcement

‘Human trafficking is not a performance indicator for police. Until it is, there is more incentive to investigate a shed burglar...than there is a human trafficker.’

Anonymous former law enforcement officer, in evidence to the CSJ

⁷ UKHTC, *A Baseline Assessment on the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking in 2011*, Birmingham: Serious Organised Crime Agency, August 2011, p4

Whilst the review has found some impressive examples of work by local police forces, it has also revealed that in many areas police are unaware of the issue, or treat it as a low strategic priority. We are convinced that the recently elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) present a valuable opportunity to ensure that modern slavery is kept on the agenda. Though modern slavery may not yet be of pressing public concern, PCCs are required to ensure that issues of a national and international nature are not left behind at the local level.

Police in some areas do not take ownership of investigations into modern slavery. Smaller area units often shy away from cases due to a lack of awareness of the evidence needed and the sometimes international and often complex nature of the crime. Until it is made clear to forces exactly who has primacy in investigating cases of human trafficking and modern slavery, investigations are at risk of stalling. A simple and clear protocol for each force, **underpinned by a national strategy**, will enable forces to bring a consistent and effective approach to investigations into modern slavery, and support victims through the NRM. The Government has stated that each police force has identified a responsible senior police officer for human trafficking – a Single Point of Contact (SPOC).⁸ However, in our research we have found that only half of the 33 forces which responded were able to give any information about their SPOC.⁹ This must be urgently rectified: **every force should have an identified SPOC**. This role must be embedded and must not be lost when an individual moves on.

6. Rebuilding the lives of survivors

‘These are some of the most faceless, voiceless, helpless people that we have in the country.’

Chief Superintendent John Sutherland, Metropolitan Police, in evidence to the CSJ

6.1 A strategy for adult survivors

Once victims are identified it is vital that they are provided with specialist aftercare support. Survivors need help to recover from their experiences and to ensure that they do not fall back into exploitation. Whilst some support services exist, there is a pressing need to rethink the approach to reintegration and resettlement for survivors of modern slavery. **Standardised and long-term provision to enable survivors to rebuild their lives must be developed across the country, and outcomes must be better measured.** This will tackle the ‘postcode lottery’ that currently exists and ensure that survivors are given the support they need to move forward. Similarly, survivors who return to their home country are in dire need of better support in order to be protected from re-trafficking. Shamefully there is no guaranteed assistance for those from outside the EU who are returning home through the UKBA returns programme. There is

⁸ Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, *First annual report of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking*, London: Home Office, October 2012, p51

⁹ Results of CSJ Freedom of Information request, August 2012

no returns assistance at all for EU nationals who wish to go home. The CSJ recommends that **all trafficked victims from outside of the EU are offered assistance through a return and reintegration scheme when returning home. A return and reintegration scheme should also be developed for EU nationals who have been trafficked and want to return home.**

The CSJ also recommends that **the Anti-Slavery Commissioner should work with Government to ring-fence international assistance with conditions for countries which are persistently top source countries for victims of modern slavery in the UK.** Ring-fencing international financial assistance to ensure that a portion of funds are used to reintegrate survivors of modern slavery who are returning home will mark a key development in the UK's recognition of the international nature of this human rights abuse. If failure persists, further action should be taken to restrict or sanction international aid to these countries.

6.2 Rebuilding the future for children

The CSJ has been outraged to hear of the number of trafficked children who go missing from local authority care. This is a national scandal. Much more must be done to make sure that these children are kept safe.

'If they're still with you in two weeks then you've achieved something.'

Children's Services Manager, in evidence to the CSJ

It is estimated that 60 per cent of trafficked children in local authority care go missing.¹⁰ Between 1 April and 31 August 2011, for example, 25 potentially trafficked children went missing from care in one local authority alone – five children per month in that time.¹¹ Trafficked children who go missing are highly likely to be returning to exploitation: the CSJ has heard how they are often so terrified and 'brainwashed' by their trafficker that they will leave at the first possible opportunity and return to their abuser. In one case described to the CSJ, a boy who had been trafficked into the UK disappeared on a visit to the dentist: he had climbed out of the window in a desperate attempt to return to his abuser.¹²

A serious problem voiced to the CSJ by those from children's services, the police and NGOs is the complete lack of appropriate accommodation for children who have been trafficked. This contributes significantly to the shocking number of children who have gone missing.

The CSJ has identified excellent practice in the Barnardo's Safe Accommodation Project, which uses trained and specialist foster carers to look after children who have been trafficked. **The CSJ recommends that this model be duplicated in the UK, and that more specialist foster placements are made available.**

¹⁰ House of Commons, Home Affairs Committee (2009) *The Trade in Human Beings: Human Trafficking in the UK*, Sixth Report of Session 2008–09, Volume 1, London: House of Commons

¹¹ The Guardian, *Children lost from care in human trafficking cases, says Council*, 19 October 2011

¹² Anonymous child safeguarding practitioner, in evidence to the CSJ

Secure accommodation, for the most serious cases, can go some way to ensuring the safety of a trafficked child in the first instance. In some cases where absconding or re-trafficking are a serious risk, a welfare placement in a secure children's home may be in the best interests of the child whilst a long-term protection plan is formulated. The CSJ has heard that empty beds are common in secure children's homes which are solely for welfare placements, and are not for young offenders. However many social workers still view these homes as punitive. This unhelpful perception must be dispelled, and **secure accommodation should be more widely considered as an option for keeping a child victim of modern slavery safe in the immediate and short term.**

"The misguided perception is I am 'denying a child their freedom', rather than 'I am keeping a child safe'."

Keith Smith, Chair of Secure Accommodation Network, in evidence to the CSJ

Trafficked children in secure accommodation

Two Vietnamese children were placed in a secure children's home after being arrested under drugs charges. This secure home was for young offenders, and was not a welfare placement. In time it transpired that both children had been trafficked. Though they were safe in the secure home, they were immediately removed and placed in a children's home. Within days they had disappeared.¹³ Though this example involves a secure home for young offenders, the principle remains that whilst the children were in the secure home, they did not go missing.

The CSJ has heard that once a placement has been found for a child, therapeutic services are distinctly lacking and difficult to find. Specialist foster carers told the CSJ of their exasperation at the lack of available and appropriate support for a trafficked child. One foster carer spoke of taking it upon herself to chase up appointments and find a counsellor. In this case, the foster carer eventually decided to pay for a private counsellor for the child in her care with her own money rather than wait any longer. **The availability of quality therapeutic care tailored to the needs of trafficked children must become a priority. It must be improved.**

'I'll phone them up and chase them. Meanwhile, she's getting worse trying to deal with things in her head that she can't sort out.'

Foster carer, in evidence to the CSJ

¹³ Case study submitted by Keith Smith, Vinney Green secure children's home, June 2012

'It is absolutely critical that we recognise and respond to the need for ongoing support and that we get it right so we do not fail yet another generation.'

Sheila Taylor, Director, National Working Group for Sexually Exploited Children, in evidence to the CSJ

7. The role for business

The CSJ has worked with politicians and charities to draft and promote the **Transparency in UK Company Supply Chains (Eradication of Slavery) Bill** (the TISC Bill) which requires companies with annual worldwide gross receipts exceeding £100m to engage positively and safely with the anti-slavery agenda without fear of reprisal. The TISC Bill simply requires these companies:

- to make annual statements of measures taken by them to eradicate slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and the worst forms of child labour from their supply chains;
- to provide customers and investors with information about measures taken by them to eliminate slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and the worst forms of child labour;
- and to provide victims of slavery with necessary protections and rights.

82 per cent of people we polled would support the Government requiring large companies to report on the efforts they are making to ensure modern slavery is not in their supply chains.¹⁴

We recommend that the TISC Bill be enacted by Parliament because it is good for: victims of modern slavery; consumers and investors who wish to make responsible and informed decisions; and responsible businesses who want to promote their actions. This Bill is modelled on successful legislation passed in the state of California, where companies such as Walmart and ExxonMobil have engaged with this new transparency agenda.

The CSJ understands that the Government is concerned about over-regulating the private sector. However, if there is one basic reason for overseeing business activity it must be to ensure that supply chains are free from modern slavery. The CSJ suggests that the concepts in the TISC Bill could be included as part of wide-ranging deregulation reforms should this be more politically agreeable, with only the most pressing and serious areas overseen through legislation. This legislation encourages self-regulation of businesses, and would not demand any direct government involvement.

¹⁴ CSJ/YouGov polling, November 2012

Noble Foods

In 2012, workers from Lithuania were kept in appalling conditions in and subject to 'a climate of fear', threats and violence whilst working to provide eggs to some of the UK's most prominent retailers and restaurants.¹⁵ Noble Foods, which supplies eggs to companies including McDonald's, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Marks and Spencer, used a licensed labour provider to supply workers to catch chickens on sites all over the UK. This labour provider subjected migrant workers to debt bondage, giving them no option to leave the squalid house in which they were forced to live and sleep.

*'When they were brought back to their accommodation in Kent at weekends, they reported living 15 men to a small house in damp, squalid conditions. Mattresses on the floor were infested with bed bugs and fleas.'*¹⁶

The firm's exploitation of the workers was 'so extreme' that the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) ordered the firm to stop supplying workers immediately.¹⁷ Two individuals were arrested for human trafficking offences and reportedly perpetrated 'one of the worst cases of exploitation the GLA has ever uncovered in the food supply chain.'¹⁸

The reality of modern slavery in the UK is stark and shocking. It must be exposed and ruthlessly challenged. Our review makes over 80 recommendations to equip the nation to fight this shameful crime and restore hope to its victims.

For a list of all recommendations, see p215 in the full report.

The report can be downloaded at www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk.

¹⁵ Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Press Release, *Kent-based gangmaster stopped from trading for serious exploitation of workers*, 30 October 2012 [accessed via: <http://gla.defra.gov.uk/PageFiles/1373/Revocation%20press%20release%2030-10-12f.pdf> (09/01/13)]

¹⁶ The Guardian, *Workers who collected Freedom Food chickens 'were trafficked and beaten'*, 29 October 2012

¹⁷ Gangmasters Licensing Authority, Press Release, *Kent-based gangmaster stopped from trading for serious exploitation of workers*, 30 October 2012 [accessed via: <http://gla.defra.gov.uk/PageFiles/1373/Revocation%20press%20release%2030-10-12f.pdf> (09/01/13)]

¹⁸ Ibid

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About the Centre for Social Justice

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) aims to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

Our policy development is rooted in the wisdom of those working to tackle Britain's deepest social problems and the experience of those whose lives have been affected by poverty. Our Working Groups are non-partisan, comprising prominent academics, practitioners and policy makers who have expertise in the relevant fields. We consult nationally and internationally, especially with charities and social enterprises, who are the champions of the welfare society.

In addition to policy development, the CSJ has built an alliance of poverty fighting organisations that reverse social breakdown and transform communities.

We believe that the surest way the Government can reverse social breakdown and poverty is to enable such individuals, communities and voluntary groups to help themselves.

The CSJ was founded by Iain Duncan Smith in 2004, as the fulfilment of a promise made to Janice Dobbie, whose son had recently died from a drug overdose just after he was released from prison.

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