



## **COMMONWEALTH ORGANISATION FOR SOCIAL WORK**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON MODERN SLAVERY**

#### **WHAT IS MODERN SLAVERY, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR?**

One in 200 people is living in some form of contemporary exploitation today. According to the latest figures published by the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and the Walk Free Foundation, an estimated 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery. More than half of them are in forced labour, which means they are working against their will and under threat, intimidation, or coercion.

It is estimated that 40% of the 40.3 million people in modern slavery live in the Commonwealth.

It is everywhere. It harms people in every country in the world.

#### **COSW COMMITMENT**

COSW aims to contribute to the global effort to 'eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour' (SDG target 8.7).

Whilst a small scale organisation such as COSW is not required to publish a statement on modern slavery under UK legislation<sup>1</sup>, as an organisation committed to social justice and human rights, we are pleased to affirm our commitment to confront modern slavery.

All office holders and participants in COSW activities have a responsibility to prevent, detect and report on any evidence about modern slavery in any part of the organisation's activities.

If there is any concern about modern slavery, the individual has a responsibility to draw this to the attention of the President or a Board member.

COSW aims to encourage openness and will support anyone who raises genuine concerns in good faith under this policy, even if they turn out to be mistaken. No one will suffer any detrimental treatment or victimisation as a result of reporting in good faith their suspicion about modern slavery in its activities.

The COSW zero tolerance approach to modern slavery will be explicit on our website and in our activities.

Approved by the Board

20 April 2024

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publish-an-annual-modern-slavery-statement#who-needs-to-publish-a-statement>

## **GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/publish-an-annual-modern-slavery-statement#who-needs-to-publish-a-statement>

Who needs to publish a statement?

A commercial organisation is required to publish an annual statement if all the criteria below apply:

- it is a 'body corporate' or a partnership, wherever incorporated or formed
- it carries on a business, or part of a business, in the UK
- it supplies goods or services
- it has an annual turnover of £36 million or more