

IASC Research Priorities¹

IMPROVING VICTIM CARE AND SUPPORT

Understanding victim and survivor experiences and longer-term outcomes. How can survivor experiences best be captured? How can outcomes be measured (quantitatively and qualitatively) and what does a positive outcome look like?

Understanding what makes people vulnerable to trafficking and re-trafficking to inform prevention efforts and build resilience at a structural level and among vulnerable communities.

Identifying support needs of child victims of trafficking including during transition into adulthood. Understanding the scale and nature of child trafficking in the UK and effective models of intervention such as contextual safeguarding.

Focusing on primary prevention as per a public health approach to determine vulnerability factors at a population level. Exploring a public health approach to modern slavery.

Developing an evidence base for the benefits of access to work and the harms of not working for victim and survivor outcomes, agency and sustainable independence.

Researching the scale and nature of domestic servitude in the UK, and how challenges linked to identification and a lack of awareness impacts the response to this exploitation type.

Researching the impact of digital poverty for victims and survivors in the NRM and evaluating efforts to provide practical support such as digital access and literacy within the NRM.

SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTIONS

Understanding barriers to prosecution. Why has an increase in operational activity by the police not translated into successful prosecutions using the Modern Slavery Act 2015? How can victim engagement in the criminal justice process be improved and what can be learned from rape and sexual assault and domestic abuse offences?

¹ Published July 2021. These have been developed by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and are subject to change.

Researching the key challenges undermining effective financial investigation of modern slavery crimes and ability to seize assets. How do we ensure modern slavery is seen as a priority for financial investigators? How can we move towards greater levels of victim reparations?

Developing understanding of the transitions from a victim of exploitation to offender (and vice versa). Where are the indicators and intervention points? What forms of exploitation is this most prevalent in and why? Can contextual safeguarding and interventions prevent this?

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Exploring consumer attitudes and their impact on businesses. Does increased public awareness of modern slavery lead to behavioural change of consumers and does the purchasing power of consumers influence businesses to change procurement and manufacturing practices?

Understanding links between low or non-compliance with labour regulations, and labour exploitation. Are low levels of compliance or non-compliance evidence of non-compliance in other areas? How can we establish a baseline of evidence for this?

What does success look like in the detection of trafficking in supply chains? What best practice exists in terms of business efforts to examine and understand their supply chains and to mitigate trafficking and exploitation risks?

How effective is leadership in reorienting the business practices and expectations of suppliers and investors towards a focus on sustainability which values people and planet, as well as profit?

GETTING VALUE FROM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Understanding the impact of research on modern slavery on policy and practice, including research and practice by academics and practitioners. Identifying good practice in the translation of research which improves policy and outcomes, as well as preventing exploitation.

Adopting a what works approach to monitoring, evaluating and informing modern slavery policy and practice, with a focus on synthesising and translating evidence into effective policy.

Building the evidence base on modern slavery, including understanding differing approaches to assess prevalence of modern slavery in the UK to support policy and practice which is underpinned by accurate data.

Exploring the use of data analytics to provide insight on a variety of trafficking-related issues such as identifying illicit financial flows and other suspicious activity resulting from human trafficking.

Scoping out opportunities to conduct systematic reviews, gap maps and evaluations of survivor interventions, criminal justice responses and prevention efforts. Synthesising cost-benefit analyses related to modern slavery support and interventions.

INTERNATIONAL

Assessing and evaluating the impact of immigration policy on modern slavery and vulnerability, including the points-based system and other immigration routes such as Domestic Worker Visas.

Evaluating returns and reintegration programmes, developing and sharing best practice, and understanding what works through longitudinal analyses.

Supporting evaluation of programming work focused on prevention to understand what is and is not effective, including UK government programmes and projects and campaigns led by NGOs and charities.

Exploring the links between human trafficking and related socio-economic and humanitarian issues such as climate change and migration.