



## Notes from the Modern Slavery Networking Event: October 2024

Our thanks to Stevie Waight for coming along to talk more about the Modern Slavery during Anti-Slavery week. Below are some useful links and notes.

The Medaille Trust is part of the Caritas Social Action Network and provides refuge and freedom from Modern Slavery.

What started in 2006, with a house for women trafficked into prostitution, quickly grew into a national network supporting all people trapped in modern slavery – women, men and families.

Medaille Trust is one of the largest provider of supported safe house beds for victims of modern slavery in the UK. Their specialist teams support clients ranging from low-level to high-level needs 24/7 on the road to restoration and independence.

Medaille Trust combats human trafficking and modern slavery by:

- offering safe housing
- providing support for victims
- raising awareness in communities, and
- partnering with law enforcement authorities.

Medaille Trust also works in partnership with charities in source countries, such as Albania, to help prevent trafficking and support those who return home. They raise awareness of modern slavery in the UK through talks at churches, schools and community groups,

Find more information about their current work on their [website](https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/) ( <https://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/>) where you can also sign up to newsletters, link to their social media, and see volunteering and other opportunities.

**Raising Awareness and spotting the signs** is key to combatting Modern Slavery. This includes knowing possible signs and how to report a suspicion safely. You can download a '[spot the signs](https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Modern-Slavery-Poster-1.pdf)' poster from the Caritas Portsmouth website (<https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Modern-Slavery-Poster-1.pdf>) which you can also print out to put up in your parish.

### What to do if you are concerned

If you just have a suspicion, it is better to call the police on 101, the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 08000 121 700 or Salvation Army on 0800 808 3733. They can advise and as experts, know how to deal with a situation that does not put the victim in danger. It is usually better not to approach a potential victim directly as this can put them at greater risk.

Occasionally someone will have the opportunity to escape. If this happens, they may approach someone on the street or find somewhere they consider safe like a church. They'll want help now and this is a case for calling 999.



Another way we can help, is supporting victims who are now free to build their confidence by accompanying them to groups and activities in the community. Even when rescued, victims can be vulnerable to falling back into exploitative situations. Perhaps your parish already hosts a social group that could safely welcome someone trying to rebuild their life. If you would like to help, please get in touch at [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

If you are concerned about someone in your parish, you can also contact the Safeguarding team for advice at [safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

You can also download the Stop the Traffick App to report concerns – more information can be found on their website at <https://stophetraffik.org/what-we-do/the-stop-app/>.