

# VISION AND STRATEGY

Justice and Care exists to bring freedom to individuals and communities living in the grip of slavery, to bring all those responsible for human trafficking to justice and to spark systemic change.

The charity outworks its vision in three ways - Justice and Care's own **direct work** in the UK, Romania and Bangladesh; through **joint operations** with partner organisations currently in Thailand and India; and through the work of its **systemic change unit**; which extracts lessons from the direct work and translates them into ways governments and stakeholders can fight this crime at scale.

## Headline achievements

Sep 21 - Feb 22

Over the last six months, our impact includes:

	21/22 H1 Total	Growth on 20/21 HY average
<b>Saving lives:</b>		
Victims removed from exploitation	55	37% ↑
Survivors cared for	305	-3% ↓
Survivors repatriated	104	66% ↑
Vulnerable people receiving prevention education (direct)	2,394	1,444% ↑
<b>Prosecuting criminals:</b>		
Accused traffickers arrested	44	-19% ↓
Prosecutions of exploiters supported	228	204% ↑
Exploiters convicted	17	1,600% ↑
Frontline professionals trained	1,949	132% ↑

### Systemic change:

#### Key wins

- Invited by the Government of Bangladesh to draft the country's human trafficking victim identification guidelines, to be used by all law enforcement nationally
- UK Government enacts our key recommendation that the duration of support for confirmed victims of trafficking be extended to 12 months
- Together with a multi-agency anti-trafficking platform we co-founded in Romania, successfully advocated for a new national proceeds of crime fund to be made available for victims of trafficking

## PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Over the last six months we have seen real breakthroughs in our support to modern slavery prosecutions in both the UK and Bangladesh - seventeen exploiters convicted and sentenced to jail as a direct result of our work. We have continued our aftercare support to more than 300 survivors, supporting them to achieve real recovery and reintegration - from child survivors in Bangladesh graduating from high school, to repatriated survivors in Romania securing safe local long-term employment. Beyond our immediate casework, we have sought to equip law enforcement and criminal justice stakeholders to better understand how to identify victims and investigate and prosecute complex trafficking cases - with 1,949 frontline professionals trained and crucially, clear evidence of improvements in their practice as a result. We have also brought critical insights to governments in every country where we work, contributing significantly to changes in strategy, law and policy.

### Key wins include:

- Supported British girls who were trafficked and sexually exploited as teenagers to testify in court, resulting in the jailing of the 68 year old male perpetrator for 25 years
- Repatriated 104 survivors - including bringing home more than 20 trafficked children
- Doubled witness attendance rates in Bangladeshi Human Trafficking Tribunals we are supporting - driving growing numbers of convictions
- Trafficking prevention awareness targeted to vulnerable communities, including refugees fleeing the Ukraine war



## Direct work

### UK

5	Victims removed from exploitation
130	Survivors cared for
1	Survivor repatriated
22	Accused traffickers arrested
15	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
11	Exploiters convicted
1,108	Frontline professionals trained

The Victim Navigator programme and its reputation is continuing to grow in the UK. Three new team members have joined since September - a specialist looking at organised immigration crime; a Navigator working on large cases across the UK, assisting the likes of the National Crime Agency; and a Navigator working to build counter-trafficking networks across Europe with Europol, European forces and NGOs.

This period, numbers of cases we have supported finally reached court - with Navigators intensively supporting survivors to endure cross-examination and bravely testify against their exploiters. 11 traffickers were convicted as a result of our work, including one who pled guilty as soon as he realised his victim was really going through with testifying against him.

As a result of this in-depth work in court, numbers of new cases taken on have fallen and with it the numbers of arrests and rescues we have supported in the UK. However, we expect these to recover as the team expands. Other key outcomes include:

- 94% survivors choosing to engage with police - their evidence critically leading to more victims and more perpetrators being identified
- 69% survivors achieving measurable improvements in their mental and emotional wellbeing, as they begin to recover and process their trauma

### Bangladesh

49	Victims removed from exploitation
171	Survivors cared for
98	Survivors repatriated
1,393	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
20	Accused traffickers arrested
22	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
6	Exploiters convicted
841	Frontline professionals trained

With lockdowns finally lifted, our team achieved outstanding casework outcomes including:

- Six traffickers convicted and jailed as a result of our work - this compares with just seven traffickers convicted in the entire country in 2020
- Our witness attendance programme achieved a doubling in the number of human trafficking victims and witnesses attending court to testify against their exploiters - with judges shocked at the turnaround
- 49 victims rescued, several within 48 hours of being reported missing, as a result of our support to investigations and training to Border Guards to identify victims in transit
- Intensive support provided to vulnerable survivors, with 1,842 in-person or phone follow-ups conducted to survivors to coordinate care, regularly re-assess needs and provide emotional and relational support - and 19 more survivors achieving an advanced stage of reintegration and graduating from the programme
- 20 survivors supported to establish profitable income generation activities and several more achieving job placements. Economic empowerment is key to preventing re-trafficking - one survivor who was supported into employment, after receiving her first monthly salary, expressed ***'I got this job at a crucial moment and otherwise could have taken a wrong decision. I will always be thankful to Justice and Care.'***



## Romania

- 1 **Victim removed from exploitation**
- 24 **Survivors cared for**
- 5 **Survivors repatriated**
- 2 **Accused traffickers arrested**

Having only begun casework in Romania this period, we have rapidly established a repatriation and reintegration programme informed by our work in the UK and Bangladesh.

Our team provided support to 24 survivors, 20 of whom were previously supported by our UK Navigators before their repatriation to Romania. Care plans included helping them with practical supplies such as food, fuel and clothing, counselling, and support in finding new employment. Already, 85% are engaging with police investigations into their exploitation.

In one case, a survivor we are supporting interviewed unsuccessfully for a job via a recruitment agency. Our tenacious Navigator intervened, persuading the prospective employer to interview the survivor directly and preparing the survivor intensively for the interview. He was successful in this second interview and now has a job in a factory producing car parts, where he receives both a decent wage and safe on-site accommodation. This survivor continues to support the police investigation into his exploiters in London - 13 accused are undergoing trial with our survivor due to provide his testimony shortly as a key component of the prosecution.

Recently our team in Romania have also responded to the war and mass displacement in neighbouring Ukraine, through a targeted messaging campaign reaching over 250,000 people at the border with information for refugees on safe sources of support and how to avoid exploitation. We know that the displacement will have ongoing impact on our work and in the region, and we will respond as needed over the coming months.

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## Joint Operations

### Thailand

Our support to our Thai partner LIFT International includes specialist advice on an operational and strategic level, and securing for them significant third party funding. Working around ongoing Covid restrictions, LIFT has:

- Provided investigative support to multiple cases, particularly through digital forensics - including playing a key role in the removal from harm of five children and arrest of two suspects in a case of online sexual exploitation
- Addressed a workshop for those running shelters for survivors of human trafficking in Thailand, hosted by the ASEAN Commission for Women and Children - teaching on victim-centric approaches and best practice models in survivor care
- Commenced casework in partnership with the Department for Special Investigations through their new 'Modern Slavery Liaison' role, based on our Victim Navigator model
- Begun new systemic change work, being invited by the Office for the Attorney General to sit on a law change committee looking into the criminalisation of grooming (which is not yet an offence in Thailand). LIFT is providing advice into the text of the law, alongside MPs and a small number of other NGOs





## India

We have worked in partnership with Vihaan in India, providing a small amount of bridging funding and sharing expertise. They have been able to:

- Scale up prevention work in the state of Bihar, combining mass awareness rallies, the formation of youth vigilance groups, campaigns to register families with welfare schemes and also providing aftercare and legal support to survivors in the community. Prevention has been particularly key during the pandemic, with families facing financial crisis due to lost income and villagers reporting regular visits from contractors inviting them to send their children to work in factories
- Continue legal and investigation work, with several successes - including three women, all tortured and exploited, being rescued from a brothel in Kishanganj, with five suspected traffickers arrested. In another case, the team assisted in the rescue of three young Nigerian women, including one child - who had been trafficked on student visas and forced into prostitution in Delhi
- Provide ongoing aftercare to over 170 survivors, including supporting 14 survivors to graduate from an industry-oriented skill training programme. The survivors are all now capable of machine sewing a wide variety of items and are looking to pursue careers in the garment industry

## Systemic Change

Over the last six months, our International Systemic Change Unit has:

- Brought together leading modern slavery and human trafficking prosecutors from around the world in a 'Global Prosecutors Consortium', run in partnership with the McCain Institute in the US, to share lessons, identify common issues and develop tools to strengthen and expedite the prosecution of trafficking cases
  - Commenced fieldwork in a study looking at the behaviour of supply-side offenders perpetrating online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines, which will inform operational practice, sectoral learning and policy making
  - Produced several policy briefs for the sector - bringing together the best practice, research and thinking on key topics including prevention and cyber forensics.
- On an operational level, our commitment to systemic change has also seen:
- Our UK Navigator for Children and Young People become part of a national forum around good practice in addressing exploitation of children in county lines drugs gangs
  - The national anti-trafficking platform we co-founded in Romania offering input and challenge to the government on the criminal code regarding the age of consent, and on fines incurred by women forced into prostitution
  - The Bangladesh Government commission Justice and Care to draft guidelines for all law enforcement on the implementation of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, and national victim identification guidelines, on their behalf - and tribunal judges and prosecutors we have trained committing to adhere to crucial rules of the anti-trafficking law that they have previously neglected, after receiving training from our experts



## Case Study: Gabriela

18 year old Gabriela\* was kidnapped in Romania and trafficked to the UK for sexual exploitation. When she was found by police, she was taken to the Romanian embassy, where we were asked to get involved.

She did not want to engage with anyone and simply wanted to return home, but our Navigator team managed to establish a relationship with her. We began to build trust and to ensure that she had the necessary plans, safeguarding and support in place to return.

As a result, she opened up - helping us to join the dots to an investigation into her disappearance in Romania. Having helped her get home, we helped her engage

with investigators and prosecutors who have pursued her case. As a result of the evidence she gave, members of the organised crime group responsible for her trafficking were arrested and remanded in custody.

Gabriela's evidence has also led to us being able to provide support to other victims that the group trafficked. We are continuing to ensure that Gabriela gets the support she needs to recover from her ordeal and begin to rebuild her life.

•Name and image changed to protect identity

## DEEP DIVE

In each of these reports, this 'deep dive' section will provide detailed insights into an area of our work or challenge we face - in this case the work of our UK Modern Slavery Policy Unit to address urgent concerns with the UK's Nationality and Borders Bill as it pertains to victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

### The work of the Modern Slavery Policy Unit

The Modern Slavery Policy Unit is a joint initiative led by Justice and Care and a leading Westminster think tank, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ). The joint Policy Unit has a core mission - to keep modern slavery at the top of the British political agenda and ensure the UK fights the crime. This means better understanding of the nature and scale of modern slavery, increased investment and a sophisticated national response proportionate to the level of threat.

### Showing the way forward - 'A Pathway to Freedom and Justice'

In February we launched a major review of the victim support system in the UK - a system that is failing victims, meaning that traffickers are getting away with the crime and costing taxpayers billions. The result of a year's in-depth research, 'A Pathway to Freedom and Justice', makes 24 recommendations

to Government and practitioners as to how to make the system fit for purpose and adequately protect survivors of the crime.

Recommendations include more support from the moment that a victim is found, speeding up decision-making processes, and for the police to make tackling the crime a strategic priority. It recommends embedding specialist teams and support workers in each force - to get justice and help for today's victims, while putting offenders behind bars to prevent the exploitation of others. The report also highlights how modern slavery costs the economy an estimated £33 billion a year and calls on Number 10 to oversee the delivery of better value for money for taxpayers.

The report received significant media coverage and has been well received by the Home Office and was welcomed by the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. We will now focus on getting the recommendations implemented.

### Advocacy in action - The Nationality and Borders Bill

The current Nationality and Borders Bill is primarily focused on reforming the asylum system, but includes proposals that would affect victims of modern slavery of all nationalities. Our Modern Slavery Policy Unit has identified details of the Bill which create significantly greater risks that modern slavery

victims will not be identified or adequately supported. We have worked with Members of Parliament and the House of Lords from across the political spectrum to highlight the weaknesses of the proposed legislation and advocate for amendments. A piece we helped put together with Caroline Haughey QC, the UK's leading modern slavery and human trafficking prosecutor, and published in the Independent newspaper, helped bring our concerns to a wider audience.

We have seen key progress already - as a result of our work, the British Government announced that 'all those (victims of modern slavery) who receive a positive conclusive grounds decision and are in need of tailored support will receive appropriate individualised support for a minimum of 12

months' - extending support significantly from the previous minimum duration of 45 days. This decision enacts one of our key recommendations and is a direct response to the amendment to the Nationality and Borders Bill which we supported Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP to submit with the support of a number of MPs.

We are poised, whatever the outcome of the Bill, to continue to advocate constructively on this issue - bringing clear, practicable, evidence-based recommendations.

### Case study:

Anne\* had always had a tough life. Neglected as a child then married to an abusive husband who coerced her into taking drugs, she developed complex mental health problems and drug and alcohol dependency. After leaving her husband and being rehoused, a local drug gang, seeing her vulnerability, took over her home through violence, manipulation and threats - using it as a base to run their 'county lines' drug selling in a crime known as 'cuckooing', and using Anne as their drug mule.

Police and our Navigator discovered Anne, forced to sleep on her sofa surrounded by the gang and their weapons. Police arrested two exploiters and our Navigator provided wraparound support. He was able to ensure that she was treated as a victim of exploitation and has now been rehoused in a much safer place.

His ongoing support led her to share how she would love to support other survivors one day - saying:

*"I'd love to help others like myself who are going through what I went through....I wish I could go round schools, colleges and universities and talk to them and warn others about it from the start of taking drugs to lead them up to a vulnerable position like it got me. If I just saved one person I'd be happy".*



The Navigator then worked with our Modern Slavery Policy Unit to highlight gaps in modern slavery legislation that prevent police from prosecuting the cuckooing aspect of these drugs cases effectively - leading to the publication of a new report, shared with the CPS and Home Office, bringing this issue to the Government's attention.

\*Name and image changed to protect identity

**Thank you for standing with Justice and Care in bringing freedom to those living in the grip of slavery, justice to those responsible for human trafficking and sparking systemic change.**

**Your support is changing lives and together we can break the grip of slavery.**