

It happens here too...



Re: **Human Trafficking and Online Safety Workshop**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Illustro Consultancy Ltd. is a UK based company that provides international training, research support and educational services to prevent, identify and deal with modern slavery and human trafficking. We provide front line professionals, businesses and students the knowledge and skills to understand, identify, respond to and mitigate the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Under our education programme, **#LetsTalkModernSlavery**, we provide FREE training and educational support in the UK for sectors that cater for those who are most vulnerable to exploitation.



To give some background, there are an estimated 42 million people worldwide currently held in forms of modern slavery, whereby they are forced or coerced into situations of exploitation of which they cannot escape. This includes slavery, sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced criminal activities, and organ harvesting.

According to the National Crime Agency, 6993 potential victims of modern slavery were identified in the UK in 2018, a 26% increase on the 2017 total of 5,142. During this reporting period, potential victims of trafficking identified in the UK originated from 130 countries, with British nationals remaining amongst the top 3 most commonly identified potential victims. Of the British nationals identified, 90% were under 18 years old.

These are often teenagers recruited online and forced into sexual exploitation and drug dealing. The identification of UK nationals being trafficked in 2018 in fact increased nearly 100% to 1,625 over the 2017 total of 820.

As mentioned, children are often targeted and recruited into exploitation through online platforms. Traffickers and child abusers will



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identify children and initiate conversations in order to earn their trust. Once trust is developed, children can be asked to send intimate pictures of themselves, which are then used to blackmail the child into meeting with, or continuing to send images and videos, out of fear of stigmatisation from parents, friends and peers.



In relation to online child grooming, official figures show that in 2018, 3,171 offences have been recorded in England and Wales across 80 social media platforms. This amounts to almost 9 grooming offences on average per day.

The cases showed that:

- Girls aged 12-15 were recorded in 62% of cases;
- under-11s were recorded in nearly a quarter of cases.

For the 2,097 offences where police recorded the method used to communicate with a child:

- Facebook, Snapchat or Instagram were used in 70% of cases;
- Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram were the top three most-recorded sites.

In order to prevent trafficking and online grooming, children need to be aware of how traffickers and child abusers target them online and how they can protect themselves from becoming victims.

As such, we would like to offer FREE workshops to your students and staff on how to spot the signs of trafficking and online grooming, as well as practical steps they can take to help secure their online interactions.

The workshop covers the following thematic topics:



01 What is modern slavery and human trafficking?

02 What does trafficking look like in the UK?

03 How are apps, sites and gaming used by traffickers to groom children online?

04 How do I protect myself from traffickers and online grooming?

05 What should I do if I suspect trafficking or online grooming?

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...Tackling slavery in today's world

The workshop will be delivered in-person by one of our trainers, using audio and visual presentations, case studies and interactive exercises. Each participant will also be invited to use their mobile phone to participate in practical elements of the workshop.

As we wish to raise awareness on this issue to as many people as possible there is no restriction on the number of attendees, however we do advise keeping to below 30 children in order to keep the one-hour session as interactive as possible.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

In the meantime, please search for us using **#LetsTalkModernSlavery** to see the work we do around the world.



We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Dunkerley

Founder and Managing Director,
Illustro Consultancy Ltd.



“Our students and teachers found the workshops really engaging and interesting. High praise indeed!”

Heidi Kavanagh
Student Support, Mental Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Applemore College, Hampshire

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