

Hello,

Welcome to Week 5 MSCOS! Thank you to everyone who has engaged, shared feedback, and contributed to discussions on our MSCOS website and talked to us about their work. Particularly, we would like to thank particularly the **Scottish Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy - Action Area 1 Group** who have been warmly receptive to joining the Community of Practice and supporting us to promote the multi-agency approach and methods of working in Scotland.

Please do jot down your comments in the [discussion forums](#) – you can post comments completely anonymously, [and if preferred you can contact us via the discussion forum to arrange a call](#). We are looking for sharing of experience and suggestions for what **YOU** think works, could improve practice, and needs to be in place! Please see the request for information/opinion on ‘[Secure and suitable housing](#)’ further below.

Today our focus is on the Core Outcome, [Secure and Suitable Housing](#). The need for **secure and suitable housing** was consistently highly rated throughout the MSCOS study: participants with lived experience of trafficking/modern slavery and frontline practitioners described situations of destitution and detention as well as dangerous and unsanitary conditions in housing. Some members of the [MSCOS Research Advisory Board](#) share their experiences on our page [here](#). In the final MSCOS study, **secure and suitable housing** scored higher even than [Safety from any Trafficker or other Abuser](#), but the two outcomes are clearly intertwined: housing is a fundamental component of any safe existence after trafficking/modern slavery.



[Secure and Suitable Housing](#)

There is a clear need for principled and practical revision for each of the systems via which survivors of trafficking/modern slavery are accommodated. We believe that housing standards should be driven by the *realities of what is safe for survivors and can aid their recovery and well-being*. Therefore, knowledge and understanding of needed area/location and external and internal standards for all forms of housing provision, provides the appropriate starting point for making change, and is preferable to a vision which is narrowed due to the significant limitations of what is currently on offer. The *awareness* of professionals of the appropriate standards for housing is key to increasing advocacy for improvements, and therefore change to be made.

The [OSCE / ODIHR International NRM Handbook](#) provides principles and guidance on housing at [Section 14.10 to Section 14.13 \(pages 159 – 167\)](#).

THIS WEEK'S FEATURE:



Secure and Suitable Housing

[The Passage Modern Slavery Toolkit](#) is featured on our [Secure and Suitable Housing](#) page. This is a multi-agency tool which encourages local authorities to take a **Multi-Agency Case Conference (MACC) approach**. **The Passage** has led the way with this approach in **Westminster**, working in partnership with **Westminster City Council**, **Crisis** and the **Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)**. Other local authorities now adopting it.

The toolkit has been developed to equip **homelessness organisations, local authorities and frontline workers** with **templates and documentation** to create modern slavery services and multi-agency partnerships. Councils might also find these documents helpful to consider for a wider cohort of vulnerable adults. It is recommended that practitioners complete [The Passage Modern Slavery Training Programme](#) in order to implement this toolkit effectively.

Dr Julia Tomas, Anti-Slavery Coordinator, The Passage says:

*“Partnership work between frontline charities and local authorities is imperative to support survivors of modern slavery. Based on the success of the **MACC** approach, **The Passage** has produced this toolkit to support other charities and local authorities to create their own modern slavery service and to do multi-agency work in a formalised way. **Together, we can build a better support network for survivors of modern slavery.** We would like to recognise the invaluable assistance of **Westminster City Council, the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner’s Office, Human Trafficking Foundation, Local Government Association, Greater London Authority, Homeless Link, Crisis and St Mary’s University.**”*

Mick Clarke, Chief Executive, The Passage says:

*“In addition to our operational work, we have also been focused on addressing **systemic issues regarding the link between homelessness and modern slavery.** We have established a ‘**Task and Finish**’ Group including central government, the **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, The***

Centre for Social Justice and other charity partners. *This has enabled the continued review of the links between homelessness and modern slavery, while developing strong, working relationships across the sector.”*

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS: Please help us to understand the changes in practice and provision that are needed to ensure that secure and suitable housing is provided for survivors of trafficking. We would like the discussion forum to reflect exchange of ideas and information on the following provision types, and to know about any multi-agency models / frameworks that are in use and demonstrate promising practice.

- Sheltered or ‘safehouse’ accommodation
- Asylum Accommodation
- Detention
- ‘Hotels’ and other forms of temporary housing
- Council housing
- Permanent housing
- Private landlord accommodation

You can access the [discussion forum on Secure and Suitable Housing](#) here, or please reach out to Queenie Sit at mscos@kcl.ac.uk



Compassionate,
Trauma-informed
Services



Glasgow Psychological Trauma Service – The
Anchor

We would like to thank Dr. Sally Jowlett, Principle Clinical Psychologist, Victims of Trafficking Strand, at [The Anchor, Glasgow Psychological Trauma Service](#) for speaking to us about her work with survivors of trafficking/modern slavery, and on the 4-Tier [Transforming Psychological Trauma Framework](#) which has been invested in by the Scottish Government to make sure that Scotland’s workforce can recognise and respond to trauma.

More on this soon....



Our MSCOS study partner, [Survivor Alliance](#), is holding the following training event:

[Survivor Alliance's Approach to Mental Health & Wellbeing](#)

Thursday, March 30th, 5 - 6:30pm GMT / 12 - 1:30pmEST

“For the past five years, **Survivor Alliance** has integrated a survivor-informed approach to mental health and well-being in everything we do. After gathering expertise from hundreds of survivors and allies, we are excited to share with you how we contextualize our work, what foundational principles and philosophies we stand on, and how we are moving from trauma-centered to trauma-informed practices.

This training will provide you with a space to learn and reflect upon the unique experiences and challenges that exist at the intersection of lived experience & working in the field of anti-trafficking from both a survivor and ally perspective.

In this training you will learn:

- How to understand trauma and its effects
- A few practical tools for how to manage trauma when it surfaces in the workplace
- How Survivor Alliance is integrating the theory and practice in our programs

We invite you to join us as we continue our work of centering survivors as the experts of their own lives”

Tickets are \$50USD per person, but please reach out to info@survivoralliance.org if this is prohibitive. Survivors of modern slavery and SA members are welcome to join for free. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/survivor-alliances-approach-to-mental-health-wellbeing-tickets-557722231207>

Please forward MSCOS to any colleagues or network connections that you think may be interested in our work, and they can sign up to receive newsletter invites via our contact form [here](#), or by a direct email to mscos@kcl.ac.uk.

The MSCOS Community of Practice content is designed and directed by Queenie Sit and Rachel Witkin.