

HOW CTAC CAN HELP

To support professionals working with trafficked children, CTAC can:

- 1 Provide advice to professionals from a child protection and police perspective – through casework, an advice line, leaflets and training.
- 2 Attend child protection meetings and produce child trafficking reports for the courts and the immigration tribunal.
- 3 Coordinate multi-agency responses with a child protection focus where there are trafficking concerns for a child.
- 4 Advocate for foreign national children in the UK where there are trafficking or safeguarding concerns.
- 5 Deliver free training to a range of professionals in the UK and abroad.
- 6 Influence, challenge and share best practice with professionals.
- 7 Analyse and report on trafficking trends and share data with strategic partners.
- 8 Analyse, report and share data in relation to safeguarding concerns for children being moved across borders.
- 9 Provide support with referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) – a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive appropriate care.
- 10 Participate in local and national strategic groups and respond to policy consultations.



“There’s no family here or back home. I feel lonely when I don’t have anyone to check up on me or show that they care.”

Juma[†], trafficked to the UK from Nigeria

[†] name changed to protect identity

NSPCC

GET IN TOUCH

Trafficking and slavery need a child protection response, and it’s vital to consult with all relevant agencies to assess the situation.

The NSPCC’s Child Trafficking Advice Centre is here for you to talk through any concerns you may have for a child. We can also deliver free awareness-raising presentations to professionals.

For more information, call **0808 800 5000** and ask for the Child Trafficking Advice Centre, email ctac@nspcc.org.uk or go to nspcc.org.uk/ctac



Since September 2007, the Child Trafficking Advice Centre has worked on **more than 1,300 cases[†]**, which had either clear trafficking or safeguarding concerns.

[†] Figure correct to September 2015

Stop child trafficking and slavery in its tracks

The NSPCC’s Child Trafficking Advice Centre
0808 800 5000

The NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) is a specialist service. It provides free guidance and support to professionals with safeguarding concerns for children being moved across international borders, either to or from the UK.

The service is staffed by experienced social workers and a National Crime Agency police liaison officer. It provides free training and awareness-raising presentations, attends network and child protection meetings and produces child trafficking reports for courts.

WHAT IS CHILD TRAFFICKING?

Child trafficking is the movement of a child or children for the purpose of exploitation. It is a criminal offence under Modern Slavery legislation. A child is any person under the age of 18, and children cannot consent to being exploited.

Children can be trafficked into and out of the UK, and within the UK itself. They can be trafficked by parents, extended family members, known adults from a child's community or by strangers. Trafficking often involves organised international networks of criminal gangs.

Children can be exploited through:

- * **sexual exploitation**
- * **criminal activity (eg cannabis cultivation, street crime, moving drugs, benefit fraud, immigration fraud)**
- * **domestic servitude**
- * **labour exploitation (eg restaurants, nail bars, agricultural work, factories)**
- * **illegal adoption**
- * **forced marriage**
- * **unreported private fostering arrangements (for any of the above exploitative purposes).**

This is not an exhaustive list and children are often exploited in more than one way.

IS IT CHILD ABUSE?

Child trafficking is child abuse and requires a child protection response and multi-agency working, irrespective of the child's immigration status or whether they have engaged in criminal activity.

Children are vulnerable to multiple types of abuse in the process of trafficking. Children can suffer physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, and neglect.

ADE'S STORY[†]

Ade is a 15-year-old child from west Africa. His father had a small business, his mother was a nurse and he attended the local secondary school. When Ade was 14 his family and most of the people from his community were killed in a genocide. He was homeless and left with no responsible adults or means to look after himself.

Peter, an older man who claimed to be his father's business contact, took Ade in. He was made to work on Peter's farm in return for food and shelter. Peter told Ade to copy a signature and took him to several offices. Soon after, Peter brought Ade to the UK and left him with another man called John.

John was a white man and his wife was from the same country as Ade. They both appeared to have good jobs and had a big house. Ade lived in this house for six months. He wasn't given enough food, was responsible for looking after two young children, cleaning and cooking for John and his wife and he was made to sleep in the storage room.

John told Ade that he was too old to attend school and would have to work for them. He was beaten by both John and his wife and told he was a big responsibility for them. One day after being beaten, Ade was locked in the house and the family went away for the weekend. Ade was so fearful after the last attack that he took a risk and climbed out of the window. He approached an adult on the street and asked for help.

This adult took him to a local police station.

[†] Ade's story draws on real cases that CTAC has seen, but does not describe a specific case.

HOW TO HELP A CHILD LIKE ADE

Follow your child protection procedures:

- * **First and foremost, Ade is a child who has disclosed he has suffered significant harm. You should follow organisational child protection procedures for responding to and reporting disclosures of abuse.**
- * **Given Ade's disclosures, a strategy meeting should be held, involving children's services, police, immigration, health, and any other agencies that Ade is known to.**

There are significant indicators that Ade has been trafficked to the UK for the purpose of domestic servitude. While in the UK, he has been kept in slavery and beaten.

To support a child like Ade, there are a number of things that need to be considered:

- * **Ade needs to be reassured that he's not in trouble, it's not his fault, and you and other professionals are there to support and protect him. Trafficked children are often kept in exploitative situations as they don't know that authorities in the UK can help them.**
- * **An appropriate placement for Ade should be discussed – taking into account his safety, the risk from John, his medical needs, and the level of support he'll require both practically and emotionally.**
- * **Ade will have appointments and interviews with many different professionals. He may not understand the role of each professional and the purpose of these interviews.**
- * **Trafficked children are at high risk of going missing from Local Authority care, particularly within the first 48 hours. Appropriate safety plans for Ade's circumstances should be discussed with Ade and his carers and put in place at the earliest opportunity.**
- * **Ade's immigration status should be clarified. Many trafficked children are brought to the UK with false or no documentation. If Ade has no documentation, or documentation that is not his, he should be supported to see a solicitor at the earliest opportunity.**
- * **In the absence of any ID and with Ade saying he is 15, it should be presumed he is a child. If there's reason to believe he is older, a Merton compliant age assessment should be carried out by the Local Authority. Ade should be informed about the purpose of this.**
- * **A referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) should be made to formally identify Ade as a victim of trafficking. For support with referrals, the Child Trafficking Advice Centre can help.**