

Peer Review College

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC) is building a Peer Review College to support its mission to enhance understanding of modern slavery across the globe and transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it. The Modern Slavery PEC is developing a unique approach to the selection of applications for funding by recruiting a diverse mix of academics, industry representatives (including NGOs, businesses and wider third sector organisations) and people with lived experience of modern slavery to form part of its Peer Review College.

We are running an open call for membership to our Peer Review College, which offers a unique opportunity to contribute to our mission, shape the future of Modern Slavery research and affect future laws and policies, and to work alongside and learn from a diverse range of experts from the modern slavery field.

What is the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre?

The Modern Slavery PEC 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 the high quality and policy impact-focused research it funds and co-creates, aiming to have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

The Centre works to create a “network of networks” 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 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 consisting of the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham, the Wilberforce Institute at the University of Hull, the Centre for the Study of International Slavery at the University of Liverpool, the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights at the University of Oxford and the Alan Turing Institute. The Modern Slavery PEC is funded and actively supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), from the Strategic Priorities Fund.

What is a Peer Review College?

A Peer Review College is a group of experts in a field, who organisations funding research, such as the Modern Slavery PEC, can call upon to help in assessing applications for funding.

The Peer Review College will play a key role in ensuring that the Modern Slavery PEC continues to fund high quality research. Members of the Peer Review College will review applications to our [funding calls](#) and participate in our decision panels for these in order to make informed, impartial and robust recommendations for which project to fund.

Whenever we need to build a panel, we will invite suitable members, based on area of expertise, to be panel members. For each panel, we will aim to select members from across a range of the groups listed above, with knowledge and expertise relevant to the funding call in question. Panel chairs will also be drawn from the College. We would also draw moderators from the Peer Review College where necessary.

Panel chairs lead the meeting, facilitate panel discussions and ensure panel decisions are delivered fairly, and in accordance with the Modern Slavery PEC's policies and strategies. They ensure decisions are clearly and correctly reported to the Modern Slavery PEC.

Where necessary, after panel meetings, moderators will step in to review panel decisions, ensuring the decision-making process was fair and led to the correct funding decisions.

Who are we looking for?

Traditional Peer Review Colleges are composed primarily of academics. However, the Modern Slavery PEC wants to ensure that a diversity of types of organisations and people are represented in our panel to help us make funding decisions. The Modern Slavery PEC Peer Review College will be unique, making the diversity of its College and its panels a priority, notably through the inclusion of people with lived experience. Therefore, we invite applications from the following groups:

- Academics, including early career researchers, with expertise in modern slavery
- Representatives of NGOs
- Representatives of businesses
- Representatives of wider third-sector organisations
- People with lived experience of modern slavery. The Modern Slavery PEC is establishing a Lived Experience Advisory Panel in late 2022. When the Panel is set up, we will work with them to determine how they want to work with the Peer Review College.

We do not require applicants to have previous experience participating in funding panels or reviewing research applications. We intend the college to be composed of a mix of people with experience of funding panels and of members who are new to it and who will benefit from the opportunity to develop their experience. Full training will be provided to all members.

We are particularly interested in expressions of interest from experts and academics who have not engaged with the Modern Slavery PEC before. The Modern Slavery PEC is committed to being inclusive and diverse, and particularly encourages expressions of interest from women, people with disabilities, Black, Asian, and minority ethnic applicants, LGBTQ+ applicants and other minorities, as well as those who have been directly affected by modern slavery.

What will we expect from members of the College?

We would expect all members to participate in at least one panel per year, which would entail a minimum time commitment of 2 days' work per year (subject to the Modern Slavery PEC matching College members with a relevant funding call).

We would expect that all members participate in the training that we provide before they participate in a panel. This training will be remunerated. We also expect members to sign a document stating that they agree to standards of good practice for reviewers.

We will refresh the College every three years through new recruitment cycles. We'd therefore appreciate that members aim to stay in the College for this time-period, however, they are free to withdraw at any point.

What are the benefits of joining the Peer Review College?

Remuneration will be provided to all members when they participate in a panel, at the following rates:

- People with lived experience of modern slavery and other non-salaried consultants: £300/day
- Academics and business professionals: £100-150/day (depending on level of involvement, e.g. panel member vs panel chair)
- Third sector organisation professionals: £200/day

Other benefits of joining the Peer Review College include:

- Training opportunities
- In depth knowledge of our peer review processes and principles, and an insight into how funding decisions are made
- The opportunity to shape the future of Modern Slavery research, and to get a broad view of the novel ideas coming through the funding pipeline in your area.

How do I apply?

To apply, please fill in [this application form](#) which will ask for the following details by the 14 July 2022

- Name, contact details, type of organisation you represent (academic, NGO, business, third sector, person with lived experience or other, if any)
- Area(s) of expertise
- Up to 150 words outlining your motivation to join the Peer Review College
- Up to 500 words outlining any relevant knowledge and experience of one or multiple of the following:
 - Modern Slavery laws, policies or practice
 - Research and evidence generation
 - Previous experience on funding panels
 - Analytical and decision-making skills

Please also fill in this Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Survey: [The Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre - Equality and Diversity survey \(office.com\)](#). This is an anonymous survey which will not affect the outcome of your application, this information will only be used for monitoring purposes, which will allow us to specifically approach underrepresented groups if needed. You can find out more about our commitment to facilitating equality, diversity and inclusion in our [EDI Action Plan](#).

How will your application be evaluated?

Applications will be assessed by the Modern Slavery PEC team and decisions will be made on the basis of:

- Evidence of motivation and commitment to participate in Modern Slavery PEC funding panels
- Relevant knowledge and experience

We will be in touch with all who expressed interest in this opportunity in August 2022.

If you have any additional questions about this opportunity, please contact office@modernslaverypec.org.