

Hello,

Welcome to **Week 7 MSCOS!** Next week we will take a break for the holiday and be back on Tuesday 18 April. Thank you to everyone who has engaged, shared feedback, and contributed to discussions on our MSCOS website. We would like to particularly thank **Rosie Bacon at ATLEU and Dami Omole from Shiva** for in-depth meetings on their work and forthcoming events – **see features below**. Also to mention the **Innovation Forum event** on 23 March where **Keith Lewis** of the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board** was a guest speaker: **Responsible Sourcing and Ethical Trade Forum: How Businesses can transform practices to drive ethical, responsible and transparent supply chains that create a positive impact**.

Our focus this week is on **Long-term consistent support**, which featured highly in the study from its outset. Frontline professionals in all disciplines, and survivors of all forms of trafficking are aware that this is **absolutely vital to sustained recovery, wellbeing and integration**. It enables survivors to build a relationship of trust with a professional person who can provide a focal point for them and an essential 'bridge' for their access to multi-agency professionals and services. The **NRM Handbook** recommends the roles of **Independent Advocate for adults and Guardian Advocate for children** and sets out descriptions of these (see pg. 93 – 96).

We are promoting the **Independent Modern Slavery Advocate (IMSA) Model** which has been developed by the **British Red Cross, Hope for Justice and The Snowdrop Project**, together with **Independent Consultants with Lived Experience of Modern Slavery**. This provides a framework for the accreditation of **Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSA)**, to establish a model of advocacy that is standardised and can be replicated throughout the UK.

THIS WEEK'S FEATURE:



Long-term, consistent support

Independent Modern Slavery Advocates (IMSAs) seek to empower survivors to make informed choices about their options and recovery, working with the survivor and their existing support mechanisms to open doors and create opportunities. By providing advocacy that looks at someone's social needs and legal rights together, IMSAs provide support that is holistic and tailored to the individual, empowering them to overcome barriers and navigate complex systems.

The project aims to achieve a best practice model that is scalable, replicable, and standardised, offering an accredited IMSA role.

The **IMSA Model** is being developed in three stages:

1. Development of the IMSA model framework
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2. Piloting the IMSA model framework
3. National roll-out of the IMSA Model

Consultation with the wider modern slavery and human trafficking sector is continuing and due to conclude in **May 2023**. The data gathered throughout the stage one consultation processes is being independently evaluated and used to inform the content of the IMSA Model Framework. The first draft of the framework will be ready for stage two of the IMSA Model Development Project by **October 2023**.

To find out more about the IMSA Model Development, please follow this link: <https://hopeforjustice.org/news/imsa-model-development-project-sector-consultation/>



Long term consistent support for adults is provided by **Helen Bamber Foundation's** specialist **Counter-Trafficking programme**, which sits within its wider model of integrated care. Survivors are provided with trauma-informed assessment, contact, accompanying and safeguarding support in accordance with need, as well as documentation in the form of letters and witness statements for lawyers' submission to courts and decision makers.

Dragana Wright, HBF Counter-Trafficking Programme Manager, says:

"At the core of our work is the principle of ensuring that our clients remain safe from any traffickers or abusers. We achieve this by building trusting relationships and proactively working with survivors to continuously identify, understand and monitor their specific risks and fears. In this way, we can more easily detect and address any concerning change of circumstances with the survivor in a trauma-informed way.

It is important to note that the likelihood and severity of a client's risk is rarely static; a person's situation can rapidly change, requiring a trusting, long-term professional relationship with survivors to recognise the nuances of their presentation during each interaction. Practically, one of the goals of our programme is to create a safe & collaborative 'circle' of professionals around each of our clients. This enables each person to feel empowered and supported in whichever way is most suitable for them. As part of this, our team regularly supports survivors to overcome the difficult step of engaging with the police and/or victim navigators."

ATLEU

ANTI TRAFFICKING AND
LABOUR EXPLOITATION UNIT

Survivor Activism at ATLEU - Rosie Bacon, Activism and Engagement Manager (Lived Experience) spoke to us about her exciting new role at ATLEU and also the **Lived Experience Network** she is developing, with the first meeting on **Wednesday 19 April**:

*"I have been laying some basic foundations and frameworks to allow space to be co-created with those with lived experience at the earliest stage. I have met a number of current and former **ATLEU** clients, and have recently brought some of these survivors together to start an **induction programme** and form a **pilot advisory group**. At the moment, the group are getting to know one another and building their shared identity. Later, they will meet with ATLEU to get to know the charity better and in the final stage they will start to create the structure for the group, thinking of their values, terms of reference and their vision for how they would like the space to grow moving forwards. We are in the very early stages of this work, but excited about where this might lead in the future!*

*I have met many others developing this type of work. It feels like there is currently a movement towards meaningfully engaging and championing survivor leadership. In response to a need identified in these conversations, I have initiated a **Lived Experience Network for facilitators, activists, researchers and others** who are developing similar spaces in a professional capacity across the anti-trafficking sector to come together to share updates, learning and opportunities for joint working. **We will be meeting on Wednesday 19 April. If this is something you feel would be relevant to you, please do get in touch with me to find out more: rosie@atleu.org.uk.**"*

RECENT NEWS:



On 23 March 2023, **Keith Lewis** a member of the **MSCOS Research Advisory Board**, spoke at the **Innovation Forum** event: *Responsible Sourcing and Ethical Trade Forum: How Businesses can transform practices to drive ethical, responsible and transparent supply chains that create a positive impact.*

His presentation focussed on the crucial importance of raising awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking and how it operates in plain sight. He explained the need for centralising survivor voices when designing business programs / advocating for changes to policy, as he has with the **British Standards Institute**.

You can watch his presentation and Q&A [here](#).

Thank you to **Emily Heslop** and **Tobias Webb** of **Innovation Forum**!



Shiva Foundation is hosting a webinar series for **local authority professionals**, empowering them to assess and mitigate modern slavery risk.

Each session will take a deep dive into one of the following areas, with specialist guest speakers:

- [Modern slavery statements and policies](#) (1-2pm Tuesday 18th April)
- [Internal awareness raising and modern slavery leads](#) (1-2pm Thursday 20th April)
- [Risk assessments and risk mapping](#) (1-2pm Tuesday 25th April)
- [Procurement protocols, supplier engagement and auditing](#) (1-2pm Thursday 27th April)
- [Reporting and remediation](#) (1-2pm Tuesday 2nd May) – including a presentation on **MSCOS**.

Sign-up now and please share with colleagues who might be interested in attending!



This series follows the recent launch of the [Self-Assessment Scorecard](#) which allows local authorities to easily assess their modern slavery risk across the key thematic areas mentioned above and provides advice on how they can improve. An accompanying [guide](#) has also been created, providing tiered signposting to further resources, templates and frameworks allowing users to embed best practice across their work.

MSCOS ONLINE FORUM COMING SOON:



Finding Purpose in Life and Self-Actualisation

[Finding purpose in life and self-actualisation](#) was a strong outcome from participants with lived experience of modern slavery/human trafficking. A point made repeatedly was that it is personal for each survivor and cannot be dictated by systems or services on their behalf: It could be anything that is valuable to a person who has lived experience.

MSCOS study descriptor: *This outcome is about a feeling of optimism and fulfilment. The idea of being able to have hope to dream and desire to live is crucial, as is being able to tolerate good and bad days without fully losing this sense of hope. A key outcome feature is self-actualisation understood as the ability to follow passions in life and living life to the fullest. This could include, for example, using talents, setting goals for self-advancement, and articulating personal goals and dreams.*

We think this is the best focus for our first **MSCOS online expert forum**, so we will be sending out invitations to our **Research Advisory Board** and other survivors who are contributing to the **MSCOS** project.

We welcome contributions to this topic and would like to see discussions take place or information provided in our forum here. The discussion forum for [Finding Purpose in Life and Self-Actualisation](#) is for people with lived experience only (whereas the other forums are for everyone). All comments and information is moderated before it appears on the forum and so it

is a safe space for all contributors. As explained, it is possible to comment anonymously, or with name where preferred.

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.



[Working with core outcomes as a set](#)



[Secure & suitable housing](#)



[Safety from any trafficker or other abuser](#)



[Long-term, consistent support](#)



[Trauma-informed services](#)



[Finding purpose in life and self-actualisation](#)



[Access to medical treatment](#)



[Access to education](#)

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