



Public Affairs Memo: WI campaign news (Issue 12, The WI Hive)

End Modern Slavery

What is modern slavery? Slavery is an umbrella term for activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service.

On the 1st August 1834 the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into force, outlawing slavery throughout the British colonies, but today there are tens of thousands of victims of modern slavery hiding in plain sight in the UK. The estimated number of modern slavery victims in the UK is 10-13,000, that's people of all ages and gender being forced to do something against their will and their freedom.

The NFWI 2020 Resolution calls upon WI members to raise awareness of the prevalence of modern slavery throughout society and to campaign to defeat it. Modern slavery is a complex crime that takes a number of different forms. It encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, child marriages and human trafficking.

The NFWI is aiming to push government to increase support and protection of victims. It also aims to increase awareness of the issue amongst WI members so that they can spot the signs and safely report concerns. In 2015 the UK passed the Modern Slavery Act which made a number of changes to make prosecuting traffickers easier and to increase sentences. This also required big UK businesses to publicly report on how they tackle slavery in their global supply chains and established a UK Anti Slavery Commissioner to oversee the UK's policies. However the Act has been criticised for focusing on policing and not providing protection for the victims.

But how can members actually raise awareness? NFWI advises that members can promote organisations that currently exist to report sightings of possible slavery. These include:

- [Unseen](#)
- [Anti-Slavery](#)
- [Freedom United](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#) (who run a confidential 24/7 helpline on 0300 3038151)

More information is available on [MyWI](#) under the Public Affairs tab - Resolutions 2019/20.

If you do see something you feel you should report, remember to report it safely.

Gwen Williams, SWFWI PA Chairman
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