

What happens if I do not get a conclusive grounds decision from the UK Government?

- Dependent on the circumstances, you may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency – the relevant police force or the Home Office.
- If you are not British or an EU citizen, and there are no other circumstances that would give you the right to live in the UK, you will be offered support to voluntarily return to your country of origin.

What happens if I refuse support now but decide later that I would like support or more information?



You can self-refer to **Beacon** on 03000 11 55 55 (option 3). Their website (www.hertfordshirebeacon.org) provides helpful information on dealing with the effects of exploitation and understanding the criminal justice process. It also has details of other local agencies in Hertfordshire that may be able to offer you some emotional and practical support.



You can self-refer to the 24 hour **National Modern Slavery Helpline** on 08000 121 700, which can provide immediate advice in over 200 languages. This helpline is run by a charity, Unseen, and is independent, specialist and confidential. Like Beacon, you can receive support from the helpline without having to engage with the police or the UK Government.



The Salvation Army provides a specialist support programme to protect and care for all adult victims. Their confidential Referral Helpline 0300 3038151 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To access support from them, you must agree to enter the National Referral Mechanism at the point of referral.

For more information on exploitation and additional resources, please consult the Hertfordshire Modern Slavery Partnership website: www.stopexploitationherts.org.uk/victims-and-families/victims-and-families.aspx.

INSTRUCTION TO PROFESSIONALS & NGOs: Please ensure that the individual presenting can read and has the mental capacity to give informed consent to the **National Referral Mechanism (NRM)**. Refer to the victim referral pathways for further information. This flyer should only be taken home by the individual presenting if they are residing in a safe location. If not, you are potentially putting them at risk.



Support Available to Adults in the UK that are Being Exploited: NRM Support Booklet

Can someone help me?



If you are found to have been exploited in the UK, you are entitled to receive independent, emotional, medical and practical help from the UK Government. This support can be provided in several different ways, including:

- ✓ finding you temporary safe accommodation.
- ✓ helping you with medical treatment.
- ✓ having someone to help you cope with your experience.
- ✓ providing an interpreter/ translator to help you communicate in English.
- ✓ police protection, if you report your exploitative situation to them.
- ✓ independent legal advice.
- ✓ subsistence payments.

UK Government Official Support System: The National Referral Mechanism



The UK Government has created a system called the **National Referral Mechanism**, which allows for support to be provided by the state.

By consenting to being referred through this system, your case will be investigated, and if it is understood that you are being exploited, you will be offered help and protection from the UK Government.

1. Do I have to involve the UK Government or the police if I want to leave my current exploitative situation?

No, you don't. If you do not want to involve the UK Government or the police, then Hertfordshire has a local support service, called Beacon, which is separate from the government and the police. You can receive support from Beacon and do not have to work with the police or the government. Your details will also be kept confidential.



What support would I get from Beacon?

You will be allocated a specially trained case manager who will:

- Support you through your recovery through an individualised plan of support.
- Act as your advocate.
- Refer you on to partners with specialist skills and knowledge that can better support you (if you consent to this).



Support could include:

- Emotional and practical support.
- Advocacy.
- Access to restorative justice and target hardening (Beacon will explain further about this type of support).
- Support ensuring your personal security.

If you do not consent to support from Beacon, please be aware that the service is always open to you and you can self-refer via the website (www.hertfordshirebeacon.org).

2. What happens if I do decide to talk to the police?

- Hertfordshire has a specialist police unit that only works to tackle exploitation of people in the area.
- They have substantial experience working with individuals like you.
- They will talk to you about what has happened.
- You will be offered protection from anyone that could hurt you.
- They will start an investigation.
- You will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation.

3. What happens if I do decide to involve the UK Government through the National Referral Mechanism?

The Government will decide within around 5 working days from receipt of referral whether there are reasonable grounds that you have been exploited, either abroad or in the UK.

During the 45-day period, you will be able to determine your next steps, whilst waiting for final confirmation that you have been granted positive conclusive grounds that you have been exploited. Upon receipt of a positive conclusive grounds decision, you will be granted another 45 days, amounting to a total 90 days reflection and recovery period.

If the referral is successful, you will be:

allocated a place within Government funded safe house accommodation, if required.

granted a reflection and recovery period of at least 45 calendar days.

If this is confirmed, you may then be entitled to:

- Discretionary leave to remain in the UK for one year if you are co-operating fully in any police investigation and subsequent prosecution. This period of discretionary leave can be extended if required.
- A grant of discretionary leave to remain in the UK, which will be dependent on your personal circumstances.
- Help and financial assistance to return home if you do not wish to stay in the UK.
- Support from your local embassy and any relevant NGOs.