

Lived experience research workshops participant: communicating modern slavery

Workshops:

- **First workshop:** 1 December 2023, all day in person workshop, location to be confirmed, possible locations including London, Birmingham, Manchester or Sheffield
- **Second workshop:** 8 March 2024, half a day, online.

Honorarium: £50 voucher per workshop. We will cover the costs associated with attending the workshops including travel, accommodation, subsistence and childcare (if required).

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC), part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), is seeking eight people with lived experience of modern slavery to take part in research. We are exploring the most about the most effective ways to communicate about modern slavery to increase the understanding of the issue and the experiences of survivors among the UK public.

The research is being carried out by the [Public Interest Research Centre](#) (PIRC), in close collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC and is focusing on developing more effective language to explain modern slavery and the experiences of survivors to the British public and meaningfully engage survivors in the public debate.

As part of the research, we are organising two workshops to discuss how modern slavery is being talked about in the public debate in the UK, how people with lived experience describe experiences of modern slavery and what they think about different ways of framing the issue. This could for example include discussing questions such as “What do you think is most important for the public to understand about the experience of modern slavery?”, or “How do you feel about key terms such as modern slavery, survivor and human trafficking?”. Please note we won’t ask about your personal experiences.

The first workshop will take place on Friday 1 December, in person, at a location that will be agreed after the recruitment process to make it easier for everyone to get to. The second workshop will take place online on 8 March 2024, to discuss the findings and recommendations of the research. You will be expected to attend both workshops and take active part in the workshops.

We are looking to recruit a group of eight people who have lived experience of modern slavery to attend the workshops and take active part in the research.

About the role

We would like to appoint a diverse range of people with lived experience of modern slavery. We welcome applications from people with experience of all forms of modern slavery, including forced labour, human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced criminality, domestic servitude or forced marriage. Your experience could have happened at any point in the past.

In this role, you will need:

- a good level of English, both speaking and in writing.
- an interest in improving understanding of modern slavery in the UK.
- good communication skills and an ability to work sensitively with a diverse range of people
- be available at the required dates (1 December 2023 and 4 March 2024)
- an ability to travel to an agreed location (London, Manchester, Birmingham or Sheffield, or other city in the UK, depending on what location works best for most participants).
- access to a computer or a phone and an internet connection for the second workshop.

Other considerations:

- We will cover the associated costs and provide support to all participants with the logistics for the workshops. This will include organising travel, accommodation the night before the first workshop (if required), subsistence (including purchasing phone data packages if required), childcare (if required), or other support if required.
- For the second workshop, you will need to have access to a device (computer or phone) and access to internet (we can pay for data packages) to connect to the online workshop (this will be via Teams or Google Meet).
- No formal qualification is required for this role. By applying for this role, you are confirming that you are an individual with lived experience of modern slavery. However, we will not ask any applicants to disclose or prove their lived experience of modern slavery.
- No work permit is required to participate in this research

All participants will have the right to remove themselves from any of the activities or workshops at any time, without needing to give a reason and without affecting any future opportunities.

It is possible to arrange and cover the costs of a support worker to travel with individuals if required.

About us

- The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre was created by the investment of public funding to enhance understanding of modern slavery and transform the effectiveness of law and policies designed to overcome it. Commissioning high quality research is at the heart of the Centre's work and, and we aim to bring 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 Centre is a partnership of six academic organisations led by the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law (part of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law

(BIICL)) and is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Read more about the Modern Slavery PEC at www.modernslaverypec.org.

- About PIRC. Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC) seeks to equip civil society to tell world-changing stories through facilitating capacity-building workshops, carrying out strategic research, building supportive communities, and producing accessible resources. We advocate a process-conscious approach. This means acknowledging that the way we create and test new frames—and crucially who is involved in this process—is critical to the success of any framing strategy. Find out more at PIRC's work at <https://publicinterest.org.uk/>, including projects on [Framing Climate Justice](#), [Framing Equality](#) and [Framing the Economy](#).

About the research: communicating modern slavery in the UK

Modern slavery affects estimated tens of thousands of people in the UK, yet it is not widely understood. Current terms and narratives describing modern slavery are problematic and widely contested, from 'modern slavery' with its historical and post-colonial connotations (framing slavery as 'ownership' of one person by another and a person who experienced it a 'slave'), to 'trafficking' with its links to movement, smuggling and migration.

There is evidence suggesting that the British public doesn't understand what modern slavery means and doesn't understand the experience of people affected by it. The narratives widely used in the public debate tend to focus on rescuing the victims and catching the criminals, leaving out the more systemic causes behind wider systems creating conditions for modern slavery and factors increasing people's vulnerability to it.

There is also growing evidence that language used to describe modern slavery is not accepted by people with lived experience. Survivors often don't identify with the language used by policymakers or law enforcement, which might alienate them and prevent them from coming forward to be identified as victims, prevent them from seeking support or cause stigma in their local communities.

There is a need for an evidence-based approach to developing language that is more effective in explaining the issue to the British public and meaningfully engaging survivors in the public debate and policymaking.

The objective of this project is to provide evidence base that would allow to:

1. identify frames and narratives that would be more effective in increasing the understanding of modern slavery by the British public, enabling a more evidence-based and survivor-informed public debate.
2. develop language in collaboration with survivors that resonates with survivors of modern slavery in the UK, enabling better and more meaningful engagement with authorities, support services, research and other areas of work addressing modern slavery.

The research will carry out a review of existing research and communications in the public debate, organise a workshop with people with lived experience of modern slavery to develop new frames and narratives about modern slavery, organise focus groups with members of British public to test the new frames and narratives, then organise a second collaborative

workshop with survivors to identify which frames have the potential to increase the understanding of modern slavery by the British public. The project will develop recommendations for frames and narratives potentially more effective in increasing the understanding of modern slavery by the public, as well as a short report on the findings, process, lessons learned, and further research questions raised by the project.

How to apply

Please apply for this opportunity through this short [online form](#).

You will be asked to write a short (up to 300 words) statement about why you are interested in taking part in this research project, and about your ability to communicate well and work sensitively with other people based on your experience (it doesn't have to be professional experience).

The deadline for submission of applications is **11.59pm UK time on Wednesday 22 November 2023**.

The panel consisting of Modern Slavery PEC staff, including one with lived experience, will make a selection based on the fulfilment of the essential criteria from the 'what you will need in this role' section above and ensuring the diversity of the group.

Personal data:

We will not share any personal data collected through the online application form with anyone. We will store the data in a secure folder, with only the members of the selection panel having access to it.

For the selected research participants, we might have to share some personal details needed to organise the logistics and cover the costs of the attendance at the workshop with PIRC, which will be handling all the financial admin for this project.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact the Modern Slavery PEC Communications Director at j.sobik@modernslaverypec.org.