



# Call for applications for research funding

**Improving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK**

April 2022

# Call Overview

## About the Call

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are important values for the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC), as outlined in our EDI Strategy and Action Plan.<sup>1</sup> We are committed to ensuring people with different experiences, backgrounds and expertise, have fair and equal access to opportunities the Centre provides. We aim to embed EDI across all our work, including our operations, the research we fund, networks we develop and participate in, and across all the activities we deliver.

The aim of this call is to understand and assess the diversity of those funding, designing, undertaking and participating in UK publicly funded modern slavery research<sup>2</sup>. This project should focus on protected characteristics (as defined by the 2010 Equality Act): age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Consideration should also be given to how this interacts with people with lived experience of modern slavery and those from different socio-economic backgrounds, academic disciplines, career experience and academic statuses.

The research funded under this call will also identify best practices of effectively embedding EDI into modern slavery research, and set out recommendations for research funders, such as the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, and others working in modern slavery research.

## The objectives are to:

- A. Generate new data and insights on EDI within publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK and use this to identify the most significant EDI challenges and opportunities. This should focus on all legally protected characteristics,<sup>3</sup> with consideration given to how this correlates with the inclusion of people with lived experience, those from different socio-economic backgrounds, academic disciplines, career stage and those outside of academia.
- B. Identify examples of best practice of embedding EDI within modern slavery research, assessing their effectiveness where possible. This should include examples where diverse groups or individuals are effectively and equitably included in research and those that use innovative methods to include diverse groups.
- C. Develop detailed, comprehensive and implementable recommendations and relevant resources based on these insights and examples of best practice, for research funders such as the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, and others working on modern slavery research.

## Project budget

A maximum budget of £80,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for this project. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund one project for this work.

---

<sup>1</sup> Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, '[Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan](#)'

<sup>2</sup> This includes any research funded by the research organisations listed in: <https://qtr.ukri.org/resources/about.html>

<sup>3</sup> As defined by the [2010 Equality Act](#): age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

## Project team

The project may be led by either a UK higher education institution, an approved research organisation eligible to receive UKRI funding or a charity registered in the UK with a focus on modern slavery or addressing equality, diversity and inclusion issues. The team must be made up of at least one Principal Investigator (PI) and one Co-Investigator (Co-I). A PI is someone who leads the research team, they will be based at the lead organisation and will have overall responsibility for ensuring the project completes on time and within budget, and they have reporting responsibilities to the Modern Slavery PEC. Co-Is are researchers who collaborate with the PI to complete research, they may be based at a different organisation and their roles and responsibilities must be set out in the project application.

The PI, who leads the research team, can be either an academic, researcher or professional with relevant research experience working at the lead organisation. We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project. The project team must consist of at least one academic or research organisation and one UK based third sector organisation. International organisations are eligible to partner on bids up to a maximum of 30% of the total budget.

## Key Dates

Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	21/04/22
Call webinar	05/05/22
Call deadline	16/06/22
Decision to successful team	06/07/22
Project start	01/08/22
Delivery of final outputs	28/02/23

## Call Webinar

The call webinar will be held at 3pm on 5 April 2022 to go through the scope of the call and answer questions from potential applicants. Following the webinar, a recording of it can be found on our [YouTube channel](#). The Q&A from the session will be unrecorded, questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the call page on the Modern Slavery PEC website.

# Introduction

## About the Modern Slavery PEC

**The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (the Modern Slavery PEC, the Centre) was created by the investment of public funding to enhance the understanding of modern slavery and transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it.**

It's designed to provide independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery based on high quality research it commissions, aiming to have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

The Centre brings together academics, policymakers, businesses, civil society, survivors and the public on a scale not seen before in the UK to collaborate on solving this global challenge. The Modern Slavery PEC's approach is rooted in human rights.

Led by the [Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law](#) (part of the [British Institute of International and Comparative Law \(BIICL\)](#)) the Centre is a consortium of universities and Independent Research Organisations with a track record in world-class work on modern slavery. The Modern Slavery PEC is funded and actively supported by the [Art and Humanities Research Council](#), with additional support from the [Economic and Social Sciences Research Council](#), on behalf of the [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI), from the Strategic Priorities Fund.

## Our aim and guiding principles for research

We support research which provides innovative, independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery. Our aim is to drive policy change and have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

We aim to change the way in which modern slavery research is done through our guiding principles of **effectiveness, equity and survivor-involvement**. We aspire to facilitate new collaborations in modern slavery research including by supporting equitable partnerships between organisations, including those who have not previously worked together. By doing so, we hope to bring together the many different actors in the modern slavery space to benefit from their expertise and maximise their collective influence.

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre prioritises the equitable inclusion of people of all backgrounds and experiences across all the work undertaken by the Centre. The Modern Slavery PEC strongly encourages that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. We design our calls with the aspiration for projects funded by them to be inclusive, and to encourage a greater diversity of applicants and approaches to modern slavery research.

We intend for all of the research that we fund to align with our guiding principles. We therefore expect all research that the Modern Slavery PEC funds to support equality, diversity and inclusion with respect to the people who carry out the research and in terms of facilitating novel, cross-disciplinary teams.

## Background and context for this call

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are important values for the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC). The Centre is committed to ensuring people with different experiences, backgrounds and expertise, including those with lived experience, feel comfortable and able to participate in the Centre's work.

The Centre believes that including a broader range of insights, perspectives and approaches in modern slavery research will improve research and its impact. The Centre's consultation on research priorities outlined feedback that *'improving access, fairness, representation in research would improve the quality of research and its ability to challenge established ways of thinking, which could be one of the keys to achieving transformative change in this area.'*<sup>4</sup>

Improving EDI within UK research is a priority for many research funders, as set out in strategies and action plans across the sector. However, the scale and nature of EDI in modern slavery research, including barriers and opportunities for improvements, have not been systematically researched and analysed. In their EDI Action Plan, the UK BAME Anti-Slavery Network (BASNET) highlighted that modern slavery and human trafficking research is insufficiently informed by people affected by modern slavery, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds, recommending an audit of the place of race and ethnicity in the funding of research.<sup>5</sup>

The Modern Slavery PEC believes our ability to bring together academics, policymakers, businesses, civil society and people affected by modern slavery means we are well placed to fund a research project to improve EDI within the modern slavery research sector. This project forms one of the aims of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan.<sup>6</sup>

The Modern Slavery PEC's approach to improving Equality, Diversity and Inclusion relates to the equitable inclusion of people of all backgrounds and experiences. This project should focus on legally protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.<sup>7</sup> Consideration should also be given to how diversity of protected characteristics interacts with people with lived experience of modern slavery and those from different socio-economic backgrounds, academic disciplines, career experience and academic statuses.

**In accordance with the Modern Slavery PEC's strategic objective of facilitating collaboration, successful teams will work cooperatively alongside the Modern Slavery PEC for the duration of the project to maximise the impact of your work and to ensure alignment with our objectives.**

---

<sup>4</sup> See Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, '[Consultation on the Modern Slavery PEC research priorities](#)'

<sup>5</sup> See BASNET, '[Promoting Racial Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – an action plan for the UK modern slavery and human trafficking sector](#)'

<sup>6</sup> See Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, '[Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan](#)'

<sup>7</sup> As defined by the [2010 Equality Act](#).

## Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

**The aim of this research project** is to understand and assess the diversity of those funding, designing, undertaking and participating in publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK.<sup>8</sup> It will provide research funders, such as the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre, and others working on modern slavery research with comprehensive and implementable recommendations for improving EDI.

**The scope of this project** is limited to EDI within publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK, however best practice examples from other research areas, international experiences or other types of research may be included if relevant. Wider structural and systemic EDI challenges relating to the research sector as a whole (e.g. as identified in UKRI's [evidence review](#)) should only be addressed if there is specific relevance and applicability to modern slavery research in scope of this project.<sup>9</sup>

**The objectives are to:**

- A. Generate new data and insights on EDI within publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK and use this to identify the most significant EDI challenges and opportunities. This should focus on all legally protected characteristics,<sup>10</sup> with consideration given to how this correlates with the inclusion of people with lived experience, those from different socio-economic backgrounds, academic disciplines, career stage and those outside of academia.
- B. Identify examples of best practice within modern slavery research, assessing their effectiveness and impact. This should include examples where diverse groups or individuals (including those with lived experience) are effectively and equitably included in research, and those that use innovative methods to include diverse groups or individuals.
- C. Develop detailed, comprehensive and implementable recommendations and relevant resources based on these insights and examples of best practice for research funders such as the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre, and others working on modern slavery research.

## Key elements of the research

**The successful applicant will demonstrate the following components in their methodology:**

- A quantitative assessment of the diversity of those funding, designing, undertaking and participating in publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK. Consideration should be given to new data collection and analysis as appropriate.
- Qualitative research and data collection from an appropriate number and range of stakeholders to understand EDI challenges, barriers and opportunities in modern slavery research.
- An assessment of an appropriate number of EDI initiatives within the sector, identifying any best practice examples. Applicants should set out their criteria for assessing interventions in bids and proposed methodologies for assessing impact.
- Evidence-based, comprehensive and implementable recommendations for the Modern Slavery PEC and others working in the modern slavery research sector more widely on how EDI can be improved.

---

<sup>8</sup> This includes any research funded by the research organisations listed in:

<https://gtr.ukri.org/resources/about.html>

<sup>9</sup> You may find these resources useful: [UKRI Equality, diversity and inclusion in research and innovation: UK review](#), [EPSRC funded 11 Inclusion Matters Projects](#), [UPEN Surfacing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within Academic-Policy Engagement](#), [EDI resource bank](#)

<sup>10</sup> As defined by the [2010 Equality Act](#): age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

- Effective project governance to include expertise on equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Consideration should be given to meaningful inclusion of people with lived experience in all areas of the research, including design and implementation of the project.

### What we want to see in your application

- A clear description of the approach to data collection and analysis for all legally protected characteristics, including the collection methods for new data, and identifying insights on EDI in publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK.
- A commitment to producing recommendations for research funders such as the Modern Slavery PEC and others involved in research, informed by data and evidence. Clear rationale should be given for other stakeholders for whom you plan to produce recommendations.
- Your approach to identifying at least 5-10 examples of best practice within modern slavery research. These should relate to publicly funded research in the UK, however, if there is limited evidence you may want to consider examples from other research areas, other jurisdictions and other types of research. If taking this approach, it must be clear how learnings from these examples are relevant to publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK.

## Required outputs

**The successful project will deliver a full report as well as a Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary tailored to the Modern Slavery PEC and other organisations within modern slavery research, setting out the main recommendations from the research.** The outputs will be co-produced with the Modern Slavery PEC team so there should be ample time included in the proposed project timeline for the sharing of drafts to enable comments and feedback to be incorporated.

- Output 1: the full report should be no more than 10,000 words (excluding references/annexes). This should include the methodology used to undertake the project.
- Output 2: Research Summary for the Modern Slavery PEC, funders and other organisations within the modern slavery sector should be no more than (2,500 words)
- Output 3: engagement activities with those involved in modern slavery research
- Output 4: at least one blog/reflective piece/podcast recording, in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery PEC would welcome proposals that include innovative ideas for presenting data, e.g. with visualisation of results in a format to enhance understanding and to support the uptake of evidence by our key audiences.

The project team will also be invited to present interim findings to the Modern Slavery PEC team and other relevant audiences at a suitable mid-point during the research, either virtually or in person at a time agreed with the research team in the revised workplan (see below).

## Project milestones and timeline

<b>Milestones and timeline</b>	
<b>Application process</b>	
<b>Action/Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Call announcement	21/04/22
Call webinar	05/05/22
Call deadline	16/06/22
Decision to successful team	06/07/22
Project start	01/08/22
<b>Project milestones and deliverables</b>	
<b>Action/Activity</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Revised workplan and methodology (provided to Modern Slavery PEC by project team if required)	08/08/22
Regular catch-ups with the Modern Slavery PEC (see ways of working with the Modern Slavery PEC below)	Monthly
Engagement activities with those involved in modern slavery research	As appropriate
Presentation of interim findings	As appropriate
Delivery of full draft of project report	07/01/23
Delivery of draft Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary	21/01/23
Collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC on outputs	February 2023
Blog/reflective piece/podcast recording	As appropriate
Delivery of final outputs	28/02/23

## Additional information for applicants

### Ways of working with the PEC

Collaboration and co-operation are key values for the Modern Slavery PEC. As such we will work jointly with the successful research team from the outset and will co-design and co-create research outputs that are timely, relevant, accessible, and have the potential to deliver policy impact. The Modern Slavery PEC and the successful research team will meet every four weeks to check in on progress, discuss next steps and for the Modern Slavery PEC to provide support. This support may include policy impact planning, communications work or operational support and will be tailored to each project.

### Ethics and Safeguarding

There may be a need to collect primary data, e.g. via survey, semi-structured interviews or focus groups, from key people and organisations that work in this sector, in which case the applicant should detail their proposed plans and processes for gaining ethical approval before data collection begins. See the section below on working with people with lived experience where we outline our safeguarding and collaboration expectations.

The Modern Slavery PEC strongly encourages that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. Where a project undertakes new research directly involving vulnerable groups or people with lived experience modern slavery, projects should carefully consider ethics and safeguarding implications. In both the ethics and the safeguarding statements, applicants should include reference to organisational policies and processes around safeguarding, developing project specific policies where appropriate.

### Data protection/GDPR

All data must be collated and stored in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2021 and, if necessary, the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016. Applicants should detail their systems and processes for dealing with data securely. Proposals must cover how data will be transported/transferred, handled, analysed and stored, including retention schedules, within the Ethics Statement.

Any and all datasets produced in the course of this research will remain the property of the successful applicant. The final report will be co-branded with the Modern Slavery PEC, whilst the summary briefing will be branded as a Modern Slavery PEC output (for [example](#)). Both the successful applicant and the Modern Slavery PEC will be free to use the final report as they wish after the end date of the project subject to the agreed contract (see our [sample contract](#)).

For more information on how we handle your data please visit our [privacy policy](#).

### Budget

A maximum budget of £80,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for this project. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund one project for this work.

The project can be led by either a UK higher education institution, an approved research organisation which is eligible to receive UKRI funding, or a charity registered in the UK with a focus on modern slavery or EDI.

- The Principal Investigator (PI), who leads the research team, can be either an academic researcher or a professional with relevant research experience working at the lead

organisation. We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project

- Higher education institutes and approved research organisations will receive 80% FEC (meaning for every £1 spent, they receive 80p of funding, with the organisation making up the 20p)
- Eligible charities registered in the UK may apply for up to 50% of the project’s budget, they will be funded at 100% FEC (for every £1 spent, they receive £1 of funding, so the Modern Slavery PEC covers 100% of the full economic cost of the project)
- International organisations are eligible to apply as partners to this call, they can receive a maximum budget of 30% and will also receive their funding at 100% FEC
- The combined UK registered charity and international costs can account for 50% of the total budget of the project, for example in a £80,000 project, UK charities and international partners can receive £40,000 total (this might be to one charity or split between several charities and international partners). This £40,000 will be paid by the Centre at 100% FEC
- We would expect budgets to be signed off at the time of application by your organisations research office or (for a higher education institute or research organisation) or by the appropriate senior manager (for eligible charities) to ensure a quick set up when the successful project is selected

We request that Principal (lead researchers) and Co-Investigators (co-lead researchers) are involved in only one application submission per call. There is no limit to the number of applications eligible organisations can submit, and the restrictions only apply to individuals within those organisations.

### What we want to see in your budget

- 1) All of the budget rules must be adhered to, if you are not sure if an item in your budget is eligible, email [office@modernslaverypec.org](mailto:office@modernslaverypec.org) to check first
- 2) In the Excel budget template, you must create a new line for each type of expenditure. For example:

Travel	Train ticket for PI (workshop 1)	£50
	Hotel for PI (workshop 1)	£75
	Train ticket for Co-I (workshop 2)	£50
	Hotel for Co-1 (workshop 2)	£75

We *do not* want to see block budgets, e.g. “Charity 1, £10k” we need to see costs broken down into the actual items of expenditure to be brought

### Eligible Costs

We will fund costs which are in line with AHRC’s policies<sup>11</sup>, with the following exceptions:

- All staff costs, including academic time, must be costed as Directly Incurred (DI) due to the profiling of the award. We unfortunately cannot pay Directly Allocated (DA) Investigator costs but support the inclusion of PI/Co-I time as a DI cost.
- Any costs for travel must be realistic under the current circumstances and we request that any activity involving travel has appropriate mitigations and alternatives suggested
- Given the short-term nature of the project we will not be awarding costs for equipment such as audio recording equipment or laptops
- The Modern Slavery PEC will cover the costs for the design of the research summary<sup>12</sup> and the full report (in the Modern Slavery PEC branding), design costs for reports are therefore not eligible and will not be funded under this call
- Dissemination activities will be led by the Centre in collaboration with the research team. We expect the team to set aside 3 days of time for communications work, which might

<sup>11</sup> For more information, see [AHRC research funding guide](#) (from page 52)

<sup>12</sup> For an example, see <https://modernslaverypec.org/resources/prevention-what-works>

include activities such as blog writing, podcast recording and potential media activities. It might also include potential time post-project to maximise the impact of the research.

- Any other communications costs (such as a video, animation, infographics, data visualisation etc.) can be included but must be fully justified in the justification of resources. The design outputs should align with the evidence-generating objectives of the Centre (e.g. the sharing of new knowledge, findings and recommendations from the research) and should not be used for campaigning.
- We would not expect costs such as the design or development of new websites to be part of this project
- Eligible participating charities can include overheads, up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget they have applied for

## Working with people with lived experience

As per our guiding principles, the Modern Slavery PEC encourages researchers to include people with lived experience in the appropriate aspects of their research project. We encourage all projects to consider whether they should have a specific safeguarding policy or framework to govern their work, and to highlight specific risks and mitigations in their safeguarding statement. According to organisations such as UK Collaborative on International Development Research (UKCDR), safeguarding means ‘taking all reasonable means to prevent harm from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur’.<sup>13</sup> Policies should include consideration of rights of people with lived experience and whistle-blowers, and how the project addresses questions of equity, fairness, transparency and accountability. This should include all parts of the research chain, from research funders, planners and practitioners to participants and local community members, where everyone has the right to be safe from harm.<sup>14</sup>

We request that the following principles are adhered to when working with people with lived experience:

- Ground rules are established with the participants, including use of terminology, and agreed rules about withdrawal from discussions or activities.
- Participants are signposted to resources to support them (the Modern Slavery PEC can assist with these) and consider funds to support this if appropriate.
- People with lived experience are paid for their time (including being participants on interview panels and focus groups) and that this is done so in a manner appropriate to participants (considering cash payments or use of vouchers). We expect a minimum hourly rate of £9.90 (outside of London) or £11.05 (within London) for participants, based on the Living Wage Foundation’s current rates, but we would encourage applicants to explore best practice in the sector and support higher rates of pay where justified in the justification of resources.<sup>15</sup>
- A risk assessment is carried out, specifically considering risks for those with lived experience. These risks and mitigations should be included in your Safeguarding Statement.

## Application process

To apply for this call, applications must be made through our online form (<https://modernslaverypec.submit.com/>). The form includes the questions below. Where word limits are specified, these are the maximum word limits, please note the form will cut you off at the word

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/safeguarding/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-safeguarding-in-international-development-research/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

limit:

## Research team information

1. Lead researcher name, email address, organisation and department/unit/team
2. Lead organisation address and administrative email address (the email address of whoever will administer the onboarding of the award if successful)
3. Co-investigator names, organisations, email addresses
4. Partner organisations, contact names and email addresses

## Basic project information

13. Project title
14. Project start date
15. Project end date
16. Total requested (at 100% full economic cost)

## Project details

17. Project description (500 words), including its aims, objectives and research questions. This must be suitable for a general audience so please ensure this is accessible to non-experts, and avoid acronyms or jargon where possible
18. Project scope (300 words), giving a clear definition of the scope of the research, including any additional changes to the scope beyond those specified in the call documentation
19. Methodology (500 words), a clear explanation and justification for the chosen approach and methodology responding to the aims and objectives and essential elements outlined in this call
20. Outputs (300 words), listing the outputs that the project anticipates producing. This must include those outlined in this call document.
21. Timeline (300 words), a detailed timeline incorporating the milestones and deliverables outlined in the call document
22. Team experience (500 words), details and relevant experience of each team member or organisation involved in the delivery of the project, and a description of why they and/or their organisations are best placed to address the research question
23. Equitable partnerships (300 words), a description of how the project enables equitable partnerships between the organisations collaborating on the project, including the processes or structures that will be in place to support this. The Modern Slavery PEC expects all applicants to demonstrate their commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in their project proposals.

## Risk management, ethics and safeguarding

24. Risk management (400 words), a list of the risks that might impact delivery of the project and how these will be managed and mitigated
25. Ethics (400 words), describe the approach and process for ensuring the research is ethical
26. Safeguarding (400 words), describe the approach and process for ensuring any people at risk who are involved with the research are appropriately safeguarded, including highlighting any particular risks of the project, going beyond standard University safeguarding procedures where appropriate

## Budget

27. Budget. Please upload a budget table as an Excel file using the [template provided](#). This should detail the costs of each organisation, ensuring a line is added for each item of expenditure (please do not give a block cost per organisation, the panel would like to see the items to be purchased at each organisation line by line). For more information on how projects should be costed please refer to the [Funding Scenario Examples](#), as well as to this call documentation.
28. Justification of resources (500 words), explain the reasons why each budget line is being requested. You do not need to justify Estates and Indirect costs.

## Additional information

28. This is not a requirement of the call, but projects may submit bibliographies, letters of support, GANTT charts, visual evidence, risk registers or other complementary documentation. This will not be scored but will assist in project set up and timelines should the applications be successful.

## Assessment process

The assessment panel is expected to contain a mixture of experts including Modern Slavery PEC staff, academics, EDI experts and people with lived experience of modern slavery. With this in mind, applicants should make sure language is clear and that technical terms and acronyms are clearly explained.

The panel will score applications, using the AHRC grading system<sup>16</sup> against the following headings:

1. Relevance of project description and scope to the aims and objectives of this call, including the generation of new evidence
2. Clarity of expression, ensuring applications are accessible and easily understood by non-academic audiences (for example explaining all acronyms and technical language)
3. Methodology, and how it relates to the aims and objectives of the call
4. Timeline, milestones and deliverables, including how the team will mitigate risks
5. Knowledge and expertise of team and organisations involved and inclusion of a range of organisations including research and charitable organisations
6. Alignment with the Modern Slavery PEC's guiding principles for research:
  - a. Demonstration of equitable partnerships between higher education/research organisation and third sector organisation
  - b. Effectiveness of the research project to meet the aims of this funding call
  - c. Appropriate consideration of the inclusion of people with lived experience
7. Appropriateness of ethics approach
8. Appropriateness of safeguarding approach
9. Budget and justification of resources, including the distribution of funds and tasks between organisations

All applications will be reviewed by an assessment panel convened by the Modern Slavery PEC that will include external independent reviewers. Each panel member will independently score the applications using the six-point AHRC grading scale. Applications must score an average of 4 out of 6 (very good) or higher from two introducers for it to be assessed at the panel meeting. Projects with large discrepancies will be discussed at the panel meeting and the chair of the panel will decide on any disputes. Where appropriate, decisions will be moderated by an external panel. Outcomes of the assessment process will be communicated by July 2022.

---

<sup>16</sup>For more information, see <https://www.ukri.org/publications/grading-descriptors/>.

## Call webinar

We will hold a webinar for prospective applicants at 3pm on 5 May 2022. The webinar will provide applicants with the opportunity to hear more about the Modern Slavery PEC and its objectives, hear a verbal overview of the call for research, the application process and hear more information on how the successful bid team will collaborate with the Modern Slavery PEC during the research.

We will publish a recording of the webinar on our [YouTube channel](#). A Q&A from the session will be unrecorded, but questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the funding call's page on the Modern Slavery PEC website.

## Contacting the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery PEC team can be contacted at [office@modernslaverypec.org](mailto:office@modernslaverypec.org). Please allow two working days for a response.

If you would like to discuss partnerships with other researchers and practitioners, please sign up to our [Google Group](#) to get in touch with others in our network.