FAQ - improving EDI within modern slavery research in the UK

Is this call to evaluate the impact of research on modern slavery and the role of equality in this research?

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. 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.

How many Co-Investigators can a project have? Is there a maximum?

There is no maximum number of Co-Investigators. However, the panel will look for equity between investigators, partners and their roles and remuneration within the project, so it is key that teams consider equitable ways and division of work between researchers

Individuals may only apply to this call as either a Principal or Co-Investigator once. This limit does not apply to organisations who may appear on multiple applications so long as the named researcher is different.

Does the call apply only to modern slavery research in the UK? Can the research be based in/led by a team in a country outside of the UK?

The project should look at publicly funded modern slavery research in the UK. This might involve research that collaborates and works with international partners, and the project might draw on international work when completing the second objective on identifying examples of best practice.

Can international applicants apply for this call?

International organisations can be partners on this call but applications must be led by a UK based partner. For full details, see the call document. If you are based at an international organisation and are looking for a partner for this call, we recommend joining the Centre's Google Group as a means to connect with relevant organisations.

Can we apply for funding for a research assistant

Yes, research assistants are eligible under this funding call.

Does the research assistant need to be a post-doc or just a graduate?

Individuals working on projects can have different backgrounds. The Modern Slavery PEC would expect that roles are costed appropriately for individuals' background and experience and that a justification for the choice of level is set out in the justification of resources.

Do applications need to hit all the call criteria?

We would expect applications to hit all of the criteria in the call, however we will accept applications that do not meet all the criteria but set out a strong justification for why they have not included an element of the research. See assessment criteria 1, relevance of project description and scope to the aims and objectives of this call, including the generation of new evidence, and 3, methodology, and how it relates to the aims and objectives of the call.

Can the Modern Slavery PEC help connect you with people with lived experience?

At application stage, the Modern Slavery PEC recommends that applicants use the [Centre's Google Group](#) as a means to connect with relevant organisations. There are several organisations who work with people with lived experience of modern slavery who are members of the Google Group. Applications will be assessed on appropriate consideration of the inclusion of people with lived experience (assessment criteria 6.c.).

Can the Modern Slavery PEC accept applications in languages other than English?

The Modern Slavery PEC requires that all applications are submitted in English.

Would an application be viewed negatively if it did not cover all the protected characteristics?

We appreciate that it might not be possible for all the protected characteristics to be comprehensively covered, but we want teams to consider how they might approach them all, so whilst an application that narrows the scope could be submitted, it would require a strong justification for doing so in the case for support.

Is there scope to move the project's end date?

The project end date was set for February 2023 as we hope for the results of this research to inform the next iteration of the Modern Slavery PEC's EDI Action Plan which we are aiming to publish in April 2023. An application can be submitted with a different end date, but we would look for a strong justification and for the application to explain how they could still feed into the action plan's update.