

Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Policy Statement

Introduction

Thousands of people across the UK are being held in squalor and undertaking forced labour. Some may be fleeing war zones, others may have financial problems, but all find dream turns to nightmare as their life descends into fear, debt and drudgery in exhausting, ill-paid, dangerous and degrading work, with escape impossible, forbidden or punished.

At ECBHA we're committed to an ethical approach to all our work, and expect our suppliers, partners and contractors to meet our standards. As a community-based housing association, we recognise that we have a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking.

This policy statement summarises the steps we are taking to minimise the risk of slavery or human trafficking in our business and our direct supply chains.

Policy Statement

We work with a range of contractors and suppliers. As a local housing provider with robust policies and a commitment to supporting local businesses, we do not consider any areas of our business to be at high risk of slavery or human trafficking. However, we still take this very seriously and will work with our contractors and suppliers to reduce this risk even further.

We have a range of approaches to minimise the risk of slavery and human trafficking in our operations:

- Whistleblowing policy: We encourage all our staff, tenants, and business partners to report any concerns about our activities or our supply chains. This includes risk of slavery or human trafficking.
- Contractor code of conduct: We are committed to ensuring our suppliers meet the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. We work with our suppliers to ensure that they meet the standards of the code. Serious violations of our code of conduct will lead to the termination of the contract.
- Temporary workers: We only use reputable employment agencies to source temporary staff, and we verify the practices of any new agency we intend to use.
- We undertake due diligence when taking on any new suppliers and regularly review our existing suppliers. We expect our suppliers to carry out their own due diligence of their suppliers/contractors.
- We will train all staff on modern slavery as part of our mandatory safeguarding training commitment.
- We will ensure that staff and residents are regularly made aware of how suspected modern slavery and human trafficking can be reported to the National Crime Agency via the Modern Slavery Helpline as part of the national referral mechanisms.

Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline - 08000 121 700

www.modernslaveryhelpline.org