

FAQs

Calls for research: legal advice, distributed technologies and identification of adult victims

Q. *Do projects have to be arts and humanities based?*

A. No, as long as they respond to the questions posed in the call and align with the aims, objectives and guiding principles for research with the PEC, the project will be eligible.

Q. *Can an NGO apply for funding without an academic partner?*

A. Projects must be led by a UKRI eligible research organisation, so an NGO would not be eligible alone. However, we require collaboration with non-academic partners, so encourage NGOs to reach out & form partnerships. Our Google Group might be helpful <https://modernslaverypec.org/latest/google-group>

Q. *Can freelance/consultant researchers be involved in bids?*

A. Yes, they can. Although they cannot lead a bid, consultants/freelance researchers can collaborate on applications. Any costs associated with this must be put under DI-Other within the funding template.

Q. *Can projects have research assistants?*

A. Yes, research assistants are eligible on these grants. It is worth considering the timeframe of the grant and factor in the time needed to recruit a research assistant in relation to this.

Q. *Are international research assistants allowed?*

A. Research Assistants can be based overseas if they are involved in the application with an international collaborating organisation, and their costs will form part of the maximum 30% budget allowed for non-academic collaborators. We may also consider independent international Research Assistants based at a UK host institution (at the host institution's discretion). These would need to be included as consultants and included in DI-Other costs. The PI or Co-I's HEI/IRO in the UK would be responsible for setting up a consultancy agreement with the individual. The relevant PI or Co-I would be responsible for ensuring that the consulting Research Assistant has the necessary independence and expertise to be able to undertake the work, and that they deliver their outputs as agreed. Please note that those employed on responsive research grants would not be eligible for a Global Talent visa.

Q. *Can we have a sample of an acceptable application?*

A. This is not something that we are currently about to offer, although we will consider whether this will be possible in the future.

Q. *Do projects need to account for collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC within their budget?*

A. For the most part this would not need to be included (for example, projects would not need to factor in the PEC's staff time). If there is a very specific or complex element to the project involving the Modern Slavery PEC, this might need to be accounted for. If projects have queries/examples of this, they can get in touch at office@modernslaverypec.org

Q. *What is the best way for NGOs to be involved in this research?*

A. We would recommend that interested parties join the Modern Slavery PEC's Google Group, which is a group of parties interested in modern slavery research. Please feel free to

send an email through the Google Groups, outlining your areas of expertise and project you'd wish to collaborate on. <https://modernslaverypec.org/latest/google-group>

Q. *Dates and timelines on the calls can be tight (considering contracts, ethics and approvals), is there scope for flexibility on these?*

A. These deadlines feed into wider policy requirements, so as a starting point, we would prefer projects to consider developing their activities to fit into these timelines but can accept proposals that fall outside of these timescales if justified. This includes presenting the interim findings at a different, suitable point. There is a sample contract on the call website and we'd recommend sharing that with the host institution's research office to help speed up the project set-up processes. We are also flexible when working with projects, once awarded, to ensure that we meet these policy aims alongside ensuring we can support your operational requirements and ways of working to ensure meaningful survivor inclusion.

Q. *Would proposals that cover a single nationality be considered within these calls?*

A. This is not impossible, but there would need to be a clear rationale for deciding to do so. The Modern Slavery PEC expects research to include a diverse range of survivor voices and have general, robust applicability to provide broad policy impact. Teams could consider collaborating with a second researcher within their application to broaden the scope of their application.

Q. *Is there any further information on distributed technologies and where asylum seekers have received these?*

A. There hasn't been a uniform approach across England, Scotland and Wales. Devices were distributed through a mixture of private sector to people in NRM service and NRM support providers.

Q. *Would an application be able to suggest an amended scope or methodology?*

A. We are open to applications that propose well justified alternatives to our proposed scope and methodology. The methodology will be worked up in collaboration with the team once a successful project is awarded and therefore, we'd recommend you apply and limit the scope in the way that you and your team see fit, including a few lines to justify anything that is out of scope.

Q. *In the legal advice call, are there specific areas of interest to the Modern Slavery PEC?*

A. The reasoning behind the essential elements was to ensure that recovery is clearly defined in the project and that the focus is on assessing the impact that *not* getting advice has on wellbeing or recovery, rather than attempts to measure recovery before, during or after advice. We are open to suggestions on how recovery is defined, and we currently have projects working on survivor informed outcomes on recovery so there might be a chance to speak with these project teams and utilise their indicative findings. We are particularly interested in the impact that not being able to access advice has had on various outcomes and capturing survivor's qualitative views on this would be in scope.