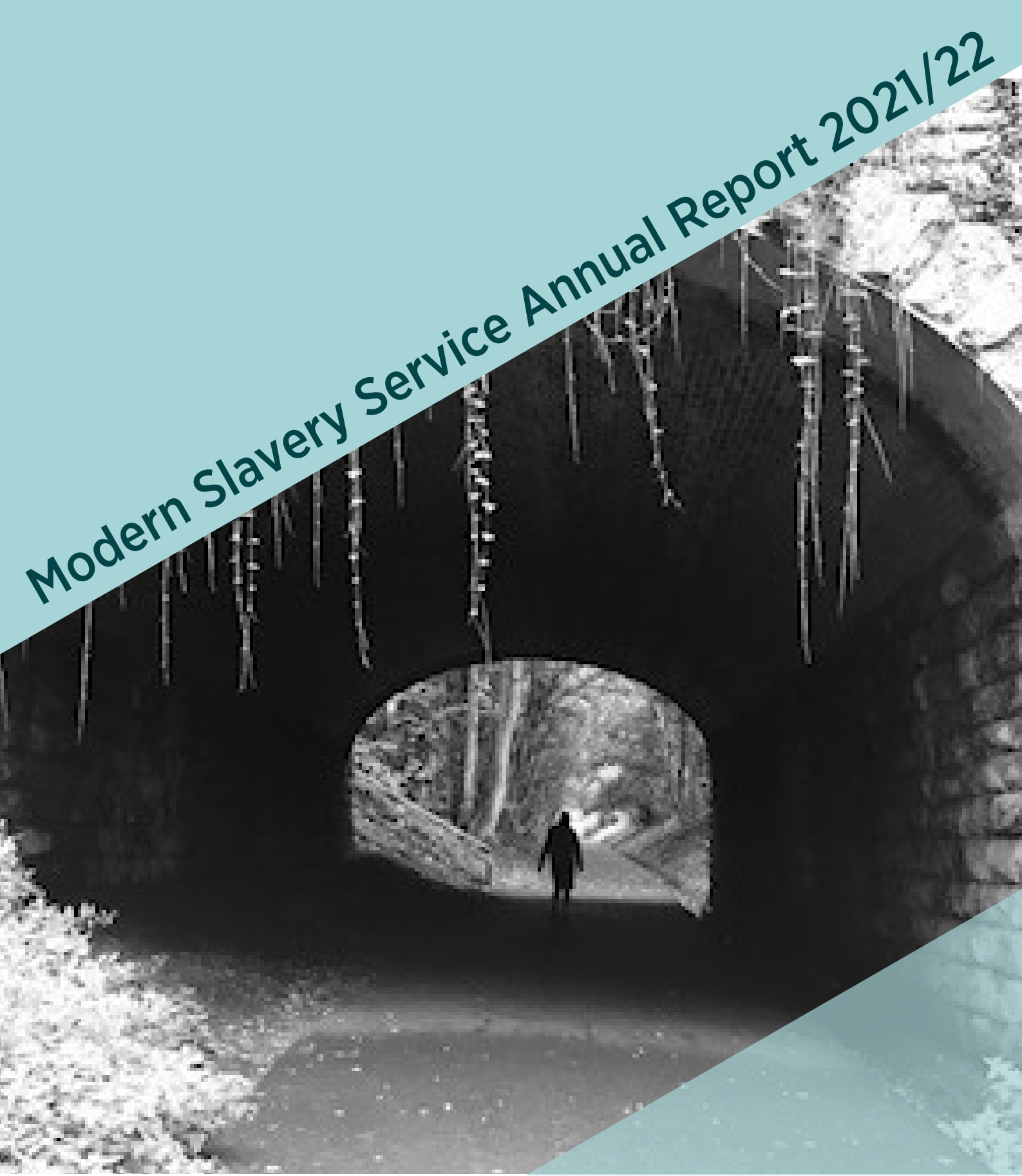




THE PASSAGE
to ending homelessness



Modern Slavery Service Annual Report 2021/22

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From April 2021 to March 2022...

43

people were supported by The Passage Modern Slavery Service, up from 34 in the previous year (26% increase).

27 males

15 females

1 transgender female

3 British nationals, up from 1 in the previous year

18 European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, down from 20 in the previous year

22 Rest of the World (ROW) nationals, up from 13 in the previous year

The predominant form of exploitation was forced labour/labour exploitation.

31

people were newly identified as potential victims of modern slavery (up from 28 in the previous year).

1

confirmed victim also requested our support.

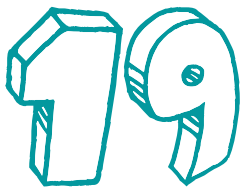
11

people identified in previous years (up from 5 in the previous year) were still receiving our advocacy services after entering the National Referral Mechanism (NRM – government system to identify and support victims of modern slavery) and after leaving the NRM.

At the time of identification...

37

people (86%) were street homeless and 6 people (14%) were at risk of homelessness (staying with friends or at their partners').

19

people (44%) were sleeping rough and all were placed in emergency accommodation within 24h.

34

people (79%) had limited eligibility to public funds, up from 28 in the previous year.

Other successful outcomes include...

20

·Multi-Agency Case Conferences (MACC) were held with Westminster City Council and with Camden Council to provide immediate support to 18 people.

13

people received positive reasonable grounds decision and entered the NRM.

2

people received positive conclusive grounds decision.

32

people (74%) are now in safe accommodation (i.e. safehouses, refuges, NASS (National Asylum Support System) accommodation, local authority's temporary accommodation and permanent social accommodation).



“Thank you for all your help, if it wasn't for The Passage I don't know what would have happened to me, I found you at the right time.”



“When I first came to The Passage, no one had ever helped me before, I didn't know who to ask. Now I have so many people who care about me and I am so lucky and happy to know them.”



From the 1st of April 2021 to the 31st of March 2022, The Passage Modern Slavery Service supported a total of 43 people.

The majority of support is provided before people enter the National Referral Mechanism. The pre-NRM support includes emergency accommodation, addressing primary needs, signposting to a First Responder, formal referral to the NRM, referrals to health and mental health services and referral to legal aid). On the occasions where we support people while they are in the NRM, our focus is on advocacy and welfare checks and upon leaving the NRM, we offer support to find housing, employment and education.

When a potential victim is identified whilst they are rough sleeping, we offer an immediate route off the streets and the person is given some time to make decisions. We are there to provide support to make an informed decision to enter the NRM and receive government support; however, if they chose not to enter the NRM, we will continue to provide a range of services that includes housing, mental health support, reconnection or assisted voluntary return.

The partnerships in place with Westminster City Council (WCC) are essential to the sustainability of the service. Working in close collaboration with the Council has proved to be fruitful regarding opportunities to prevent modern slavery and homelessness alongside protection of survivors. The Service also started a pilot project in Camden to map and understand the needs of a Modern Slavery Service in that borough. To achieve this, a Joint Working Protocol was signed in October 2021 to begin the piece of work.

In addition, The Passage is working with partners across the voluntary sector and central government to look at systemic change. This work, in partnership with Crisis, has focused on exploring changes to data recording systems, producing a good practice toolkit, advocating for pre-NRM accommodation, and promoting a multi-agency approach when assisting potential victims of modern slavery, based on the success of our successful Multi-Agency Case Conference model.

We continue to have wide reaching external communications, our Service delivered presentations to over 530 people and specialist training to over 130 attendees.

The Service also contributed to various news articles, academic pieces, reports and national guidance.

Some links include:

- [Good practice in protecting people from modern slavery during the Covid-19 pandemic](#) (Policy and Evidence Centre for Modern Slavery and Human Rights and University of Keele, June 2021)
- [Re-trafficking: the current state of play](#) (IASC and University of Nottingham, November 2021)
- [A path to freedom and justice: a new vision for supporting victims of modern slavery](#) (Centre for Social Justice and Justice and Care, February 2022)
- [Local Modern Slavery Partnerships: Recommendations and Learnings from Hertfordshire](#) (Hertfordshire Anti-Slavery Partnership, February 2022)
- [Supporting modern slavery victims through homelessness services at Westminster City Council | Local Government Association](#) (Local Government Association, March 2022)

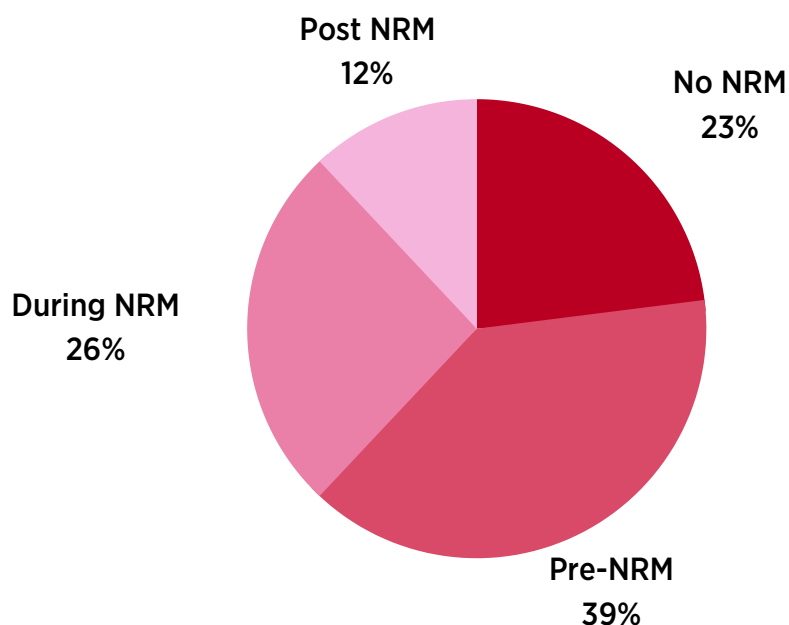
Support Provided

The agencies that referred people to The Passage Modern Slavery Service between April 2021 and March 2022 can be seen in the table below:

The Passage Resource Centre	16
St Mungo's SOS Team	14
The Passage Housing Solutions	2
Tamar	2
Westminster City Council	1
Bi-Borough MSE Group Coordinator	1
Safer Renting	1
Eastern European Resource Centre	1
Glassdoor	1
Great Chapel Street Clinic	1
Woodfield Trauma Services	1
New Horizons	1

Table 1: Referrals to the Modern Slavery Service by agency (2021/2022)

Out of the 43 people supported by the The Passage Modern Slavery Service, 17 people (39%) accepted a referral to the NRM while 10 people (23%) refused to enter the NRM. 5 (12%) had previously been in the NRM and 11 (26%) were supported by The Passage Modern Slavery Service while they were in the NRM.



When comparing to last year's figures, it is interesting to note that there is a slight decrease of the number of people who refuse to enter the NRM, which is a successful outcome. By providing up to a week in a hotel and providing for primary needs during this time (i.e. access to mental health support, health services and substance misuse) they are in a better place to understand the NRM and to give informed consent to enter the system.

We also observed an increase of the number of people who are in the NRM and still requests our support and guidance. We believe this is due to some people entering the NRM but not being referred to support under the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC). Other people access various services at The Passage (i.e. Health Team, Immigration Solicitor, Irish Persons Coordinator or Education, Training and Employment) and therefore our Modern Slavery Navigator coordinates all care provided. The Navigator works closely with all partners, including the MSVCC contract holder and subcontractors, in the person's best interest. This demonstrates collective effort and collaborative work, which is the corner stone of our service.

Pre-NRM support

Out of the 17 people who accepted to enter the NRM:

- 13 received positive Reasonable Grounds decision, out of which 6 moved to a safe house and 7 are receiving outreach support under the MSVCC.
- 2 received negative Reasonable Grounds decision and are supported by homelessness services.
- 2 people required further mental health support and care before having the capacity to consent to enter the NRM.

The First Responders who worked with The Passage were Westminster Council Housing Needs Team (9 referrals), Westminster Council Adult Social Care (4 referrals) and Camden Council Rough Sleepers Team (1) with whom The Passage has a joint working protocol to provide immediate relief to victims of modern slavery. The following table shows how many referrals were made by each agency.

Westminster Council Housing Needs Team	9
Westminster Council Adult Social Care	4
Camden Council Rough Sleepers Team	1
Metropolitan Police	1

Table 2: Referrals to the NRM by First Responders (2021/2022)

The positive impact of The Passage MACC approach to victim support and the collaborative work with Westminster Council can be seen when comparing The Passage Modern Slavery annual reports to the NRM annual reports* in which we observe a steady increase of NRM referrals for adults in the borough.

	2019	2020	2021
Westminster NRM referrals (adults only)	5	8	15
Westminster NRM referrals for The Passage Modern Slavery Service	5	9	13

Table 3: Referrals to the NRM by WCC

*National Referral Mechanism statistics - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

During NRM support

Out of the 11 people who were supported by The Passage Modern Slavery Service while they were in the NRM:

- 3 had entered the NRM but were not receiving support under the MSVCC. We referred them to the MSVCC and ensured they accessed government support.
- 1 gained indefinite leave to remain (legal advice provided by The Passage Immigration Solicitor).
- 1 gained accommodation in the private sector.
- 3 were supported to change safehouses.
- 1 disengaged from the NRM and the Modern Slavery Service helped them access temporary social housing.
- 1 is still in a government-funded safe house. The Modern Slavery Service is supporting the service user's daughter with housing.
- 1 disengaged from the NRM and then disengaged from The Passage support.

Post-NRM support

Out of 5 people who had previously been in the NRM

- 2 received positive Conclusive Grounds decision this last financial year and requested our support in housing, employment and addressing their immigration status.
- 1 successfully moved on and has now indefinite leave to remain.
- 1 is still accessing The Passage Money Advisor and The Modern Slavery Service does welfare checks.
- 1 was given accommodation with Rooms for Refugees while our Immigration Solicitor is appealing a failed claim to remain in the country.

No NRM

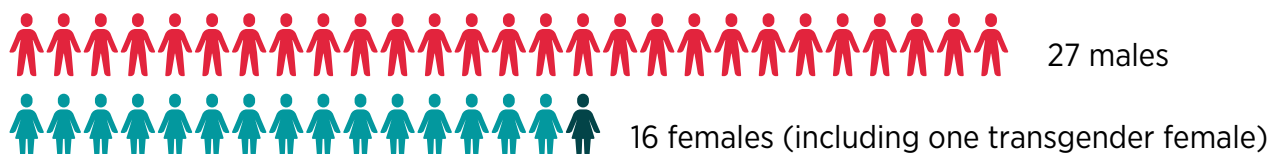
Out of the 10 people who refused to enter NRM:

- 2 chose to enter the asylum system after receiving legal advice.
- 3 disengaged from The Passage services.
- 2 were assisted with voluntary return and mental health support.
- 3 received services from The Passage and two external organisations.

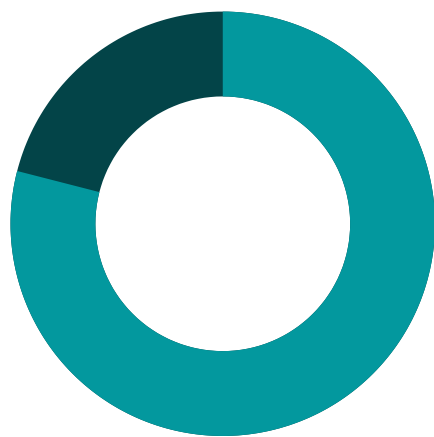
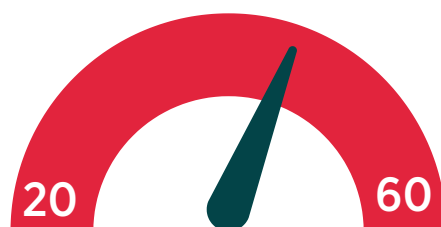


Demographics

Like the previous year, the majority of people supported by the Modern Slavery Service were male.

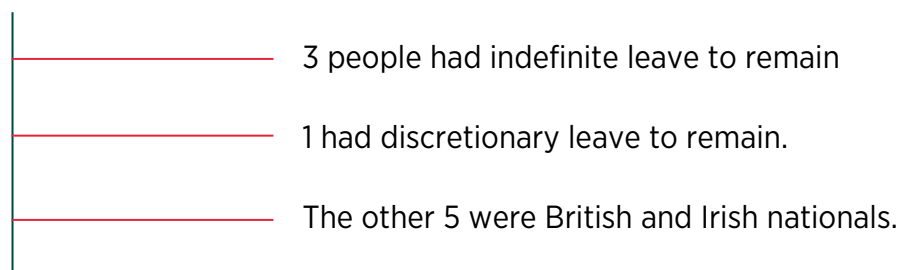


The age varied between 20 and 60 years old.



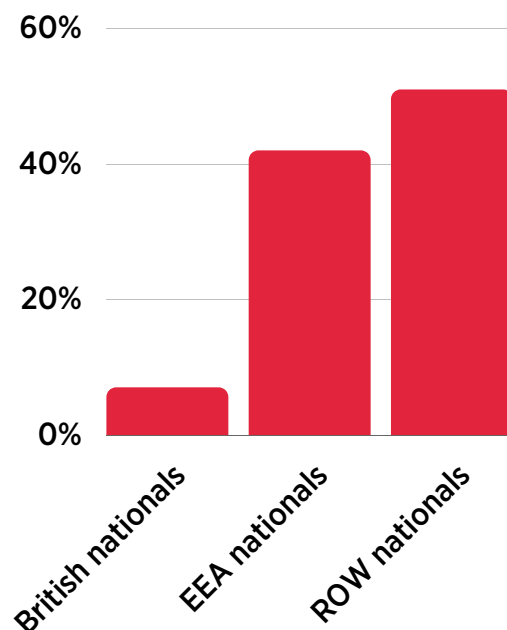
79% of people had limited eligibility public funds.

Of those entitled to benefits:



Region breakdown

During the last financial year 3 British nationals, 18 EEA nationals and 22 Rest of the World nationals were supported by the service. When compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of 200% of British nationals, a decrease of 10% of EEA nationals and an increase of 69% the Rest of the World nationals.



Nationalities

The 43 people supported during 2021/2022 originate from 27 different countries.

- 9 people from Romania
- 3 people from the UK
- 2 people from Brazil
- 2 people from Bulgaria
- 2 people from China
- 2 people from Eritrea
- 2 people from Ireland
- 2 people from Poland

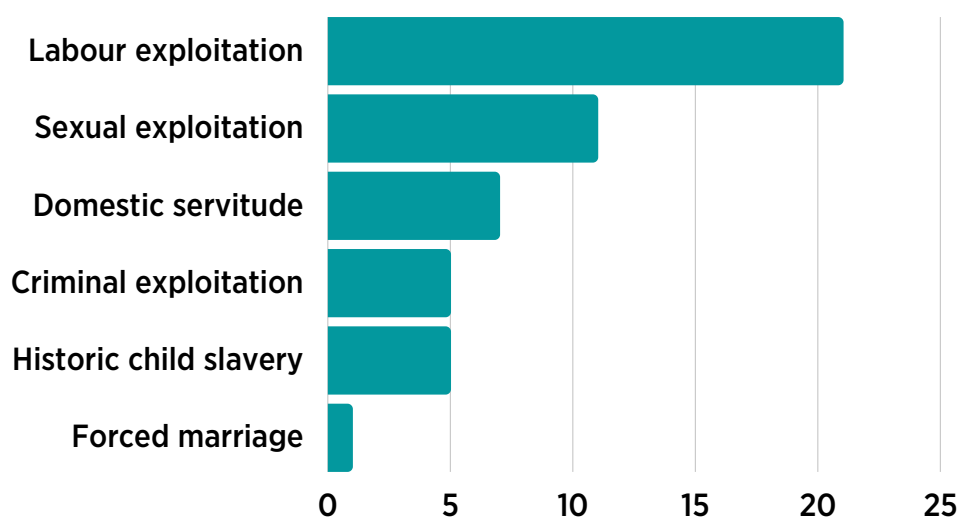


The other nationalities include Albania, Bangladesh, Botswana, Czech Republic, Gambia, Jamaica, Latvia, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam (44%).

Details of Exploitation

Forms of exploitation

Reported forms of exploitation included labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation, historic child slavery and forced marriage. Some cases reported more than one form of exploitation. Like the previous year, the predominant form of exploitation was forced labour mainly in the construction sector, in factories and in restaurants as cleaners.

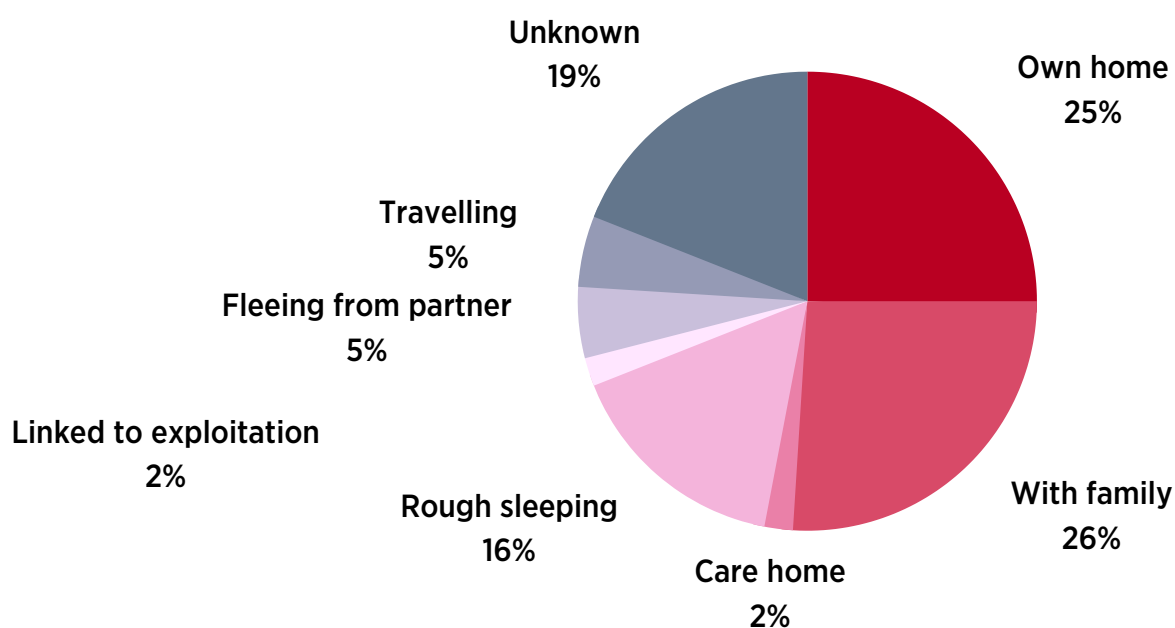


Location of recruitment and exploitation

32 people (74%) were recruited (generally by deception) in foreign countries while 11 people (26 %) were deceived or coerced into exploitation in the UK. The locations of exploitation were mainly England (93%). 1 person (2%) was exploited in another country only and 2 people (5%) were exploited in various countries including in the UK.

Housing

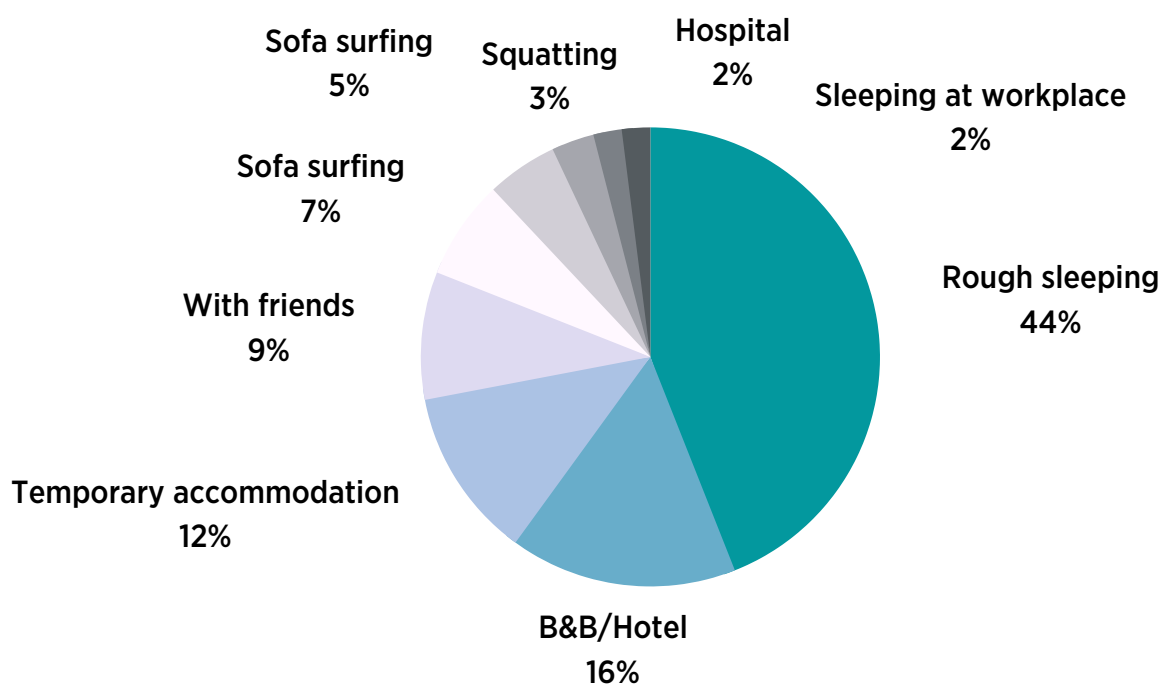
22 people (51%) lived at home or with their families when they were deceived or coerced into exploitation. The housing status of 8 people (19%) are unknown. The other 13 (30%) did not have a home: 7 were sleeping rough, 1 was in a care home, 2 were fleeing an abusive relationship, 2 were travelling and 1 was already in an exploitative situation. This shows that people who are homeless have a significant vulnerability to modern slavery. See the graph on page 11.



Housing at the time of identification as potential victim

At the time of referral to the Modern Slavery Service, 37 people (86%) were homeless and 6 (14%) were at risk of homelessness (staying with friends or at their partners').

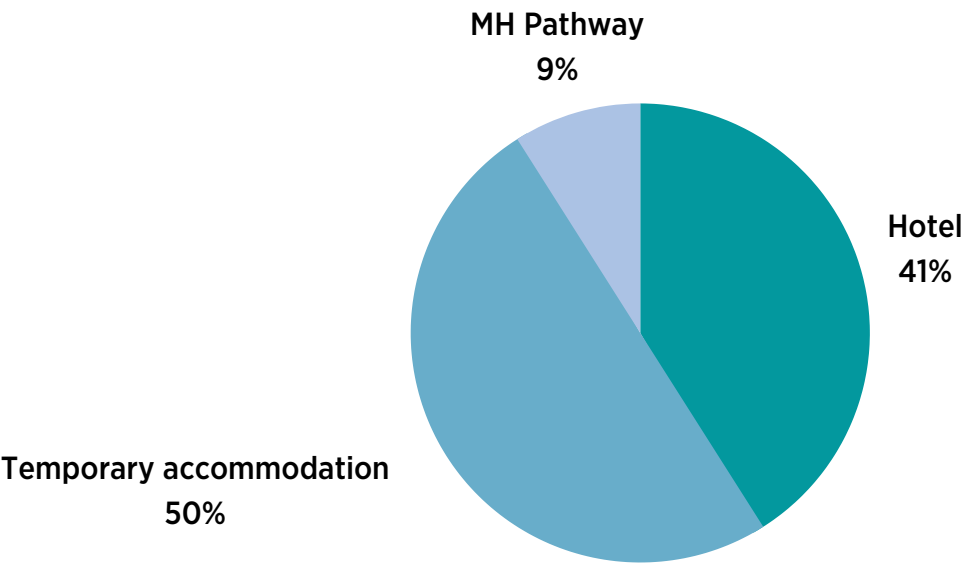
19 people (44%) were sleeping rough, 7 (16%) were staying in hotels or B&B's, 5 (12%) were in temporary accommodation, 4 (9%) were staying with friends, 3 (7%) were sofa surfing, 2 (5%) were living with their partners, 1 (2%) was squatting, 1 (2%) was identified at the hospital and 1 (2%) was sleeping at his workplace.



Emergency accommodation (under the Modern Slavery Service)

The Passage, in partnership with Westminster City Council Housing Needs Team, provided emergency accommodation within 24 hours to 32 people.

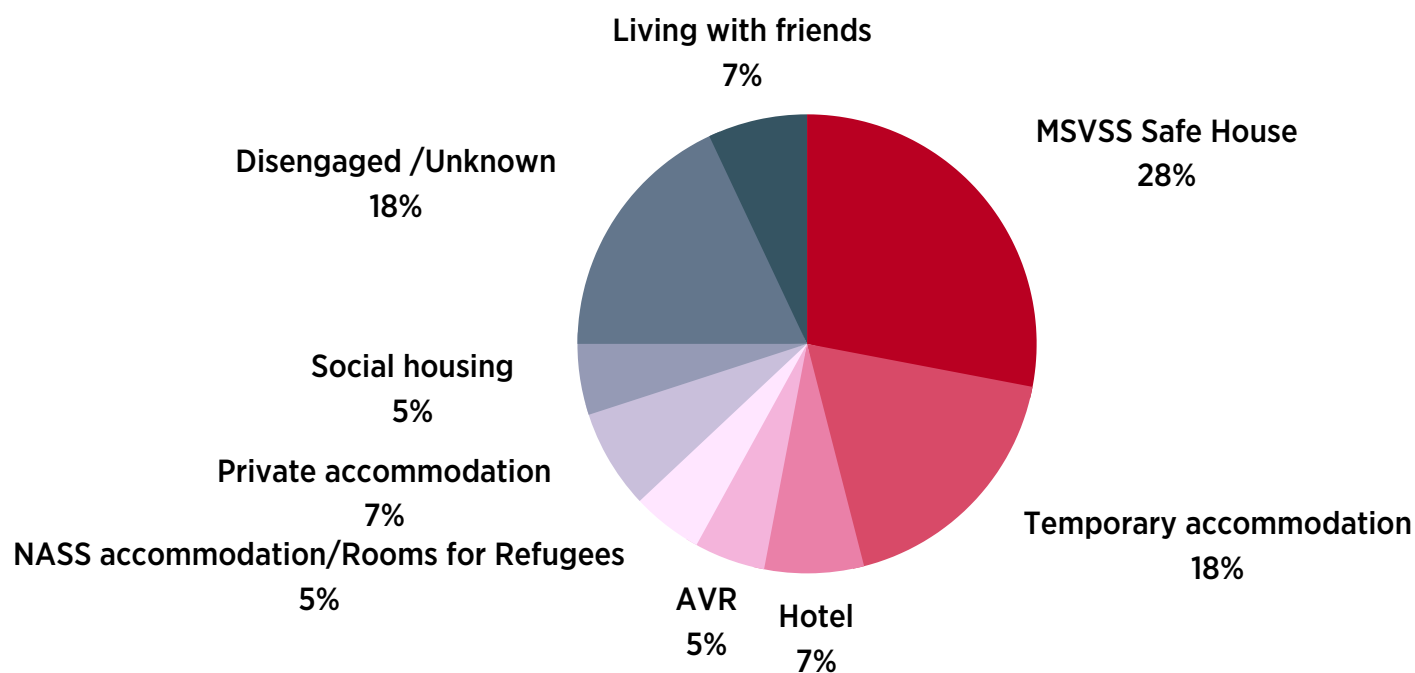
13 (41%) were placed in hotels, 16 (50%) were placed in hostels and 3 (9%) entered Westminster Mental Health Pathway (also hostels). This demonstrates that the Modern Slavery Service can achieved immediate positive outcomes regarding reducing rough sleeping and therefore preventing re-trafficking or re-exploitation.



Housing after receiving support from the Modern Slavery Service

After receiving our support, 12 people (28%) were placed in safe houses within the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract, 8 people (18%) gained temporary accommodation, 3 (7%) were placed in hotels, 2 (5%) were assisted to return to their countries of origin, 2 (5%) moved to NASS accommodation and Rooms for Refugees, 3 (7%) gained private accommodation, 2 (5%) are in social housing, 3 (7%) still live with their friends and 8 people (18%) have unknown housing status because they disengaged from The Passage services. See the graph on page 13.

When comparing housing status at the time of identification and after The Passage support, we can conclude that overall, The Passage Modern Slavery Service has achieved 74% of positive housing outcomes, which demonstrates its capacity to reduce homelessness.



Traffickers, exploiters and methods of recruitment

The nationalities of alleged traffickers and exploiters include Romania, Pakistan, Poland, Thailand, Ireland, Botswana, Brazil, Albania, China and Bulgaria. Note that many people refuse to talk about their exploiters. Therefore this information is incomplete.

The means to exploit people included deception (mainly a fake job offer through 'friends' and family members) and coercion (through gangs and organised crime groups).

23 people (53%) presented with mental health problems and complex trauma. Out of these, 15 received mental health support while under The Passage care. In many cases it is difficult to understand if the person was deceived due to previous mental health vulnerabilities or if it is a consequence of exploitation.



Emerging Trends

Last year we saw a decrease of EEA nationals identified as potential victims of modern slavery.

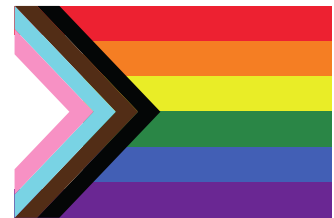
However, we supported people from many other countries around the world.

We saw an increase of cases of sexual exploitation, substance misuse and mental health issues.

We are also observing more cases within the LGBTQI+ community, specifically for sexual exploitation, in which crystal meth and GHB (probably related to “chemsex”, sex under the influence of psychoactive drugs) have a strong presence.

We also received intelligence that there is a market for illegal sale of hormones in Westminster.

Finally, an increasing number of potential victims refuse to be placed in safehouses and prefer to receive outreach support only. This is a problem for people with limited eligibility to public funds who do not have access to social housing.



Acknowledgments

The Passage would like to thank the Home Office, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Westminster City Council and our Modern Slavery Advisory Group which includes the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office, Human Trafficking Foundation, Greater London Authority, Homeless Link, Metropolitan Police Force, Local Government Association, the bi-borough Modern Slavery and Exploitation Group Coordinator and Camden Council for their support with this project.

Sarah disclosed some indicators of trafficking for labour exploitation but was reluctant to talk about it. It took regular fortnightly meetings with her to build up a full picture of her exploitation.

On one occasion, she did not attend her appointment with the Modern Slavery Navigator; she said she felt nervous talking about herself because no one had ever shown an interest before.

Her self-esteem was low, and she felt like she did not deserve all the attention support providers were giving her. Sarah disclosed she had memory loss and could not clearly remember her past. She said she had forgotten a lot of the bad things that happened to her and much of it did not feel real. She was referred to mental health support.

She explained she did not know which parts of her story were relevant to our questions and would often miss out elements of exploitation. She said this was because she did not self-identify as a victim and her relationships, whether family or friends, had always been abusive so she did not know any different.

As she began to trust the service and feel more comfortable accepting support it became clear that Sarah had been a victim of child sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and human trafficking. It took 4 months to collate the full details of her experience. When there was enough evidence, a MACC was held and Westminster City Council referred her to the NRM.

Sarah's exploitation happened 18 years before she was identified as a potential victim. She did not realise she had been a victim of a crime and did not think to seek out help.

Sarah is now in a government funded safe house.



Recommendations Moving Forwards

The Passage continues its relationship and work with Westminster City Council to explore how the Navigator model and the MACC approach can be shared with other local authorities and providers to better address the issue of homelessness and modern slavery.

The Passage will continue to work with the Government (Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing, the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit and Homelessness Team) to address data gathering on homelessness and modern slavery at national level but also to tackle gaps in victim identification and support.

The Passage will host a conference to share progress in this work, and promote a multi-agency case conference approach to be used at a national level when working with potential victims of modern slavery.

·Modern slavery is, by definition a crime that does not respect borders. To that end, The Passage will map and share the links between modern slavery and homelessness at international level and share our learning in this area.

·The Passage Modern Slavery Service will continue sharing evidence with academic researchers to better inform debate. The coming year we will further explore LGBTQI+ vulnerabilities to modern slavery and homelessness as well as links between domestic violence and modern slavery.

Finally, The Passage is committed to produce a Modern Slavery Statement and to publish our Modern Slavery Toolkit for the homelessness sector.

“ Thanks to you I am building a new life and friendships. I am doing almost 30 hours voluntary work and a conversation group. I am engaging with people, I help people, same way The Passage and The Salvation Army did for me, and it makes me feel good. I gave my statement to the police. I am still on antidepressants and my 3 broken teeth are being taken care of. All this thanks to you. Again, thank you so much for all the hard work you have done for me. Lots of love and respect. ”



www.passage.org.uk

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