

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 - by undertaking **frontline work** in the UK, Romania and Bangladesh, through strategic **joint operations** with like minded organisations and through a commitment to sparking **systemic change**, extracting lessons from the frontline work and translating them into ways governments and stakeholders can fight this crime at scale.

Headline achievements

September 22 - February 23

Over the last six months, our impact includes:

	22/23 H1 Total - frontline work	Growth on 21/22 HY front- line work
Saving lives:		
Victims removed from exploitation	36	-16% ↓
Survivors cared for	423	34% ↑
Survivors repatriated	82	-13% ↓
Vulnerable people receiving prevention education (direct)	2,090	39% ↑
Prosecuting criminals:		
Accused traffickers arrested	26	-39% ↓
Prosecution cases currently being supported	310	89% ↑
Exploiters convicted	20	5% ↑
Frontline professionals trained	2,180	9% ↑

Systemic change:

Key wins

- Facilitated the first use of video evidence in Bangladesh anti-trafficking tribunals for the first time, setting a national precedent
- Engaged MPs and other key political contacts around pathways to support for British victims of modern slavery and proposed amendments to the Modern Slavery Act
- Brought together 17 leading prosecutors from around the world for the first in person meeting of the Global Prosecutors' Consortium

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

Over the last six months, the impact of the work of Justice and Care has continued to grow, with survivors empowered to start businesses and enter positions of leadership, investigations supported, traffickers convicted, and targeted research and advocacy undertaken to shape the global fight.

We are currently supporting the prosecution of more than 900 accused traffickers across 310 ongoing cases. Court processes move slowly, but we are seeing nationally significant numbers of convictions in Bangladesh; and, in the UK, police repeatedly assert that court cases would have fallen apart without our Victim Navigators supporting survivors to bravely testify.

Demand for our specialist support is sadly relentless, with 108 new survivors entering our aftercare programmes over the last six months. Each has multiple and complex needs - from a man bent double and frostbitten from labour exploitation in UK chicken coops, to a female survivor battling schizophrenia in Bangladesh. However, our work is leading to both recovery outcomes for survivors, and criminal justice outcomes, as survivors gain the trust and agency to reveal vital intelligence about other victims and their exploiters.

Although we supported fewer new investigations this period in Bangladesh, leading to reduced numbers of arrests and rescues supported - we have now been directly requested by law enforcement leaders across the country to provide more training to their teams, which we expect to result in increased investigative outcomes in due course.

Beyond our immediate casework, we continue to engage with governments and law enforcement agencies to improve their response to human trafficking - from launching national survivor reintegration guidelines in Romania to challenging the UK Government on the growing challenge of 'cuckooing' of vulnerable people by drugs gangs.



FRONTLINE WORK

UK

23	Victims removed from exploitation
187	Survivors cared for
6	Survivors repatriated
16	Accused traffickers arrested
20	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
6	Exploiters convicted
1,519	Frontline professionals trained

Over the last six months, we have supported survivors trafficked to the UK from 39 different countries. In a single operation, our Navigators supported police to identify and remove 14 Ghanaian victims from labour exploitation.

Navigators' support to prosecution cases led to six convictions, including three members of a Lithuanian Organised Crime Group convicted of the labour exploitation of multiple victims, with defendants receiving total combined sentences of 90 years.

The final independent evaluation of the Victim Navigator Programme was published, finding the programme is successful in its aims of building a trusted bridge between the police and survivors of modern slavery, improving survivor engagement with the criminal justice process and aiding survivors' recovery and reintegration. Key findings include:

- **Survivors supported by Navigators demonstrated recovery in key areas, with three quarters (73%) of survivors reporting an improvement in their mental wellbeing, and two-thirds an improvement in their economic situation (65%)**
- **Survivors supported by a Navigator were more than twice as likely to engage with the police, with 92% of survivors with a Navigator engaging on some level with police, compared to just 44% of a sample of survivors without a Navigator**

'[The Navigator] makes a huge difference, he really does. I am pretty sure without him we wouldn't have victims on board with prosecutions but also they would probably still be where they are [in exploitation]. ... He gives people hope.' (Police)

Bangladesh

13	Victims removed from exploitation
196	Survivors cared for
71	Survivors repatriated
2,090	Vulnerable people receiving prevention education
9	Accused traffickers arrested
285	Prosecutions of exploiters supported
14	Exploiters convicted
661	Frontline professionals trained

In Bangladesh, our prosecution programme is providing intensive support to a cohort of legal cases - through engaging witnesses to attend court and training prosecutors and judges in human trafficking law. As a result, we are driving prosecutions - in the last six months, our programme achieved 14 convictions, compared to just 18 traffickers convicted in the whole of Bangladesh during 2021 (five of which were also the result of our work). Traffickers in our recent cases were sentenced to a collective total of 100 years in prison as well as ordered to pay substantial fines.

These cases included three women responsible for kidnapping and trafficking babies, planning to sell them on for adoption. The traffickers were jailed for a total of 25 years, thanks to the intervention of our legal team.

Our aftercare team continues to support survivors according to their individual needs. To enhance their longer term financial independence, 30 survivors were supported with vocational training or to establish income generation activities, including inputs for tailoring, cattle and poultry farms. One visually impaired survivor who was supported to set up a cloth selling business spoke of how our support transformed her life: *"You have helped a blind person like me to have new hope for a new life. With the help of my mother and son I'm running my clothing business and want to show you that if you try it is possible to change a disabled person's life."*



Romania

Romania

40 Survivors cared for

5 Survivors repatriated

In Romania, our team provided support to 40 survivors of trafficking over the last six months, offering a wide range of practical and emotional assistance.

In one complex case, our Navigators have had regular contact with a survivor of sexual exploitation as she attempts to overcome the trauma of her ordeal, as well as dealing with violence and domestic abuse within her own family. Our Navigators have supported the survivor to enrol for psychological counselling, covering the costs, as well as helping her to arrange childcare and transport. The team is also in touch with UK police with regards to her case, keeping her updated about the prosecution of her exploiters. Another survivor linked to this case is being supported with counselling and speech therapy services for her young child, as well as being kept updated about the case.

Our team supported five survivors to return home to Romania during this period, assisting with survivors' travel and liaising with the necessary law enforcement, care providers, and other stakeholders, to ensure that support was in place for the survivors upon arrival. In many cases, these reparations were supported in collaboration with our UK Navigators, ensuring continuity of care. One of these cases involved supporting the repatriation of a survivor of sexual exploitation who had been held in debt bondage and forced to engage in sex work in the UK. As a result of building trust with the survivor, our Navigator persuaded her to provide additional information to UK police, including around a number of other women who are still being exploited by the suspect in this case. The survivor's account contributed to the arrest of one suspect who is now being remanded on modern slavery charges.

As a lead partner in the 'ProTect' national platform of anti-trafficking NGOs, Justice and Care Romania contributed to the final draft of new and improved Government processes to help identify and support victims of human trafficking.

JOINT OPERATIONS

We are partnering operationally with more than 100 organisations along the trafficking routes where our casework takes place, to arrange and manage safe repatriations, secure specialist care provision for survivors and collaborate on joint advocacy projects. To strengthen regional joint working, during the last six months we also:

- Organised in partnership with the Bangladesh Government, a major consultation bringing together 66 sectoral experts from Bangladesh, India and Nepal to discuss strengthening arrangements for combating human trafficking across the region
- Presented new national guidelines for survivor reintegration, developed by our team, at a bilateral workshop convened by the British Embassy in Romania

and attended by key law enforcement and service providers from both countries.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE

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

- Brought together 17 leading prosecutors from around the world for the first in person meeting of the Global Prosecutors' Consortium, providing a space for them to share lessons and common challenges in securing justice in cases of human trafficking. This three-day event, delivered in partnership with the McCain Institute, allowed for experiential learning, networking, and capacity building, and the group were addressed by former Prime Minister Theresa May.
- Published a new study, 'Modern Slavery and Forced Marriage: Examining the relationship', which aims to help governments, researchers, NGOs and other stakeholders identify the work needed to better understand the link and enhance policy responses.
- As part of the Unit's work leading a study of convicted offenders of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) in the Philippines, our ISCU Director travelled to the Philippines to meet with project research partners, deliver a series of workshops, and present early findings from their OSEC study at the 'Behind the Screen' Conference in Manila.

Over the last six months, our Joint Unit - run in conjunction with the Centre for Social Justice - has been focused on:

- Releasing a major report calling for reform including making cuckooing a slavery offence, tougher sentences for traffickers and increasing requirements on businesses on supply chains - you can read the report [here](#) and see ITN coverage on the issue of cuckooing [here](#).
- Continuing to engage MPs and other key political contacts around pathways to support for British victims of modern slavery and proposed amendments to the Modern Slavery Act.
- Providing draft parliamentary questions and information on issues including cuckooing, false claims and the modern slavery strategy.
- Making a submission to parliament's Joint Human Rights Committee.
- Labour Party shadow cabinet members and policy advisors have sought ongoing input from the Joint Unit on developing their modern slavery policy. Our Unit is also influencing the launch of a Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into human trafficking, giving our team the opportunity to feed into recommendations to be presented to the Government.

UK Case Study: Conviction of sexual exploiter in a Met Police case

A case supported by our Met Navigators resulted in an exploiter being sentenced to 31 years in prison, on 22 charges relating to sexual exploitation. Our Navigators have been providing support to seven of the survivors in this case, all of whom attended the trial and provided evidence against their exploiter. The offender had taken advantage of the vulnerable young women, manipulating and sexually exploiting them for financial gain. The survivors had a wide range of complex needs - with our Navigators helping many of them to access counselling, search for jobs, and overcome housing,

immigration and safeguarding challenges. The police investigators involved in this case praised the "exceptional work" of the Navigators, with the lead investigator acknowledging that they "would not have reached this stage without the critical work carried out with the victims over a prolonged period of time" and the Detective Sergeant in the case asserting,

"Their work has been nothing short of exceptional, and I put the fact that complainants have been able to give evidence as solely down to support offered by [the Navigators]".

DEEP DIVE

In each of these reports, this 'deep dive' section provides detailed insights into an area of our work or challenge we face - in this report we want to look at how the voices and experiences of survivors are shaping our work in a meaningful way.

We strongly believe survivors bring unique expertise to the anti-trafficking fight and should be empowered to shape and lead our programmes. From consultation and feedback loops to developing survivor leadership roles in our programme delivery, we ensure the voice of survivors is put centre stage.

Feedback

We reach out regularly to all survivors in our programmes to gain their views on how effective our work is in meeting their needs. We use the findings to iterate improvements to our programmes and design new solutions.

Recent anonymous surveys of our UK survivors revealed they were overwhelmingly satisfied with the support provided by their Navigators, giving them an average score of 94/100 in terms of how helpful they have been in assisting them with the issues most important to them. Survivors told us that the Navigators' support had helped give them a voice, that they felt they had been treated with compassion and that it had helped them get their life back on track, with one survivor sharing that: "[The Navigator] has given me my life and self belief back. Nothing is too much trouble and whenever I have needed her she has been there. No one has ever helped me as much in my life." When asked what we could be doing better, we received feedback that survivors would like access to more written information outlining their rights and entitlements. As a result, we are developing a new section of the Justice and Care website for survivors that will outline this information in a clear and accessible way, in multiple languages and with facilities for those with no literacy.

Independent interviews

We commission independent evaluations of our work, which include confidential in-depth interviews with our survivors, to help us better understand how they experience our programmes.

Common themes from these interviews include how crucial relational as well as practical support is: "After I returned, I felt like I would have to go back to India because I couldn't think of

having a regular normal life here after coming back with such experience. But after connecting with J&C and as I met my case worker, my thinking started to change gradually. Case workers gave us hope for a better life. They assured me that they would be by my side and helped me have a better life here... actually it was not always about the material things that I received from them, rather the friendship that the case workers provided us, the way they sympathized with us and supported us that was what mattered most. Even now, I talk to my case workers every 10/15 days. Talking to them gives me comfort and confidence"

- Survivor of sex trafficking, age 22, Bangladesh

Leadership empowerment

We have engaged survivor leaders to review our communications, surveys and the tools that we use to assess survivor recovery, incorporating their feedback to ensure that our questions are relevant, accessible and framed in a sensitive and trauma-informed manner.

We have just launched a peer-led aftercare programme in Bangladesh, with **twenty remarkable survivors of modern slavery who have been supported through the JCBD aftercare programme beginning new roles as aftercare professionals within our team**. These Champion Survivors have reached an advanced stage of recovery and have already gained experience through providing peer mentoring. They will now take the next step by working alongside the JCBD team as 'Aftercare Case Facilitators' to deliver a full range of aftercare to other survivors who are at an earlier stage in their recovery journey.

This is a pioneering programme, and we believe it will be mutually beneficial and empowering for both Champion Survivor leaders and those survivors receiving support. Champion Survivors will be provided with intensive training, ongoing professional supervision, mentoring, salaries and support, helping them to flourish in their new roles. At a launch meeting in Jashore, which brought together all 20 Champion Survivors as well as staff members from Justice and Care, there was a jubilant atmosphere as the survivors shared their hopes for a positive future and reflected on how far they had travelled, with one survivor stating: "First I was a victim, then a survivor, then I was a forum member and a Champion Survivor. And today I have the best title of all, I am your colleague."

Case Study - Bangladesh

The daughter of a poor farmer, Sabrina* had hoped to complete her education and find a job to support her family - but due to poverty, she was forced to get married at a young age. Abandoned by two husbands, Sabrina was badly mistreated by her in-laws, who took her son away from her, saying she was mentally unfit to take care of her child. Finding herself in a desperate situation, Sabrina was tricked into eloping by an exploitative man who instead of marrying her, trafficked her to India for sexual exploitation. Sabrina was rescued by Indian police and referred to our team, who safely brought her back to Bangladesh, enrolled her in our aftercare programme, and took on the legal case against her trafficker.

Following her abuse, Sabrina was suffering from trauma and several psychological problems. However, through long-term care from our team, including professional counselling and access to the necessary medications, she has seen huge improvements in her mental wellbeing. Having recovered sufficiently to return to school, she just completed her Secondary School Certificate with an excellent GPA of 3.75. Additionally, our team helped her to set up a small grocery stall which she now runs alongside her father, allowing them to earn

a decent income, and protecting her from further vulnerability to trafficking. Her dream is to gain further qualifications and independence so that she can help to look after her parents: "I don't want to be a burden to anyone. I want to be independent. It is important for women to be independent in this society."



*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.