

# What You Need to Know About Modern Slavery: A Simple Guide for Young People

## Introduction

This guide will help young people who may not know much about modern slavery. We will talk about county lines drug operations and other crimes where people are used and treated badly. We will clear up wrong ideas about modern slavery and explain how it's different from the slavery you learn about in school. We will also tell you how to keep yourself safe and why it's important to trust your lawyer.

## What is Modern Slavery?

Modern slavery means when people are forced to work and can't leave. It can happen in many ways, like being forced to work, being trafficked, or owing money to someone. In county lines drug operations, young people are often targeted because they can be easily controlled.

## Common Myths about Modern Slavery

Myth: Modern slavery only happens far away.

Truth: Modern slavery is everywhere, even in your own town.

Myth: People in modern slavery are always locked up.

Truth: Many people are controlled with threats or tricks, making it hard for them to leave.

## How Modern Slavery is Different from Historical Slavery

Historical slavery was about buying and selling people as property. Modern slavery is about using people who are vulnerable to make money. People in modern slavery might get paid with drugs, clothes, or money, or they might get phones. But these things are used to control them and keep them stuck.

## Control Through Violence and Threats

Sometimes, people who force others into modern slavery use violence or threats to control them. They might make young people watch violence happen to others, or threaten to hurt

their family members if they don't do what they're told. This can be very scary, but it's important to know that help is available.

## How to Keep Yourself Safe

- Learn the signs of modern slavery: If you or someone you know is being controlled, threatened, or forced to work and can't leave, it could be modern slavery.
- Trust your feelings: If something feels wrong or too good to be true, it might be. Don't be scared to speak up or ask for help.
- **Trust your lawyer: If you're in a bad situation, it's important to trust your lawyer and only talk about it with people they say are okay.**
- **Some people may try to convince you to switch to a particular solicitor to represent you. You can choose a solicitor in the police station. A duty solicitor is the same as any other solicitor - it just means whose turn it is to be on-call overnight.**
  - If you are going to court for the first time, you can choose your solicitor.
  - As your case goes on, you may be able to change your solicitor but only if the court lets you and there will have to be a truthful and important reason.
  - Solicitors shouldn't approach you or your family to take over your case from the one you already have. This behaviour is called 'poaching' and the courts do not like it because it is not based on your needs. It is usually based on the firm wanting more clients. Do not feel pressured to change your solicitor or barrister if you are happy with those already representing you.

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