



Call for applications for research funding

**Improving the identification of adults with lived
experience of modern slavery in the UK**

April 2022

Call Overview

About the Call

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC) has re-opened a call for proposals on a research project on improving the identification of adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK.

The aim of this research project will be to identify promising practice to improve the identification of adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK and the quality of referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), as well as to explore the reasons behind a decision to give or not to give consent to enter the UK NRM.

The scope of the research is limited to adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK. Exploring the journeys of people who opt not to enter the NRM and the impact this has on recovery and outcomes is out of scope, as is exploring why people decide to leave the NRM¹.

The essential objectives are to:

- A. Assess types of training focused on awareness-raising and spotting the signs of modern slavery, and available evaluations of training, for at least 4 different NRM First Responder Organisations. We expect projects to include at least one statutory and one non-statutory First Responder Organisation and ideally to reflect a range of different types of First Responder Organisations;²
- B. Identify good practice structures that drive up the quality of referrals to the NRM;
- C. Develop a methodology to generate evidence that can inform recommendations for how First Responders can effectively identify people who have experienced modern slavery and improve the quality of referrals into the NRM. This may involve working with First Responders to pilot a systematic assessment of effectiveness of training;
- D. Explore the reasons why adults with lived experience of modern slavery decide to give or not to give consent to enter the NRM;
- E. Explore patterns according to the characteristics of individuals; exploitation type, organisation of First Responder; and
- F. Explore nature of and causal explanations for changes in number of Duty to Notify referrals.

Desirable objectives:

- G. Consider objectives A and B across different regions of the UK.

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. **Please note that a portion of this funding is conditional on the successful team putting in place a data sharing agreement with the Home Office** to analyse Duty to Notify referral data, redacted to protect personal details (agreed to in principle).

¹ Research is underway on this- see <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/rights-lab/research-projects/pathways-through-liberation-revealing-survivors-support-journeys-outside-of-the-uk-national-referral-mechanism.asp>

² The First Responder Organisations are listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales#first-responder-organisations>

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.

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.

Key Application Dates

Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	27 April 2022
Call information webinar	1pm (UK time) 10 May 2022
Call deadline	4pm (UK time) 22 June 2022
Decision to successful team	Week beginning 11 July 2022
Set up of data sharing agreement between host institution and the Home Office	July 2022 - September 2022
Project start	mid-September 2022
Delivery of final outputs, policy impact and communications activities with the Modern Slavery PEC	by end March 2023

For project timelines and milestones, see below.

Call Webinar

The call information webinar will be held on 10 May 2022 at 3pm 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.

Updates to the call

Following feedback, we have re-opened this funding call, originally launched September 2021, to include the following changes:

1. Project timeframe extended to six months (from four months), with scope to discuss timeframes with the successful applicant
2. We have specified the minimum number of first responder training initiatives expected to be assessed.
3. We have clarified which objective is “desirable”.
4. We have made the requirements for key elements of the research more flexible, so that they can be confirmed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC rather than being prefixed at the point of application.
5. The Home Office agreement in principle to share Duty to Notify referral data, redacted to protect personal details, subject to a data sharing agreement with the successful applicant.

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

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 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

'First Responders' are members of organisations authorised to refer people with lived experience of modern slavery into the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the framework established for identifying victims of modern slavery and providing support. There is a wide range of statutory and non-governmental First Responder Organisations, including Local Authorities, the police and immigration officers, with different cohorts of organisations in Scotland and Northern Ireland compared to England and Wales.³ In 2020 the Home Office published an online modern slavery training module for First Responders with the aim of providing them with a consistent level of knowledge to effectively identify and refer adult 'potential victims of slavery'⁴ to the NRM and a child-specific module followed in July 2021.⁵ The government's New Plan for Immigration announced in March 2021 noted an ambition to strengthen the support given to First Responders working across the immigration system, to 'reinforce their understanding of the indicators of modern slavery whilst also ensuring they are able to assess and raise any concerns about credibility'.⁶

Referrals to the NRM for adults are voluntary and require informed consent. In cases where adults do not give consent for a referral, or where there is missing information, public authority First Responders in England and Wales have a statutory 'Duty to Notify' the Home Office (Single Competent Authority) when encountering a 'potential victim' of modern slavery.⁷ For all cases in England and Wales, a Modern Slavery Act crime should be recorded for each 'potential victim'. **Between the end of 2016 and end of 2018, the number of duty to notify referrals increased for all exploitation types.**⁸ Non-referral of a significant proportion of 'potential victims' has long been seen as an issue.⁹ In 2019 and 2020 the number of Duty to Notify referrals was 2,164 (compared to 10,616 NRM referrals in 2019) and 2,178 (compared to 10,613 NRM referrals in 2020) respectively¹⁰ This figure increased to 3,190 Duty to Notify referrals in 2021 (compared to 12,727 NRM referrals).¹¹ Whilst there are concerns about interpreting the data due to complexities in the way it is collected, a large number of Duty to Notify referrals may suggest increasing awareness and visibility of exploitation types and/or an increase in the scale of those experiencing

³ Home Office, National referral mechanism guidance: adult (England and Wales), Updated 22 June 2021, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales#first-responder-organisations>

⁴ This is the terminology used by the NRM to refer to a person who has a positive reasonable grounds decision and is in receipt of NRM support

⁵ Home Office, 2020 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery, October 2020 p.29

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2020-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>;

Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit, Child Victims of Modern Slavery Training Programme, June 2021

<https://policingslavery.co.uk/transforming-our-response/training-delivery/e-learning-child-victims-of-modern-slavery/#>

⁶ HM Government, A New Plan for Immigration Policy Statement, published on 24 March 2021, p. 32

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration>

⁷ Home Office, Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland, version 2.3 June 2021, p.47

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/993172/Modern_Slavery_Statutory_Guidance_EW_Non-Statutory_Guidance_SNI_v2.3.pdf

⁸ Office for National Statistics, Modern slavery in the UK: March 2020, 26 March 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020#duty-to-notify>

⁹ For example according to the London Metropolitan Police, in 2014 only 60 of 200 Tier 2 and Tier 3 cases in London chose to be referred to the NRM. See Human Trafficking Foundation, Life Beyond the Safe House, July 2015, p. 12

<https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1260/life-beyond-the-safe-house.pdf>

¹⁰ Home Office, Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify Statistics UK, End of Year Summary, 2020, 18 March 2021

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/970995/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-statistics-end-year-summary-2020-hosb0821.pdf

¹¹ Home Office, Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, end of year summary, 2021, 3 March 2022, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/modern-slavery-national-referral-mechanism-and-duty-to-notify-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2021>

modern slavery.¹² High numbers of Duty to Notify referrals may also indicate a growing number of individuals with lived experience opting not to enter the NRM.

Through an Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) open call process, the Modern Slavery PEC has recently funded five research projects which are all exploring longer term outcomes for people with lived experience of modern slavery. Further information about these projects can be found [here](#).

The Modern Slavery PEC is seeking to complement these existing projects through three responsive research projects to fill other priority evidence gaps on the theme of survivor recovery. This call relates to research to identify promising practice to improve the identification of adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK, the factors which support informed consent and the quality of referrals into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), as well as to explore the reasons behind a decision to give or not to give consent to enter the UK NRM. The other two projects focus on [survivors' experiences of access to legal advice](#) and evaluating the [provision of distributed technology](#).

The Home Office publishes high-level statistics about Duty to Notify referrals however there is very limited **published evidence on people with lived experience of trafficking who decide not to give consent to be entered into the NRM or their journeys following this decision.** Existing research points to the lack of legal advice prior to entering the NRM and concerns that the circumstances and nature of First Responder referrals can undermine the process of informed consent.¹³ There is limited evidence about how services can most effectively identify people with lived experience of modern slavery, make quality referrals, and engage with people at the point of identification to encourage access to support, or how this has been affected by remote working necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The outputs from this research project will contribute to the limited evidence base on why people with lived experience of modern slavery decide to give or not to give consent to be entered into the NRM. The Modern Slavery PEC will use the findings to influence ongoing policy and operational considerations about how to improve identification and support through the NRM Transformation Programme¹⁴ and how to improve training for First Responders, as announced in the government's New Plan for Immigration.¹⁵ The Nationality and Borders Bill outlines provisions seeking to ensure that victims of modern slavery are identified as quickly as possible at the 'front end' of the system and the research project will contribute to the evidence base on the potential impact of these measures, in a context where people with lived experience of modern slavery may feel more frightened to engage with officials.

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.

¹² Office for National Statistics, Modern slavery in the UK: March 2020, 26 March 2020

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020#duty-to-notify>

¹³ Carole Murphy, A Game of Chance? Long-term Support for Survivors of Modern Slavery, 16 March 2020, p.12

<https://research.stmarys.ac.uk/id/eprint/3883/1/2018-jun-a-game-of-chanceFINAL.pdf>;

Dr Samantha Currie and Dr Matthew Young, Access to legal advice and representation for survivors of modern slavery, May 2021 <https://modernslaverypec.org/assets/downloads/Legal-advice-report.pdf>

¹⁴ Home Office, 2020 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery, October 2020 p.28

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2020-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

¹⁵ HM Government, A New Plan for Immigration Policy Statement, published on 24 March 2021, p. 32

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration>

Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

The aim of this research project will be to identify promising practice to improve the identification of adults with lived experience modern slavery in the UK, the factors which support informed consent and the quality of referrals into the NRM as well as to explore the reasons behind a decision to give or not give consent to enter the UK NRM.

The scope of the research is limited to adults with lived experience of modern slavery in the UK. Exploring the journeys of people who opt not to enter the NRM and the impact this has on recovery and outcomes is out of scope, as is exploring why people decide to leave the NRM.¹⁶

The objectives are to:

- A. Assess types of training focused on awareness-raising and spotting the signs of modern slavery, and available evaluations of training, for at least 4 different NRM First Responder Organisations. We expect projects to include at least one statutory and one non-statutory First Responder Organisation and ideally to reflect a range of different types of First Responder Organisations;¹⁷
- B. Identify good practice structures that drive up the quality of referrals to the NRM;
- C. Develop a methodology to generate evidence that can inform recommendations for how First Responders can effectively identify people who have experienced modern slavery and improve the quality of referrals into the NRM. This may involve working with First Responders to pilot a systematic assessment of effectiveness of training;
- D. Explore the reasons why adults with lived experience of modern slavery decide to give or not to give consent to enter the NRM;
- E. Explore patterns according to the characteristics of individuals; exploitation type, organisation of First Responder; and
- F. Explore nature of and causal explanations for changes in number of Duty to Notify referrals.

Desirable objectives:

- G. Consider objectives A and B across different regions of the UK.

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

- Research that generates evidence on the potential impact of First Responder training on identification and develops a framework to assess the quality of referrals into the NRM. Proposals that incorporate examination of different factors on identification and quality of referrals by First Responders that use quasi-experimental or behavioural approaches would be welcome.
- Analysis of Home Office Duty to Notify data, redacted to protect personal details, subject to a data sharing agreement in place between the Home Office and successful bidder.
- Qualitative research with an appropriate number (rationale to be provided) of people who have experienced modern slavery, as well as a range of First Responders which would be subject to ethics and data sharing approvals.
- In line with the PEC's guiding principle of survivor involvement, the methodology should demonstrate how input of people with lived experience of modern slavery is built in

¹⁶ Research is underway on this- see <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/rights-lab/research-projects/pathways-through-liberation-revealing-survivors-support-journeys-outside-of-the-uk-national-referral-mechanism.asp>

¹⁷ The First Responder Organisations are listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms/guidance-on-the-national-referral-mechanism-for-potential-adult-victims-of-modern-slavery-england-and-wales#first-responder-organisations>

What we want to see in your application

- A clear description of the approach to the selection and analysis of different NRM First Responder Organisation awareness raising training and related evaluations.
- A clear description for how the research will generate evidence on the potential impact of First Responder training on identification of potential victims and the quality of referrals.
- A justification of the intended sample size for any qualitative research with survivors and First Responders.
- A commitment to producing recommendations for policy makers and First Responder Organisations, informed by data and evidence.

throughout the design and delivery of the research, whilst ensuring survivor engagement is appropriate and takes account of [safeguarding and ethics implications](#).

This methodology will be confirmed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC once the funding is awarded.

Required outputs

The successful applicant will deliver a full report as well as a Research Summary tailored for relevant audiences including recommendations for policymakers, and other actors as appropriate. The outputs will be co-produced with the Modern Slavery PEC team so there should be ample time (c. one month) included in the proposed project timeline for the sharing of drafts to enable comments and feedback to be incorporated.

- The full report should be no more than 10,000 words (excluding references/annexes)
- The Research Summary should be no more than 2,500 words
- Both should provide key recommendations for policymakers and other actors as appropriate.

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

Milestones and timeline	
Application process	
Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	27 April 2022
Call webinar	3pm (UK time) 10 May 2023
Call deadline	4pm (UK time) 22 June 2022
Decision to successful team	Week beginning 11 July 2022
Set up of data sharing agreement between host institution and the Home Office	July 2022 - September 2022
Project start	Mid-September 2022
Project milestones and deliverables	
Action/Activity	Deadline
Final workplan and methodology (provided to the Modern Slavery PEC by project team if required)	End September 2022
Regular catch-ups with the Modern Slavery PEC (see ways of working with the Modern Slavery PEC)	Every 4 weeks
Presentation of interim findings	To be agreed alongside the revised workplan
Completion of research activities	January 2023
Delivery of full draft of project report	Early February 2023
Delivery final outputs. During this time you will be working with the Modern Slavery PEC to agree and finalise the final report and Research Summary	February 2023
Delivery of final outputs and policy impact activities with the Modern Slavery PEC, activities may include attendance at meetings, as well as drafting and/or recording of communications work as agreed with the Modern Slavery PEC during the project's lifecycle	Late March 2023

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 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 or transferred, handled, analysed and stored, including retention schedules, within the Ethics Statement aside from the Duty To Notify data which will be covered by the Data Sharing Agreement to be put in place between the Home Office and successful applicant.

Any and all datasets produced in the course of this research will remain the property of the successful applicant aside from the Duty To Notify data where intellectual property will be covered by the Data Sharing Agreement to be put in place between the Home Office and successful applicant. The final report will be co-branded with the Modern Slavery PEC, whilst the summary briefing will be branded as a PEC output ([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 contact](#)).

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. **Please note that a portion of this funding is conditional on the successful team putting in place a data sharing agreement with the Home Office** to analyse Duty to Notify referral data, redacted to protect personal details (agreed to in principle).

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

- The Principal Investigator (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.
- 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, meaning the Modern Slavery PEC cover 100% of the full economic cost of the project)
- The combined UK registered charity costs can account for 50% of the total budget of the project, for example in a £80,000 project, UK charities 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

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 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

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.

Eligible Costs

We will fund costs which are in line with AHRC's policies¹⁸, 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 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

¹⁸ <https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/> (from page 52)

- 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 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 Modern Slavery PEC (e.g. the sharing of new knowledge, findings and recommendations from the research) and should not be used for campaigning.
- The creation of new websites is not an eligible cost under this call
- 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’.¹⁹ 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.²⁰

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.²¹
- 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 limit:

¹⁹ <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/safeguarding/>

²⁰ <https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-safeguarding-in-international-development-research/>

²¹ <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/>

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 envisages 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.
29. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre is committed to supporting equality, diversity and inclusion across the work that we do and would like to understand the diversity of those who engage with us. As part of this we would be very grateful if you could complete this anonymous survey and share the link with all team members (including Co-Investigators and project partners) for completion. The survey can be found [here](#).

Assessment process

The assessment panel is expected to contain a mixture of experts including Modern Slavery PEC staff, academics, policymakers, industry 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 system²² 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 application, 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 the week beginning 11 July 2022.

²² <https://ahrc.ukri.org/peerreview/peer-review-handbook/the-review-process/grading-scale/>

Call webinar

We will hold a webinar for prospective applicants on 10 May 2022 at 3pm (UK time). 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, 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. 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.