

Project TILI intelligence report July – Sept 2020

What is project TILI?

Project TILI (Train, Identify, Learn – Intelligence) is funded by the Tampon Tax Fund and brings together partners from Northern Ireland, Wales and England to tackle modern slavery for women who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or vulnerably housed.

There are five partner organisations – Crisis, Hestia, BAWSO, Women’s Aid Northern Ireland, and Shared Lives. One of the four sub-projects within TILI is the development of a database of cases of modern slavery across England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Why is this data being collected?

There is lots of anecdotal evidence of a link between modern slavery and homelessness, but there is still a limited understanding of the big picture and the scale of the problem across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Insights from the database are aimed at improving the national understanding of the link between modern slavery and homelessness, and enabling the provision of better help for victims.

How has this data been collected?

- Homelessness, housing and/or sex work organisations receive free TILI training on how to identify signs of modern slavery amongst homeless people.
- Project partners (Crisis, Hestia, BAWSO and Women’s Aid) also collect data on cases of modern slavery and homelessness
- There were 20 organisations collecting data during this quarter (July – September 2020)
- Any homelessness, housing or sex work organisations who would be interested in receiving this training and collecting data for the project are encouraged to get in touch with sam.parker@crisis.org.uk

What comes next?

- The project will be releasing one further quarterly report in February 2021. A final report will then be released at the end of the project in May 2021.
- So far, the TILI project has delivered training to 266 members of frontline staff, with much more training scheduled.
- We will continue to train organisations and build up data sources over the year so that, despite restrictions posed by Covid-19, we have as substantial a dataset as possible.

Get in touch

The project can offer bespoke data analysis for people or organisations who might have a more specific use from this data - please get in touch with sam.parker@crisis.org.uk (for a full list of fields in the database, please see the appendix).

To find out more about project TILI and see previous reports and a literature review, visit our webpage at: www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/project-tili/

Note: this report is corrected version, published in January 2021, of the July-September report which was originally published in November 2020. In conversations with some of our data sources, it came to our attention that some of the data in our database was incorrect due to a misunderstanding during data entry. Only figures in the final section “Homelessness” (pages 7-10) were affected, and the contents of this section has now been changed. Please discount figures 10 and 11 from the original report, and delete the old version. Key findings have not been affected.

About this data

In interpreting the data presented here, it's important to recognise that the project's data sources exert biases on certain factors. For example, the project does not have even coverage across all regions of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, so regional variations will affect the data. Equally, some organisations have certain criteria for who receives their support (for example, recourse to public funds, or if someone has been referred to the NRM). This means that the data displayed in this report should not be taken as a sample representative of the entire population of homeless people affected by modern slavery across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and its findings should not be generalised. However, it can still make positive and consequential claims about the experience of victims recorded in the database.

Key findings: July-Sept 2020

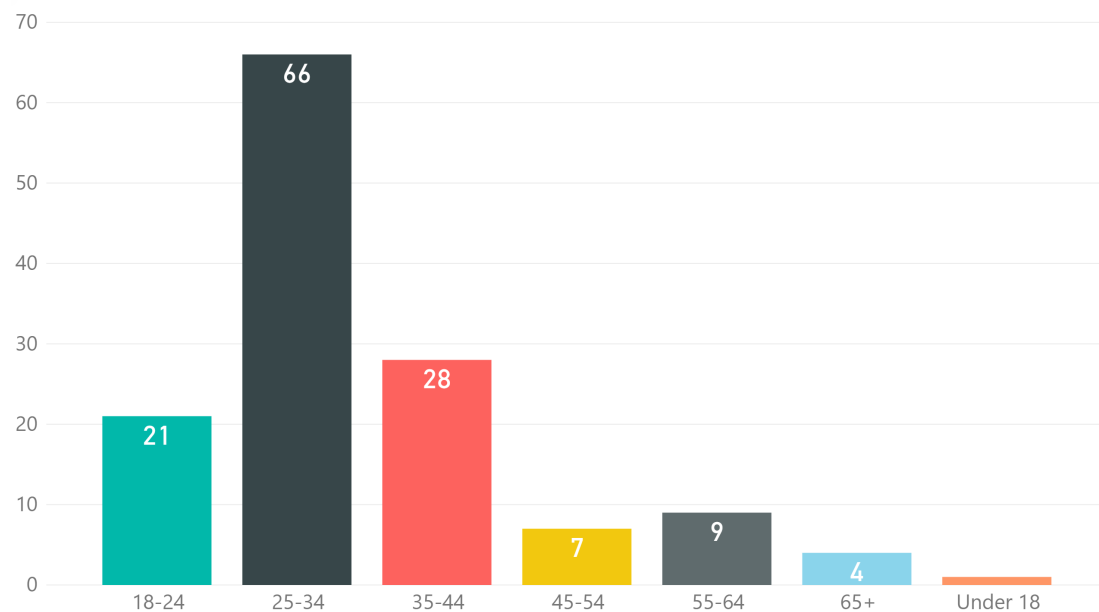
- There are currently 137 potential victims of modern slavery who are homeless or vulnerably housed in the database. Of these, 109 are women and 26 are men. Most are aged 44 and under.
- The three most common nationalities of people in the database are Albanian, British and Nigerian.
- Exploitation type is split noticeably along gender lines. Women make up almost all victims of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced marriage, whereas men make up the majority of victims of labour exploitation and forced criminality.
- Exploitation type also correlates significantly with nationality. Everyone in the database from Europe outside of the EEA is an Albanian woman who experienced sexual exploitation. People in the database from Central and Eastern Europe (within the EEA) are predominantly men who experienced Labour exploitation. Cases of domestic servitude in the database are predominantly experienced by African and Asian women, primarily from Nigeria or the Philippines. Almost everyone in the database who experienced forced criminality is British.
- Victims in our database who received support from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) were often able to access stable housing after this support ended with the help of the TILI project. However, a significant number found themselves in unsuitable temporary accommodation post-NRM, meaning they are potentially more vulnerable to re-exploitation.
- A majority of victims who were identified by homelessness organisations rather than organisations focused on slavery or trafficking did not want to enter the NRM in the first place. These people often continued to live in unsuitable accommodation, leaving them more vulnerable to continued exploitation.

Age and gender

There are currently 137 potential victims of modern slavery who are homeless or vulnerably housed in the database. Of these, 109 are women and 26 are men. This skew towards women is likely to be because a majority of the data (64%) came from TILI partners Women’s Aid, Hestia and BAWSO, and these services are specifically designed to support women who experience modern slavery. Crisis, along with organisations who have received TILI training and are collecting data for the project, collect data concerning both men and women.

Most of the people in the database are in the younger age groups of 18-24, 25-34 and 35-44, as shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: Age breakdown of cases in the database



Geography

The three most common nationalities of people in the database are Albanian, British and Nigerian, as shown in figure 2. The Home Office reports that the three most common nationalities of people referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in 2019, in order, were British, Albanian and Vietnamese.¹ This difference is likely explained by the biases introduced from particular data sources. As TILI does not have even geographical coverage over England Wales and Northern Ireland, regional variations in nationality of trafficked peoples might mean that some nationalities appear more or less frequently than in the NRM statistics. This could also be affected by cultural variations in the types of exploitation experienced by different nationalities, and the subsequent likelihood of victims making contact with the organisations contributing data to the TILI project.

¹ Home Office (2020). *National Referral Mechanism Statistics UK, End of Year Summary, 2019*. Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876646/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-uk-end-of-year-summary-2019.pdf>

Figure 2: The most common nationalities of people in the database

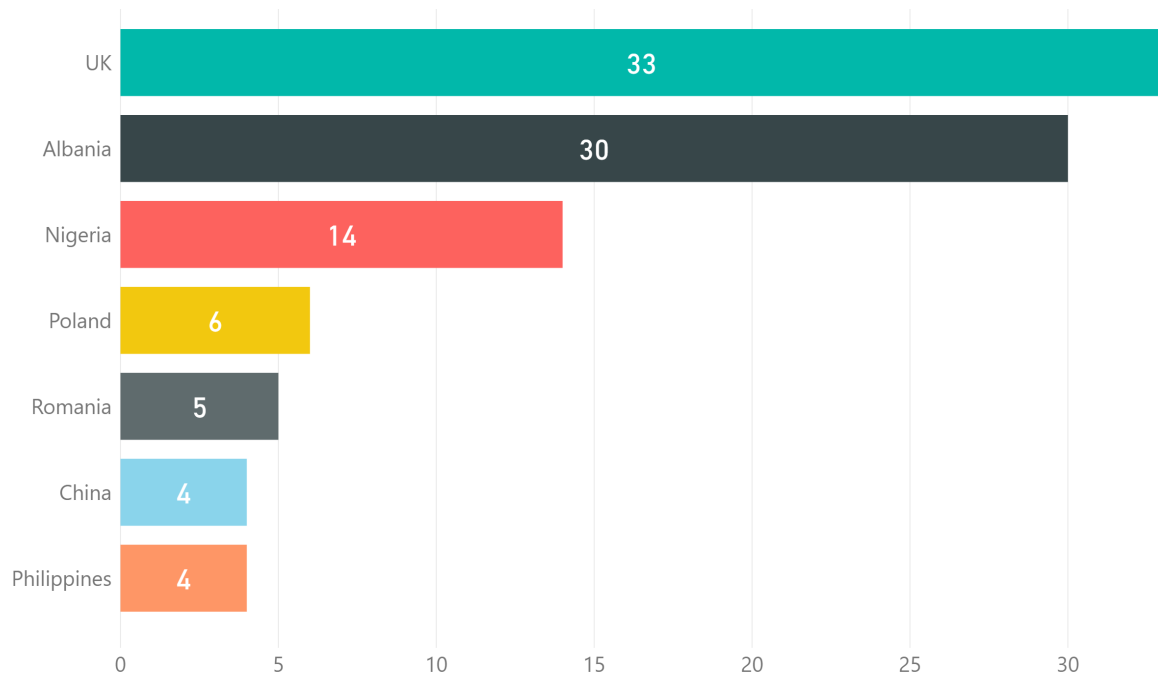
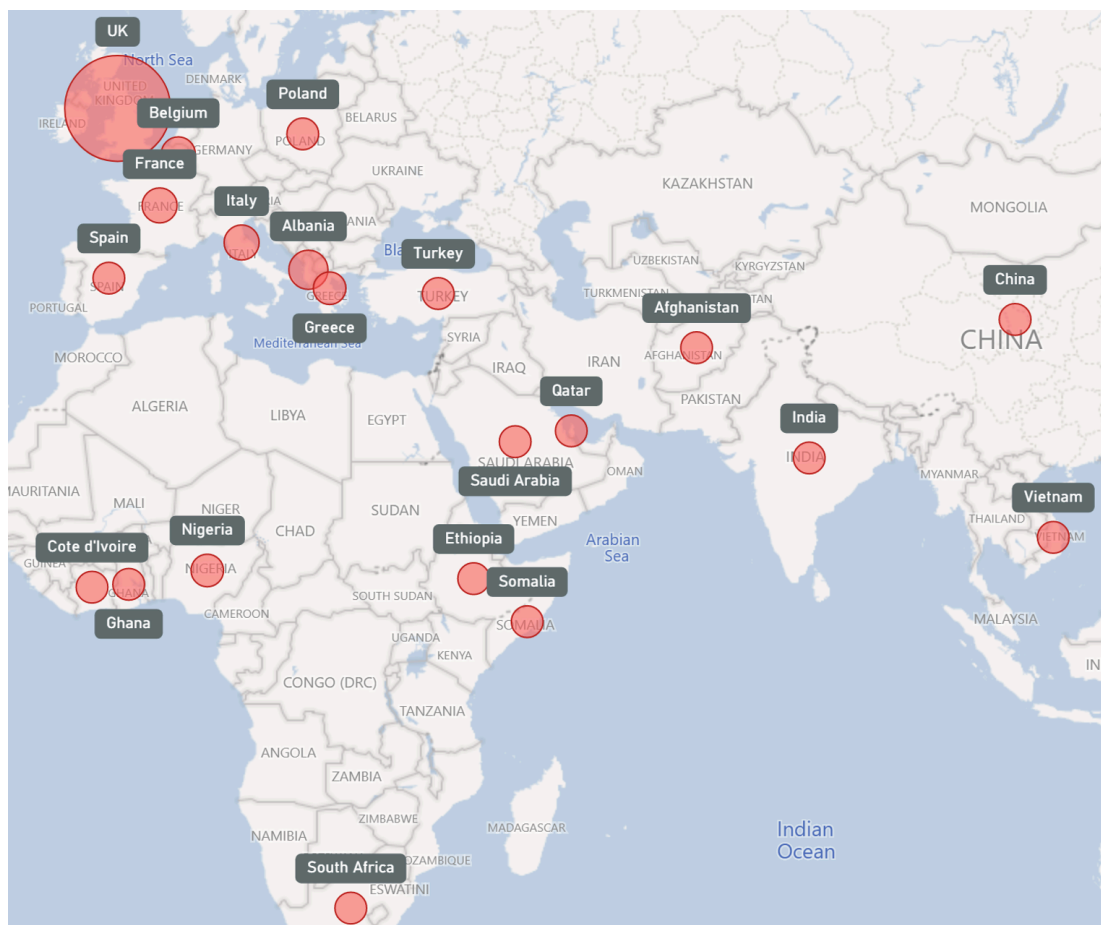


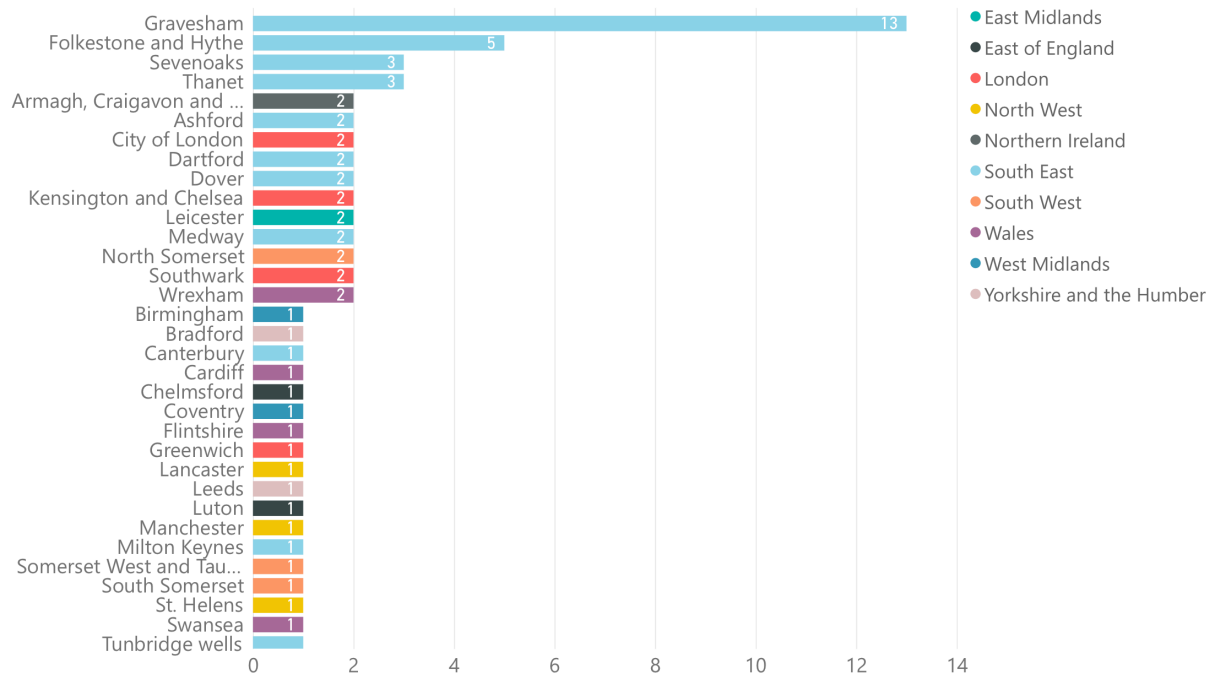
Figure 3 shows the different countries where people were primarily exploited. Just over half (57%) of the exploitation experienced by people primarily took place in the UK.

Figure 3: a map showing countries where exploitation happened



Exploitation which occurred in the UK happened in local authority areas shown in Figure 4. This data is heavily influenced by the organisations which are collecting data for the TILI project and does not reflect national trends. Additionally, it often can be hard for people unfamiliar with the UK to discern where their exploitation took place, so some of this data is missing.

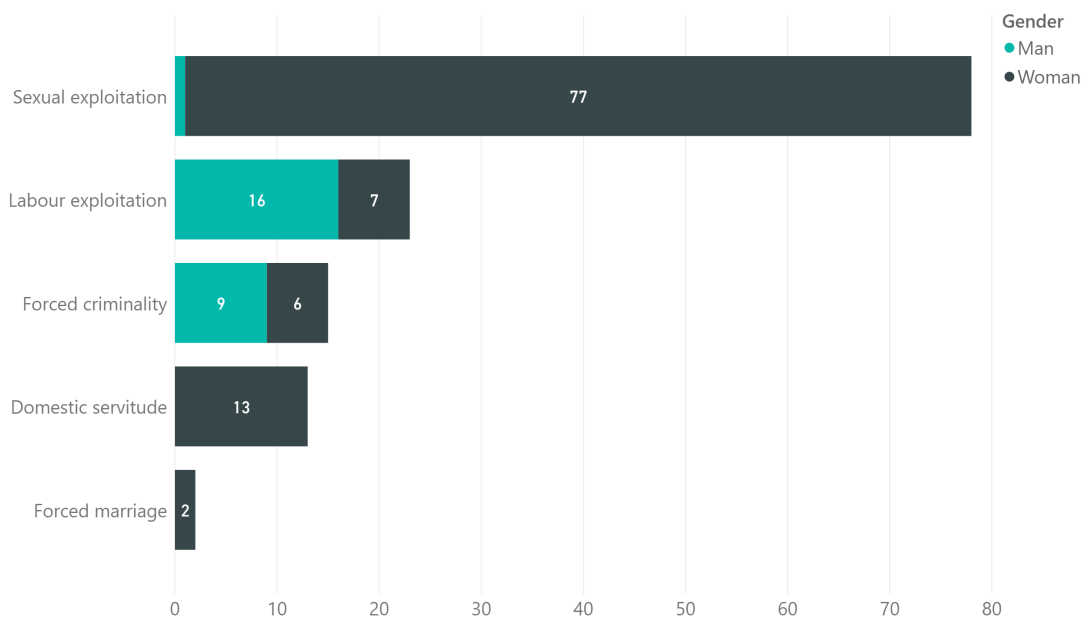
Figure 4: Local authority areas where exploitation took place



Exploitation

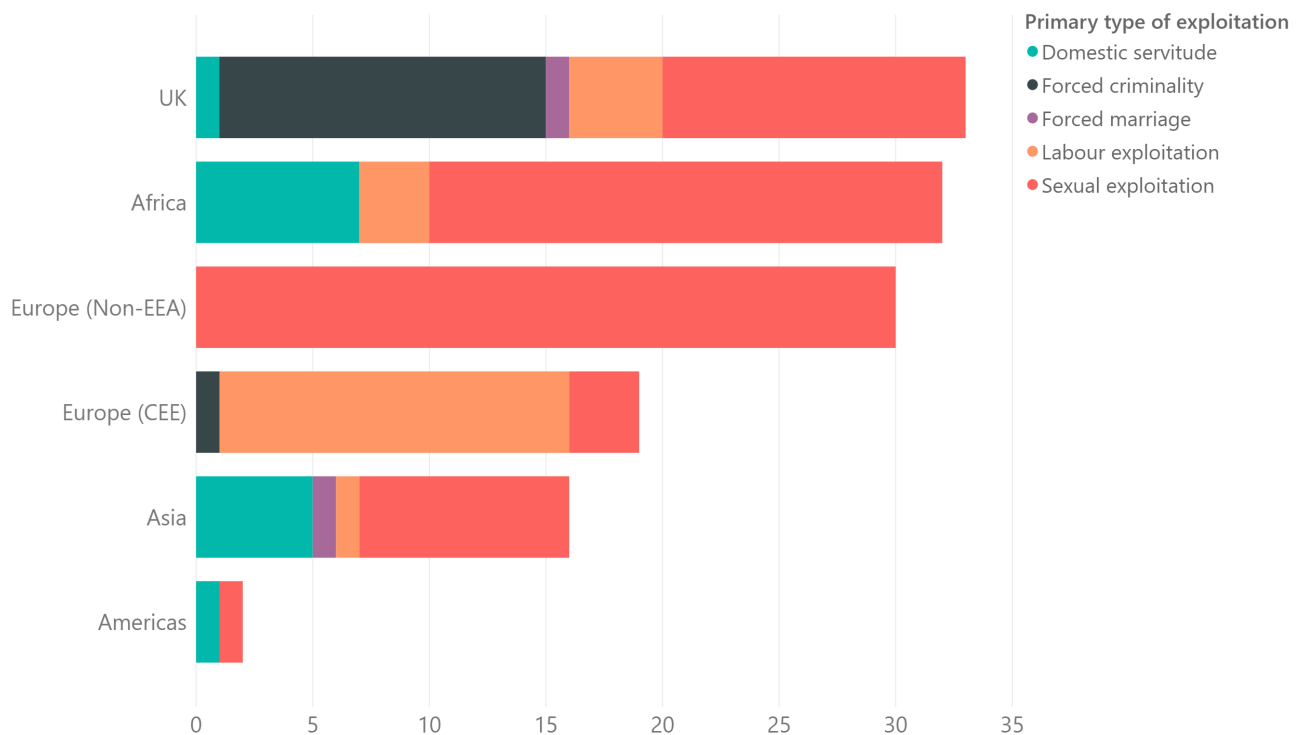
As Figure 5 shows, exploitation is heavily split along gender lines. Women make up almost all victims of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced marriage, whereas men make up the majority of victims of labour exploitation and forced criminality in the database.

Figure 5: Primary exploitation type of cases in the database, split by gender



Exploitation type also correlates noticeably with nationality. The following chart shows how people from different regions of the world experienced different types of exploitation.

Figure 6: Proportions of different nationalities who experienced each exploitation type



- Everyone from Europe outside of the EEA is an Albanian woman who experienced sexual exploitation
- People in the database from Central and Eastern Europe (within the EEA) are predominantly men who experienced labour exploitation.
- Domestic servitude is something predominantly experienced by African and Asian women in the database, primarily from Nigeria or the Philippines.
- Almost everyone in the database who experienced forced criminality is British.

Case Study

Yasmin* had an arranged marriage to her husband in Pakistan in 2017. Following the marriage, the husband stayed in Pakistan for a short period of time after the wedding before returning to the UK. In 2018, she arrived in the UK on a spousal visa to join her husband and when she arrived she found her husband was living with his first wife and their four children. She was new to the country, had no friends or understanding of how the system worked, and so she was unsure of how to access support. As result, she continued to live with the family and was drugged and sexually abused by her husband, his British first wife, and her husband's mother. She was made to carry out all household chores including taking care of her husband's children from his first wife. The entire family lived under the same roof.

* all names in this report have been changed

Homelessness

The project collects data on how someone's living situation changes as they experience exploitation and subsequently receive support from the government's statutory National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

Figure 10 shows the change of living situation from the time that someone is being exploited, to the time after they have exited the NRM and no longer receive its support.

Figure 10: Change in living situation: during exploitation (left), to after NRM support ends (right)

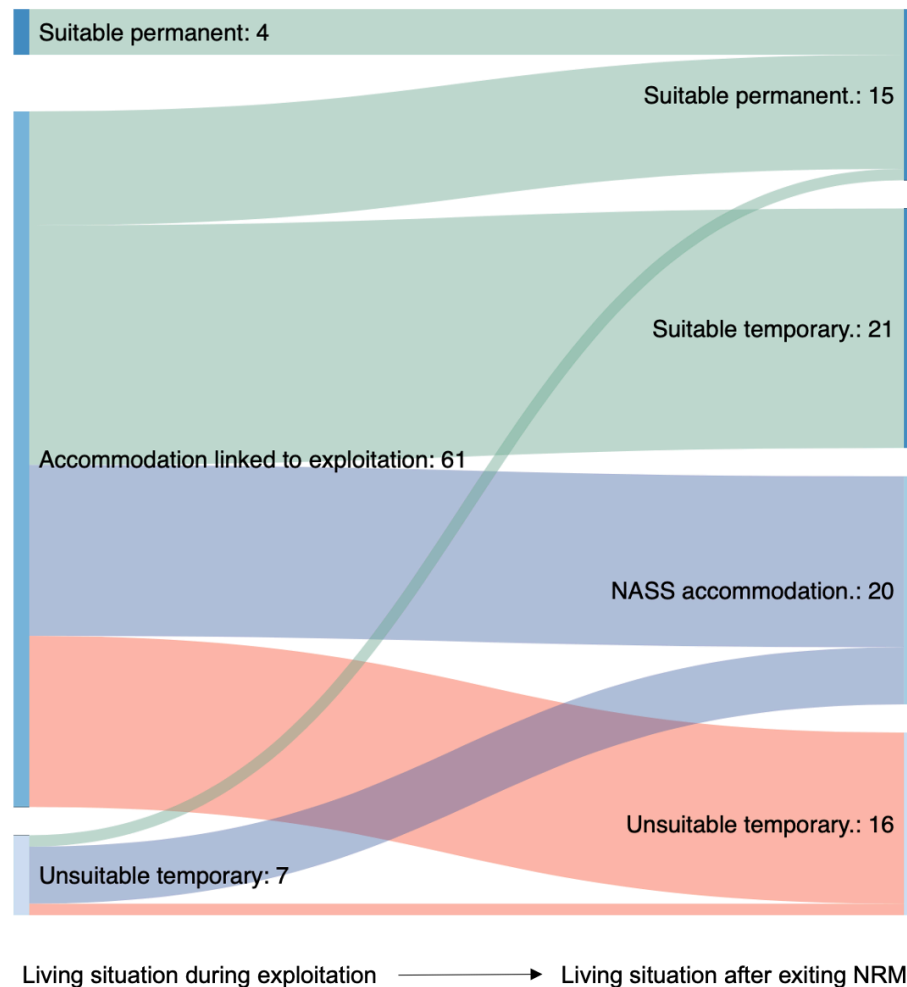


Figure 10 shows that many people in the TILI database either returned to, or moved into, unsuitable accommodation even after receiving NRM support – meaning they may be more vulnerable to re-exploitation (to see how the different accommodation categories are defined, see appendix A). It also shows that victims overwhelmingly live in accommodation tied to their exploitation (i.e. provided by the perpetrators) whilst exploitation is ongoing, meaning that the most direct link between homelessness and modern slavery is that often, modern slavery necessarily involves being homeless, as this sort of accommodation falls within the definition of homelessness.

It is important to note that many of the people in the database for whom we have these specific data points have received or are continuing to receive specialist support from project

TILI, which provides further support post-NRM including support to access accommodation. People who are in unsuitable temporary accommodation post-NRM are either continuing to receive support to access safe accommodation, or have disengaged from the service. Victims who don't have access to this support at all may experience even more difficulty accessing suitable accommodation. We hope to build up our dataset to understand this better in future reports.

Case Study

Era* was a victim of trafficking and was sexually abused, which left her with severe mental health issues from trauma. She is 42-years-old and was trafficked to the UK in 2016 from Albania, where the abuse took place. An NRM referral was completed and she received a positive conclusive decision in 2019. She also claimed asylum in the UK and was granted refugee status and five years' leave to remain in 2020. She was at risk of homelessness following an eviction notice from the Home Office. A support plan was completed with Era to apply for accommodation for her and her three children, and she was supported throughout the housing process. She left NASS accommodation to a temporary safe accommodation at a hostel and was also supported to access and get all the benefits to which she was entitled. She stayed for two months at this hostel, but with the support received within TILI she was offered a permanent property with her family.

Figure 11 shows a more complicated picture, adding the middle stage of living situation whilst NRM support is ongoing.

Figure 11: Movement from: living situation during exploitation (left) to living situation during NRM support (centre) to living situation after NRM support ends (right)

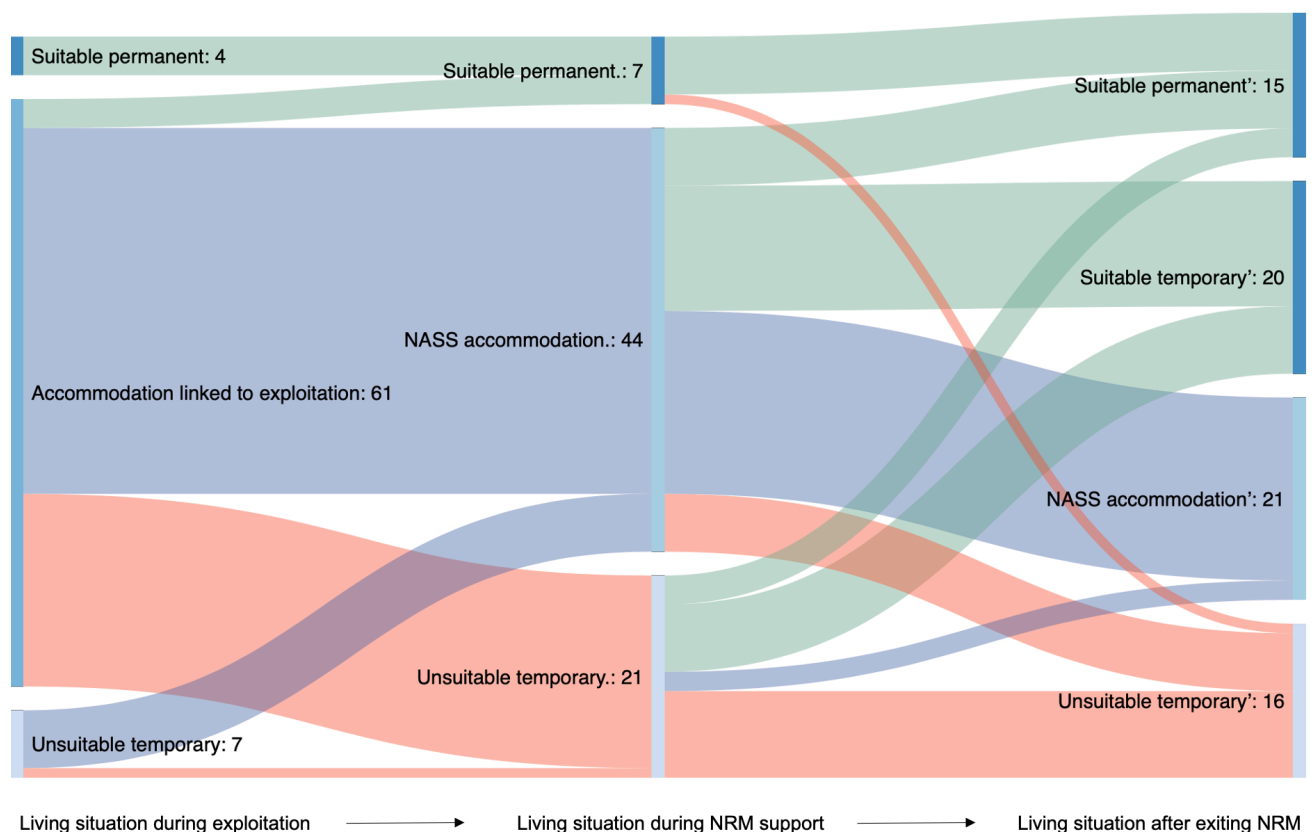


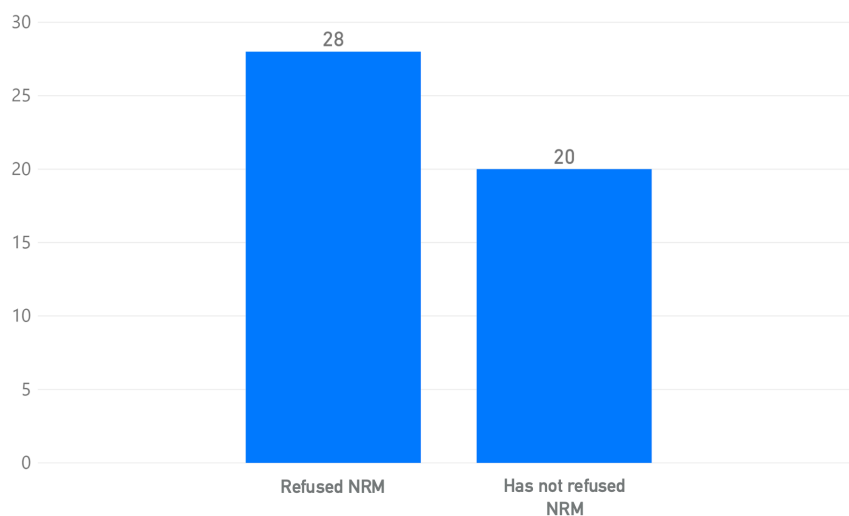
Figure 11 shows that many people in the TILI database who had been living in accommodation linked to their exploitation are not provided with suitable accommodation whilst receiving NRM support, instead staying in unsuitable temporary accommodation (e.g. hostels, refuges or staying with family/friends (sofa-surfing)). Whilst a number of these people accessed suitable accommodation following their exit from the NRM, many people remained in or moved into unsuitable temporary accommodation, potentially leaving them more vulnerable to re-exploitation.

Case Study

Renata* is from Ethiopia. She is 26 years old and has a three-year-old son. She was trafficked from Ethiopia and through Sudan. Having escaped she found her way to Europe through Greece and was in a refugee camp for some months where she was raped and sexually exploited. She escaped from the camp and got help to come to the UK. She had no idea where she was when she and her child were abandoned in Belfast city centre. Finally, after speaking to the police and Immigration, Renata received a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). She was then referred into the TILI Project by her trafficking support worker. Later in 2020 Renata received refugee status and therefore leave to remain in the UK. She has not received her letter to move from her current National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation yet, but when the time comes Renata will be supported to move to safe temporary accommodation. She is excited about the prospect of moving forward with her life and creating a new home for her and her son.

So far, this report has looked at living situation with regards to the NRM process. However, many people in the TILI database refused to enter the NRM. Of the 137 victims in the database, 48 were identified by homelessness organisations.² Figure 12 shows that a majority of these people refused to be referred to the NRM.

Figure 12: Number of victims identified by homelessness organisations who refused to enter the NRM



² For data from TILI slavery-specialist partner organisation, HESTIA, BAWSO and Women’s Aid Belfast & Lisburn, people overwhelmingly entered the NRM, as this was often how they came to be referred to these services.

Of the people who refused to be referred to the NRM, figure 13 shows that their living situation was overwhelmingly either tied to their exploitation, or unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Figure 13: Living situation during exploitation for people who refused to enter the NRM

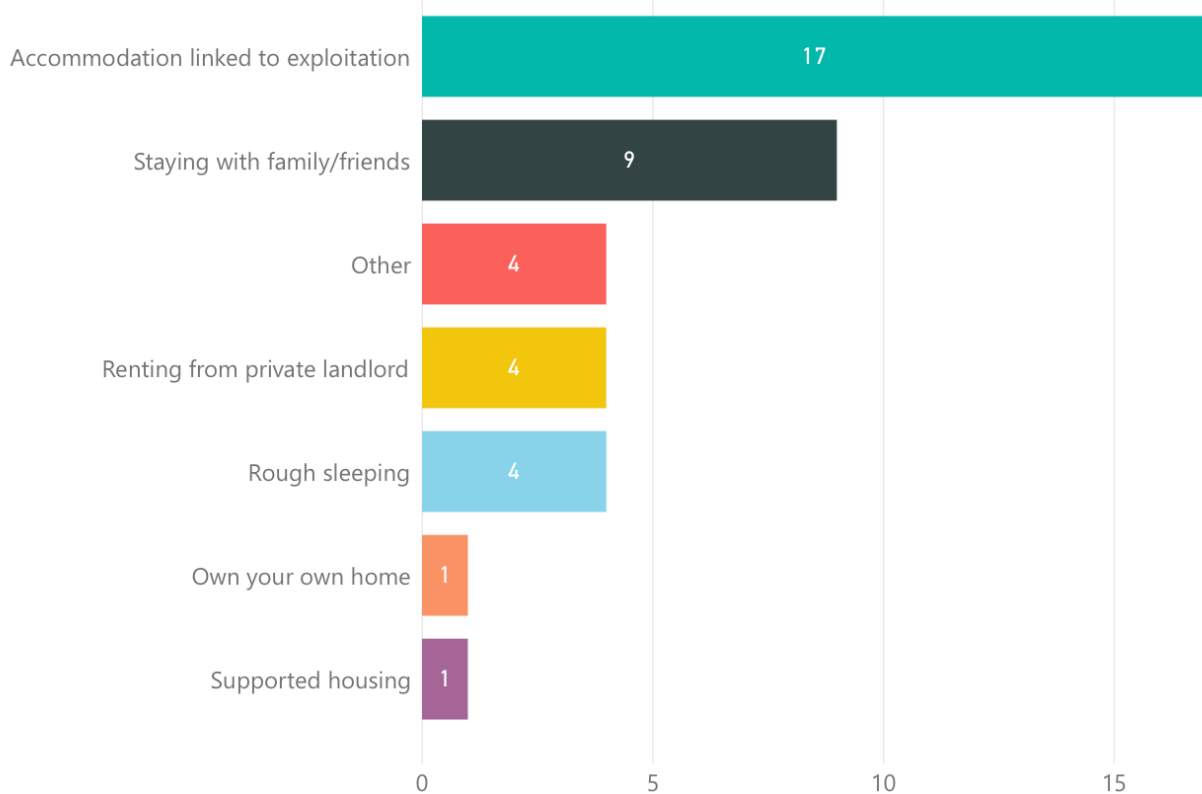


Figure 11 suggested that there can be a challenge to supporting victims to access housing post-NRM. However, figures 12 and 13 suggest that before this, there is another challenge in ensuring that people being exploited even see NRM support as something that could be suitable or helpful for them in the first place.

Case Study

Ola* was trafficked and sexually exploited on her journey to the UK. She escaped forced marriage back in her country of origin, Nigeria. She received a reasonable grounds decision from the NRM in 2016, and also claimed asylum in the UK, as she was unable to safely return to Nigeria. She was granted refugee status and leave to remain in the UK in 2020, but she appealed against the Home Office decision as she was only granted two and a half years' leave to remain in the UK with no recourse to public funds and only permission to work. She lives with her partner and three children in National Asylum Support Service (NASS) accommodation. She is concerned about becoming homeless if she is evicted from her current NASS accommodation following the Home Office decision, since she cannot apply for benefits. She has been suffering from mental health issues, which have had a negative impact on her mental and emotional health as she has been waiting a long time for the decision on her asylum claim.

Thanks

We would like to thank the following for working with us:

- New Futures
- Porchlight
- Doorstep
- East London Housing Partnership
- Hestia
- BAWSO
- Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid
- Crisis Skylight Centres in Birmingham, Coventry, Croydon, Merseyside, Oxford and South Yorkshire
- WHAG
- Oxford Gatehouse
- Safer Methyr Tydfil
- The Welcome Organisation
- Cyfannol Women's Aid
- Harbour Housing
- Nelson Trust

Appendix

Appendix A – accommodation classification

Accommodation category	Accommodation types
Suitable permanent	Own your own home, renting from private landlord, renting from housing association/council, supported housing
Suitable temporary	Temporary accommodation - social housing, temporary accommodation - private rented accommodation
Unsuitable temporary	Night or winter shelter, rough sleeping, staying with family/friends, bed and breakfast, hostel, women’s refuge squatting, sleeping in tents, cars or public transport,
NASS accommodation	Accommodation provided by National Asylum Support Service
Accommodation linked to exploitation	Accommodation provided by perpetrators while exploitation is ongoing

Appendix B – TILI database fields

The following table shows all of the fields in the TILI database:

Field	Description
Local authority	In which local authority area did you make contact with this person?
Age bracket at initial contact	Which age bracket does this person fall into?
Gender	What gender does this person identify as?
Sexuality	What is this person's sexuality?
Nationality	Which country is this person from?
Living situation at initial contact	What was this person's living situation when your organisation first made contact with them?
Main source of income	What is this person's main source of financial income?
Other source of income	What is this person's secondary source of financial income, if they have one?
Benefits claimed 1	Which benefits are this person receiving?
Benefits claimed 2	Which benefits are this person receiving?
Immigration status	What is this person's immigration status?

Number of dependents	How many dependent children does this person have?
Family ties in UK?	Does this person have any relatives also living in the UK with whom they are in contact?
Disability	Does this person have a physical or learning disability, or both?
Primary support need	What is this person's main support need?
Secondary support need	What is this person's second most significant support need?
Tertiary support need	What is this person's third most significant support need?
How was this person identified as a potential victim?	It is important that we are able to measure whether receiving TILI training makes a difference to identifying people as potential victims of slavery. There is a separate option for Hestia/BAWSO/Women's Aid NI as they won't receive the TILI training, being already modern slavery specialist organisations.
Is this person currently being exploited?	Is this person currently or very recently experiencing exploitation?
Was this person within the NRM at initial contact?	Was this person at some stage within the NRM process when you made initial contact with them?
Has a new NRM referral been made since initial contact?	Has a new NRM referral been made since you made initial contact with this person?
Primary type of exploitation	What was the main way in which this person was exploited?
Secondary type of exploitation	If they were also exploited in another way, record it here.
For labour exploitation or forced criminality, please provide a brief description of the work:	Some examples might be: Fruit picking, nail bar, car wash, marijuana cultivation, county lines drug trafficking
Primary LA of exploitation	What was the local authority area in which this person's exploitation mostly took place?
Secondary LA of exploitation	If their exploitation also took place in another local authority area, record it here.
Primary country of exploitation	In which country did this person's exploitation mostly take place?
Secondary country of exploitation	If their exploitation also took place in another country, record it here.
Living situation immediately prior to exploitation	What this person's living situation when they

	first made contact with their perpetrators prior to beginning their exploitation?
Living situation (during most recent/current exploitation)	What was this person's living situation when they were most recently or currently being exploited?
Referred to specialist support from TILI partners?	Has this person accepted specialist support from one of the TILI project partners (Hestia, BAWSO or Women's Aid NI)?
Police involvement?	Are the police currently involved with this person exploitation, or have they been in the past?
Did this person refuse to be referred to the NRM?	Was this person offered to be referred to the NRM, but refused to let the referral go ahead? For example, they might be wary of coming into contact with the Home Office because they are unsure of their immigration status.
First responder that made referral	Which first responder made the referral to the NRM?
Reasonable grounds	What was the outcome of this person's "reasonable grounds" decision under the NRM?
NRM support accepted	Did this person accept the support from the NRM?
NRM support type	Was this person accommodated by the NRM, or just provided outreach support?
Disengaged from NRM support after accepting?	Did this person initially accept the NRM support after receiving a positive reasonable ground decision, but then disengage from the support?
Conclusive grounds	What was the outcome of this person's "conclusive grounds" decision under the NRM?
Living situation (at time of NRM referral)	What was this person's living situation at the time of the NRM referral?
Living situation (during NRM support)	What was this person's living situation whilst they were receiving NRM support?
Living situation (upon exiting NRM support)	What was this person's living situation after NRM support had ended?
Living situation (if NRM support declined/disengaged)	What was this person's living situation after they had been referred to the NRM but declined the offer of NRM support?
Has this person been re-exploited or continued to be	Thinking about the current or new NRM

exploited during NRM support?	referral: did this person continue to be exploited, or start being exploited again, during NRM support? This could be either by the same perpetrators as before, or a new type of exploitation
Has this person been exploited historically?	Has this person undergone an episode of exploitation before you made contact with them, which has now ended?
Has this person been through the NRM before?	Has this person been through the NRM in the past?
Type of exploitation last time	What type of exploitation did they experience?
Relationship to current exploitation	If this person is also currently being exploited: how is their past exploitation related to their current exploitation? It could be the same perpetrators, or a different type of exploitation.
Living situation (immediately before exploitation last time)	What this person's living situation when they first made contact with their perpetrators prior to beginning this episode of exploitation?
Living situation (during exploitation last time)	What was their living situation during this episode of exploitation?
NRM outcome last time	What was the eventual outcome of this person's past NRM referral?
Living situation (upon exiting NRM last time)	What was their living situation once they exited or disengaged from the NRM?