

Components of adult trafficking summary

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

- Human trafficking consists of three basic components: action, means and purpose of exploitation. All three components must be present in an adult trafficking case; for child trafficking the 'means' component is not required.
- In human trafficking cases, exploitation can take many forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, forced criminality and removal of organs.
- Some people may not be victims of human trafficking but still victims of modern slavery if they have been subject to slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.
- Human trafficking is not the same as human smuggling. There are common myths about modern slavery, such as misconceptions that UK nationals cannot be victims and that a person cannot be a victim if they reject offers of help.

Components of adult trafficking	What it means
Action	recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, which includes an element of movement whether national or cross-border; which is achieved by a...
Means	threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability; for the purpose of...
Exploitation	for example, sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, removal of organs

2.6. All 3 components must be present in an adult trafficking case. However, in a child trafficking case the 'means' component is not required as they are not able to give informed consent to engage in criminal or other exploitative activity, and they cannot give consent to be abused or trafficked.

2.7. Child human trafficking will therefore consist of 2 basic components: 'action' and 'purpose of exploitation'.

Components of child trafficking	What it means
Action	recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt, of child which includes an element of movement whether national or cross-border
Exploitation	For example, sexual exploitation, forced labour or domestic servitude, slavery, financial exploitation, removal of organs of child

Action

2.8. To be a victim of human trafficking, the person needs to be subjected to the act of either:

- recruitment
- transportation
- transfer
- harbouring
- receipt

Means

2.9. An adult victim of human trafficking must have been subject to a 'means'

– the threat or use of force or other form of coercion to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person.

2.10. The apparent consent of a victim to be controlled and exploited is irrelevant when one or more of the following has been used to get that consent:

- the threat or use of force
- abduction
- fraud
- deception
- the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability
- the giving or receiving of payments or benefits

2.11. It is not necessary for there to have been 'means' for a child to be a victim, because children cannot give informed consent to engage in criminal or other exploitative activity, and they cannot give consent to be abused or trafficked. Any child who is recruited, transported, or transferred for the purpose of exploitation is considered to be a potential victim, whether or not there have been 'means', though in many cases the means will be present.

2.12. A potential victim of trafficking who may have been a victim as a child, but only identified and referred into the NRM after reaching adulthood, is treated under child criteria in assessing whether they were trafficked. The practical effect of this is that they do not have to meet the means test. However, as an adult at the time of referral they must still provide consent for the referral.

Note: All information in this guidance sheet is lifted from the statutory guidance available [here](#).