MODERN SLAVERY

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

April 2023

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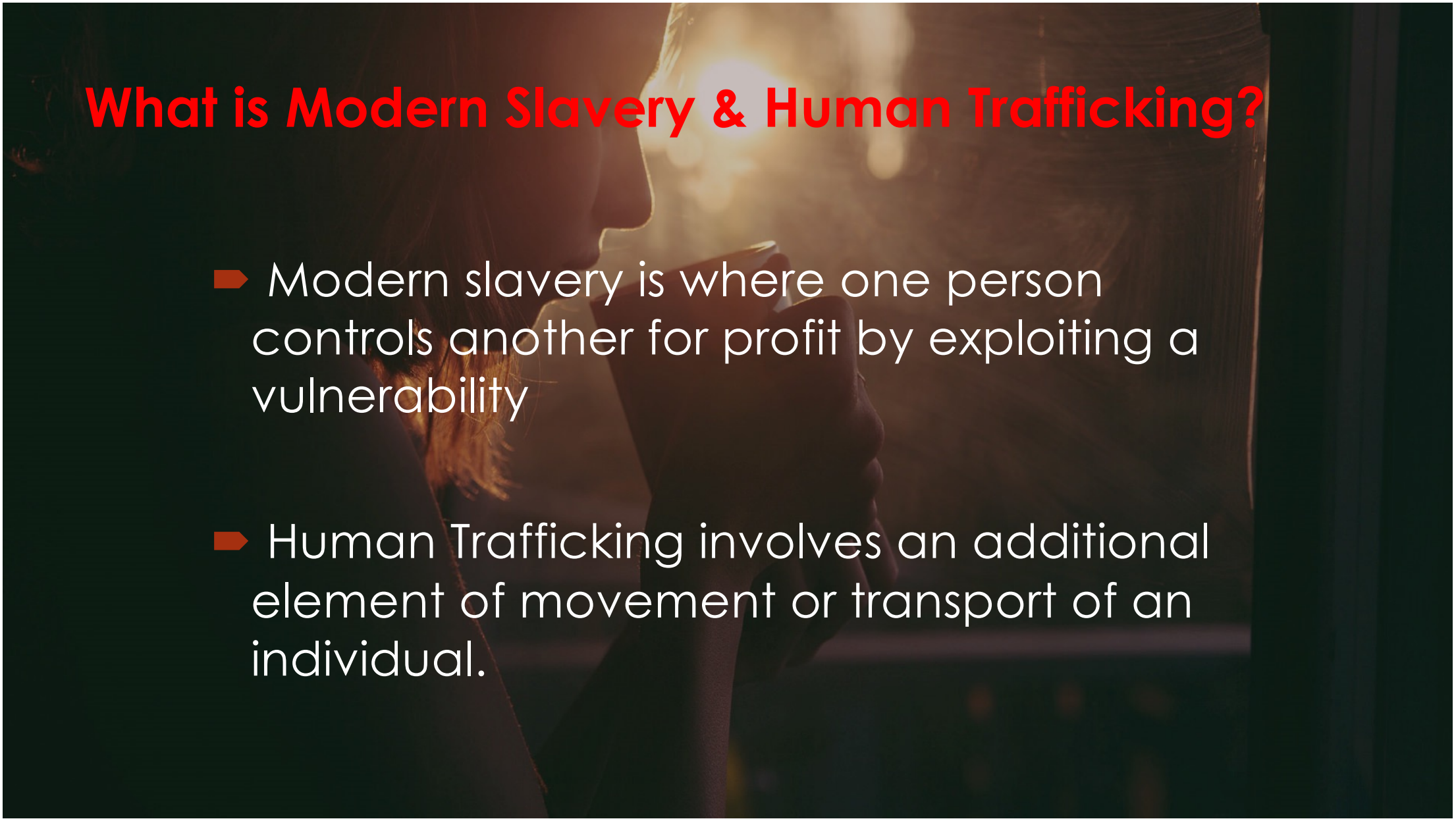
Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Branch
Department of Justice

Department of Justice
www.justice-ni.gov.uk



What is Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking?

- Modern slavery is where one person controls another for profit by exploiting a vulnerability

- Human Trafficking involves an additional element of movement or transport of an individual.

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What does Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking look like in NI?

- Labour exploitation
- Criminal exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Domestic servitude
- Organ harvesting

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QUIZ

- How many people are estimated to be trapped in modern slavery globally?

  ILO estimate: 49.6million

- What is the most common form of slavery / exploitation?

  Labour exploitation: ~20million

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Risk Factors

- Anyone from any walk of life can be targeted and can end up as a victim of modern slavery.
- Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender identity, sex, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, and socioeconomic class.
- People experiencing the following at particular risk:
  - Homelessness
  - Alcohol or drug addiction
  - Mental health problems
  - Chaotic home environment or recent family breakdown
  - Long-term unemployment
  - Learning difficulties
  - Debts or criminal convictions
  - Fearful of deportation or being discovered by authorities
  - Physical injuries or disabilities

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT)

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MSHT is a devolved issue:

- NI Assembly enacted the Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act NI 2015
- DoJ holds overall responsibility – Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Branch (sits alongside Organised Crime)
- Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Strategy – 3 key pillars:

PURSUE
Detecting, investigating, disrupting and prosecuting

PROTECT
Reducing the harm caused by modern slavery by improved victim identification and support

PREVENT
Reducing the threat of modern slavery by reducing vulnerability and demand; and raising awareness

Delivered in partnership with PSNI; PPS; DoH; DfC; Local Authorities, NGOS; the Home Office; National Crime Agency: Probation Service; An Garda Síochána; the Gangmasters' Labour Abuse Authority and others

Pillar 2 - Protect

- **National Referral Mechanism (NRM):** UK wide referral system for all victims of MSHT – overseen by the Home Office

- Organisations with responsibility to make referrals are called **First Responders**

First Responder organisations in Northern Ireland who can make NRM referrals are:

- Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCTs)
- Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- UK Border Force (UKBF)
- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- UK Immigration Enforcement (UKIE)
- UK Visas & Immigration
- Belfast Airport Police
- Belfast Harbour Police
- Independent Child Guardian Service

Home Office have a two-stage decision making process on all cases referred through the NRM:

- ✓ Stage 1: Reasonable Grounds (RG)
- ✓ Stage 2 : Conclusive Grounds (CG) ⇒ confirmed victim of MSHT

Support for Victims / potential victims

- Once referred into the NRM victims are entitled to access support, which includes:
  - accommodation
  - living expenses
  - access to health and social care
  - legal and immigration advice
  - counselling

Two organisations currently contracted by DOJ to provide support in NI:

- ✓ **Migrant Help** → Adult male/ some female victims
- ✓ **Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid** → Adult female victims

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NRM Statistics - # Referrals

	NI		UK wide	
2022	547	843%	16,938	142%
2021	363		12,727	
2020	128		10,604	
2019	91		10,613	
2018	58		6,979	

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BBC NEWS

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Prostitution and trafficking accused refused bail

5 November 2019

Martin Heaney at an earlier court appearance

A County Down man charged with prostitution and human trafficking offences has been refused bail.

Martin Heaney, of Maypole Park, Dromore, is accused of earning money by advertising unprotected sex with a number of women.

The 57-year-old is also accused of driving women

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Ex-stripper firm boss Martin Heaney admits trafficking women

Paedo 'mucky Marty' facing jail over raft of crimes

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Courts

Lisburn couple who kept vulnerable Nigerian woman as domestic slave spared jail sentence

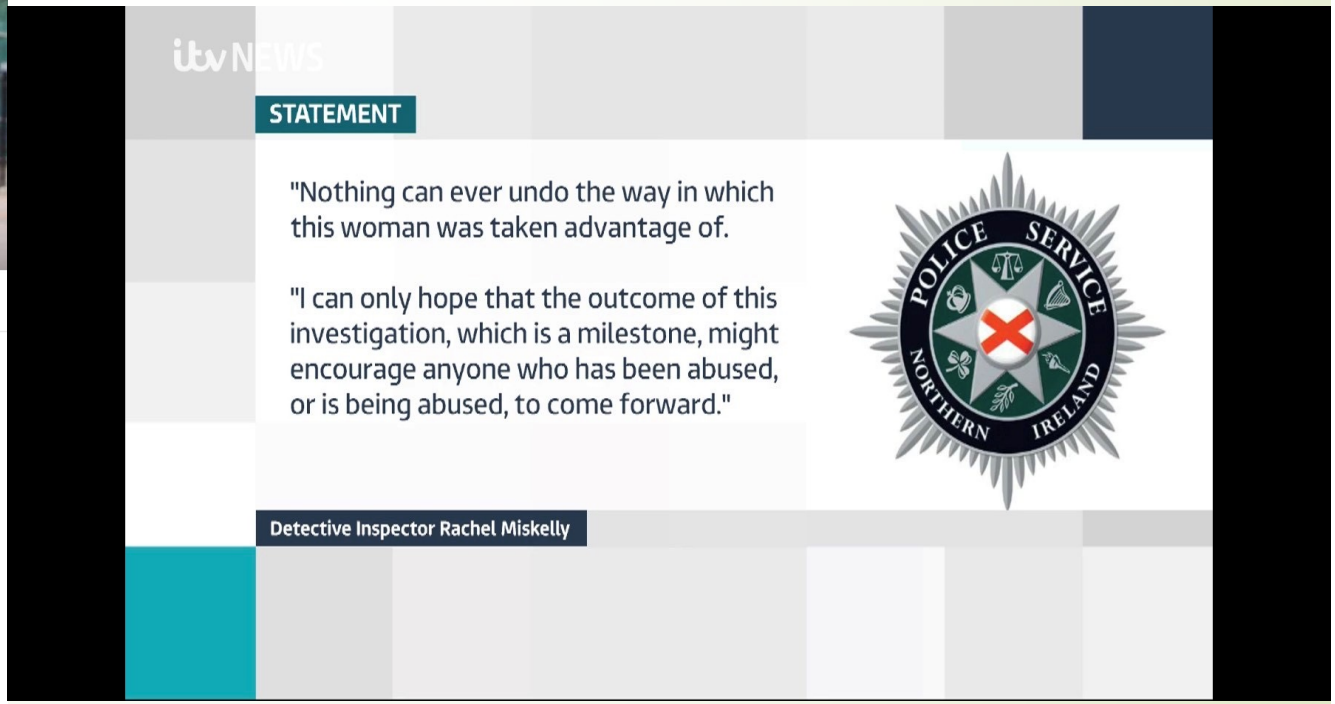
Osarobo Izekor and his wife Precious Izekor

Ashleigh McDonald
June 27 2022 05:01 PM

A husband and wife who made a vulnerable Nigerian woman 'perform forced labour' including unpaid childcare in their east Belfast home have been spared jail.

Osarobo 'John' Izekor (36) and his 29-year-old wife Izekor were both handed a two-year prison

Consent



Indicators of MSHT

Victims of modern slavery/human trafficking will often access healthcare services during their experience. Healthcare professionals have a unique opportunity to identify, educate and refer victims of MSHT. Possible indicators to help recognize potential MSHT at play.

A patient or individual:

- Shares a scripted or inconsistent history
- Is unwilling or hesitant to answer questions about an injury or illness
- Is accompanied by a controlling individual who speaks for the patient or will not leave patients side
- Demonstrates excessive concerns about pleasing a family member/romantic partner
- Expresses concern for family member's safety
- Demonstrates fearful, anxious or nervous behaviour and avoids eye contact
- Is unable to provide his/her address, or appears unaware of location, date or time
- Is not in possession of his/her ID docs, money or other relevant documentation
- Is not being paid or wages being withheld for debt owed
- Exhibits signs of other untreated injuries

Barriers to disclosure

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There are many barriers to a victim disclosing what's going on. The list below gives a sense of some of these bariers:

- Unaware they are a victim
- Unaware help is available
- Language barriers
- Controlled movement
- Fear of repercussions (family or themselves)
- Always accompanied by a trafficker
- Isolation
- Feel they are better off in current rather than previous situation
- Immigration status
- Involvement in criminal activity
- Juju (witchcraft)
- Lack of trust in authorities
- Self blame
- Stigma
- 'Stockholm Syndrome'

Disclosure techniques

Where you have concerns and no disclosure is forthcoming:

- Try to find out more about the situation and speak to them in private without anyone who accompanied them
- Use interpretation services – do not rely on individual accompanying the person – they may be in control
- When speaking to them, reassure them that it is safe for them to speak
- Not make promises you cannot keep, including about confidentiality
- Only ask non-judgemental relevant questions
- Allow them time to tell you their experiences
- Not let concerns you may have about challenging cultural beliefs stand in the way of making an informed assessment about their safety
- Speak to your manager, colleagues or Local Safeguarding Leads for support and advice
- MSHT screening forms?

How to report concerns

PSNI: Phone **999** in an emergency.
101 for non-emergency calls

Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid: 24/7 helpline
028 90 666049 support@belfastwomansaid.org.uk

Migrant Help NI: 24hr help
028 9244 8449 northernireland@migranthelpuk.org

modern slavery helpline

Modern Slavery Helpline:
08000 121 700

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