

## **Victims of Modern Slavery in the UK in 2016 – Alicia Kidd**

Alicia has worked in the field of Modern Slavery since 2012, after completing a dissertation specialising in human trafficking to achieve a Masters in Human Rights and Political Science from The University of Manchester. She then went on to work for an international NGO where she established the West Yorkshire Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network. Alicia then began a PhD in Conflict and Contemporary Slavery at the Wilberforce Institute for the study of Slavery and Emancipation in Hull. Since moving to Hull, she has taken on the position of Vice Chair of the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership and undertakes work, both locally and nationally, to raise awareness and tackle the issue of Modern Slavery.

### **April 18<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The National Crime Agency has recently released the statistics relating to the people who were identified in the UK in 2016 as potential victims of Modern Slavery<sup>1</sup>. These statistics provide a breakdown of the victims' nationalities, genders, types of exploitation, and they identify whether the victims were adults or children at the time of exploitation. They also indicate which agencies referred the victims into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

The National Referral Mechanism is the government system used in the UK to identify and provide support to potential victims of modern slavery who are identified in the UK. It is also the main method through which data is collected on those potential victims (although Section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act – Duty to Notify the Home Office of Suspected Victims of Modern Slavery -- is a relatively new method of data collection which works in addition to the NRM).

It is pertinent to note that the NRM only reports on those who have been identified, and these numbers remain a small proportion of the estimated 10-13,000 victims living in the UK.<sup>2</sup>

Another point to highlight is that the NRM refers to 'potential victims' rather than 'victims'. This is because anyone referred into the NRM must go through a two-tier consideration to determine whether 'it is more likely than not'<sup>3</sup> that they are a victim of modern slavery.

### **How many victims have been identified?**

In 2016, 3805 people were identified as potential victims of Modern Slavery in the UK. This number has continued to increase year on year:

2013 - 1745

2014 - 2340

2015 - 3266

2016 - 3805

These figures indicate that the number of potential victims identified in the UK has more than doubled since 2013. However, this does not necessarily mean that the number of victims has doubled, but more likely that agencies are improving at identifying victims and making the

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<sup>1</sup> NCA (2017) National Referral Mechanism Statistics – End of Year Summary 2016. Available at <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2016-nrm-statistics/788-national-referral-mechanism-statistics-end-of-year-summary-2016/file> [Accessed 4 Apr. 2017]

<sup>2</sup> Bales, K., Hesketh, O. & Silverman, B. (2015). Modern Slavery in the UK: How Many Victims? *Significance* 12(3), 25.

<sup>3</sup> NCA (n.d.) National Referral Mechanism. Available at <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-capabilities/uk-human-trafficking-centre/national-referral-mechanism> [Accessed 18 Apr. 2017]

appropriate referrals. In much the same way as Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation have been topics of focus for many front line agencies in recent years, Modern Slavery seems to be the current focus of attention. This has meant that training for professionals has improved, new laws have been implemented, and policies have been established, which have all encouraged professionals and the public alike to be aware of what is meant by 'Modern Slavery' and to be alert for potential victims.

### **Are the victims adults or children?**

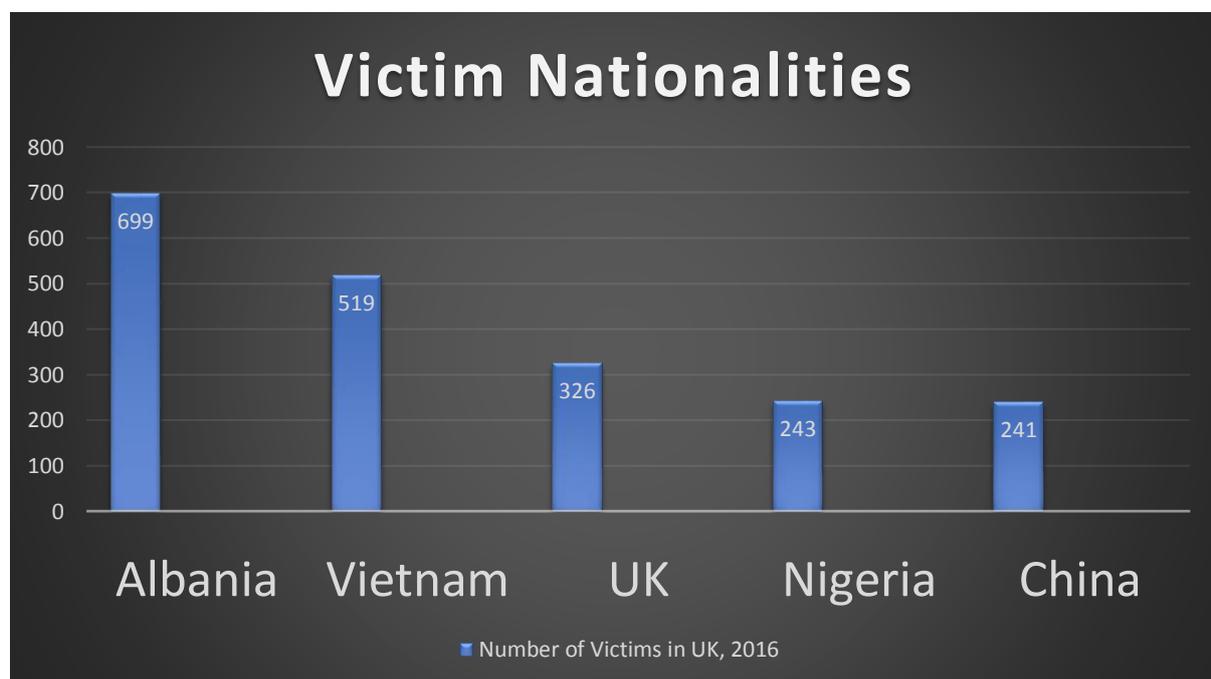
Of the potential victims identified by the NRM, 2527 (66%) were adults and 1278 (34%) were minors (under 18). The type of exploitation most common amongst both adults and children was labour exploitation. 1107 adults (43.8%) and 468 children (36.6%) experienced this form of exploitation. Although victims of labour exploitation are often found in low paid, low skilled forms of labour, the NRM incorporates anyone who is a victim of criminal exploitation within the category of labour exploitation. This means that those identified as victims of labour exploitation may have endured issues such as forced begging, cannabis farming, shoplifting or benefit fraud.

### **What gender are the victims?**

Of those 3805 identified, 1936 (51%) were female, 1864 (49%) were male and 5 were transgender. Female victims, both adult and minor, were predominantly victims of sexual exploitation: 888 adults and 321 minors. Males, both adult and minor, tended to be victims of labour exploitation, with 925 adults and 400 minors.

### **What are the nationalities of the victims?**

699 of the victims were from Albania, making this the most predominant country of origin. The majority of Albanian victims suffered sexual exploitation. This was followed by 519 Vietnamese victims, the majority of whom were used in labour exploitation. UK nationals represented the third most prevalent nationality with 326 victims who were principally victims of sexual exploitation. The 3805 victims identified by the NRM were from a total of 108 different nationalities.

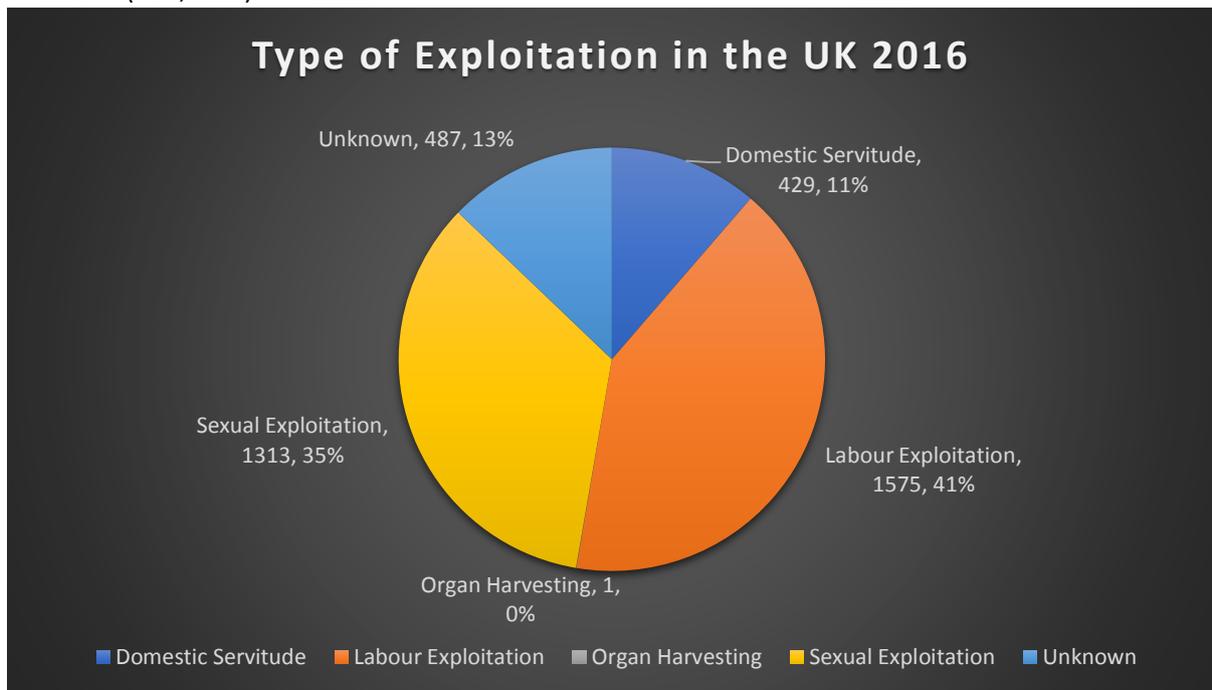


## What types of exploitation have the victims experienced?

The NRM categorises the types of exploitation as:

- sexual exploitation
- labour exploitation (including criminal exploitation)
- domestic servitude
- organ harvesting

In 2016, the majority of people in the NRM were victims of labour exploitation (1575, 41%). There were 1323 victims of sexual exploitation (35%), 429 victims of domestic servitude (11%), and one victim of organ harvesting <1%. The form of exploitation experienced by the remaining victims is unknown (487, 13%).



## What is the picture in Humberside?

In 2016, 8 people were referred into the NRM from Humberside. Three of these referrals were made by Humberside police: one adult male victim of labour exploitation and two adult female victims of sexual exploitation. Four victims were also referred into the NRM by Home Office Immigration Enforcement and one by the UK Border Force, but information on these five victims is not provided in the report.

In order to try and identify more people in the region, the Humber Modern Slavery Partnership was set up in March 2016. This is a network of front line organisations from across the four local authority areas (Hull, East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire), including statutory organisations such as the police, NHS and safeguarding; and non-statutory organisations such as local charities. The Partnership has developed a training package which is being rolled out to hundreds of front line staff, and is currently working on a public awareness campaign in order to increase knowledge amongst the general public to improve intelligence in the area.