



The Co-op and tackling modern slavery

Modern slavery is happening in the UK and around the world, right now.

You might think of slavery as a thing of the past, but it is estimated that there are tens of thousands of men, women and children being exploited in the UK alone*.

Someone could be in slavery if they are being forced to work, are owned or controlled by an employer, have

been bought or sold, are physically constrained or are suffering with or threatened by physical/mental abuse. Modern slavery can come in many forms including forced labour, debt bondage, trafficking, or servitude.

That's why we're campaigning against modern slavery.

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The Co-op was founded on the need to address social injustice, which is why it's important to us to take a clear active stand against this terrible crime.

The Co-op Food ethical trade programme works hard to ensure suppliers have proper training in place to prevent modern slavery has no part in the production, growth or manufacture of the products we sell and services we use, and that they know how to act in case it occurs. We've put strong policies in place and we're making sure they're rigorously enforced throughout our supply chains and our own business operations.

However as well as working with our supply chains, we're also helping victims of modern slavery to rebuild their lives.

Since 2016 we have partnered with City Hearts and other charities to build the Bright Future programme, offering victims of modern slavery paid work experience and the opportunity of a job in our stores and operations.

Now we're reaching out to others including suppliers, partners and Co-op societies to ask them to roll out Bright Future too – just as our members voted for at our AGM in May 2017. You can find out more at **coop.co.uk/brightfuture**

And finally, we're also working to raise awareness of the issue. If everyone knows how to spot the signs of modern slavery, we'll have a better chance of preventing it. To find out more go to: **salvationarmy.org.uk/spot-signs-modern-slavery**

If you suspect someone is a victim modern slavery, call the **24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline** on **08000 121 700**