

Underground Lives



The Reality of Modern Slavery in London in 2017

March 2018

Hestia has been supporting victims of modern slavery in London since 2011. In November 2017 we published the first ever report to reveal the true face of modern slavery in the capital. This paper provides an update on the key data.

What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery is a serious crime in which people are coerced or deceived into a situation where they are exploited, for the purpose of making a profit. The offence is punishable up to life imprisonment under the 2015 Modern Slavery Act.

The Underground Story of London

According to the Metropolitan Police's Anti-Slavery Unit, the number of suspected victims of modern slavery rose to 1,715 in 2017. This represented a 70% increase compared to 2016.

In 2017, Hestia supported 870 adult victims of modern slavery and 315 dependent children. Of our adult clients, 78% were women and 22% were men. Data published by the National Crime Agency for 2017 show that across the UK, 52% of victims were men and 48% women. The difference may be because London is a hub for trafficking for sexual exploitation, which disproportionately affects women.



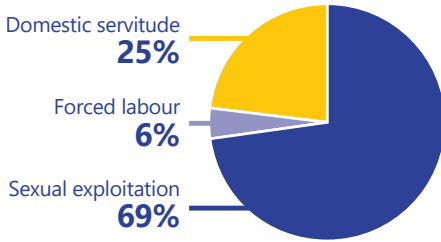
Borough breakdown by gender and form of exploitation

	Domestic Servitude	Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labour	Domestic Servitude	Sexual Exploitation	Forced Labour	Total
Bark & Dag	6	29	0	0	1	8	44
Barnet	4	9	0	0	1	5	19
Bexley	4	3	2	0	0	3	12
Brent	8	14	0	0	2	7	31
Bromley	2	6	0	0	0	0	8
Camden	3	3	1	1	1	3	12
Croydon	12	52	2	0	3	3	72
Ealing	5	18	4	1	0	8	36
Enfield	6	27	3	0	0	2	38
Greenwich	6	19	0	0	2	10	37
Hackney	5	11	1	1	0	6	24
H&F	4	4	2	0	0	3	13
Haringey	3	20	3	0	0	7	33
Harrow	3	2	0	1	1	0	7
Havering	3	7	0	0	0	1	11
Hillingdon	9	26	2	0	0	15	52
Hounslow	4	11	2	0	0	4	21
Islington	3	8	1	0	0	0	12
K&C	12	3	3	0	0	1	19
Kingston	1	3	0	0	0	1	5
Lambeth	3	7	4	0	1	3	18
Lewisham	9	30	1	1	3	6	50
Merton	2	8	0	0	0	1	11
Newham	18	25	3	2	0	6	54
Redbridge	9	26	1	1	0	11	48
Richmond	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Southwark	6	44	6	1	2	5	64
Sutton	1	4	0	0	0	0	5
Tower Hamlets	3	6	0	1	1	4	15
Waltham Forest	7	17	0	0	1	4	29
Wandsworth	0	3	0	0	0	1	4
Westminster	6	10	0	1	2	2	21
Homeless	1	2	0	0	1	19	23

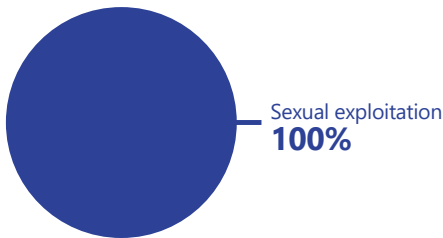
Includes 4 transgender

Includes 1 transgender

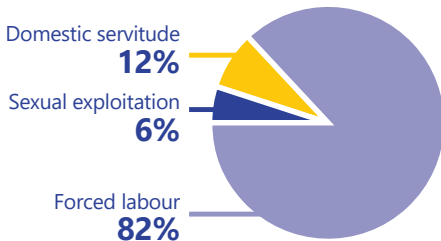
Women



Transgender



Men



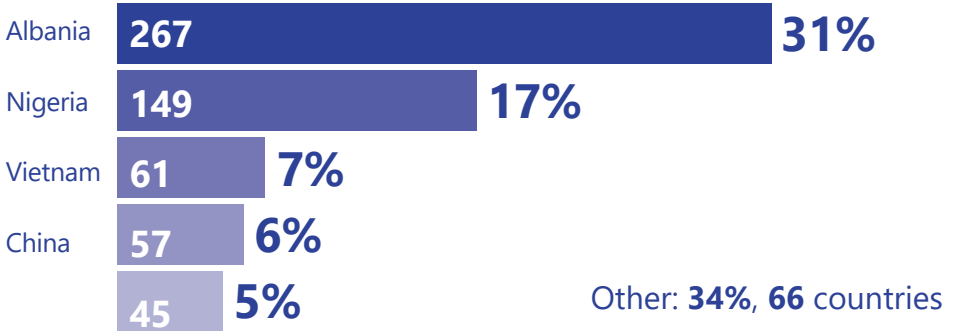
National Referral Mechanism

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the process by which the Home Office decides if someone is legally defined as a survivor of modern slavery. The aim is to make a Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision within 45 days. In practice, CG decisions take considerably longer. Until a decision is reached, victims cannot begin their real journey to recovery and integration. In 2017, the longest it took for a CG decision to be reached for an individual in our service was 1361 days. The average wait was 303 days.

Out of all the people Hestia supported in its modern slavery service in 2017, **50% received a positive conclusive grounds decision and were legally defined as a survivor of modern slavery.** This is significantly higher than the national average figures of 36% positive CGs, last published in 2016 by the National Crime Agency. Hestia's team ensures that victims have suitable legal representation, are prepared for interviews and are given support in gathering all relevant information for the Home Office.

Country of origin

In 2017, Hestia supported victims from 71 countries.



If you need advice

Call The Salvation Army's confidential Referral Helpline on 0300 3038151. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for anyone who considers they might be a victim of modern slavery and in need of assistance or if you come into contact with someone you suspect may be a victim of modern slavery and in need of assistance.

About Hestia

At Hestia, we support adults and children across London in times of crisis. Last year we worked with more than 9,000 people, including victims of modern slavery, women and children who have experienced domestic abuse, young care leavers and older people. Hestia is the main organisation in London supporting victims of modern slavery.

For more information

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