

Submitting a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for child victims of Modern Slavery and Exploitation

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM?

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the framework for identifying and referring victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. The Single Competent Authority (SCA) administers it, which is part of the Home Office. Currently, Camden and Islington are partnered on a Pilot to devolve decision making to local multi-agency partners. Each month, the panel assesses NRM's and makes a decision on whether the child is a victim of Modern Slavery. This is overseen by the Home Office.

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

As a 'First Responder', you have a statutory duty to refer all child victims of modern slavery to the NRM. There is a full list of [organisations](#) who are 'First Responders'. If you have 'a reasonable cause to believe that you may have encountered a victim of Modern Slavery' then you must notify the Home Office. All safeguarding duties must continue, and the safety of the child is paramount.

In the child's professional meeting, it is important that as a network, you consider the referral to the NRM. From the point of the decision, you have **10 working days** to submit a referral. *N.B. Not all parties need to agree to submit a referral*

HOW DO I NOTIFY THE HOME OFFICE?

All referrals must be submitted online. This should be used for **ALL** children (under 18).

[Report modern slavery - GOV.UK](#)

NB. When you receive the form from the Home Office, you will only have 24hr to input the referral, so it is useful to have all the information you need before you start.

INDEPENDENT CHILD TRAFFICKING GUARDIANSHIP (ICTGS)

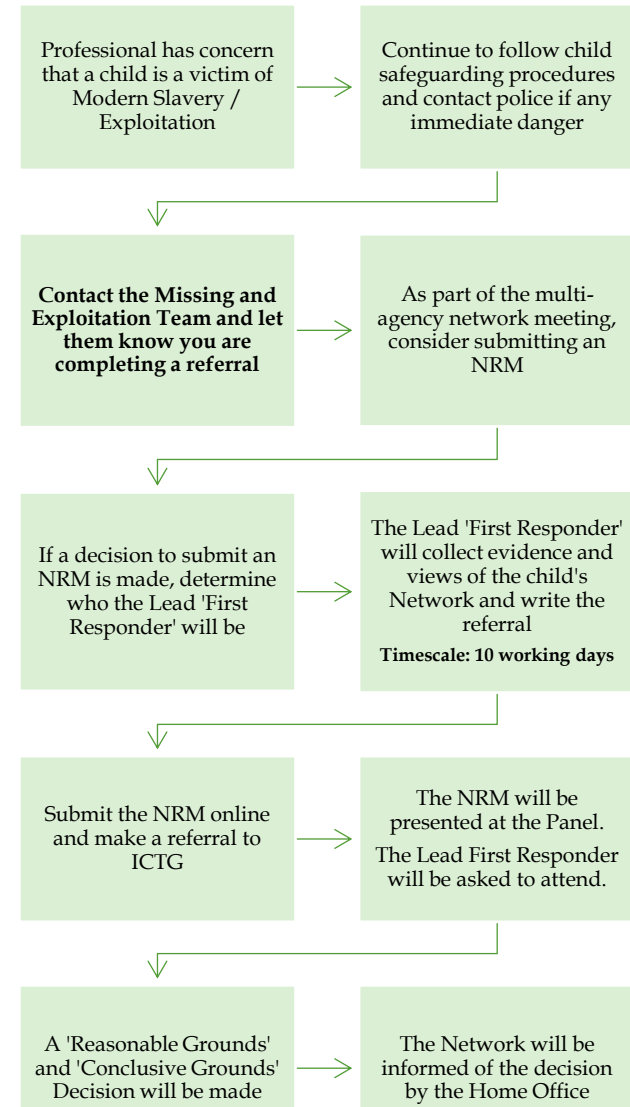
When referring to the NRM, all children **MUST** be referred to the ICTG service. This is in the Modern Day Slavery legislation.

[ICTG service referral form | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

Child victims do not have to consent to be referred into the NRM. If the child is turning 18, within 100 days of the NRM, **please contact the Missing and Exploitation Team.**



PROCESS FOR REFERRAL



WHAT DO YOU INCLUDE IN AN NRM?

It is essential to include as much information as is possible to support child's NRM. When determining what content to include on the form, it is recommended to include:

1. Complete all child's and lead professional contact details, ensure these are accurate
2. Detail the child's ethnicity and care status
3. Use the child's initials throughout the form
4. State the type of Modern Slavery/ Exploitation
5. Chronology of exploitation including incidents/ arrests (Summarise only relevant matters)
6. Provide evidence for indicators that have been identified including the type of exploitation
7. Provide any other relevant information that may be important such as living or working conditions, behaviour, appearance, demeanor and include information on patterns of missing or movement (in and out of Borough/County)
8. Detail any known intelligence about potential perpetrators, exploiters, other victims, addresses or locations
9. Record any actions taken including referral to other agencies, any multi-agency strategy meetings that have taken place, which professionals are involved with the child and their views
10. Note any immediate concerns regarding the potential victim's health, psychological well-being or safety
11. Voice of the child/caregivers

TEMPLATES ARE AVAILABLE BELOW TO SEND TO THE CHILD'S PROFESSIONAL NETWORK TO GATHER MORE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE NRM.

WHY IS AN NRM IMPORTANT?

The NRM process encourages a joint multi-agency working approach between a variety of agencies. Through this process a more rounded view of the evidence will be collected. This will not only assist in the referrals made but will assist in the overall protection and safeguarding response for the child. **This will ensure the child's needs are addressed and mitigating factors are considered such as the risk of the child going missing.**

Potential victims of modern slavery may be suspected or accused of committing criminal offences. **Section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 provides for a statutory defense for adult and child victims who have been forced, threatened, or deceived into committing certain crimes by their exploiters.** This provision is intended to strengthen prosecutorial discretion as to whether it is in the public interest to prosecute an individual in these circumstances and prevent victims of slavery from being punished for crimes they were forced to commit, such as being forced, threatened, or deceived into producing or selling illegal drugs.

In addition, where necessary the competent authority will assist in regularising a child's immigration status if they require immigration leave to stay in the UK. **If the child (when they turn 18) wishes to return to their country of origin, certain services may also be available such as Assisted Voluntary Return which provides support, advice, and guidance to help them with their return and reintegration.**

SEE ANNEX A OF THE HOME OFFICE'S [MODERN SLAVERY: STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.](#)

TYPES OF MODERN SLAVERY

Human trafficking - For a person to have been a victim of human trafficking there must have been:

- Action (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, which can include either domestic or cross-border movement)
- Purpose of exploitation (e.g. sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, removal of organs)

Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour - For a person to have been a victim of slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour there must have been:

- Means (being held, either physically or through threat of penalty - e.g. threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability. **However, there does not need to be a means used for children as they are not able to give informed consent**)
- Service (an individual provides a service for benefit, eg begging, sexual services, manual labour, domestic service)
- Forced or compulsory labour may be present in trafficking cases. However, not every person who is exploited through forced labour has been trafficked

Child Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism – Information Request

For the Lead First Responder to gather evidence for the NRM, we suggest you complete the following form:

Information Request	
NRM Reference	
First Responder	
Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Referral	
Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Ethnicity	
Legal Status	
Family Composition	
Professional Network/Agencies Involved	
Education Information	
Health Information	
Chronology of exploitation including incidents/arrests	
Details of vulnerabilities/Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and historical exploitation.	
Summary of arrests/Police Reports (date of incident and reference number only)	
Indicators of exploitation	
Suspected Exploiter(s)	
Location of suspected exploitation	
Additional information to support NRM Referral	

Child Modern Slavery National Referral Mechanism – Additional Information Request

For partner agencies, when gathering evidence for the NRM, we suggest you send the following form:

Information Request	
NRM Reference	
First Responder	
Name of Child	
Date of Birth	
Nationality	
Ethnicity	
Professional Network/Agencies Involved	
Additional information to support NRM Referral	