Call for applications for research funding

Understanding and addressing modern slavery with data science methods

30 June 2022

Call Overview

About the Call

The aim of this call is to support research projects to use data science methods to either 1) enhance understanding of modern slavery or 2) transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it.

For the purposes of this call, the Modern Slavery PEC understands data science as an interdisciplinary field that uses a variety of tools and techniques to extract useful information from large data-sets.

Objectives:

All projects must meet two objectives: firstly, all projects must meet objective A, and then they must meet either objective B or C:

A. To use data science methods to develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and other decisionmakers (such as businesses) on modern slavery.
    i.   Projects should align with the Modern Slavery PEC's guiding principles on research, i.e. addressing effectiveness, equity, and involvement of people with lived experience.
    ii. While the focus of this call is on data science approaches, research could employ a combined or mixed-method approach that includes qualitative methods, e.g. to provide the important background and contextual information required to enhance the value of quantitative analysis.
    iii. Projects may also include the involvement or development of local partnerships or networks to create sustainable research infrastructure to enable analysis of new or existing data-sets relevant to understanding of modern slavery and efforts to address it.

    PLUS

B. To use data science methods to produce new knowledge on the changing nature of modern slavery in the UK and inform understanding regarding future patterns and trends.
    i.   This may include a focus on a particular population group, geographical area or exploitation type that is, or may become, a challenge for UK policymakers (such as criminal exploitation of children, or online exploitation).
    ii. Projects must include analysis of new or existing data-sets, but if using publicly available data, for example through the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM), they should apply an innovative method/approach or include analysis of additional data-sets. Prevalence studies using data science techniques to estimate numbers/cases of modern slavery are **not in scope** for this call (see scope).

    OR

C. To provide evidence on how data science methods can improve effectiveness, equity and inclusion of lived experience in policy and/or service delivery, or in supply chain governance/procurement.
    i.   This may include the application, replication or scaling of novel or existing approaches drawing on data science to understand or address modern slavery or that have been developed in other related areas or policy fields.
    ii. Projects addressing objective C should include identification of best practice (e.g. on data-sharing, involvement of people with lived experience), and mitigation of associated risks (e.g. on privacy, issues of bias or discrimination associated with algorithmic approaches to service delivery), although barriers, obstacles or ethical

issues around data-usage should not be the exclusive or primary focus of the research.

Projects must state which of the objectives they will be addressing as part of their expression of interest.

Project budget

A maximum budget of £250,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for each project. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund up to three projects for this work.

Projects will be funded in line with the Modern Slavery PEC Budget rules as set out below.

Project team

The project may be led by either a UK higher education institution or an approved research organisation eligible to receive UKRI funding[1]. Project teams must demonstrate collaboration between the lead institution and a UK based third sector organisation. UK based third sector organisations can receive up to 50% of the total budget.

Glossary – project roles

Principal Investigator (PI) – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I) – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

Partner/collaborator – organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, which can be non-academic organisations

Project Team – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers and partnering or collaborating organisations who are working on the project

---

The team must be made up of at least one Principal Investigator (PI), one Co-Investigator (Co-I) and project partners. A PI is someone who leads the research team, they will be based at the lead organisation and will have overall responsibility for ensuring the project completes on time and within budget, and they have reporting responsibilities to the Modern Slavery PEC. Co-Is are researchers who collaborate with the PI to complete research, they may be based at a different organisation and their roles and responsibilities must be set out in the project application. Project partners are organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, they can be non-academic organisations.

The PI, who leads the research team, can be either an academic, researcher or professional with relevant research experience working at the lead organisation. We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project. The project team must consist of at least one academic or research organisation and one UK based third sector organisation. International organisations are eligible to partner on bids up to a maximum of 30% of the total budget.

---

[1] https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/who-can-apply-for-funding/

Key Dates

Action/Activity	Deadline
Call announcement	30/06/22
Call webinar	13/07/22, 1-2pm (UK time)
Stage 1 (Expression of Interest) closing date (please note this has been extended by one week from 4 August to 11 August)	11/08/22 4pm (UK time)
Stage 2 opening date	End of August 2022
Stage 2 closing date	5 weeks after opening of stage 2
Decision to successful team	October 2022
Project start	January 2023
Collaboration with Modern Slavery PEC to develop research summary and final report	November/December 2023
Delivery of final outputs and policy impact activities	January 2024

Projects funded under this call must be concluded (including all financial reconciliation) by the end of March 2024, in line with the Modern Slavery PEC's current funding from the AHRC. Projects should consider timelines and feasibility while designing their expressions of interest.

Call Webinar

The call webinar will be held on 13 July 2022 from 1-2pm to go through the scope of the call and answer questions from potential applicants. Following the webinar, a recording will be made available on our YouTube channel. The Q&A from the session will not be recorded, questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the call page on the Modern Slavery PEC website.

Introduction

About the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre (the Modern Slavery PEC, the Centre) was created by the investment of public funding to enhance the understanding of modern slavery and transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it.

It's designed to provide independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery based on high quality research it commissions, aiming to have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

The Centre brings together academics, policymakers, businesses, civil society, survivors and the public on a scale not seen before in the UK to collaborate on solving this global challenge. The Modern Slavery PEC's approach is rooted in human rights.

Led by the [Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law](#) (part of the [British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL)](#)) the Centre is a consortium of universities and Independent Research Organisations with a track record in world-class work on modern slavery. The Modern Slavery PEC is funded and actively supported by the [Art and Humanities Research Council,](#) with additional support from the [Economic and Social Sciences Research Council](#), on behalf of the [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI), from the Strategic Priorities Fund.

Modern Slavery PEC: more than a funder

Our mission is to transform the effectiveness of policies and laws addressing modern slavery by using the evidence produced through the research we fund and co-produce.

Our focus is on ensuring that those we seek to influence have access to the best available evidence and can draw from this when decision-making. We are highly focused on the practical impact of research.

We don't just fund research, we also translate the evidence produced into practical recommendations for decisionmakers to drive real policy change, and we work to promote it to wider audiences to enhance the understanding of modern slavery.

We aspire to facilitate new collaborations in modern slavery research between those who have not previously worked together. By doing so, we hope to bring together the many different actors in the modern slavery space to maximise their collective influence.

This is why we work closely with research teams throughout the lifetime of projects to maximise the impact of the research on policy making and other key areas.

Our aim and guiding principles for research

We support research which provides innovative, independent, impartial and authoritative insight and analysis on modern slavery. Our aim is to drive policy change and have a transformational impact on the understanding of modern slavery and the responses to it.

We aim to change the way in which modern slavery research is done through our guiding principles of **effectiveness, equity and survivor-involvement**. We aspire to facilitate new collaborations in modern slavery research including by supporting equitable partnerships between organisations, including those who have not previously worked together. By doing so, we hope to

bring together the many different actors in the modern slavery space to benefit from their expertise and maximise their collective influence.

The Modern Slavery PEC prioritises the equitable inclusion of people of all backgrounds and experiences across all the work undertaken by the Centre. The Modern Slavery PEC strongly encourages that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. We design our calls with the aspiration for projects funded by them to be inclusive, and to encourage a greater diversity of applicants and approaches to modern slavery research.

We intend for all of the research that we fund to align with our guiding principles. We therefore expect all research that the Modern Slavery PEC funds to support diversity and inclusion with respect to the people who carry out the research and in terms of facilitating novel, cross-disciplinary teams.

Background and context for this call

In our 2020 consultation on our research priorities, we found evidence of widespread interest in the ways in which data, and data analysis, can help to generate more innovative and impactful research. Stakeholders highlighted the potential for data science to help understand modern slavery and improve laws and policies to address it, across all the Modern Slavery PEC's priority areas for research. There were specific demands for more data-sharing and research that recognises the value of data from different sources (central government, local government, NGOs and businesses).

Data science has long been identified as offering a promising set of methods to address contemporary policy challenges, and improve public services.[2] The release in May 2022 of raw data related to referrals to the National Referral Mechanism on the UK Data Service platform[3] offers new opportunities for research into the nature of modern slavery in the UK and how this is changing. Alongside this there are multiple other data-sets at local, regional and national levels which may help deepen understanding of the dynamic and changing nature of modern slavery in the UK, and support better decision-making, laws and policies. An example of this can be found through Administrative Data Research UK (ADR UK) who have been working closely with the Ministry of Justice to release linked courts data through the DataFirst programme.[4] This and other administrative data sources can be accessed through the ONS Secure Research service.[5]

While there is enthusiasm for approaches that employ data science methods amongst researchers and policymakers, there are longstanding concerns about the way in which researchers and governments use data, and significant challenges regarding availability and quality of datasets. There have historically been complaints from researchers about a lack of reliable data to understand and address modern slavery. Progress in data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence brings new opportunities, but also new challenges around bias, ethics and safety. And while organisations may be improving how they collect, store and analyse data, there remain obstacles to the gathering and sharing of data on modern slavery. This is due to the hidden nature of the crime itself, the involvement of multiple government departments at national and local level in holding relevant data, commercial sensitivities for businesses, and the potential risks around sharing of personal and private information. Projects seeking funding through this call should provide detail about the ways in which they will build and improve upon previous research, and address or incorporate learnings around practical and ethical challenges.

---

[2] UK Data Strategy: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy
[3] Data available from 2014 onwards and can only be accessed after registering with UK Data Service
[4] DataFirst programme: Ministry of Justice: Data First - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
[5] ONS Metadata catalogue: explorable datasets - Search data - Office for National Statistics (metadata.works)

Successful teams will work cooperatively alongside the Modern Slavery PEC for the duration of the project to maximise the impact of your work and to ensure alignment with our objectives.

Aim, scope, and objectives of the research

Aim
The aim of this call is to support research projects to use data science methods to either 1) enhance understanding of modern slavery or 2) transform the effectiveness of laws and policies designed to address it.

Objectives

All projects must meet two objectives: firstly, all projects must meet objective A, and then they must meet either objective B or C:

A. To use data science methods to develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and other decisionmakers (such as businesses) on modern slavery.
   i. Projects should align with the Modern Slavery PEC's guiding principles on research, i.e. addressing effectiveness, equity, and involvement of people with lived experience.
   ii. While the focus of this call is on data science approaches, research could employ a combined or mixed-method approach that includes qualitative methods, e.g. to provide the important background and contextual information required to enhance the value of quantitative analysis.
   iii. Projects may also include the involvement or development of local partnerships or networks to create sustainable research infrastructure to enable analysis of new or existing data-sets relevant to understanding of modern slavery and efforts to address it.

   PLUS

B. To use data science methods to produce new knowledge on the changing nature of modern slavery in the UK and inform understanding regarding future patterns and trends.
   i. This may include a focus on a particular population group, geographical area or exploitation type that is, or may become, a challenge for UK policymakers (such as criminal exploitation of children, or online exploitation).
   ii. Projects must include analysis of new or existing data-sets, but if using publicly available data, for example through the UK's National Referral Mechanism (NRM), they should apply an innovative method/approach or include analysis of additional data-sets. Prevalence studies using data science techniques to estimate numbers or cases of modern slavery are **not in scope** for this call (see scope).

   OR

C. To provide evidence on how data science methods can improve decision-making in terms of enhancing effectiveness and equity and inclusion of lived experience in policy and/or service delivery, or in supply chain governance/procurement.
   i. This may include the application, replication or scaling of novel or existing approaches drawing on data science to understand or address modern slavery or that have been developed in other related areas or policy fields.
   ii. Projects attempting to meet objective C should include identification of best practice (e.g. on data-sharing, involvement of people with lived experience), and mitigation of associated risks (e.g. on privacy, issues of bias or discrimination associated with

algorithmic approaches to service delivery), although barriers or obstacles or ethical issues around data-usage should not be the exclusive or primary focus of the research.

Projects must state which of the objectives they will be addressing as part of their expression of interest.

Scope

All projects must demonstrate how they will contribute to policy in the UK.

Projects would be out of scope if they:

- Propose to only focus on ethical issues, barriers or obstacles to data science analysis and/or data-sharing.
- Propose to use the project to support already-ongoing analysis of existing datasets, for example analysis that is produced by organisations as part of regular reporting.
- Do not constitute novel research.
- Propose to use data science methods to estimate prevalence of modern slavery.

> **What we want to see in your expression of interest**
>
> ➢ A description of the data-set(s) to be analysed and arrangements in place to access these data-set(s) in a safe and ethical way
> ➢ An accessible, non-technical description of the data science method that will be used to analyse the data-set(s)
> ➢ Clarity on how the analysis of data-set(s) will lead to novel insight that will address the objectives of this call
> ➢ Clear rationale around the project's approach to engagement of people with lived experience (see page 14 of this document)
> ➢ Your application should be written in simple, clear language that avoids technical jargon, to make it accessible to people from different backgrounds, including people with lived experience of modern slavery, who will form the panel assessing the applications.

Projects addressing objective B, modern slavery and how it manifests in the UK

Projects addressing objective B should contribute to understanding about the nature of modern slavery in the UK and how this is changing, focusing on a particular type of exploitation or offending, a specific geographical focus, or how this affects different groups in society. We would be particularly interested in projects that explore new, evolving or emerging types of exploitation that are currently, or may in the future become, a significant challenge for UK policymakers (such as criminal exploitation of children, or online exploitation).

Prevalence studies using data science techniques to estimate numbers/cases of modern slavery are **not in scope** for this call, due to the time and resources available for successful projects to complete their work. The Office of National Statistics bulletin on modern slavery (26th March 2020)[6] emphasised the difficulties of providing a prevalence estimate for the UK, and pointed to the value of drawing on a range of data-sets to improve understanding of the nature and extent of modern slavery.

Projects addressing objective C, data science for decision making

Projects addressing objective C should produce evidence regarding the ways in which data science methods can improve decision-making in terms of enhancing effectiveness and equity and inclusion of lived experience in modern slavery related policy and/or service delivery, or in supply chain governance/procurement.

---

[6] ONS, Modern Slavery in the UK: March 2020
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/modernslaveryintheuk/march2020

This does not include decision-making in relation to individual cases of modern slavery (such as decisions made through the National Referral Mechanism or immigration/asylum systems).[7] The scope for projects under C should contribute to addressing one or more of the Modern Slavery PEC's priority areas:

- survivor support and recovery;
- prevention;
- supply chains; and
- legal enforcement measures.

Projects addressing objective C could include an international dimension, e.g. in relation to data on international supply chains, but the insights generated must have a clear link to UK policy. This could include for example the UK's international development and foreign policy.

Under this objective, we would be particularly interested in projects that explore how data science approaches can enhance effectiveness, equity and inclusion of lived experience in policy and/or service delivery, or in supply chain governance/procurement.

Projects assessed to be out of scope will not proceed to the second stage of the application process.

Key elements of the research

The successful applicant will demonstrate the following components in their methodology: While the focus of this call is on data science, research could employ a combined/mixed-method approach that includes qualitative methods, e.g. to provide the important background and contextual information required to enhance the value of quantitative analysis

Projects using publicly available data or datasets that have already been analysed to understand modern slavery must demonstrate significant novelty or innovation, e.g. with the application of new methods, or by combining data-sets in new ways.

Where appropriate, research should meaningfully include people with lived experience in the design of the research (see working with people with lived experience). This could include, but is not limited to, generating qualitative data through focus groups or interviews, as peer researchers on projects assisting with data generation or through project advisory groups and boards, full details of which will be requested in the stage two application.

This methodology will be confirmed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC once the funding is awarded.

Required outputs

The successful applicant will deliver a full report as well as at least one Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary, tailored for relevant audiences including recommendations for policymakers, and other actors as appropriate. The outputs will be co-produced with the Modern Slavery PEC team so there should be ample time (c. one month) included in the proposed project timeline for the sharing of drafts to enable comments and feedback to be incorporated.

- A full report, of no more than 10,000 words (excluding references/annexes).
- A Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary for policymakers. This should be no more than 2,500 words.

---

[7] Analysis of decision-making in relation to individual cases is not in scope because this would require access to individual case files, which is unlikely to be possible in practice within the timeframes for this call.

- A Modern Slavery PEC Research Summary for other audiences, optional, depending on audiences for project – for example, businesses. This should be no more than 2,500 words and will be agreed in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC.
- A published methodology/methodological paper.
- A minimum of one blog/reflective piece/podcast recording during delivery of the research, in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC.
- A workshop with members of the sector, during delivery of the project facilitated by the Modern Slavery PEC.

The Modern Slavery PEC would welcome proposals that include innovative ideas for presenting data, e.g. with visualisation of results in a format to enhance understanding and to support the uptake of evidence by our key audiences.

The project team will also be invited to present interim findings to the Modern Slavery PEC team and other relevant audiences at a suitable mid-point during the research, either virtually or in person at a time agreed with the research team in the revised workplan (see below).

Project milestones and timeline

Milestones and timeline	
Application process	
Action/Activity	**Deadline**
Call announcement	30/06/22
Call webinar	13/07/22, 1pm (UK time)
Stage 1 (Expression of Interest) closing date	11/08/22 4pm (UK time)
Stage 2 opening date	End of August
Stage 2 closing date	5 weeks after stage 2 opens
Decision to successful team	October 2022
Project start	January 2023
Project milestones and deliverables	
Action/Activity	**Deadline**
Final workplan and methodology (provided to the Modern Slavery PEC by project team if required)	Mid-January 2023
Regular catch-ups with the Modern Slavery PEC (see ways of working with the Modern Slavery PEC)	Every 6 weeks
Presentation of interim findings	To be agreed alongside the revised workplan
Mid-project dissemination activities, e.g. events, webinars, meetings – as set out in the project application	As appropriate, in agreement with the project team
Completion of research activities	October 2023
Delivery of full draft of project report	6-8 weeks before project end – November 2023
Delivery of the Research Summary in collaboration with the Modern Slavery PEC	4 weeks before project end - Early December 2023
Collaboration with Modern Slavery PEC to finalise project report and other outputs	December 2023
Delivery of final outputs and policy impact activities with the Modern Slavery PEC	January 2024

Additional information for applicants

Ways of working with the Modern Slavery PEC

Collaboration and co-operation are key values for the Modern Slavery PEC. As such we will work jointly with the successful research team from the outset and will co-design and co-create research outputs that are timely, relevant, accessible, and have the potential to deliver policy impact. The Modern Slavery PEC and the successful research team will meet every 6 weeks to check in on progress, discuss next steps and provide support. This support includes policy impact planning, communications work and operational support and will be tailored to each project.

Ethics and Safeguarding

There may be a need to collect primary data, e.g. via survey, semi-structured interviews or focus groups, from key people and organisations that work in this sector, in which case the applicant should detail their proposed plans and processes for gaining ethical approval before data collection begins. See the section below on working with people with lived experience where we outline our safeguarding and collaboration expectations.

The Modern Slavery PEC strongly encourages that, where appropriate, applications involve people with lived experience of modern slavery in the design and/or implementation of the project. Where a project undertakes new research directly involving vulnerable groups or people with lived experience modern slavery, projects should carefully consider ethics and safeguarding implications. In both the ethics and the safeguarding statements, applicants should include reference to organisational policies and processes around safeguarding, developing project specific policies where appropriate.

Data protection/GDPR

All data must be collated and stored in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation 2021 and, if necessary, the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016. Applicants should detail their systems and processes for dealing with data securely. Proposals must cover how data will be transported/transferred, handled, analysed and stored, including retention schedules, within the Ethics Statement.

Any and all datasets produced in the course of this research will remain the property of the successful applicant. The final report will be co-branded with the Modern Slavery PEC, whilst the summary briefing will be branded as a Modern Slavery PEC output (for example). Both the successful applicant and the Modern Slavery PEC will be free to use the final report as they wish after the end date of the project subject to the agreed contract (see our sample contact).

For more information on how we handle your data please visit our privacy policy.

Budget

A maximum budget of £250,000 at 100% full economic cost (FEC) is allocated for this project. The Modern Slavery PEC expects to fund up to a maximum of 3 projects for this work. Full budgets do not need to be submitted at expression of interest stage but should be considered between collaborators as part of an equitable partnership.
The project can be led by either a UK higher education institution or an approved research organisation which is eligible to receive UKRI funding.
- The Principal Investigator (PI), who leads the research team, can be either an academic, researcher or professional with relevant research experience working at the lead organisation.

- We will accept Co-PIs on this call, meaning that two individuals are responsible for the project.
- Higher education institutes and approved research organisations will receive 80% FEC (meaning for every £1 spent, they receive 80p of funding, with the organisation making up the 20p).
- Eligible UK based third section organisations may partner on this call. They can apply for up to 50% of the project's budget, they will be funded at 100% FEC (for every £1 spent, they receive £1 of funding, meaning the Modern Slavery PEC cover 100% of the full economic cost of their work on the project).
- Subcontractors are eligible under this funding call, this is a third party individual who is not employed as staff on the grant, or a third party organisation, who is subcontracted by the host organisation to deliver a specific piece of work. This will be subject to the procurement rules of the host organisation. All costs that support the delivery of the subcontract are eligible and will be paid at 80% FEC, these should be outlined and fully justified in the stage two proposal and will be subject to the assessment panel.[8]
- International organisations are eligible to apply as partners to this call, they can receive a maximum budget of 30% and will also receive their funding at 100% FEC).
- The combined UK third sector and international costs can account for 50% of the total budget of the project, for example in a £250,000 project, UK charities and international partners can receive £125,000 total (this might be to one charity, or split between several charities and international partners). This £125,000 will be paid by the Centre at 100% FEC.
- We would expect budgets to be signed off at the time of application by your organisations research office or (for a higher education institute or research organisation) or by the appropriate senior manager (for eligible charities) to ensure a quick set up when the successful projects are selected.

What we want to see in your budget

1) All of the budget rules must be adhered to, if you are not sure if an item in your budget is eligible, email office@modernslaverypec.org to check first

2) In the Excel budget template, you must create a new line for each type of expenditure. For example:

Travel	Train ticket for PI (workshop 1)	£50
	Hotel for PI (workshop 1)	£75
	Train ticket for Co-I (workshop 2)	£50
	Hotel for Co-1 (workshop 2)	£75

We *do not* want to see block budgets, e.g. "Charity 1, £10k" we need to see costs broken down into the actual items of expenditure to be brought

Costings must be prepared in line with UKRI funding guidelines[9] with the exception of the division of funds between UK higher education institutions or approved research organisations and UK based third sector organisations, where UK based third sector organisations can receive up to 50% of the funding, as outlined above.

We request that Principal (lead researchers) and Co-Investigators (co-lead researchers) are involved in only one application submission per call. There is no limit to the number of applications eligible organisations can submit, and the restrictions only apply to individuals within those organisations.

---

[8] https://www.ukri.org/councils/stfc/guidance-for-applicants/project-partners-subcontractors-and-collaborators/
[9] https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/

Eligible Costs

We will fund costs which are in line with AHRC's policies[10], with the following exceptions:

- All staff costs, including academic time, must be costed as Directly Incurred (DI) due to the profiling of the award. We unfortunately cannot pay Directly Allocated (DA) Investigator costs but support the inclusion of PI/Co-I time as a DI cost.
- Any costs for travel must be realistic under the current circumstances and we request that any activity involving travel has appropriate mitigations and alternatives suggested.
- Given the short-term nature of the project we will not be awarding costs for equipment or capital infrastructure such as audio recording equipment or laptops.
- The Modern Slavery PEC will cover the costs for the design of the research summary and the full report (in the Modern Slavery PEC branding), design costs for reports are therefore not eligible and will not be funded under this call.
- Dissemination activities will be led by the Modern Slavery PEC in collaboration with the research team. We expect the team to set aside at least 3 days of time for communications work, which might include activities such as blog writing, podcast recording and potential media activities. It might also include potential time after the publication of outputs (circa 2 days) to maximise the impact of the research.
- We expect the team to set aside at least 3 days of time to work with the Modern Slavery PEC on policy impact activities to be built in throughout the lifetime of the project.
- Any other communications costs (such as a video, animation, infographics, data visualisation etc.) can be included but must be fully justified in the justification of resources. The design outputs should align with the evidence-generating objectives of the Modern Slavery PEC (e.g. the sharing of new knowledge, findings and recommendations from the research) and should not be used for campaigning.
- The creation of new websites is not an eligible cost under this call, unless they are an integral part of innovative ways of presenting data, i.e. data visualisation etc.
- Eligible participating charities can include overheads, up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget they have applied for.
- Data storage costs can be included on an exceptional basis and only where they solely cover data linked to this application.

Working with people with lived experience

As per our guiding principles, the Modern Slavery PEC encourages researchers to include people with lived experience in the appropriate aspects of their research project. We encourage all projects to consider whether they should have a specific safeguarding policy or framework to govern their work, and to highlight specific risks and mitigations in their safeguarding statement. According to organisations such as UK Collaborative on International Development Research (UKCDR), safeguarding means 'taking all reasonable means to prevent harm from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur'.[11] Policies should include consideration of rights of people with lived experience and whistle-blowers, and how the project addresses questions of equity, fairness, transparency and accountability. This should include all parts of the research chain, from research funders, planners and practitioners to participants and local community members, where everyone has the right to be safe from harm.[12]

---

[10] https://ahrc.ukri.org/documents/guides/research-funding-guide1/
[11] https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/safeguarding/
[12] https://www.ukcdr.org.uk/resource/guidance-on-safeguarding-in-international-development-research/

We request that the following principles are adhered to when working with people with lived experience:

- Ground rules are established with the participants, including use of terminology, and agreed rules about withdrawal from discussions or activities.
- Participants are signposted to resources to support them (the Modern Slavery PEC can assist with these) and consider funds to support this if appropriate.
- People with lived experience are paid for their time (including being participants on interview panels and focus groups) and that this is done so in a manner appropriate to participants (considering cash payments or use of vouchers). We expect a minimum hourly rate of £9.90 (outside of London) or £11.05 (within London) for participants, based on the Living Wage Foundation's current rates, but we would encourage applicants to explore best practice in the sector and support higher rates of pay where justified in the justification of resources.[13]
- A risk assessment is carried out, specifically considering risks for those with lived experience. These risks and mitigations should be included in your Safeguarding Statement.

Application process

This call will be run using a two-stage process. Stage one requires submission of an expression of interest (EOI) which will then be looked at to establish whether proposed research projects meet the assessment criteria, set out below. This will be run by the Modern Slavery PEC and feedback will be given to projects progressing from stage one to two. Stage two will consist of a full application which will be assessed for funding by an independent assessment panel convened and run by the Modern Slavery PEC.

The purpose of the two-stage process is to allow potential applicants to submit a short summary of their proposed project. It means that expressions of interest that meet the criteria set out below can receive useful feedback from the Modern Slavery PEC before completing a full application.

Stage one, expressions of interest

Stage one of the process consists of an expression of interest. This is submitted to the Modern Slavery PEC who will review the EOIs based on the criteria below.

Questions

The form starts by asking for background information including:
1. Project title
2. Principal Investigator name, institution, email address
3. Research office email address
4. Co-Investigator, collaborator and partner names and organisations

The questions will be as follows:
5. Which objective does the application address?
   - Objective B - Changing nature of modern slavery
   - Objective C - Data science for improving decision making
6. Summary of the proposed project (500 words)
7. Summary of the proposed methods (500 words)
8. Summary of the proposed policy impact (500 words)
9. Justification of dataset(s) chosen to demonstrate novel approach (300 words)
10. Summary of the dataset(s) management plan, to include how the project team will access the data (including if this data will require a data sharing agreement), ethical issues regarding the proposed data, and any risks and mitigations related to using this dataset(s) (500 words)

---

[13] https://www.livingwage.org.uk/

- o Please note that not having a data sharing agreement in place does not make the project ineligible at stage one: we are asking this to better understand project timelines at stage two, if the data holder will be a project partner, or if a new relationship needs to be established to start the project, but we need to be reassured that plans to access to the data are reasonable and feasible
11. Additional documentation: This is not a requirement of the call, but projects may submit bibliographies, letters of support, GANTT charts, visual evidence, risk registers or other complementary documentation. This will not be scored but will assist the Modern Slavery PEC to provide feedback should an EOI progress from stage one to two

Stage two

Applicants who pass stage one will be required to complete a full application. As part of the full application, we will request a data management plan, this is something applicants might want to consider whilst putting together expressions of interest.

Assessment process

Stage one

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a Modern Slavery PEC assessment panel, with decisions moderated by a group of external stakeholders including the Modern Slavery PEC's Research Coordination Group, (a group of external experts in modern slavery and modern slavery research), and a data research specialist. The panel will consist of members of our research and policy impact team and will include a consultant with lived experience of modern slavery.

During the stage one expression of interest, the Modern Slavery PEC assessment panel will review against four criteria:
1. Fit within the scope of the funding call:
    a. Clearly demonstrate how proposal addresses the funding call objectives.
    b. Do not include any elements defined as 'out of scope' for this funding call
2. Demonstrate a robust and innovative method and design.
3. Demonstrate a high potential for policy impact.
4. Demonstrate a clear data management plan, including feasibility.

Expressions of interest will be reviewed under these four criteria. Projects *must* demonstrate that they are in scope (criteria 1) before further criteria are assessed. Criteria 2-4 will be assessed using the AHRC grading scale, projects must score a 4 (very good) or higher in three out of the four criteria to move on to stage two.

All conflicts of interests will managed following UKRI rules. Conflicts of interest will be declared ahead of assessment and any panel member with a conflict will leave the room for discussion of the expression of interest in question.

The Modern Slavery PEC will provide feedback to projects that move on to stage two. Implementation of this feedback will form part of the stage two assessment criteria.

Expressions of interest are not a full application for funding and, as such, it is appreciated that projects will not be fully formed at this time. Therefore, it is anticipated that some elements of the proposal will not be finalised. This will not impact the expression of interest and we ask that applicants flag where proposals are still forming in their expression of interest.

Applicants will be asked to complete an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) survey at the end of their expression of interest, this will be anonymous and will not be linked to your application. This forms part of the Modern Slavery PEC's work on EDI which can be found in our EDI action plan.

If you have not submitted an expression of interest, you will not be eligible to apply at stage two.

To apply for this call, applications must be made through our online form (https://modernslaverypec.submit.com/).

Applicants who successfully pass stage one will be sent further documentation will the full information on stage two applications, including application questions and stage two assessment criteria.

Stage two
Stage two will be a full, detailed application, with full assessment criteria and independent panel. Full details of stage two will be sent the applicants who successfully pass stage one.

Call webinar

We will hold a webinar for prospective applicants on 13 July 2022 from 1-2pm (UK time). The webinar will provide applicants with the opportunity to hear more about the Modern Slavery PEC and its objectives, hear a verbal overview of the call for research, the application process and hear more information on how the successful bid team will collaborate with the Modern Slavery PEC during the research.

We will publish a recording of the webinar on our YouTube channel. A Q&A from the session will not be recorded, questions and answers will be put into an FAQ document which will be shared on the funding call's page on the Modern Slavery PEC website.

Contacting the Modern Slavery PEC

The Modern Slavery PEC team can be contacted at office@modernslaverypec.org. Please allow two working days for a response.

If you would like to discuss partnerships with other researchers and practitioners, please sign up to our Google Group to get in touch with others in our network.

Glossary

Principal Investigator (PI) – the lead researcher or academic in charge of the project

Co-Investigator(s) (Co-I) – the collaborating researcher(s) or academic(s) working alongside the PI on the project

Partner/collaborator: organisations who are working with the research team to complete the project, which can be non-academic organisations

Project Team – the combination of PI, Co-I(s) and other researchers and partnering or collaborating organisations who are working on the project

Change log

18 July 2022	The deadline for expressions of interest has been extended to 4pm (UK time) 11 August 2022