



Issue: April, 2020

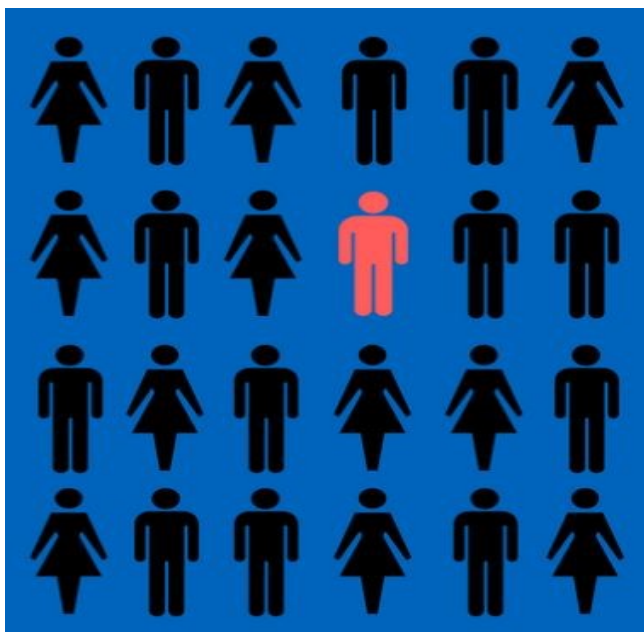
## Update on Police Operations

### Operation Filibeg: National Investigation into the exploitation of Vietnamese migrants

Between 2018-2019 the number of Vietnamese nationals referred to the National Referral Mechanism in Scotland has risen by 230%. Police Scotland have created a dedicated enquiry team in response to this named Operation FILIBEG. The scope of this team is to build a comprehensive intelligence picture of the experience of these victims of trafficking and the networks of criminals who exploit them.

The team will work with national and international law enforcement agencies, local authorities, third sector partners and the victims themselves to improve understanding of this complex issue and to direct Police Scotland's efforts to bring those involved in human trafficking and exploitation to justice.

Police Scotland are taking forward plans to have 2 Vietnamese law enforcement officers seconded to their National Human Trafficking Unit. They will assist greatly in engaging with victims and building a picture of their journey to and within the UK.



## Operation SYNAPSIS: Glasgow, October 2019

The first annual progress report highlighted a day of action on 9 February 2017 that resulted in the arrest of four individuals for trafficking Slovakian women to the UK. As part of the operation, 14 victims were identified and their wellbeing safeguarded. Five persons were arrested and four subsequently found guilty at Glasgow High Court in October 2019 of Human Trafficking Offences.

Vojtech Gombar, Anil Raj Wagle, Rastislav Adamand and Jana Sandorova were sentenced to a total of 36 years imprisonment and all four had Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention Orders (TEPO) imposed for a further five years on release.

## Conviction for Trafficking: Perth, November 2019

In November 2019 Remus Groza was a labour gangmaster who was convicted of exploitation offences relating to human trafficking at Edinburgh High Court. Five victims described to the court how they carried out heavy agricultural labour, slept on two shared mattresses and were forced, after large deductions to their wages made by Groza, to survive on about £30 per month.

Groza was sentenced in January 2020 to a Community Payback Order which included 300 hours unpaid work. A TEPO was also imposed for a period of five years. The TEPO includes restrictions on his activities to prevent further offences of this nature.



PEOPLE SHOULD NOT  
BE BOUGHT AND SOLD

HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
IS HAPPENING IN SCOTLAND

## Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority

The (GLAA) works in partnership with police and other law enforcement agencies to investigate and prevent the exploitation of vulnerable workers across the UK.

The agency also operates a licensing regime, regulating businesses who provide workers to the fresh produce supply chain and horticulture industry, to ensure they meet the employment standards required by law. Labour providers are assessed to check they meet the GLAA licensing standards, covering health and safety, accommodation, pay, transport and training. Anyone who does not meet these standards can have their licence revoked. It is a criminal offence to supply workers without a licence or use an unlicensed labour provider.

In December 2019, a man was jailed for three-and-a-half years after admitting acting as an unlicensed gangmaster following a GLAA operation. Alexander Goran recruited at least 41 workers from Romania with the promise of employment and accommodation. Once the workers were in the UK, he controlled their wages, directed them to live in cramped, sub-standard housing, and even gave some of them false identities so that they could work two separate shifts at a food processing factory. Two of his accomplices, including his wife Ana Marie Goran, were also jailed, with a further offender receiving a suspended sentence and community order.

Partnership work is crucial in ending exploitation. In November 2019, the GLAA joined Police Scotland and other organisations in a multi-agency day of action in Fife. Ten addresses were visited and 38 adults were interviewed via voluntary questionnaire, and provided information to the GLAA and police. The GLAA is an intelligence-led organisation which means the public has an important role to play in tackling exploitation. Anyone who suspects someone is being exploited for their labour should contact the police or GLAA's intelligence team, either by calling 0800 4320804 or by emailing: [intelligence@gla.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@gla.gov.uk).



### Rogue hand car washes – “a serious social blight”

A recent study of 45 car washes led by Nottingham Trent University found that non-compliance with minimum wages rules – “*wage theft*” – was “*universal*”.

Many such rogue sites operated from unsuitable premises with ineffective protective clothing and equipment, allowing dangerous chemicals to flow into nearby water courses. Tax evasion is also a key issue with most hand car washes being cash only payment with no receipts issued.

If a person believes that they are not receiving the National Minimum Wage they can complain via ACAS: <https://www.gov.uk/pay-and-work-rights>

Anyone who suspects a labour provider is exploiting the welfare and rights of workers can report the issue to the GLAA – call free on **0800 432 0804** or click on this link: [intelligence@gla.gov.uk](mailto:intelligence@gla.gov.uk)



Two human traffickers have been told they have to pay more than £13,000 in compensation to their victims.

We told you about Operation Heathyard, an operation on 02 December 2016 in the first annual progress report (page 21) and the outcome of criminal proceedings in the May 2019 edition of this newsletter. We can now let you know that on 10 February 2020, Robert McPhee and John Miller were told they had to pay back the profit they made from a catalogue of crimes which included abducting and holding workers in servitude, as well as a number of violent offences spanning decades. It's estimated the pair benefited by around £220,000.

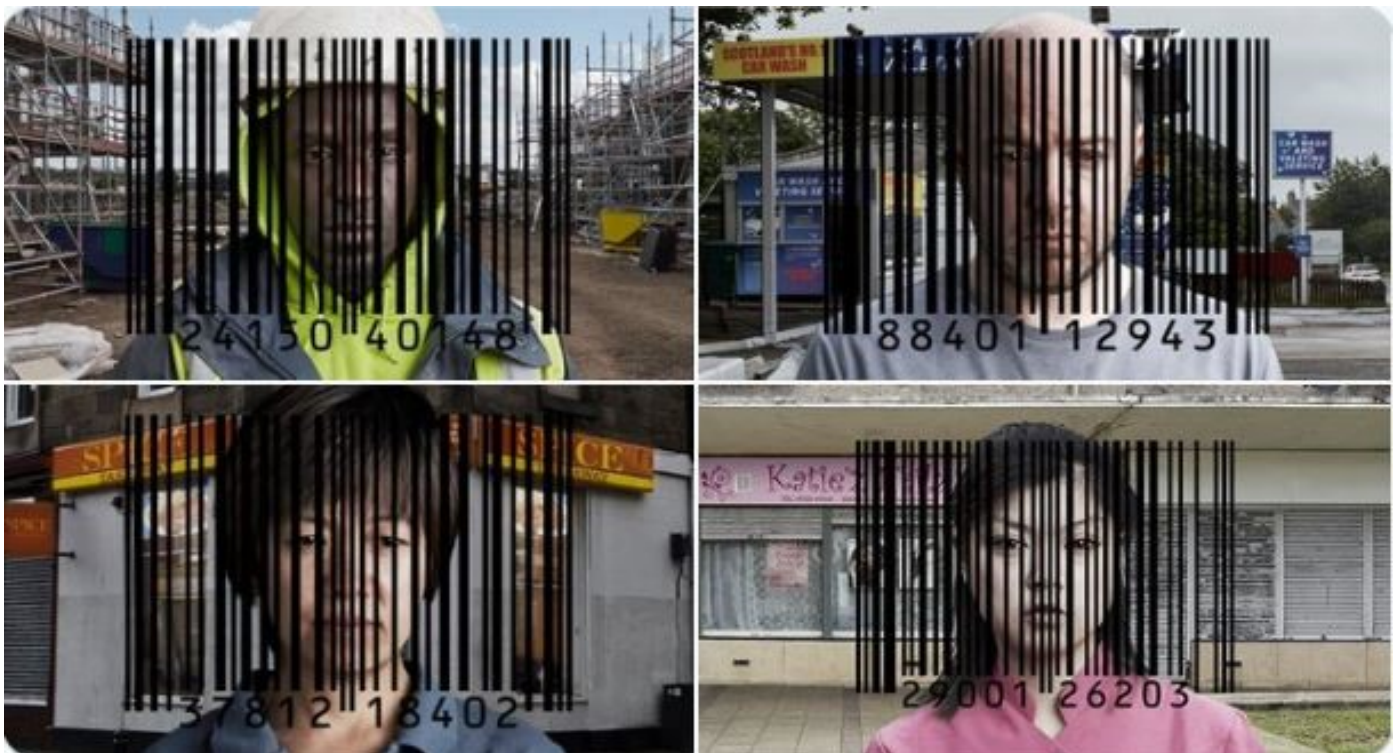
Orders have been made totalling £104,209. Of that, £13,533 will be paid to their victims as compensation, with the rest going to CashBack for Communities. The value of the order reflects the amount available at the time the order is made but allows the Crown to recoup more money in the future.

Jennifer Harrower, procurator fiscal for specialist casework, said: "The vulnerable men who were targeted and exploited were promised paid work, free food and board but McPhee and Miller did nothing but profit from their abuse.

"A proportion of the money recovered from McPhee and Miller will be paid to the victims, which it's hoped will go some way to repairing the damage done to the workers.

"The Crown's role does not stop at prosecution. Even after a conviction is secured, we will use the Proceeds of Crime legislation to confiscate funds from those who do not deserve them."

## Human Trafficking is a serious and complex crime



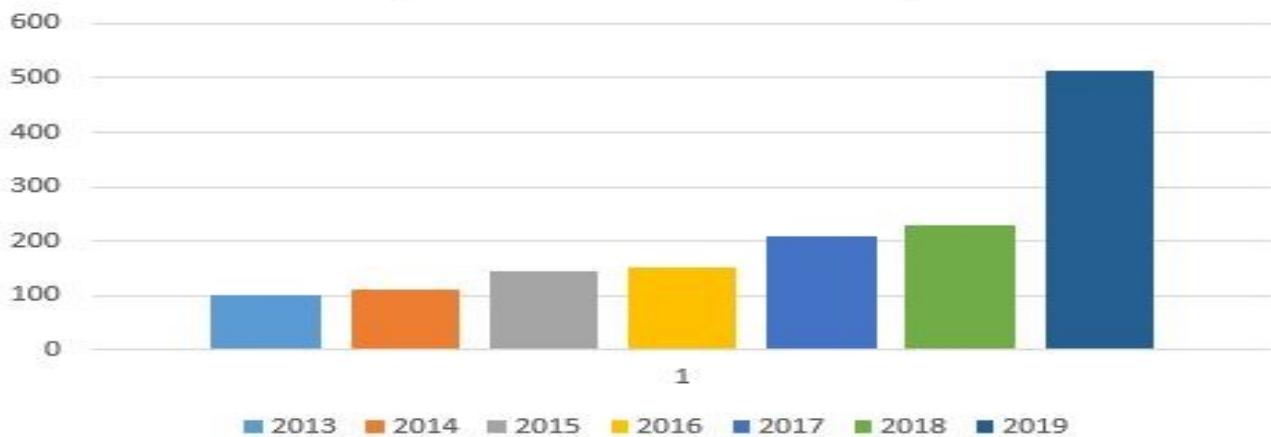
# The number of victims being identified in Scotland continues to increase

On 2 April 2020 the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) figures were published for 2019

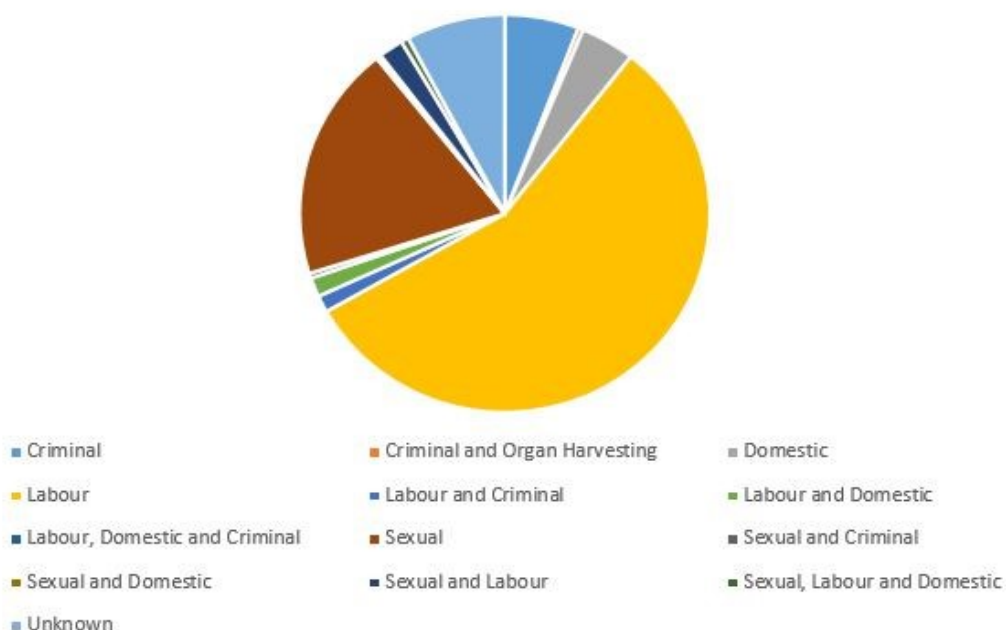
Key insights:

- 512 referrals from Scotland in 2019, an increase of over 125% on 2018 (228 referrals).
- 338 males and 174 females were referred in 2019.
- 338 referrals were for adults with 156 referrals for children in 2019. For 18 referrals, age was not recorded.
- Vietnamese (214 referrals) was the biggest single nationality grouping, followed by Chinese (66), Albanian (28), Sudanese (24) and British nationals (20).
- 305 (60%) of Scottish referrals in 2019 related primarily to labour exploitation followed by sexual exploitation (113, 22%).
- In Scotland, labour exploitation accounted for 60% of Vietnamese nationals referred in 2019.

NRM Scotland Statistics



2019 NRM Scotland Statistics  
Exploitation Type



## Exposing Exploitation, Igniting Hope

SOHTIS has launched phase one of Project Light, a pilot project which aims to improve the identification of potential victims of trafficking beginning in Edinburgh. Using evidence based models SOHTIS are working with frontline staff from key areas of the Third Sector, including homeless services as well as Police Scotland, Border Force and British Transport Police. Their expert anti-trafficking staff will strengthen 'Spot the Signs' training.

As a result of this project SOHTIS will provide a clearer picture of the numbers of potentially trafficked people in an area, ensure referral pathways are operational, work towards solutions where challenges are identified, building capacity, support the embedding of effective processes and procedures in organisations who work with groups at risk of trafficking and produce shared learning of good practice for the wider Third Sector and statutory services.



# SOHTIS

Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland

Project Light will be evaluated and is underpinned by the national Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards 2018 and in line with the Outcomes and Actions set out in the Strategy. With increasing interest in this Project from other parts of the country, the Project will expand beyond Edinburgh in subsequent phases. For more information or to get involved with Project Light Contact: Joy M Gillespie, Development Manager, SOHTIS [developmentmanager@sohtis.org](mailto:developmentmanager@sohtis.org) [www.sohtis.org](http://www.sohtis.org)

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) have published their first article on modern slavery, pulling together a range of data sources to give a better understanding of the extent and nature of the crime.

- The number of potential victims referred through the UK National Referral Mechanism (NRM) increased by 36% to 6,985 in the year ending December 2018. Almost one-quarter (23%) of these potential victims were UK nationals.
- Although not covered by the ONS report, the recently published NRM statistics for 2019 show there were 10,627 referrals to the NRM in 2019 across the UK. This is an increase of 52% on the number of referrals in 2018.

Read the full report here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020>

Contact: [human.trafficking@gov.scot](mailto:human.trafficking@gov.scot)



Human Trafficking is  
closer than you think