



# **Declaration of Intent to tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking by Birmingham City Council.**

**Birmingham City Council is proud to acknowledge and build upon the City's rich heritage of tackling slavery. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century Members of the highly influential Lunar Society (such as Thomas Day, Erasmus Darwin, Matthew Boulton and James Watt) contributed fully to the Anti-Slavery movement and Joseph Priestley, the clergyman, political theorist, and physical scientist wrote his famous 'Sermon Against the Slave Trade' in Birmingham in 1788.**

**In 1826, Joseph Sturge, an alderman of the city, as well as a Quaker, and a business man became a leading campaigner in the abolition movement and secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society. His example was followed by William Morgan, Birmingham's Town clerk, who also became a leading member of the Birmingham Anti-Slavery Society.**

**Women were equally active in this issue, and in 1825, Lucy Townsend held a meeting in her house attended by Elizabeth Heyrick, Mary Lloyd, Sarah Wedgwood, and Sophia Sturge resulting in the formation of the "Birmingham Ladies Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves".**

**Building on this rich and heroic tradition Birmingham City Council is pleased to adopt this *Declaration of Intent* which will be the Council's response to the horror of Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking and serve as the basis of future policies and procedures to help tackle it.**

- A. Birmingham City Council abhors the vile and brutal crime of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain. The Council will do everything in its power to work with West Midlands Police and other law enforcement agencies to help disrupt and bring to justice perpetrators of such crimes across the City.
- B. Birmingham will adopt a victim focussed approach to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and endeavour to safeguard such individuals –whether they be children or adults – and provide for their health and wellbeing needs while they are in the care of the Council.
- C. Birmingham City Council will do all in its power to avoid any element of MSHT in its procurement process or in its procurement supply chain. In accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 BCC has produced a Transparency Statement to this effect.
- D. Birmingham City Council is fully aware of its designation as a First Responder under the National Referral Mechanism and its responsibility to identify potential victims and refer cases to the UK Human Trafficking Centre Competent Authority of the National Referral Mechanism.
- E. Birmingham City Council is aware of the need to train its staff to the highest possible level to ensure they are able to rescue and care for victims and refer them into the National Referral Mechanism should the victim consent to do so.
- F. Birmingham City Council is working with the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network to ensure that the seven Local Authorities in this region agree to adopt the National Training Delivery Group training.
- G. Birmingham City Council will train all its staff and Elected Members to ensure they are educated to the highest possible level in order for them to identify potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and how to engage with victims in order to ensure they obtain the best possible care and support for their needs.

- H. Birmingham City Council will publish support guides and the Modern Slavery helpline number and other helpful information on its corporate web site in a variety of languages to help victims, staff and other citizens to report incidents of Modern Slavery.
- I. Birmingham City Council will discharge its statutory duty to safeguard any children who they believe are a victim of Modern Slavery or who are being Trafficked into, out of, or across the city.
- J. Birmingham City Council will work with other statutory authorities and specifically Barnardo's Panel for the Protection of Trafficked Children (PPTC) to ensure they have in place robust standards to deal with missing child victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- K. Birmingham City Council will actively seek to work in Partnership with Government, West Midlands Police, National Health Service, other law enforcement agencies, Third Sector organisations, and any other bodies or organisations working to tackle Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- L. Birmingham City Council will work closely with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to help improve the plight of victims, improve and enhance the support provided by the National Referral Mechanism, and seek to lobby Parliament to help bring about changes to improve current legislation and encourage the development of new legislation should that prove necessary.
- M. Birmingham City Council will participate in a Multi-Agency Operational Group run by West Midlands Police to provide intelligence and to help engage with West Midlands Police to disrupt Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking activity when and where the Council become aware of it.
- N. Birmingham City Council is fully aware that under section 52 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, it has a Duty to Notify in relation to anyone who is believed to be a victim - both adults and children - of Human Trafficking (including internal trafficking within UK) and is willing and keen to do so.
- O. Birmingham City Council is willing to share appropriate data with all agencies to help tackle this issue. To this end Birmingham City Council will put in place any additional data sharing arrangements or Memorandum of Understanding as required as well as utilising powers under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- P. Birmingham City Council will create a strategic Cross Directorate Partnership Group to develop policy and procedures and oversee the Birmingham City Council response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at the highest level. This Group will be responsible for ensuring the delivery and implementation of the intentions set out in this document.
- Q. Further to the items specified above in this document Birmingham City Council is more than willing to take whatever further steps it deems fit to help address the whole issue of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and help protect victims, disrupt criminal activity and work closely with West Midlands Police and other agencies to bring to justice perpetrators of this abhorrent crime.

Dated: .....

Signed by:

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 Councillor Ian Ward  
 Leader of the Council

.....  
 Councillor Robert Alden  
 Leader of Conservative  
 Group

.....  
 Councillor Jon Hunt  
 Leader of Liberal Democrat  
 Group