

Slavery-free Councils

Human trafficking is the physical movement of people across or within borders through coercion, threat or deception for the purpose of exploiting them when they reach their destination.

Modern Slavery occurs when a person exercises the power to:

- use a person or their labour in a substantially unrestricted manner
- control or restrict a person's movements, or
- use a person's services without commensurate compensation

Practices involving exploitation so serious that they are considered similar to slavery are known as slavery-like practices. **Slavery-like practices** include:

- servitude
- forced labour
- deceptive recruiting
- debt bondage, and
- forced marriage.

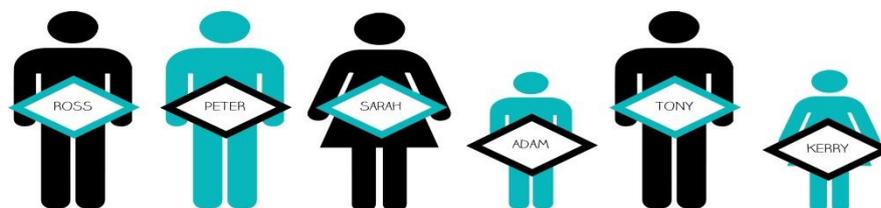
These crimes all have different elements – they may involve exploitation in the public or the private sphere; they may occur in any industry, including the sex, agriculture, construction, hospitality, or domestic services industries; and they may or may not require the victim to be moved across a border.

What they all have in common, however, is that they involve the manipulation of complex relationships between the offender and the victim, and that they result in the serious undermining of the victim's personal freedom and ability to make choices for themselves. This can be by making physical threats or psychological coercion.

The Australia Government has established a criminal justice framework and National Action Plan to address human trafficking and slavery.

However, local policy-makers have yet to be engaged in strategic interventions. A comprehensive response must be underpinned by active and engaged local Councils because human trafficking and slavery crimes are taking place in local government areas.

The Freedom Partnership to End Modern Slavery is a Salvation Army national initiative that aims to engage local government to take measureable actions towards keeping it slavery-free.



Recommended Actions for a Slavery-Free Local Councils

1. **Engage** local stakeholders in an awareness campaign to understand slavery in Australia. Convene a working group to lead a Council strategy.
2. **Identify high-risk industries and vulnerable community members** in the local council where measureable actions can be implemented. Particular focus should be placed on international students and low-wage workers in hospitality, cleaning, construction, retail, domestic work, manufacturing, maritime work etc.
3. **Make training available** to all relevant frontline staff in homelessness and other relevant services to increase identification of and support to victims of slavery.
4. **Coordinate community events** such as BBQs and inductions to engage with new migrant communities.
5. **Convene a business forum** to ask for private sector support against slavery.
6. **Educate** the public by making information available in libraries/Council facilities, through neighbourhood centres, internal/external council publications and consider language needs of vulnerable groups.
7. **Leverage existing partnerships with Police** to ensure identification and referral of victims to appropriate pathways.
8. **Become a Fair Trade Council** to reduce the risk of slavery in Council supply chains by asking questions of suppliers.
9. **Empower multicultural projects and initiatives** to be engaged in anti-slavery.
10. **Launch a Council awareness campaign** on 30 July (International Day Against Trafficking in Persons) or 2 December (International Day for the Abolition of the Slave Trade) including a multi-cultural media strategy.



Examples of Cities Acting Against Slavery:

New York City Task Force: www.nyc.gov/html/endhht/html/home/home.shtml

Austin, Texas: <http://www.freeaustin.org/>

Seattle, Washington: www.seattleagainstsavery.org/